

# Watch Us Live It!

A Monthly Update from the Hernando School District

September 2021

## New Communication Channel Launches

Hernando School District remains committed to reducing the barriers that prevent our stakeholders from getting accurate and timely responses to their questions or concerns. Current tools such as phone calls, email, web content and social media platforms are effective in pushing content out but we felt we needed a way for the public to reach us directly on topics that were top of mind. We are pleased to offer "Let's Talk!", an always-open communication channel anyone can use. Parents, students, staff or a member of the community can access Let's Talk! by going to any of our webpages and looking for the "Contact Us" tab. From a simple drop-down menu, users ask a question or express a concern directly to district staff who monitor, read and respond to all Let's Talk 'dialogues'. Not all of the topics are listed yet but users may direct their inquiry to any issue and receive a timely response. Improving communication is a key part of improving customer service and with [Let's Talk!](#) we hope to do both.

## Legislative Update: HB 529

This summer, Governor DeSantis signed several bills into law that impacted curriculum or school routines. HB 529 or, the [Moment of Silence in Public Schools Bill](#) is an example of this new legislation. While our schools have recognized a moment of silence for some time, HB 529 formalizes expectations for implementation. We have posted an informational flyer to provide parents with an understanding of the bill. Additional summaries will be posted as they are made available.

This Saturday will mark 20 years of remembrance of the attack that took thousands of American lives. In the span of a few minutes, the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania had become hallowed ground, consecrated by the loss of innocent Americans and dedicated first responders.

When we pause tomorrow at 8:46 AM for a moment of silence, we will remember that tragic morning and all of those who stormed the cockpit, pulled colleagues from the rubble and who answered the call, running into the Towers, even as they fell.

Tomorrow will be hard for many. There are those who experienced that tragedy firsthand, and for them the pain continues. Right now, so many are hurting from the loss of family and friends or recovering from their own bout with illness, that we may have lost sight of the significance of this sad anniversary.

I encourage us all to take a few moments tomorrow to reflect on September 11, 2001. Hate fueled the attack that day but we can keep it from being the legacy. When we dedicate time to these rituals of remembrance and teach them to our children, we model and affirm the importance of uniting as countrymen to honor our history both joyful and tragic.

Stay well.

John Stratton