



# Manhasset Public Schools

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Vincent Butera, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

October 24, 2018

Dear Parent(s):

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to meet with many parents of our Grade 4 students at Munsey Park School to discuss concerns related to current class and room sizes. As I mentioned during the parent meeting, the number of incoming students registering in late August did push the number of students in our grade 4 classes above the grade level guideline of 24 (i.e. 25, 25, 25, 25, 26, and 26).

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, I met with our grade 4 teachers in order to share the concerns raised and to gain their perspectives. While the teachers did acknowledge that the class sizes were larger than in years past, and are over the grade level guidelines, they also shared that they were enjoying a smooth opening to the school year and getting to know each of your children as individual learners.

We did, however, identify some short term supports that would allow for teachers to provide greater individual attention. As a result, beginning on October 29<sup>th</sup>, we will assign a Teacher Assistant to be scheduled among our grade 4 teachers. Also, beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will also be welcoming at least one student teacher to our grade 4 team. This is an extension of our outreach with select universities to provide us with high quality student teachers.

We will continue to assess the level of support throughout the year. We will also continue to explore options to address the fundamental issue of space, room flexibility and room utilization at Munsey Park. Given current enrollment trends at Munsey Park, it is imperative that we provide ourselves the flexibility to be able to add class sections when necessary without impacting other programs. Thus, we have and will continue to discuss several solutions, including but not limited to:

- Assessing current grade level room assignments to ensure that all students are afforded the most optimal room configurations based on class size and grade level needs
- Exploring and developing plans to more efficiently redesign space within Munsey Park
- Transitioning our current classroom furniture to provide more flexible, comfortable, and room efficient furniture

We will consider all of the above as we construct the 2019-2020 school budget and the Capital Reserve Proposition, currently scheduled for vote on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. At the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Education, we will discuss the Capital Reserve Proposition process and possible projects, including the possible redesign of interior spaces at Munsey Park. The meeting is currently scheduled for 8 pm in the auditorium at Shelter Rock School. You are welcome to join us.

I thank you for your involvement, interest, and candid feedback. We remain committed to ensuring that our students continue to enjoy the most optimal learning environment. Should you wish to speak to me further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 516-267-7705 or by emailing me at [vbutera@manhassetchools.org](mailto:vbutera@manhassetchools.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Butera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping tail.

Vincent Butera, Ed.D.