

# HFEE to open new playground at Village School

The Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence (HFEE) is opening a new playground at Village School which the organization funded earlier this year. Construction of the playground occurred over the summer and has been completed in time to start the 2019-2020 school year.

Michelle Sottile and Bryan Rukin, co-chairpersons of the HFEE, are excited to open the playground and will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony in September with Dr. Robert McGarry Ed.D., Superintendent of Holmdel Schools as well as teachers and students from Village School. "Play is extremely significant to the physical, social and emotional development of our youngest learners," Sottile said. "The authentic experiences that come through play are vital in these formative years. We know that this new playground will be enjoyed by Village students for years to come," Rukin added.



*The new playground at Village School funded by the HFEE*

The school formed a playground committee led by Dr. Dineen Seeley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Holmdel Schools. The committee played an integral role in identifying the provider, selecting the equipment and working with the HFEE to fund the construction. "The Playground Committee researched and selected pieces that afford play opportunities for individuals as well as small and large groups of children with varied interests and abilities," Seeley said. General Recreation Inc. (GRI), a provider with over 40 years of experience located in Newtown Square, PA, installed the playground.

"The completion of the project will complement the opening of our district's new full-day kindergarten program in the fall," Dr. Seeley added. "We deeply appreciate the generosity of the Holmdel community and the HFEE for their support of a new playground for our youngest students."

Given the benefits this playground will provide to the entire community and the size of the investment, residents of Holmdel are encouraged to make donations to the HFEE in order to support this project. Please visit [hfee.org/give](http://hfee.org/give) to give today!