



Superintendent's Report

October 13, 2021

*This report is posted monthly on our district website -
"District: Superintendent's Updates/Monthly Reports to BOE": [BOE Monthly Reports](#) .*

FDU Recognition

This evening, we are recognizing 24 students and 4 teachers who participated in the district's Fairleigh Dickinson University Summer Middle College/Dual Enrollment Program which took place virtually June 28 through July 30, 2021. In this program, Teaneck High School students had an opportunity to earn college credits by registering for 1 dual enrollment course to earn 3 college credits and 5 THS elective credits. This is the third year in a row that we have offered this outstanding opportunity for our students. This year's summer courses were Financial Planning, World Cultures, Introduction to Psychology and Introduction to Creative Writing. Congratulations to all of our students, and a special thank you to our teaching staff and our partners at FDU.

COVID-19 Update

As I mentioned at the Workshop Meeting, we are averaging 3 - 5 student cases and 1 - 2 staff cases per week. The good news is that Teaneck and New Jersey's overall rates have come down; but the State is expecting another rise in cases from Thanksgiving through the holiday season. To that end, I will be issuing a communication to all staff notifying them of some other changes in our gathering protocols as well as opportunities for vaccines, booster shots, flu shots, and COVID testing. Our Back to School Nights - including the final ones for Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin Middle Schools this evening - took place in a fully remote/virtual environment.

It appears that within the next few weeks, Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine could be approved for children ages 5 to 11. Children 12 and older are already eligible to receive this vaccine. As we continue collaborating with our local partners - Holy Name Medical Center and the Teaneck Health Department - we issued a brief survey on Friday asking our families to let us know their thoughts about having their children vaccinated. This survey was issued in English and Spanish and we received the following responses:

Total Responses:

- 520 (includes participation from every school and grade)

Survey Questions/Responses:

- My 12-18 year old child has already received the COVID-19 vaccination:
 - 68% YES
- Once eligible, my 5-11 year old child will receive the COVID-19 vaccination as quickly as possible:
 - 48% YES
- If you plan to have your child vaccinated for COVID-19, which is your preference for a vaccination venue/location?

- 55% NO PREFERENCE; 26.2% DOCTOR OR PHARMACY; 12% RODDA CENTER; 7% CHILD'S SCHOOL

Also, if your child has received the COVID-19 vaccination, please don't forget to upload your child's vaccination card to have this information with your school nurse in case of any need to quarantine.

[Vaccination Card Upload](#) .

Finally, our COVID-19 protocols and Frequently Asked Questions (for parents/guardians) are posted on the district website under the COVID-19 icon. Protocols for staff can be found under the Human Resources section.

School Counseling Department

- *The Mental Health Initiative* - Students and families in grades prek-8 have access to licensed mental health clinicians. Telehealth sessions are conducted utilizing Google Meets. Parents can access these services by contacting their child's counselor or completing the [Confidential Counseling Referral Form](#)
- *Week of Respect*
 - The Week of Respect was established as a result of the "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act", The law designates the week beginning the first Monday in October of each year as a "Week of Respect" in New Jersey. School districts observe the week by focusing on preventing harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Each school participated in activities that foster a positive school climate and reinforce the message of "respect" for themselves, respect for others, and respect for the school community. [TPS Celebrates Week of Respect](#)
- *High School*
 - VIRTUAL PARENT NIGHTS: The School Counseling Department is hosting information sessions geared to provide valuable information to assist parents/guardians in supporting their child.
 - Seniors, September 29, 2021
 - Freshman/Sophomore - October 7, 2021
 - Juniors - November 18, 2021
 - PSAT/NMSQT- On Tuesday, October 26th Teaneck High School will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary School Aptitude Test/National Merit School Qualification Test) to all 10th and 11th grade students. The PSAT/NMSQT helps students prepare for the SAT while qualifying high-scoring juniors for entry into the National Merit Program.
 - College Rep Visits have begun. Students must sign up in Naviance
- *Communication*
 - Please visit the School Counseling Department website for information and resources
 - "THS Connections" Newsletter - THS Counseling Department a monthly newsletter is available on the school website "School Counseling" tab. <https://www.teaneckschools.org/SchoolCounseling.aspx>
 - YouTube Channel- All webinars will be posted for viewing. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDw7prx6aDcxJmeyAo5sgQw>)
 - Follow @TeaneckSchoolCounseling on Instagram and Facebook

Special Services

Social Emotional Learning and Executive Functioning

- On October 4, 2021, the Department of Special Services facilitated professional development sessions for general education elective teachers.
- Throughout the sessions teachers learned about the role of executive functioning in cultivating creative skills in students.
- Teachers also explored activities and experiences they can provide to optimize learning, monitor students progress, self-management and greater classroom efficacy.

Upcoming Events - SEPAG

- The Teaneck Special Education Advisory Group (SEPAG) in collaboration with the department of special services would like to invite parents of students with disabilities to attend the upcoming Statewide Special Education Parent Leadership Virtual Roundtable on October 18 at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Register: <http://tiny.cc/SWRoundtable101821>) or October 20 at 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (<http://tiny.cc/SWRoundtable102021>)
- This is an opportunity for parents, Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) members, school and district staff, and community members to come together to network and exchange tips, tools, and strategies to build collaborative partnerships that benefit students and their families. Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish is available.

Communications & Community Relations

Annual Communications Survey

At the October Workshop Meeting, Ms. Corallo presented the district's Annual Communications Survey. We thank the many parents, students and staff members who participated in this survey. You can view the final presentation here: [Annual Communications Survey Results](#)

Community Education - SACC

The District successfully reopened its before and after school childcare program (SACC) on Monday, September 27 at six district schools. We continue to manage through several staffing challenges and we appreciate everyone's patience as we are trying to get more staff onboard.

New Communication Tools

Be sure to download the district's **Free Mobile App** from the Apple or Google Stores: *Teaneck Public Schools*. And be sure to join over 1300 followers of our district **Facebook** page: *Teaneck Public School District*.

Technology Department

During the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the Technology Department successfully deployed our new laptops to all teachers. The new, more robust devices, should assist our teachers with providing high quality content to all of our students. Additionally, these devices help us progress through our Strategic Plan goals around creating a classroom standard for technology throughout the district.

The Technology Department also assisted during the Start Strong assessment and worked alongside building administrators to ensure all students have access to a working device.

During the week of October 4, the Technology Department issued a survey requesting information about device and internet access at home. With 667 responses, we learned that 31% of our families do not have a personal device that can provide virtual learning, and 12% of our families do not have

internet services at home. These results will help us better assess what our families need, and how best we can serve them. These survey results will also help us receive additional funding from the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund to purchase additional devices and hotspots for our students and families.

Lastly, we want to thank everyone for their patience with any technical issues as our Technology Staff continue to work through any problems. Please continue to use the help desk ticketing system to enter any technical requests. <https://helpdesk.teaneckschools.org/>

Bryant School

- Bryant School/TELC classrooms have transformed their spaces into their first theme of the year, "Family." Students and staff are creating props, activities and other hands-on experiences. A visit into a classroom would allow you to see imaginative washing machines, dryers, sinks, showers, bathrooms and garages being part of the everyday use during this unit.
- Virtual Back To School Night was held on September 30. Mr. Deubel began our evening with opening remarks, followed by our PTO President Stephanie Davis. Parents then utilized their child's Google Classroom to meet with their teachers. The virtual conferences were well attended.
- Bryant School/TELC is celebrating the WEEK OF RESPECT from October 4-8. Each day, our classrooms along with staff throughout the building will be engaging in age-appropriate activities and lessons to display how we respect each other and to refrain from bullying. Please click [LINK](#) to see how Bryant/TELC celebrated.
- Our first PTO meeting of the 2021-2022 school year on Tuesday October 5. Over 40 people attended this virtual meeting. Our PTO President, Ms. Davis discussed the vision for the PTO this school year and the numerous events scheduled for October (Picture Day, Scholastic Book Fair, Character Carnival). Our parent liaison, Gervonn Romney-Rice, presented a parent training workshop which discussed how families could "Support their Preschool Child."
- The first Book Fair of 2021-2022 school year will be held from October 11 through October 15. Please click [BOOK FAIR](#)
- Bryant School/TELC will be hosting a VIRTUAL Parent/Teacher Conference October 14th. This is the time where parents and teachers can have a more in depth conversation about the students and their individual growth.
- Picture Day will be held on October 25, 2021.

Theodora Smiley Lacey School

- Lacey School held their Virtual Back to School Night on Tuesday, October 5. Teachers met with parents virtually to discuss school year expectations and strategies on how best to support students at home. Parent participation was high and staff presentations were well received.
- Lacey School had a successful Week of Respect, October 4-8, kicking off the week with "Wear Blue to Stomp out Bullying" concluding with two days of classroom presentations from [Eleni Theodorou](#), author of *Noko The Knight: Empowering Kids To Embrace Their Emotions Effectively*. Ms. Theodorou shared with our students how to deal with emotions in the academic and social setting. *Noko the Knight* is a book with themes about anti-bullying and treating each other with kindness which parent's were able to purchase through our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Brown.
- We are preparing for Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences, taking place virtually on Thursday October 21.

- Lacey School will participate in America's School Safety Week October 18-October 22. We will conduct bus evacuations, safety drills, and have visits from local emergency service departments.
- Our annual RESPECT assembly will take place virtually on Friday, October 29th.
- Second PTA meeting took place on Tuesday, October 12. Membership voted on new officers and the Association is in the planning stages of upcoming harvest-themed events.
- The Lacey School Kindness Cart will be accepting donations of non-perishable items for the month of November.

Hawthorne Elementary School

- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we have been sharing the achievements of people of LatinX heritage during our announcements. Additionally, our teachers have been celebrating LatinX cultures in their classrooms. On October 15, our students will be participating in a special dance in commemoration of the month.
- During the week of October 4, we commenced our "High Five" program. The premise of the program is to recognize students who have demonstrated an act of kindness through positive behavior recognition daily. Teachers submit student names which are read during announcements. A raffle is done for one of those students to receive an additional reward.
- The week of October 4 was also the Week of Respect. During this week, we participated in theme based days which were aligned to key messages relative to demonstrating respect and identifying when others are being respectful. Our K, 1, and 2nd grade students participated in a virtual assembly with an author, Eleni Theodorou, who wrote Noko the Knight which is a book with themes about anti-bullying and treating each other with kindness. Parents/guardians received information about how to purchase the book.
- Virtual Back to School night occurred on October 6. Ms. Pitt shared an opening presentation with information about school goals prior to parents/guardians visiting their children's google classrooms.
- Our grade 4 students took the Start Strong assessments on October 7 & 8 to identify their areas of strength and areas of unfinished learning.
- Our inaugural PTA meeting was held virtually on October 7. Please join us for next month's PTA meeting on November 11 at 7pm.
- We are excited to be having our fall book fair, sponsored by the Hawthorne PTA. The book fair will be taking place during the week of October 11. Please support our book fair.
- Also, the Hawthorne coin drive will be taking place during that week. Please round up those coins and help your child's class win the coin drive!
- Our healthy snack sale is back! On October 22, students can purchase wholesome snacks at school.
- Spooky Trails are coming to Hawthorne School. On October 28, the PTA will be hosting a drive through Spooky Trails fundraiser on Letter Avenue. Please stop by to see what they have in store. Also, you can enter the pumpkin carving contest. The grand prize winner will be chosen on that date.

Lowell Elementary School

- Lowell School celebrated the Week of Respect from October 4 to October 8. Throughout the week, students and staff engaged in activities and age-appropriate programs that motivated them to continue to refrain from bullying, stand up for others and to respect differences. Please click [HERE](#) for Lowell School's week of celebration.

- **VIRTUAL** Back to School Night took place on October 6. The evening kicked off at 6pm with [Opening Remarks from Mr. Green](#). After Mr. Green's Opening Remarks, parents joined their teachers for the classroom presentations and were also encouraged to join Meet and Greet sessions with the Specialists, Resource Teachers, Literacy and Math Enrichment, and our other support staff.
- Lowell School continued to celebrate LatinX/Hispanic Heritage Month. Please click [HERE](#) to learn about our Guest Speaker and to view photos of Lowell School's month long celebration and learning.
- Picture Day took place on Tuesday, October 12. Students came to school dressed to impress while showcasing their best smiles
- Lowell School will administer the Start Strong Assessment to the 4th Grade students on Thursday, October 14 (ELA) and Friday, October 15 (Math). Click [HERE](#) for details.
- The PTO Virtual Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Wednesday, October 27. Stay tuned to the Lowell website for further details.
- The next Lowell PTO meeting will take place Tuesday, October 26 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be Virtual and the Link will be posted on the website, [HERE](#)
- Lowell's VIRTUAL Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 27. Parents will have the opportunity to sign up via Skyward for time slots. Sessions will be held from 2pm to 5pm and then from 6pm to 8pm.

Whittier Elementary School

- Whittier School celebrated the Week of Respect from October 4 through October 8. Students participated in daily activities and celebrated with special themed days during the week. This year's theme was "Growing with Respect. Students also participated virtually in the Ned Show—an interactive educational journey that inspires students, promotes academic achievement and supports school goals. Never give up, Encourage Others, Do your best! The week ended with the [Whittier Respect March and Dance](#).
- Whittier school relaunched their PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) program as the P.A.W.S. program to align with our school mascot, the Whittier Wolf. The acronym [P.A.W.S.](#) reminds students to Pactice Respect, Act Responsibly, Work Hard and Stay Safe. Students can earn "Wolf Bucks" by demonstrating these unified school wide expectations. Wolf Bucks can then be traded in for rewards in Mr. LoGiudice's office.
- Whittier's Virtual Back to School Night took place on October 6. The evening started with a school-wide zoom welcome from Mr. LoGiudice and the PTO Co-Presidents. Parents were then invited to join their teachers in a Google Meet to learn about the curriculum, ask questions and see the classroom. Specialists provided videos for parents to learn about their objectives.
- Fall Picture Day will be held on Monday, October 18.
- The PTO will hold its Fall Harvest Festival on Tuesday, October 26, at 6:30 PM for all students and their families. There will be activities, food and fun for all!
- Whittier School will hold its annual Vocabulary Parade on Friday, October 29. Students and staff dress as a word of their choice. A parade of words is held followed by a school-wide monster mash dance.
- Parent Teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 27 from 1:00 until 4:00 and from 6:00 until 8:00. Parents will sign up via Skyward to reserve a time to meet with their child(ren)'s teacher.

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

- October 1, BFMS kicked off with an acknowledgement of LGBTIA History Month with a NJEA article ["Back to School with "Rainbow Connection"](#) published by our own Dr. Amy Moran.
- October 1, BFMS acknowledged the hard work of our custodial and O & M Staff for ***Custodian Appreciation Day***
- TPS and Fairleigh Dickerson (FDU) ***Girl's Exploring Engineering (GEE)*** began its STEM program with 5 young ladies from Benjamin Franklin Middle School. The ladies will work for the next 8 weeks with FDU virtually. We look forward to the November 20, 2021 graduation that will take place (in person) at the University here in Teaneck, NJ.
- BFMS I-Team hosted a Cash Wash Fundraiser in the BFMS Parking Lot. Families, staff, and other community members stopped by to have the students wash their vehicles which raised funds for I-Team activities.
- October 4 - 8, the BFMS PTO hosted the Scholastic Book Fair at BFMS. The event was well attended by students and parent volunteers were on hand to assist.
- October 4 - 8, also kicked off "Week of Respect" at BFMS. Students participated in assemblies that were held virtual to discuss HIB information and how they might contribute to building and sustaining a respectful learning environment at BFMS and beyond. The school also had a weeklong celebration: Monday: Wear Something Blue #blueup; Tuesday: Rep Your Culture; Wednesday: Crazy Hat Day; Thursday: Team Up Against Bullying; and Friday: BFMS Pride Day.
- BFMS teamed up with Whole Foods through its Whole Kids Foundation and received a kind contribution of \$3000.00 to support the school's Botany and Horticulture Program.
- October 5, BFMS and TJMS continued their collaborative work with NEEF (National Environment Education Foundation) and TCC (Teaneck Creek Conservancy) to plan for the Greening STEM Project.
- BFMS will have a "Therapy Dog" on site for our learners and community. The dog that will support our work is a "Greyhound with a fun story."
- On October 8, BFMS PTO hosted an Empanadas Sale to support programs for the school.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

- On October 4, TJMS celebrated Week of Respect by participating in daily celebration activities.
- ELA, MATH & SCIENCE Start Strong Assessments were administered on October 5 -7.
- On October 12, TJMS's Book Fair starts along with a PTA meeting held at 7pm via Zoom.
- October 13 - 1/2 day session for Back to School Night at 7pm. Back to School Night will be virtual and parents will join your GC meet links during scheduled time for a live presentation.
- On October 26, TJMS will host a 1/2 day session for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents will sign up for appointments to meet through Skyward. Sessions are 2-5 & 6-9pm.

Teaneck High School

- Week of Respect held October 4 through October 8.
- Fall Sports Pep Rally held in the Stadium Friday, October 8.
- First PTO Meeting of the Year held on Monday, October 11.
- Our approved clubs have started to meet
- Virtual Back to School Night was held on Tuesday, October 12 from 6:00 pm - 9:00. Parents followed both "A" & "B" day schedules.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held virtually on Thursday, October 28. Two sessions will be available for parents to sign up. The first session is from 1:30pm - 4:00pm and the second session is from 6:30pm - 9:00pm. Sign ups will be through Skyward.

- Blood Drive to be held on Friday, October 22 from 8:30 am - 2 pm.

Human Resource Management –

Staff Vacancy Updates – see attached document

TEANECK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Human Resource Management



VACANCIES as of 10.08.2021

DISTRICT



Manager, Human Resources & Compliance



Technology Support Specialist I (Part-time)



Coordinator of Institutional Advancement & Grant
Procurement



Transportation Secretarial Support & Dispatch



General Mechanic III/Electrician (O&M)



English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher

TEANECK HIGH



Computer Science Teacher



Special Education (Mathematics)
Teacher (2)



Theater Teacher



Mathematics Teacher



Chemistry Teacher



Special Education Science
Teacher

LACEY



12M D Secretary

LOWELL



Special Education Teacher