

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

22 VALLEY ROAD ~ MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042

WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US

PHONE: 973-509-4020 FAX: 973-509-0586



Superintendent of Schools

Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.

September 2, 2021

Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,

We hope this email finds you safe after the impact of Hurricane Ida and the torrential rain and flooding in our Township. While we were not in Ida's direct path, we certainly felt the brunt of her wrath. Please know the district is working in close collaboration with Montclair's emergency team, Mayor Sean Spiller, Town Manager Timothy Stafford, Fire Chief John Herrmann and Deputy Fire Chief Brian Wilde, Police Chief Todd Conforti and Deputy Police Chief Wil Young, and the Township Community Services Department to assess and address all damage in and around our schools. We are thankful for the support of the Township and these officials as we work to take the next steps to repair.

Four of our school buildings, Bradford, Edgemont, Hillside and MHS, along with the DLC were affected. **I am confident that our Buildings and Grounds Department will remediate damages, and we will work relentlessly to open for in-person instruction on September 9.**

Our maintenance and custodial staff are in the buildings today and will continue to work on repairs. I'd like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the tremendous job they did to help during this crisis. We have hired outside cleaning companies, an arborist, and an electrician to assist them.

The school buildings above took on water and a tree fell on Edgemont. Please see details below:

Building/School	Damages	Remediation
Bradford	Boiler room flooded and electrical panel was damaged	Water pumped out; electricians are assessing damages; will update us by the weekend. An outside agency will help clean and disinfect the area.

Edgemont	Tree fell at the back end of the gym	An arborist will cut the tree down tomorrow. Engineers will arrive tomorrow afternoon to check on the structure of the gym.
DLC	A leak caused damage to the fire panel	Electrician will repair the panel.
Hillside	Ground floor flooded	Fire Department pumped out water. An outside agency will help clean and disinfect the area.
MHS	Basement and the Pit flooded	Fire Department pumped out water. An outside agency will help clean and disinfect the area.

This was not the welcome letter I had in mind, but as you know mother nature cannot be controlled. My hope is that none of our families, students, or staff were seriously injured as their safety is our utmost concern. I will be writing to you tomorrow with any new updates along with my 2021-22 welcome message as we are ready to begin anew.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jonathan Ponds
Superintendent