

# BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS



## FALL EDITION - NOVEMBER 2019

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! The last few months have given me an outstanding opportunity to look back and feel extremely proud of the accomplishments of our administrators, staff, and students. From receiving national recognition as one of the best high schools, technology schools, and music programs, to reviewing the list of accomplishments of our 2019 graduates, there was much to celebrate. However, as one of our nation's great founders Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."

Improvement, achievement, and success are extremely meaningful to our constituents, so district stakeholders also spent the summer addressing continual growth. This will be apparent as this wonderful new school year unfolds and students begin to benefit from curriculum changes representing the latest research in education as summarized in this newsletter.


















As you read the articles, it will become obvious that our professional educators didn't just relax this summer. Many staff members focused on continual growth and progress as summarized in the article "How We Spent Our Summer." Our teachers are dedicated to finding new ways to be inspired so that regardless of the number of years they teach, they are always inspiring!

As a district, too, we will undergo growth and progress through participation in rigorous assessments conducted by outside evaluators. The district will conduct New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) monitoring. This self-assessment system focuses on evaluating a school district in five key components: instruction and programming, fiscal responsibility, governance, operations, and personnel. The ultimate goals of this exercise are capacity-building and improvement, so we welcome the process.

The district will also undergo rigorous evaluation through participation in the Middle State's assessment through peer review by a team of exceptional educators. This highly-recognized accreditation process is an expression of confidence in an institution's mission and goals, its performance, and its resources. The feedback provided will enable us to look ahead to set expectations even higher.

It would be a lot easier to sit back and enjoy the accolades that we, as a district, have already won; but, we want the words "Most Challenging School in the Nation" to one day be applied to every school in our district. It's often said that your words can become your world. My words for this year and every year are "Excellence in Education." Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to shine a bright light on our school district, because it's our mission to continue to shine brighter and brighter as a beacon of hope for a promising tomorrow for the families of Bergenfield. That's why our words must always mean something. Bring it on!

## HOW WE SPENT OUR SUMMER

-  Ms. Van Dyk got married and is now Mrs. Martinelli
-  Mr. Lemberg purchased a new home
-  Ms. Anolik traveled to Hong Kong to take two art education courses
-  Mrs. Thadani toured the United Kingdom
-  Mr. Fidler researched new Computer Science resources
-  Mrs. Klein visited Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana
-  Mrs. Harmeyer took a 40-foot plunge in Bermuda
-  Mrs. Shoulman traveled to Cyprus
-  Ms. Settembrino taught an international exchange program
-  Mrs. Calle explored the island of Cuba
-  Mrs. Petro got married aboard a yacht
-  Mrs. Perez jet-skied the waters of Antigua
-  Mrs. Black celebrated with family in Disney World
-  Mrs. Budiman went on an adventure in Miami
-  Mrs. Castillo visited Mexico and Canada
-  Mrs. D'Esposito toured the coasts of Italy
-  Ms. Villone participated on the National Coalition of Safe Schools panel in Dallas





## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT EARNS COUNTY HONOR



Jacqueline accepts her certificate from the Bergen County Clerk, John S. Hogan, at the county offices.

Roy W. Brown Middle School student Jacqueline Garcia was selected as the third quarter recipient of Bergen County Clerk, John S. Hogan's, Five Star Student Award!

Jacqueline is not only an honor student and member of Bergenfield's Junior Police Academy, but she is also an inspiration for her continuous selfless acts for local and global communities.

"We Rise By Lifting Others," is her motto, and she does just that! Jacqueline's great acts of kindness, generosity, and community service made her a prime candidate for Hogan's Five Star Student Award.

## ART EDUCATOR AWARDED



Ms. Anolik helps a student with their art project.

Ms. Charlene Anolik was named the recipient of the 2019 Elementary Division Award by Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ). AENJ established the awards program to recognize teachers within its membership who have achieved the highest level of professionalism in the field of visual arts education, and to show appreciation to those who have contributed their services in an exemplary manner.

## WALKING FOR A CAUSE



Students form a giant heart following their walk.

The Roy W. Brown community participated in its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Friday, October 11th. Students raised funds for their cause through sponsor donations. To show their unity for the cause, students and staff wore the color pink to school. The students then walked the track during their physical education periods. All proceeds from the event were donated to the American Cancer Society.

## CURRICULUM CORNER

While elementary-aged students have long benefited from Bergenfield's robust balanced literacy instruction, over the past few years the district has been focused on selecting a unified phonics program for K-5 students. After carefully reviewing different options and conducting site visits to see various programs in action, a 14-member committee selected Phonics First—a program that boasts a comprehensive multisensory approach to help students understand the important relationship between letter symbols and their sounds. Unlike most traditional programs, Phonics First incorporates visual images, tactile elements and full body movements to help young children build the early literacy skills they need to be successful readers and writers. Teacher-training—which began in May for all K-1 classroom teachers, elementary ESL instructors, and primary grade special education resource room teachers—consists of direct instruction and coaching opportunities, and will culminate for cohort one staff in January. The Orton-Gillingham- and IMSLEC-accredited program will continue with our second grade and basic skills staff in the 2020-21 school year.

In addition to phonics, elementary staff will also be implementing Elevate, a new science program for K-5 students. Fully aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science, the program maximizes hands-on learning opportunities and inquiry-based instruction to help students learn about science. A unanimous choice from the committee, Elevate also incorporates STEM, STEAM, and the design process through its laboratory activities, and encourages students to think critically about the role that science plays in the world around them. The new program also aligns with the district's initiative to expand the STEM after-school program that was piloted at all five district elementary schools last winter.



# DISTRICT NEWS



## VETERANS CELEBRATED AT 10TH ANNUAL APPRECIATION CEREMONY



Mr. James Fasano addresses the audience, which included elementary students, veterans, and dignitaries.

On Monday, November 11th, Bergenfield High School hosted its annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony on the athletic field at Bergenfield High School. All staff and community members who had served in the military were invited to attend the event as honorees.

As part of the ceremony, the BHS Marching Band performed patriotic songs, including "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." Juliana Valdez, Class of 2020 President, and Alyssa Agustin, Student Congress President, read the names of the fallen graduates of BHS.

During the weeks leading up to the event, students in grades 3-5 participated in a letter-writing contest. Three district-wide winners were selected, representing each of the grades levels, and these students were invited to read their letters to the veterans in attendance.

### RAISING AWARENESS



Students proudly show off their "caps."

On Friday, September 27th, Lincoln School held its annual "CAP Day." In addition to bringing in donations for the Children's Alopecia Project (CAP), students wore their favorite "caps" to school. Kindergarten students were also treated to a guest reader, concluding Alopecia Awareness Month.

### A HOLIDAY FEAST



Students wait in line to fill their plates.

The Jefferson School Parents' Association sponsored a school-wide Thanksgiving feast on November 26th. All students, staff, and parent volunteers enjoyed an amazing Thanksgiving meal complete with all the fixings. Hearts and bellies were filled with gratitude for the many blessings that each has in his/her life.



Veterans stand as they are recognized by attendees.



Matthew reads his essay to the veterans.



Juliana and Alyssa acknowledge the fallen graduates.

### American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Children's Use of Media

- ✔ Children ages 2-5: Limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Co-view media to help them understand content & apply it to the world around them
- ✔ Children ages 6+: Place consistent limits on time spent using media, types of media, & make sure it does not replace time spent on sleep, physical activity, & other things essential to health
- ✔ Designate media-free times together as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms
- ✔ Have ongoing talks about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect online and offline



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## DISTRICT NEWS | NOVEMBER 2019

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Darlene Markman, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum  
Dr. Frank V. Auriemma, Interim Director of Personnel  
David DiPisa, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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# DISTRICT NEWS



## A SALUTE TO SERVICE: VETERANS CELEBRATED AT 10TH ANNUAL APPRECIATION CEREMONY

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