



Ron Heller  
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts

## Hopewell Valley Regional School District

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Dear Music, Dance, and Theater Arts Parents,

My name is Ron Heller, the new Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts and I'd like to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year. I am excited to begin building partnerships with our world-class music and theater arts teachers here in Hopewell Valley and we'll be working together, along with our MTPA, to provide incredible opportunities for our performing arts students this year. Although I began my tenure here in July, the MTPA had been gracious enough to invite me to witness the end of the year banquet back in May. My first experience with the students, teachers, and parents of Hopewell Valley left quite an impression on me, and I was struck by the incredible efforts of everyone that made the event so special. This included the MTPA members who put so much time and effort into planning every detail; the teachers who were filled with joy at getting to celebrate their students; and the high school administration and district administration who was there in support of their teachers and students. Seeing how happy and incredibly appreciative the students were was special to watch. The secret to the success of our program was on display that night- that secret is the support and collaboration from all those dedicated to our students. I look forward to being a part of this team- to support our tremendous programs and to bring new and innovative opportunities to our students.

To give you a little background on myself, I spent my fourteen-year teaching career as a band director, teaching both high school and middle school band, ten of those years in Montgomery Township Schools. I served two years as the Supervisor of Fine Arts and Music in Bridgewater-Raritan School before joining Hopewell Valley in July. I am an active musician, a saxophonist, and continue to play frequently in the tri-state area. My most fondest memories, however, are in working with students and watching them go on to become successful individuals.

I would like to welcome Ms. Jamie Boyle as our new Theater Tech teacher and Performing Arts Center Manager. Jamie holds a degree in Theatrical Design and has worked extensively in theater in regional, off-Broadway and national tours with many years of experience in Lighting Design and in various managerial roles in theaters. Although Jamie officially begins in September, she has already been hard at work in the PAC this summer with a team of students getting things up and running before the start of the school year.

When it comes to our successes, the MTPA has been extremely vital in its tireless support of our programs. We ask that you please consider becoming a member of our MTPA by giving whatever time you can to the many activities and events throughout the year. In this, you will know the feeling of playing a vital role in the success of your child's experiences in the Performing Arts at CHS. If you were to ask my Dad he would tell you that the years he spent helping move equipment every weekend during my years in high school marching band were some of his greatest memories. The MTPA gives back in so many ways- including mini-grants and fundraising opportunities that help to offset the costs of field trips. Our MTPA parents volunteer to support our Marching Black & Gold, our concerts, music and dramatic productions, recitals, publicity and programs for performances; serve as an overnight

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tour chaperones; and help put together that fantastic banquet I mentioned previously. Whether you have a little or a lot of time to give- there is a place for you in the MTPA.

Preliminary construction has begun on our new Arts and Wellness space at the HS. Thanks to the successful passing of our referendum this past year, we will soon have a permanent home for our Theater Arts program which includes a Black Box Theater space that will also serve a variety of other purposes for our department as well. In addition, there will be a dedicated Art Gallery which will be able to display both 2D and 3D works. It's an exciting time in Hopewell Valley!

Once again, your participation is a vital ingredient to another successful year, so please consider joining the MTPA, and sign up for their newsletter on the website, [www.hvchsmtpa.org](http://www.hvchsmtpa.org). Meetings are held at the high school in Rm 102 on the third Tuesday of the Month in general, with the first meeting being **Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00pm**. The MTPA is free to join. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Heller', written in a cursive style.

Ron Heller