

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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Title: Commissioner Hespe Visits Hopatcong Borough Schools

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces-

Today was a very special day in the Hopatcong School District as Superintendent Cynthia Randina, staff and students district-wide welcomed Commissioner of Education David Hespe. Commissioner Hespe was accompanied by County Superintendent Dr. Rosalie Lamonte, County Supervisor of Child Study Ms. Melissa Pearce, and Ms. Valerie Francois, Director, Strategic Partner and Constituent Communications. The team started the tour at the Hudson Maxim School where they observed Ms. Melanie Rowbotham's kindergarten class. The students in this class are using the Daily 5 Literacy Framework. Through this framework, students are developing lifelong habits of reading, writing and independence and are given the option to read to self, listen to a book, writing or do Word Work. Commissioner Hespe was also able to see the students in Ms. Adams's kindergarten class as they are working on a literacy lesson with arts infusion. Meanwhile, students in Ms. Diana Fratangelo's first grade classroom are writing about their Lego build. In previous classes, students took on the role of explorers and created a Lego-scape. As part of the innovate NJ Blended Learning Grant, students are using story starters and then complete the story with a Lego build. Students are using iPads with the Story Starter app, to take pictures of their creation while wearing their "Keep Calm and Build On" shirts since it was a build/writing day.

Hopatcong Middle School was the second stop on Commissioner Hespe's tour of the district. Art teacher Mr. Edric Debos and ELA teacher Ms. Joanne Canizaro paired up to work on an arts infusion activity where they coached students on how to read and interpret paintings. Next, a music technology lesson with math infusion was the result of collaboration with HMS teachers Ms. Shawna Longo, Mr. Joe Bietto and Mr. Jim McKowen. Here, students are learning about proportions in music while they create a rap-style song. Commissioner Hespe was also able to observe Ms. Cathy Giugliano's class as they worked on a Lego Robotics project including building and programming their unique creations.

Upon arrival to the high school, Commissioner Hespe caught a glimpse of Mr. Kurt Zimmerman's concert band class as they rehearsed their holiday musical repertoire. From there, he proceeded to Ms. Christine Kalemba's English 3 class where students were working on a gothic architecture project based on the medieval period assisted by art teacher Mr. Jon Rischawy. This is a follow up project to a prior lesson where students created illuminated manuscripts of the upper class members of medieval society; projects are on display in the high school. The Commissioner was able to witness students working on their wood sculpture projects in Mr. Mike Juskus's class. At the conclusion of the tour, Commissioner Hespe visited Mr. George Segale's TV/Video Production class in the *Arrow TV* studio. Students put on a mock broadcast and were able to interview the Commissioner about important educational topics. This broadcast will air

on Tuesday's announcements through *Arrow TV*, the high school's live streaming on-air morning show. Members of the community are encouraged to check out the daily broadcasts which are maintained on our website: <http://arrowtv.hopatcongschools.org/>

Prior to leaving the district, the Commissioner and his guests met with the district administrative team for a roundtable discussion. It was an honor to host Commissioner Hespe this afternoon. We are proud to make him aware of the wonderful initiatives and innovative programs occurring in the Hopatcong School District and we look forward to future endeavors with the Commissioner.

