

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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January 19, 2026



Dear Members of the Cresskill Community,

The Cresskill Board of Education is pleased to announce that we have completed our superintendent search and selected our next Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Lauren Thomas.

The Board is confident that Mrs. Thomas brings the experience, leadership, and vision needed to lead the Cresskill School District. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, collaboration, and transparent communication. Throughout the process, she expressed genuine enthusiasm for joining and partnering with the Cresskill community.

Mrs. Thomas comes to us with 25 years of experience in public education, having served as a teacher, school administrator, and district leader. She began her career as a Special Education teacher in Union, New Jersey, where she spent 11 years supporting students and families, while earning her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Kean University.

Mrs. Thomas has held a variety of leadership roles, including Transition Coordinator in Jefferson Township; Assistant Principal of Hackettstown High School; Principal of Willow Grove Elementary School in Hackettstown, New Jersey; and most recently, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in Kinnelon Public Schools. She has led district-wide instructional initiatives, supported staff development, strengthened academic programs, and worked collaboratively with families, community partners, and Boards of Education.

Mrs. Thomas is deeply committed to student success, inclusive practices and building strong school communities. Her values align closely with those of the Cresskill community, and we believe she will be a steady, thoughtful, and inspiring leader for our schools as we continue to move the district forward with purpose, integrity and care.

She lives in Morris County with her husband of 20 years, Matt, and their two children, Ryan (18) and Madison (15), who are both active in sports, work, and extracurricular activities. They also have an energetic and fun-loving mini Bernedoodle, Piper.

To foster a culture of EXCELLENCE for ALL

Dr. Hughes is looking forward to his retirement on March 31, 2026, and we want to thank him for his dedication to the district. We wish him the best as he embarks on his new adventure in Portugal! Mrs. Thomas will start as our new superintendent on April 1, 2026, and we look forward to working collaboratively with her as she leads our district forward.

We are incredibly grateful to our search consultant, Kathleen Helewa, who expertly guided us through the comprehensive and community guided search. Thank you to our community members, staff, and stakeholders for their support throughout this important process. We look forward to this next chapter together.

Warm regards,

The Cresskill Board of Education