



# Superintendent's Report

November 10, 2021

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

## **COVID-19 Update**

On October 29, I released a memo that reviewed how we are planning ahead for the upcoming holidays when the State expects another rise in COVID cases coupled with "flu season." We continue to work with our partners at the Town Health Department and at Holy Name Medical Center in order to mitigate illness and/or need to quarantine, while doing our very best to keep our children within their respective in-person educational environments. It is important to remind everyone that we all signed a Wellness Attestation Form when we began the school year, and we receive a daily email reminder for staff to not come to school, or for parents to not send their children to school, if you/they are not feeling well. You can view the full memo here: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/SuperintendentsUpdates.aspx>

Following the authorization and recommendation of the vaccine by the FDA and CDC, children ages 5 to 11 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the State is encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible. The pediatric Pfizer vaccine is administered as a two-dose vaccine, three weeks apart, at a lower dose than the dosage for those ages 12 and older. Holy Name is administering the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to 5-11 year-olds. Parents can now schedule appointments for their children 5 years and older at Holy Name's Hackensack/Teaneck site, located at [3 University Plaza Dr, Hackensack, NJ 07605](#). A parent must be present and sign consent for their minor child. To schedule an appointment, visit [vaccine.holyname.org](https://vaccine.holyname.org). You can find other vaccination locations with pediatric doses at [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder), labeled with "Min. age: 5 years."

## **National Teacher Shortage/HR Recruitment Efforts**

As we continue to strengthen and expand our university partner network, Ms. Corallo, Director of Community Relations, and I have met with several New Jersey colleges and universities over the past couple of weeks. The national teacher shortage is affecting everyone, and this employment challenge is not expected to end any time in the near future. This is why we scheduled time with many Deans of Education (who oversee the educational candidate's pool) about ways we can partner this year and beyond. I believe these initial conversations were very promising and will be mutually beneficial.

We have also announced a new Employee Referral Program, and will be hosting a Virtual Job Fair on Tuesday, November 23, from 3 pm to 6 pm. A flyer on the Employee Referral Program was sent to all staff. The Virtual Job Fair will be promoted in multiple ways.

## **Star Assessments**

This month, we will be implementing a districtwide K-12 comprehensive literacy and math universal screener that will be used as an assessment tool for all students, including those identified as needing special education, academic interventions and/or gifted services.

On November 2, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jimenez-Johnson sent a memo home providing more details on the Star Assessments by Renaissance - a computer adaptive assessment that will provide teachers with current, reliable, and valid data quickly so they can target instruction, monitor progress, provide students with appropriate instructional materials, and intervene with at-risk students. These assessments will be administered three times during the 2021-2022 school year: November 2021, February 2022, and May 2022. The specific dates are outlined on the [Teaneck Public Schools: 2021-2022 District Assessment Calendar](#), which can be found on the district website.

## **Aspiring Leaders Program Update**

The District's Aspiring Leaders Program - a special professional development program to build future leaders of the District - is well underway, and the third meeting of the school year will take place on November 18. Eleven first-year participants will be engaged in conversations and activities about the topics below:

- Leadership style
- Purposeful use of data
- Navigating systems for decision making
- Planning and facilitating outcome driven meetings
- Interviewing for administrative positions
- Forecasting and action planning
- Public speaking

This initiative will be a strong tool for developing and retaining high-quality leaders, and sustaining the progress that the district has made thus far.

## **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](#).
- *School Violence Awareness Week* -October 18 to October 22. Students participated in age-appropriate activities and discussions that addressed the prevention of school violence.
- *High School*
  - College Fair Week: 2nd Annual Virtual College Fair took place on November 9, from 6 - 8pm. Over 35 of the nation's top colleges and universities, including some of your favorite HBCUs presented to students and parents/guardians via Zoom.
  - College Information:
    - College representative visits are in-person and virtual. Students are notified via Google Classroom and Naviance of the schools scheduled to visit. Students register via Naviance.
    - Scholarships - Information can be found in the Google Classroom and on the [Scholarship](#) tab.



- Virtual Parent Nights: The School Counseling Department is hosting information sessions geared to provide valuable information to assist parents/guardians in supporting their child.
  - Juniors - November 18, 2021
- Communication -
  - "THS Connections" Newsletter - THS Counseling Department will publish a monthly newsletter to share information with students and families.
  - YouTube Channel- All webinars will be posted for viewing.  
(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDw7prx6aDcxJmeyAo5sgQw>)
  - Follow @TeaneckSchoolCounseling on Instagram and Facebook

## Special Services

### *Special Education Parent Advisory Group Upcoming Event*

- The Teaneck Department of Special Services and Teaneck Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) are excited to partner with the State Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), a nationally recognized state parent advocacy network.
- The Teaneck SEPAG has been invited to attend SPAN's program START- Engaging Parents of Students with Disabilities is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education (NJOSE), and SPAN occurring virtually on November 10 from 7-8 pm.

### *Orton-Gillingham Certification Initiative*

- The Teaneck Department of Special Services is excited to announce a partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Center for Dyslexia Studies to provide training for Teaneck teachers in the Orton Gillingham approach to teach reading to struggling readers. As many of you already know, the Orton Gillingham approach is a phonics-based method of direct instruction for teaching reading and spelling. The District will sponsor 2 cohorts of up to 30 teachers and staff (15 per cohort) across our elementary, middle, and high schools to participate in FDU's Orton Gillingham Teacher Certificate Program.

## Communications & Community Relations

### *Teaneck International Film Festival*

The annual Teaneck International Film Festival (TIFF) will be held in-person November 11-14 and virtually November 15-21, 2021. All in-person TIFF films will be shown at Teaneck Cinemas - 503 Cedar Lane.

For the in-person film roster, check out our Community Partner Events page:

<https://www.teaneckschools.org/Events.aspx>

For more information visit: <https://www.teaneckfilmfestival.org/>

To order tickets, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/teaneck-international-film-festival-31428676435>

### *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

Teaneck Public Schools was recently mentioned in [ROI-NJ](#)'s website for the recent updates to our solar initiatives. Infinity Energy has completed the construction of various solar projects throughout the District that provide 905 kilowatts of solar energy. The project included solar arrays at six of the school

buildings and the environmental benefits are equivalent to 2,400 cars being taken off the road for a year. Teaneck Public Schools continues to look for new sustainable solutions for the District by partnering with [Sustainable New Jersey](#).

## **Bryant School**

- Bryant School/TELC held a very successful Book Fair for our students during the week of October 11. We provided an evening time slot on October 14 for our students and families at TELC so they can experience the Book Fair.
- Virtual parent teacher conferences were held on October 14. All classroom conferences were well attended.
- Bryant School/TELC staff and students wore PINK in support of Breast Cancer Awareness on October 22nd [CLICK HERE](#).
- Bryant School/TELC had their picture day on October 25.
- Bryant School/TELC had a special visit from the Teaneck Fire Department on October 28 & 29. The fire department spoke to the students about fire safety, the use of their tools and at the end showed them the components of each fire truck. [CLICK HERE](#).
- Bryant School/TELC students and staff participated in Character Day on October 29. We dressed up as our favorite character from a children's book and did a parade around the school. Families were invited to attend the outdoor parade at both locations [CLICK HERE](#).
- Bryant School/TELC PTO held their virtual monthly meeting on November 2.
- The week of November 8, all Bryant and TELC students and staff moved to the second theme of the year, Grocery Store. The students will make props and participate in activities that allow them to understand the components of a Grocery Stores and food markets. Classroom stations will transform into pretend bakeries, produce, florists, checkouts and much more.

## **Theodora Smiley Lacey School**

- Lacey School held their first post-covid field trip to Wightman's Farms on Thursday, October 28. The students and parent chaperones had a wonderful time at the farm, learning about the life cycles of pumpkins and weather patterns for crops. They participated in hayrides and picked pumpkins to take home.
- Our character day parade took place on Friday, October 29. Children dressed up as a character from their favorite book. Parents were invited to see the outdoor parade. The event was well attended.
- Lacey School initiated the ELA STAR Assessments during the week of November 8.
- Lacey kindergarten teachers are currently engaged in Professional Development through Wilson's Language Training for their Foundations Phonics Program which provides materials and strategies essential to comprehensive reading, spelling, and handwriting. The program emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics/word study, high frequency word study, reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension strategies, handwriting, and spelling.
- The Lacey Kindness Cart/Harvest for Kindness has begun accepting donations of non-perishable food items to help support local food pantries. Students began bringing in food items on November 1. This event will run until November 19, with donations being distributed the week of November 22.
- Our PTA executive board held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 9, at 6:30 PM.

## **Hawthorne Elementary School**

- It was a pleasure to celebrate our Students of the Month for the character trait of respect in a virtual evening ceremony on Tuesday, October 26.



- Our Parent/Teacher Conference took place on Wednesday, October 27.
- Our PTA Spooky Trails and Pumpkin Carving Contest were sights to see! We had a total of 102 cars drive through our Spooky Trails on that memorable night on Thursday, October 28. We had 99 votes for our pumpkin carving contest. Creativity was on full display!
- During the month of November, we celebrate Native American Heritage Month in honor of indigenous people.
- All smiles should be on deck for picture day on Wednesday, November 10.
- Our PTA meeting will be on Thursday, November 11, at 7:30pm.
- Marking period 1 will end on Tuesday, November 16. Report cards will be posted on Tuesday, November 23.
- Our 3rd and 4th grade students will be in for a treat with our "Bullyproof Your School" assembly on Thursday, November 18.
- The PTA will be selling health snacks on Friday, November 19.

## **Lowell Elementary School**

- Lowell School recognized School Violence Awareness Week from October 18 to October 22. Students participated in age-appropriate activities and discussions that address the prevention of school violence. On October 21, Teaneck Police and Fire Department visited the school to engage the children in discussions about safety. On the same day, all homerooms promoted positive messaging through sidewalk chalk. Click [HERE](#) for details.
- The PTO kicked off the Virtual Book Fair on October 25. The Virtual Book Fair ended on November 7. This was the first Book Fair of the year.
- On October 29, Lowell School held our annual Storybook Character Day. Students and staff celebrated the day by dressing up in characters from some of our favorite storybooks. Click [HERE](#) for photos.
- On October 29, the Lowell PTO held their inaugural Trunk or Treat event! "Trunkers" showed up with their decorated cars while the students visited each car for their treats. [HERE](#) are photos from the event.
- Lowell School initiated the ELA and Math STAR Assessments during the week of November 8. For more information on the testing schedule, please click [HERE](#).
- Our 4th Grade will be working on a reading activity on being thankful as part of our SEL Program. As we navigate challenges surrounding the pandemic, as a community, we are thankful for all the positive occurrences we continue to experience.
- The PTO will hold their Virtual November meeting on Tuesday, November 23, at 6:30 PM
- PTO Make-Up Picture Day will take place on Tuesday, November 30.

## **Whittier Elementary School**

- In recognition of School Violence Awareness Week from October 18 to October 22, Ms. Coston visited each 3rd and 4th grade classroom and presented a lesson on vandalism. Students participated in age-appropriate activities and discussions that addressed the prevention of school vandalism.
- The Whittier PTO hosted its annual Fall Harvest Festival on October 28. Whittier families enjoyed sack rack races, candy corn bowling, egg relay races, arts & crafts and delicious food. They also held a fundraiser, "Tape the Principal to the Wall," which was a huge success in raising money to help our Whittier students.
- Whittier School had their annual "Vocabulary Parade" on Friday, October 29. Students and staff chose a word to represent their costume and defined their words. Students participated in the parade and Monster Mash dance before dismissal.

- Whittier School NEHS Advisory Committee—Nina Lionetti, Jean Choi and Valarie Astor— will hold its National Elementary Society induction ceremony on Thursday, November 18, at 6:30 PM. Students are selected to join this prestigious program based on academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility. This year Whittier School will be inducting 13 students. Congratulations to these students and their families on this achievement.
- The PTO will hold its next virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 23, at 6:30 PM.
- The Whittier PTO has begun the application process for teachers to receive “mini-grants.”

## Benjamin Franklin Middle School

- Benjamin Franklin Middle School continues to work with the Teaneck Creek Conservancy, NEEF (National Environmental Education Foundation), and our partner middle school - Thomas Jefferson Middle School, to plan for the Greening STEM initiative funded by Bayer. The planning meeting on October 26 discussed scheduling and joint meetings between both middle schools.
- On October 21, BFMS Administration welcomed district leaders to participate in Instructional Rounds to support teaching and learning at BFMS. The groups conducted over 10 walkthroughs which allowed for providing feedback that was individual and global for the BFMS school community.
- BFMS met with an executive team of leaders including Dr. Christopher Irving, Dr. Christine Jimenez Johnson, and Dr. Kim Buxenbaum to discuss BFMS' long-term goals and initiatives to support teaching, learning, and school community needs for the 21st century and beyond.
- The BFMS Spirit Wear Store opened to offer students, staff and families the opportunity to purchase Bulldog Pride apparel. The store remained open until October 25.
- BFMS reintroduced HERO K12 as a behavior modification initiative to support our learners and staff with identifying and/or targeting prosocial behaviors to support learners at BFMS.
- On October 26, BFMS hosted its first Parent-Teacher Conference for the 2021-2022 school year. Held virtually, the meetings drew a significant number of parents who met with staff members virtually.
- The BFMS/PTO hosted a Fall Festival and fair for students and families. The events took place outdoors providing fun and engaging learning opportunities for students, staff, and families.
- On November 1, a poster/art contest was launched at BFMS in recognition of “**Unite Against Hate Week**,” where students will engage in designing artwork that reflects respect for differences, acceptance, community activism, and originality.
- BFMS acknowledges that November is National Native American Heritage Month. Learning this month will be targeted to support the contributions of Native Americans/Indigenous people in the Americas.

## Thomas Jefferson Middle School

- November is Native American Heritage Month: TJMS celebrates hope, honoring resiliency, and engaging tribal nations.
- TJMS launches DEAR time! **Drop Everything And Read**, which is an initiative that requires everyone in the school to pause for 20 minutes to read. Students, faculty and staff will DEAR on the last Friday of each month from 2:15-2:35pm.
- TJMS Picture Retake Day on November 9. Students who were absent/quarantined during our initial Picture Day or were unhappy with their photos were able to have their picture taken.
- On November 9, TJMS began the Title I After School program. The program runs every Tuesday and Thursday for an hour after dismissal focusing on Math & Language Arts.
- TJMS held its monthly virtual PTA meeting at 7pm via Zoom on November 9.

- On November 11, TJMS will acknowledge Veterans Day by participating in the Jeans for Troops program.
- November 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period begins as TJMS encourages parents & students along their path to success.
- November 23 - Report cards will be available through Skyward. TJMS families have been notified.

## **Teaneck High School**

- Parent Teacher Conferences were held virtually on Thursday, October 28. Over 2100 conferences were held.
- BQMT meeting held on Monday, November 8 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- PTSO meeting held on Monday, November 8 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Project Graduation Meeting held on Monday, November 8 at 8:00 pm
- Marking Period 1 ends November 16. Report cards will be distributed November 23, 2021
- Annual Powder Puff Game will be held Thursday, November 18 from 3:00 pm - 6:00. This is a HEAL sponsored fundraiser for Breast Cancer. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Holy Name Medical Center's Breast Center.
- Junior-Senior Homecoming Dance Monday, November 22 at Biaggio's from 6:00 pm -10:00 pm
- Freshman-Sophomore Homecoming Dance Tuesday, November 23 at THS from 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Pep Rally Wednesday, November 23 on the Stadium Steps 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- BonFire Wednesday, November 23 in the Stadium
- The Annual Homecoming Thanksgiving Day football game vs. Hackensack will be held at Hackensack High School at 10:00 am

## **Human Resource Management –**

*Staff Vacancy Updates – see attached document*



**TEANECK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Human Resource Management**

**Christopher C. Irving, Ed. D.**  
Superintendent

**Simone Clark**  
Executive Assistant, Human Resources & Compliance  
[sclark@teaneckschools.org](mailto:sclark@teaneckschools.org)



**VACANCIES as of 11.08.2021**

**DISTRICT**

***Certificated:***

English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher

***Non-Certificated:***

Manager, Human Resources & Compliance  
Coordinator of Institutional Advancement &  
Grant Procurement  
Transportation Coordinator  
General Mechanic III/Electrician (O&M)  
Technology Support Specialist I (Part-time)  
Safety Officer

**TEANECK HIGH**

***Certificated:***

Computer Science Teacher  
Special Education (Mathematics) Teacher (2)  
Chemistry Teacher  
Special Education (Science) Teacher

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

***Certificated:***

Assistant Principal

**LOWELL**

***Certificated:***

Special Education Teacher  
(pending recommendation)

**BRYANT**

***Non-Certificated:***

Secretary, Grade B

