

BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS



SPRING EDITION - JUNE 2021

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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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



The 2020-21 school year has certainly been a challenge. As I write this message, we are in a period of transition. The cases of COVID-19 infections are decreasing, the number of people getting vaccinated is increasing, and despair is growing into immeasurable hope for a brighter future. We must take the time to mourn all that we lost, but we will also learn from the past and look ahead.

We are in transition in many other ways as well. We are finishing one tough school year and preparing for another as we struggle to define “getting back to normal.” At home, we are transitioning from a dark winter and wishing for a

glorious summer. Yet, our minds are full of complicated assessments that we never before had to consider. Is it okay to go on vacation? Can we see the grandparents? Should children play with friends? Can we have barbecues? Is the Jersey Shore safe? Transition periods are tough, so how do we build a better future?

Revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela once wrote “A bright future beckons. The onus is on us, through hard work, honesty and integrity, to reach for the stars.” Our hard work to usher in a better tomorrow starts now. It comes in the form of giving our all to remain vigilant while we keep fighting COVID-19 with every weapon we have at our disposal. This means intensely focusing on safety and making smart decisions for our family and community.

Hard work for our students means being completely dedicated to finishing a difficult year with strength and determination; participating in our exceptional summer school program—which still has some space available; and helping their families and community recover by ensuring friends, relatives, and neighbors are all included in our efforts.

Honesty is an ingredient for building a brighter future by looking at ourselves in the mirror and making sure we are okay, both physically and emotionally. If we are not well due to all we have endured, we need to be honest and express our needs to a loved one or professional. Self-care is essential for all stakeholders. As they say before an airplane takes off: “Parents must put their own oxygen mask on before helping their children.” We have to be well in order to give our all to those we serve.

Integrity, to me, is the most important. We—all stakeholders in our schools—work under the banner of a shared mission of building a better tomorrow for all. As we stand up, dust ourselves off, and reach for the stars, we will do so not by stepping on others, but by lifting each other higher and higher towards our goals. It is our mission that has won our district accolades year after year and has kept our exceptional programs succeeding even in the most difficult times. Now, again, the onus is on us to excel. We have identified our stars, so all we have to do is muster the hard work, honesty, and integrity to reach collectively for that brilliant future that awaits.

Congratulations to the
Class of 2021!
The Board of Education
hopes everyone enjoys
a safe, happy, and
productive summer break.
See you all on September 8th!

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The 2021 Bergenfield Summer Enrichment Program is running from Monday, June 28th through Friday, July 23rd.

This year’s program includes our Summer Music Workshop, Summer Arts Workshop, and the Summer Academic Enrichment Program.

All programs will be held at Roy W. Brown Middle School, with classes meeting Monday through Friday. There will be no classes held on Monday, July 5th.

Registration and payment should be completed online via CommunityPass at www.bergenfield.org/summerenrichment. Enrollment after June 18th will be on a space-available basis only. The tuition for each class is \$135.

For questions regarding the programs, please contact the coordinators at summerenrichment@bergenfield.org.

Brian Timmons
Summer Music, Art and Dance
Program Coordinator

Nicki McGrane
Summer Academic Enrichment
Program Coordinator



DISTRICT NEWS



TWO HOOVER SCHOOL ARTISTS FEATURED AT REGIONAL ART EXHIBITIONS



The first of two drawings by Coralie Columbo featured at the Bergen County Youth Art Month Show.

Hoover School fourth grader Sofia Eronini-Hincapie and kindergartner Coralie Columbo both captured awards in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Late Winter Art Exhibition—an extremely competitive, statewide art contest. Only about two works of art per grade level, K-12, are selected by judges for the show, making it one of the most prestigious art exhibitions in New Jersey.

Coralie also won the rare honor of having two of her artworks displayed in the Bergen County Youth Art Month Art Show. Coralie, being a prolific and creative artist, rendered several versions of Ms. Anolik's dragon assignment—two of which are now on display in Bergen County's YAM virtual art show.

Congratulations to both artists for their hard work, tenacity, and dedication to creating visually powerful and strong artistic compositions!



Coralie's NJPAC Art Exhibit submission.

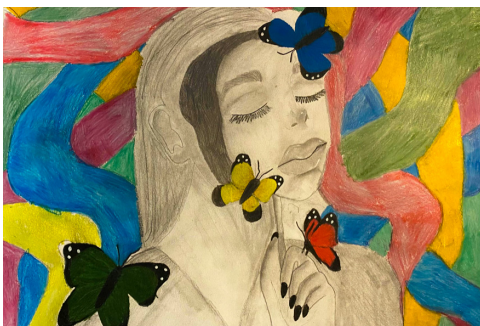


Coralie's second dragon drawing.



Sofia Eronini-Hincapie's artwork.

FRANKLIN ARTIST HONORED



Aurora's submission for the exhibition.

Franklin School fifth grader Aurora Markja represented Bergen County at the elementary level in this year's State Youth Art Month Exhibition. She was one of only two Bergen County elementary students who had their artwork selected this year. Congratulations to Aurora for earning this incredible honor.

YOUNG SCULPTOR SHINES



Lilly's colorful sculptures on display.

Lilly Potts, second grader at Franklin School, had her artwork selected into the New Jersey Performing Center/Art Educators of NJ statewide art exhibition—an incredibly competitive venue where only 30 artworks are selected in the entire state. Congratulations to Lilly on this amazing accomplishment!

TRACK STAR BREAKS RECORD



Jenaliah was honored for setting a school record.

Bergenfield High School honored senior athlete Jenaliah Knowles prior to the varsity track meet against Tenafly on Monday, May 17th. Jenaliah broke the school indoor track record in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.37 during the 2019-20 season, breaking the previous record set by Hailey Virone of 27.7 in 2017.

DISTRICT NEWS



TOWNWIDE YOUTH WRITING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED



First Place winner, Italia Rachev took home a new Chromebook.

We are pleased to announce that four of our Roy W. Brown Middle School students have been chosen as winners of the Bergenfield Police Youth Writing Contest! The contest, which was part of a county-wide essay program hosted by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Community Engagement Task Force, challenged students to write about why it is important for members of the community to engage with local police departments.

Winners received the following gifts, which were donated by the Bergenfield Police Department and Bergenfield PBA Local 309: First Prize-Chromebook; 2nd Prize-Fire HD 10 Tablet (64GB); Third Prize-Fire HD 10 Tablet (32GB).

Congratulations to our town-wide winners: Italia Rachev-First Place, Puhalethi Ramesh Vidhya-Second Place, Ashley Budiman & Francesca Randazzo-tied for 3rd Place.



Puhalethi Ramesh Vidhya won the 64GB tablet.



Francesca Randazzo placed Third in a tie.



Ashley Budiman tied for Third.

SCOUT REVAMPS GARDEN



The garden graces the front of Hoover School.

Brandon Fajardo, Boy Scout and former Hoover School student, completed his Eagle Scout project—renovating the Mrs. Switzer Memorial Butterfly Garden. He did a spectacular job creating a stand for her memorial plaque, redesigning and planting the garden, repainting and washing the benches, and mulching.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Kayla delivers a pitch (courtesy of Jennifer Murray).

High School freshman Kayla Porter was voted North Jersey Softball Player of the Week for May 3-9. During that time period, Kayla earned wins against Passaic, Elmwood Park, and Holy Angels, surrendering only 10 hits while striking out 36 batters! She also batted .600 while collecting 3 runs, 3 RBIs, and 6 walks in that span.

AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM



NJSBA presented the district with the award.

The district is thrilled to announce that our *College and Careers for All* program has received the 2021 Innovations in Special Education Award from New Jersey School Boards Association. We are very proud of this wonderful program as well as the students and staff who have made the program an incredible success!

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE BHS CLASS OF 2021!**

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