



# Superintendent's Report

June 15, 2022

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

## **Student and Staff Recognition**

Prior to tonight's Board Meeting, we recognized several 4th grade students who were recently published in the *Teaneck Tomorrow Jr.* online newsletter - both the April and June issues (you can view them here: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/MediaNewsVideos.aspx>) . We will now recognize many of our spring student athletes who have excelled in their respective sport, as well as 11 Teaneck staff retirees who have dedicated their time and talent to our school district. We wish you a very happy retirement!

## **Security Update**

We know school security is on everyone's mind. Last Friday, I asked our district's Public Safety Coordinator to release a memo to all parents, students and staff to reassure our school community that we have and will continue to take appropriate measures to keep our school safe. Additional improvements will be taking place over the summer.

## **COVID-19 Update**

The District arranged for two dedicated days for TPS staff (happened on June 10) and for our families (students and parents) to get a COVID-19 vaccine through Holy Name Medical Center (includes any booster or even first-time vaccines). NOTE: Vaccines are done at the following address (NOT at Holy Name): 3 University Plaza Dr. Hackensack, NJ.

TPS Students and Families can schedule an appointment for **Friday, June 17** - by registering here: <http://holyname.org/VaccineTPS>

## **Student Representatives**

I once again welcome our Teaneck High School Student Liaisons to the Board to say a few words to the Board:

Angela Fletcher -Senior

Kasai Sanchez - Junior

Ronaldo Martin -Sophomore

Reem Abouganba - Freshman

## Curriculum & Instruction

- Summer Assignments
  - Our district supports learning throughout the year, including during the summer. As a support to our families and students, the Office of Curriculum and Instruction posts summer assignments and/or recommended summer learning opportunities for our students and families. To check out the 2022 TPS: Summer Assignments, please visit: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/CurriculumInstruction.aspx>. Here you will find resources for learning, by grade band, for your use over the summer months.
- Social Studies
  - In collaboration with the Teaneck League of Women Voters, the THS Social Studies Department held a Community Case Discussion on Monday, May 23rd in the THS Media Center. The case focused in on ***Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights (1965)*** and was led by THS Social Studies teachers Ms. Nicole Cooper, Ms. Christine Mayers, and Mr. Moldovan using the effective Harvard Case Method Civics Project method of teaching to engage students in history and democracy. The event was open to all students and members of the Teaneck Community and over 20 participants joined the conversation both in person and remotely.
  - On May 26, Four Middle School Teaneck staff members and the Supervisor of Humanities attended the *Implementing the Middle School Civics Mandate* Workshop at Ramapo College. Sponsored by the NJ Center for Civic Education, this one-day workshop provided an instructional framework, curriculum guide, resources and other hands-on activities to implement in the new 7th Grade Civics Social Studies course that will begin next school year at Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools.
- Teaneck Academically Gifted Program
  - On June 2, the Teaneck Academically Gifted program held a webinar Information Night for families. Topics reviewed include: The NJ Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act, an Overview of Giftedness, an Overview of the TAG Program offerings, the Process of Referrals & Student Identification for the 2022-2023 school year and a short period of Questions & Answers. Over 50 families joined the webinar. Here is a [LINK](#) to the TAG Information Night presentation.
- Visual & Performing Arts
  - On May 20, The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Music department attended the High Note festival in Marlboro, NJ. Under the direction of Mr. Michael Tatoris the band received a rating of Excellent and the orchestra a rating of Superior. Ms. Molly Neff led the TJMS Chorus with another Superior rating.
  - We also want to congratulate Julia Zhang from Hawthorne Elementary School who is the first-place winner for the Bergen County Social Justice Art Competition. Her artwork now moves to the National Level.
  - Teaneck Public Schools will be offering a fifth-grade instrumental music program for the month of July. Students will receive instrumental music instruction in brass, woodwind, percussion, and strings. Questions about this program can be directed to Mr. Joey Hochgesang at [JHochgesang@teaneckschools.org](mailto:JHochgesang@teaneckschools.org)

## Special Services

- **Multi-Sensory Reading Initiative** - Fifteen Teaneck staff members and administrators completed the first of four courses through the District- Funded and nationally accredited Orton Gillingham Teacher Certificate Program with Fairleigh Dickinson University. As a part of the coursework,



participating teachers and administrators provided one-to-one direct instruction to 30 elementary students in reading, spelling and handwriting. The course provided the theory and practice required for effective educational intervention for struggling readers including students with reading disabilities, such as dyslexia.

- **New Jersey Inclusive Education Technical Assistance (NJETA)** - Hawthorne Elementary, in conjunction with the Department of Special Education, the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education and Montclair State University, completed year-one of a three-year partnership to make substantial changes in the operation and function of the school in order to implement inclusive practices, policies, and culture. During the partnership, the team reviewed the Quality Indicators for Inclusive Schools and used that as a guide to develop an action plan and establish priorities for implementation. The Inclusion Facilitator met with the team on a monthly basis to build capacity around the priorities identified in the school's action plan and proposed professional development and coaching for the upcoming school year.

## **School Counseling Department**

The School Counseling Department would like to congratulate the Class of 2022! The students strived, worked hard, persevered and achieved goals with another year of so many uncertainties. They PUSHED through with GRIT AND POWER determined to thrive in this school year. Mind-sets focused on applying for colleges, researching scholarships, taking the required NJ State exams, accepting many colleges offers, applying for summer jobs along with preparation and enjoyment of The Prom. Regardless of your plans, we want to congratulate you on a job well done! You have worked hard to achieve this goal and there is nothing but great things ahead!

- *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

## **Communications & Community Relations**

### *Community Forum on Superintendent Search*

Please join us virtually on Wednesday, June 22 from 7 pm - 8 pm as the Teaneck Board of Education seeks community input on the qualities the community seeks in a Superintendent. This discussion will be led by Matthew Lee, Field Service Representative from New Jersey School Boards Association. For more information, please visit the district website under "District News".

### *Annual Communications Survey Results*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual communications survey! Your input is very important so we know what is working well and where we need to improve. The final results will be presented at a future Board meeting.

### *COVID-19 Vaccines*

We want to thank Holy Name Medical Center for working with us to offer two dedicated vaccination dates for our students and staff. We hope to do another vaccination event prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

## District Communication Tools

Get Connected with Teaneck Public Schools: Download our Free Mobile App on Apple & Google Stores: *Teaneck Public Schools* and be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook: *Teaneck Public School District*

You can also subscribe to our YouTube Channel: *Teaneck Public Schools*

NEW: *Teaneck Public Schools* is now on LinkedIn! Follow us there for all of the latest information on employment opportunities and district happenings. And please share our posts with your contacts.

Become a part of The Teaneck Advantage! Go to: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/teaneck-public-schools>

## **Bryant School**

- On June 9, Bryant School and TELC held Moving Up Showcases for the PreK 4 classrooms. The events were held in the classrooms. The students presented a showcase of learning to their parents and families. [HERE](#) are pictures of the various showcases. Congratulations to our PreK 4 scholars.
- Bryant School and TELC students and staff kicked off the month of [June with Fun Themed Fridays](#). This month, we celebrated sunglasses day and All About Me Day, where the students came to school dressed up in garments representing their culture, religion, favorite shirt, etc. We celebrated everyone and what makes them unique! On Friday, June 17, we will celebrate Bryant School!
- Our final PTO Meeting of the year took place on Tuesday, June 14. We held elections for the 2022-2023 School Year. Results of the elections will be announced. A special **Thank You** to our current PTO Board for all their hard work, fundraising efforts and the countless volunteer hours supporting our school community. Thank you, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Bimbiras, Mrs. McKee, and Mrs. J. Lewis. It was a pleasure working with you this school year.
- Bryant School would like to wish Ms. Kozuma and Ms. Girgan a happy retirement! Thank you for your many years of dedication and commitment to Teaneck Public Schools and the Bryant School community. Best wishes on their new adventures.
- Our students have transitions to the Camping Theme or a classroom theme of their choice. [HERE](#) are some fun pictures from our students experiencing and learning about camping.
- The June calendar for Bryant School may be found [HERE](#)
- The June Breakfast and Lunch Menus may be found [HERE](#)
- Teaneck Public Schools is pleased to showcase our Registration Program. Please take a moment to watch the [PRESCHOOL VIDEO](#) providing information on Teaneck Public Schools' Preschool Program.
- The Bryant School PTO is now on social media. Click [HERE](#) to join us. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. Stay connected with all things Bryant School and all things PTO.
- On behalf of the Bryant School/TELC students and staff, we would like to express our gratitude to the Teaneck Board of Education and district administration for their continued support.

## **Theodora Smiley Lacey School**

- Lacey School kindergarten students went on a trip to Van Saun Park on May 17. Students and staff had so much fun. [Photos Here](#).
- Our 2nd annual Express Your Health Fair which took place on May 24 was a huge success. Many of our families came out and participated in the fun. We received donations from BroRito's, Stop & Shop (Teaneck), Acme (Fort Lee), The Market Place (Englewood), Vegan Vybzs and Natural Vybzs (Teaneck) and others. [Photos Here](#)
- Lacey School students participated in Field Day on May 26. The event was a huge success. Students, staff and parent volunteers had an amazing time.



- Lacey School conducted our first next school visit on June 1. Our Kindergarten students visited their next schools for 1st grade and had an awesome time. [Photos Here](#).
- Lacey School had their 1st in-person moving up celebration on 6/10 and was largely attended. Photos and videos will be posted on the Lacey webpage.
- Lacey School received a donation from the AKA Sorority, courtesy of Christina Mayers, of over 300 diverse book titles which were gifted to our kindergarten students as part of their moving up gift bag.
- Lacey School PTA raised over \$3,000 for year-end activities for the students. The last week of school will include fun things like the year-end picnic at Votee park/splash park, ice cream truck social and movie day, yearbook signing, and dance party.
- On behalf of Lacey School students and staff, we would like to thank the Teaneck Board of Education and district administration for their continuous support of our school.

## **Hawthorne Elementary School**

- The Hawthorne School first graders were visited by incoming first graders from Lacey School on June 1st. The incoming first graders listened to read alouds, drew pictures, and received a tour of (what will be) their new school.
- The Hawthorne School fourth grade peer mediators attended a trip to a courthouse, where they had the opportunity to converse with a judge, and Bowler City on June 1st as well.
- Field day was on June 2nd. The students had a wonderful time.
- The PTA meeting took place on June 2. A new PTA President and Secretary were selected for the upcoming school year.
- The Kindergarteners celebrated with an end of year gathering along with their loved ones at Hawthorne School on June 3rd.
- The fourth graders attended a cyber bullying assembly and watched a video created by their grade level peers.
- The safety patrol visited the swim club for their annual trip on June 7.
- Hollyrock game show visited Hawthorne School on June 8th. All grade levels participated in a fun-filled experience which included trivia and physical challenges.
- The fourth graders traveled to Funplex for their end of year trip on June 9.
- On June 10, the fourth graders had their yearbook signing and ice cream social.
- On June 10, Hawthorne School also celebrated Officer Ray Hamm for all that he does to keep the school safe.
- The fourth graders moved on up at the moving up ceremony which was held at Thomas Jefferson MS on June 13.
- Through the month of June, the Hawthorne students have celebrated beach days at the school with the help of the PTA.
- The Hawthorne PTA has sponsored events throughout the month of June such as: beach days, field day, the Hollyrock game show, the end of year fourth grade trip, the ice cream social, the yearbooks for the fourth-grade students, and many more things. Hawthorne School is so grateful for this partnership.

## **Lowell Elementary School**

- On June 1, the Kindergarten students from Lacey School came to Lowell for a presentation and tour of the school.
- NJSLA make-up testing for Math continued on June 1 and June 2.

- Lowell's Safety Patrol Trip occurred on Tuesday, June 7. It was a celebration of the students' hard work throughout the year. They went to the Teaneck Swim Club along with Hawthorne School's Safety Patrol to enjoy some swimming. Lunch was sponsored by the Teaneck Police Department and beverages from Lowell's PTO.
  - In September, with the help of the 4th grade teachers, Safety Patrol Advisor Ms. Ryerson selected a handful of 4th grade students from Lowell that demonstrated responsibility, respect, and leadership to be part of the Safety Patrol. Throughout the year, they patrolled the buses and school to make sure all students were practicing safety.
- On Wednesday, June 8, the 4th Grade class took a trip to Powerhouse Studios in Paramus, NJ. Their journey at Lowell was celebrated with a CLUB POWERHOUSE DANCE PARTY, an interactive Game Show, prizes, games, and a catered lunch. It was a big, fun success.
- The Math and Literacy Enrichment Coaches had two parent curriculum nights.
  - Tuesday, June 7th's virtual meet was about "Ways to Support Your Child Academically During the Summer Months."
  - Thursday, June 9th's virtual meet was about reading.
- The 4th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony was held on Monday, June 13 at Benjamin Franklin Middle School at 9:30 AM. Congratulations to students and families. Refreshments and a cake were provided by the Lowell PTO. Thanks went out to the volunteers.
  - A clap-out happened in the Lowell hallways before the 4th graders traveled to BF.
  - A poem was read by selected students and the ceremony ended with the grade singing "Lean on Me" led by Lowell's music teacher, Ms. Kim.
- Lowell held their Kindergarten Moving-Up Ceremony on Tuesday, June 14 at 11:30 AM. The students sang songs led by music teacher Ms. Kim. Refreshments and snacks were provided by Lowell's PTO.
- The 4th grade class will have a picnic on Thursday, June 16 at 10:30 AM. Snacks and ice pops will be provided along with the distribution of yearbooks.
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd graders at Lowell were celebrated with an ice cream truck on Wed, June 15th.
- On Friday, June 10, the 2nd graders held their Edible Garden Picnic. The 2nd graders had worked hard planting in their garden, growing lettuce and radishes. The picnic was open to the parents of the 2nd graders and Lowell thanked the different food contributions they brought. The parent volunteers were also thanked for helping out. The garden celebration was a huge success.
- The Golden Sneaker Winner for May, chosen by Ms. Ryerson, was Ms. Sgambati's homeroom.

## Whittier Elementary School

- Field Day for Third and Fourth grade students was held on Friday, June 3. Students participated in a number of fun competitive events culminating with the tug-of-war and the 40-yard dash. The winners of the Tug of War were Ms. Fliegelman's class for fourth grade and Ms. Harmon's class for third grade. The 40-yard dash winners were Noel Jones and Sariya Stewman for Grade 4 and Rene Wilson and John Thornton for Grade 3. Thank you, Coach Harrison and Ms. Baer, for a fun-filled day!
- Ms. Taylor's third grade music students gave musical informances to their families the week of June 6. Students will perform, vocally and instrumentally, songs of their choice.
- The PTO sponsored a fourth-grade movie night on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 PM with a showing of Sonic the Hedgehog 2. They also hosted an ice cream social/yearbook signing event for our fourth-grade students on Wednesday, June 8.



- The fourth-grade yearly field trip to Funplex took place on Thursday, June 9. This trip was sponsored by our wonderful Whittier PTO. Students enjoyed a day of fun in an amusement park and in a water park.
- Our annual End of the year celebration was held on Tuesday, June 14, for Whittier families and students. They enjoyed games, food and spending time with other families.
- The Kindergarten class went on a field trip to Van Saun Park on Friday, June 10. Students participated in a program called Animal Wrappers which taught them about animals and their habitats. They also visited the zoo and had a picnic.
- Whittier School celebrated our fourth grade Class of 2022 with a moving up ceremony at Benjamin Franklin Middle School on Monday, June 13 at 12:30 PM. Congratulations to our students and their families.
- Some of Whittier School's fourth grade students were published in the May and June editions of Teaneck Tomorrow, Jr. Topics included student interviews of Councilwoman Gervonn Romney-Rice, prepared articles on what they love about Teaneck AND what they would do if they were Mayor! It was a wonderful opportunity for our fourth-grade students and we thank Teaneck Tomorrow, Jr. for providing them with the chance to be Teaneck Tomorrow, Jr. reporters.

## **Benjamin Franklin Middle School**

- Benjamin Franklin Middle School (BFMS) staff members were honored by the Teaneck Board of Education at the board of education meeting. This honor was bestowed upon staff who received the Governor's Educator of the Year Award for the 2021-2022 school year.
- On May 18, 2022, Teaneck High School's Honor Society presented to our 8th graders about the program at Teaneck High School and how they might consider working to join the work of scholars.
- A meeting was held on Monday, May 23 with parents of students who were accepted into the NJIT Excite Program. The meeting was held in the media center and was co-sponsored by BFMS Alumnus Dr. Jason Baynes and former Teaneck educator Dr. Joyce Baynes.
- On May 24, BFMS held its Spring Concert in our auditorium. Students who participate in orchestra, chorus, and band entertained a full house of individuals.
- The 8th Grade Dance was held on May 26 at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe. Students and staff attended the event and supported the event that was organized by the BFMS/PTO.
- On May 31, BFMS hosted a 4th Grade Visit for our rising up families from elementary school. Students had an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at BFMS and tour the building.
- The BFMS PTO hosted a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of May 30 - June 3, 2022.
- BFMS honored its past and current retirees at Tommy Fox's in Bergenfield, NJ. This year, Mrs. Diane Spain will be retiring. Last year, Mrs. H. Almeida and H. Mehta.
- On June 7, BFMS hosted its monthly Student of the Month Ceremony via Google Meet which awarded learners for displaying outstanding character during the month of May.
- BFMS held its Parents' University Appreciation Award Ceremony on June 7. These awards provide parents with various levels of recognition based on their participation in school events (Associates, Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral).
- BFMS welcomed Brain Challenge that engaged students and staff members via a presentation in the auditorium. The host focused on math and literacy.
- BFMS hosted families and students on June 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm for the annual 8th Grade Award Ceremony -honoring the work of students who are moving up to 9th grade for their excellence in academics, school and community services, arts, etc.
- BFMS hosted its 8th Grade Moving Up ceremony on June 14 at Teaneck High School in the school's auditorium at 9 am.

## **Thomas Jefferson Middle School**

- TJMS' Student of the Month ceremony was held in the auditorium at 7:45am on June 2.
- On June 2, the 8th Annual Science Fair Day was held.
- PTA & TJMS hosted Family Day from 11am-2pm on June 2. Festivities included craft tables, lawn games, bounce houses, prizes, food trucks and a DJ.
- On June 9, the TJMS Class of 2022 Awards Ceremony was held in the auditorium at 9am. Families were able to attend the ceremony.
- On June 13, we held a Faculty Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm. Dedication of the furniture from the estate of Ms. Maddox. We will also have a faculty book swap.
- On June 14, the PTA meeting was held at 7pm via: Zoom.
- TJMS Class of 2022 Moving Up ceremony at THS in the auditorium on June 15 at 9am.
- On June 15, the Board of Education meeting at 7pm will recognize our retirees. Please tune in and watch as our district honors Ms. Kelly McMillon, our only TJ retiree this year.

## **Teaneck High School**

- The PTSO held general elections for the coming school year on June 6.
- On June 7, the Valedictorian Breakfast was held at the Fiesta.
- On June 8, the Athletic and Honors Convocation was held at Biaggio's in Paramus
- On June 10, the Senior Class held Field Day.
- Boys baseball lost in the first round of the State Tournament to Wayne Valley with a score of 5-4.
- Boys Volleyball lost in the Sectional Semi Finals. This is the furthest that the boys' volleyball team has ever advanced in the State Tournament in their history.

## **Human Resource Management**

NEW: *Teaneck Public Schools* is now on LinkedIn! Follow us there for all of the latest information on employment opportunities and district happenings. And please share our posts with your contacts. Become a part of The Teaneck Advantage! Go to: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/teaneck-public-schools>

We are hiring! *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 06.13.2022**

**DISTRICT**

***Certificated:***

Middle School English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher  
Elementary Physical Education Teacher (2 vacancies)  
Speech Therapist (Special Services)  
Director of Guidance, Career Services & Vocational Education  
Supervisor of Mathematics

***Non-Certificated:***

Manager, Human Resources & Compliance  
Director of Technology  
General Mechanic III / Grounds Foreman (O&M)  
Executive Assistant, HRM  
COVID Response Team Member (temporary)  
Technology Support Specialist III  
Technology Support Specialist I

**TEANECK HIGH**

***Certificated:***

Special Education (Mathematics) Teacher (2 vacancies)  
Special Education (Science) Teacher (2 vacancies)  
Mathematics Teacher  
Business Teacher  
School Counselor

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

***Certificated:***

Special Education Teacher (2 vacancies)  
Mathematics Teacher/Coach

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

***Certificated:***

Special Education Language Arts Teacher

Positions listed in **BOLD** have been advertised.

Interim positions filled until recommendations are confirmed for permanent appointment:  
**Superintendent of Schools & School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.**

## LOWELL

***Certificated:***

**Grade 4 Teacher**

**Special Education Teacher (2 vacancies)**

## WHITTIER

***Certificated:***

**School Nurse**

## BRYANT

***Certificated:***

**Preschool Intervention Teacher**