



Superintendent's Report

March 16, 2022

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

Student Recognition

This evening, we are recognizing 9 young men from Benjamin Franklin Middle School and Teaneck High School who recently completed The Role Models for Successful Manhood Program, sponsored by The Mu Boule Foundation. Created in 2013 by Archon Sherle L. Boone, this special program provides an invaluable leadership and mentoring experience for all participants, and aims to improve life chances for success in the areas of school, college and the workplace. Four of our nine students were returning participants and were among 53 young men from various middle and high schools throughout New Jersey. Congratulations to our young men who we know have a bright future ahead of them! And a special thank you to the parents, staff and administrators who support them along their journey.

Women's History Month

March is designated as "Women's History Month" and our district is celebrating - and educating - on this annual event in many ways. Throughout this report, you will see the many school activities planned. Additionally, we posted a special WHM graphic on our website slideshow and our District Facebook cover photo. We also reached out to our local community organizations for information on their respective Women's History Month events. These events can be found under the "Communitywide Women's History Month Events" on our district website: [Women's History Month Events](#) These community partner events have been promoted on our district Facebook and mobile app too.

2022-2023 Kindergarten Registration

On March 14, we opened kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. It's highly recommended to register early. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before October 1, 2022, to qualify for Kindergarten. For more information, visit the district's website: [Kindergarten Registration](#)

Family Engagement Workshops

The District held the first in a series of five virtual workshops for our parents/guardians. The next session is on "Developing Academic Skills - Kindergarten through Grade 4" and will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm. All of the "Family Engagement Workshops" are presented in English & Spanish simultaneously. For more information about the March 24 workshop, visit: [Developing Academic Skills](#) . For the full workshop series, please visit the district website: [Family Engagement Workshops](#)

COVID-19 Update

Mask Requirement: On Friday, March 5, based upon information from the State, the CDC, our local health department, and our current positive cases, the District announced that it is moving to a mask

optional environment. We will continue to monitor our COVID cases and if there's a significant rise in cases, this guidance could change.

Preschool Applications Now Available

A friendly reminder that the preschool registration process for the 2022-2023 school year is underway and all applications are due by March 31. Applications can be downloaded from the district website at <https://www.teaneckschools.org/GradesPK3PK4.aspx> or picked up at the Teaneck Early Learning Center, located at 479 Maitland Ave. Completed applications can be emailed to prekregistration@teaneckschools.org or by scheduling an appointment by calling 201-347-3486.

Curriculum & Instruction

- **March 21, 2022 - District Professional Development Day** - The Teaneck School District is preparing for its final, half-day inservice. We have a number of workshops prepared for teachers. Our catalog includes: implementing phenomena-based science instruction, using real-world problems in mathematics, infusing culturally relevant practices into the secondary mathematics classroom and teaching critical vocabulary in the content area classes. The full catalog will be posted on the district's website, under the tab: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/ProfessionalDevelopment.aspx>
- **English Learners Parent Advisory Committee** - On February 8, 2022, Teaneck's Parent Advisory Committee met to discuss the purpose of Teaneck ESL Parent Advisory Committee, the district's High-Intensity ESL program, and recommended parent / family meetings for the year. During our meeting, we discussed the following:
 - Meet & Greet with families who are participating in the English language program.
 - Technology support for families, specifically with Clever, Google Classroom and Skyward.As a result of our Parent Advisory Committee meeting, on **April 5, 2022** we will be hosting a virtual ESL parent engagement night on the topic of **English Learner Achievement in the Content Areas**. Information regarding the Teaneck's Parent Advisory Committee is found on the district's website: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/EnglishLanguageLearners.aspx>. Under this tab, you will find the presentations, dates and information for all of our meetings
- **Science and Computer Science** - The Science and Computer Science department is promoting and encouraging the Teaneck High School students and science teaching staff to register and attend a three-part workshop designed to support, educate and inspire high school students interested in pursuing STEM and STEM related careers. **Inspiring Young Minds** is a program, sponsored and provided by Unilever, a consumer products manufacturer and distributor, developed to show high school students what it is like to work in a world class Research & Development facility. This workshop series was designed to help students that have a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering or Math see firsthand how those passions can be applied at Unilever and the consumer goods industry at large. **Inspiring Young Minds** is a free 3-week workshop designed to show high school students what it is like to work in Research & Development and will run Saturdays May 7th, May 14th and May 21st from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Please see the URL link for registration and program information.

Special Services

- **Staff and Administrators Wellness Groups** - The Educational Services Department is pleased to present *Spring into Wellness* in partnership with Care Plus NJ. This is a special series for Teaneck staff and administrators facilitated by licensed clinicians and specialists from Care Plus focused on identifying stressors, provision of validation/support, and fostering resilience and self-care.

- March 21, 2022 *Handle our Students with Care Training* - The Department of Special Services in partnership with Care Plus NJ, is facilitating a training session for building-based staff on current evidence-based approaches to risk assessments within an integrated, multisystem team approach in order to assist building-based teams in providing the critical protective buffer needed to mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (one of the three key goals of the NJ ACE's Statewide Action Plan).

School Counseling Department

- *SEL Day- March 11, 2022*- Teaneck Public Schools joined schools and other organizations around the world to celebrate International SEL Day. SEL4US and the Urban Assembly invite schools and communities around the globe to celebrate the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) on the third annual International SEL Day on Friday, March 11, 2022. This year's theme is "***Finding Common Ground, Pursuing Common Good.***" Many of our schools have provided ways to recognize SEL Day. For additional resources:
 - [SEL Day.org](https://www.selday.org)
 - [Rutgers SEL & Character Development Lab- Parent Resources](#)
 - [Mindfulness Activities for Teens](#)
 - [Edutopia: A Parents Guide to Social and Emotional Learning](#)
 - [Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning](#)
- *March Madness* - College & Career Exploration Month is back.
 - Staff is encouraged to "Rep Your College" in various ways: wearing college gear on Friday; door decorating; adding a "College and Career" section to their Bitmoji Classrooms; submitting a short video for a video collage
- *Spring Assessments*- Teaneck will be administering assessments as indicated below:
 - NJSLA - April 25 through June 3
 - English-Language Arts - grades 3-9,
 - Mathematics grades - grades 3-9
 - Science grades 5, 8 and 11
 - NJGPA - March 14 - 18
 - English Language Arts - grade 11
 - Math - grade 11

Note: Students in grades 10 and 12 do not test this year.

Principals will notify parents/guardians of the specific testing dates per school. Please contact your child's principal should you have any questions or concerns about your child's performance on district and/or state assessments.
- *Scheduling for the 2022-2023 school year*
 - Scheduling has begun for students in grades 8-11 for the upcoming school year. For more information, please reach out to your child's school counselor. Information is also posted on the website: High School click [HERE](#), Middle School click [HERE](#). THS Curriculum Course Guide- Click [HERE](#)
- *High School*
 - March Madness - Career Exploration Panel

This year's Career Exploration Panels will allow Teaneck High School students to get up close and personal with career professionals from various industries. Each Career Exploration date will feature a different industry field and will allow students the opportunity to be exposed to careers they may, or may not have ever heard about and explore insider information about the profession. Teachers will have the opportunity to

bring their class down to participate in the panel discussions of related fields, or fields of interest, and students will also be able to register individually.

- Seniors - Scholarship opportunities can be found in the "Senior Guidance Info" Google Classroom and on the [Scholarship](#) tab. For more information please see Ms. Dockery in the School Counseling office.
- **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

Family Engagement Workshops

A big thank you to those who attended our "Post Pandemic Stress & Anxiety" workshop on March 1. Our next Family Engagement Workshop - "Developing Academic Skills" - will be held on March 24 at 7:30 pm (presented in English & Spanish simultaneously). Parents of kindergarten through grade 4 students are encouraged to attend this session to learn effective techniques to help develop your child's academic skills. [Developing Academic Skills \(K-4\)](#). For the full schedule, visit: [Family Engagement Workshops](#)

Community News

Be sure to check out the special Women's History Month events planned by our local community partners. Visit the "Communitywide Women's History Month Events" section on our district website: [Women's History Month Events](#).

District 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*.

Bryant School

- Bryant students continue to learn and engage using a Medical theme. Students have created props and enjoyed Make Believe Play in various areas of medicine, from the hospital to the dentist's office, to the eye doctor. In the next couple of weeks our students will transition to a Pet Vet theme.
- Throughout the month, Bryant School/TELC will commemorate Women's History Month. Teachers will incorporate topics and materials daily as part of the classroom instruction. Stay tuned for more wonderful artwork that will be showcased on our hallway bulletin boards throughout the building.
- The PTO met on Tuesday, March 1. Please see the PTO Meeting Agenda, attached [HERE](#)
- On March 2, we celebrated National Read Across America Day! The students were encouraged to bring their favorite book to school and to share the story with their classmates. It was a wonderful day of reading, learning, and sharing. Please enjoy a video from one of our classroom Read-a-Loud as well as photos from Read Across America Day by clicking [HERE](#)

- March Fun Themed Fridays kicked off with Striped Shirt Day on March 4th. Students came to school showing off their favorite Striped Shirts! Fun Themed Fridays will continue throughout the month of March. Please click [HERE](#) for our March themes.
- On Friday, March 11, we celebrated SEL Day. Bryant/TELC joined school communities around the world in recognizing the importance of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). This year's theme is Finding Common Ground, Pursuing Common Good. Please click [HERE](#) for photos and more information.
- On March 17, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing Green. Stay tuned as we publish photos on our website.
- The March calendar can be found [HERE](#). The calendar may be revised to include updates/events throughout the month.
- March breakfast and lunch menus can be found [HERE](#). Please note that the menu items may change during the month. Please check the [WEBSITE LINK](#) for daily menu items.
- Help support our Bryant School PTO by participating in the SchoolStore.com Fundraiser. Bryant School earns money when families and friends shop on SchoolStore.com.
- Preschool Enrollment is in full swing! Applications will be accepted until March 31st. Children currently enrolled in PreK3 and PreK4 **DO NOT** need to fill out applications. Applications are available and may be found [HERE](#).
- The PTO School Store Fundraiser will remain in effect until the end of the school year. Fundraising packets were distributed to your children. Please review the packet for detailed information on participation and how our school may earn up to 50% of the profits from the purchases. Please click [HERE](#) for more information. Thank you in advance for your support.
- 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!
- Our next PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, April 5. The agenda will be released closer to the meeting date.

Theodora Smiley Lacey School

- The Scholastic Book Fair was held on February 14-18 and was a huge success raising over \$3500 in book sales.
- Lacey School was featured in NJEA's "Making the Grade". You can see the segment [HERE](#). This segment also tied into celebrating Mrs. Lacey for Women's History Month.
- Our students culminated BHM with a Google site to highlight the diversity of learning as we spotlighted Black historians, leaders, writers, dancers, actors, inventors and scientists. The site is published live and can be accessed [HERE](#)
- Lacey School took part in the NCTE Kindergarten read in during the week of 2/22/22. Our district administrators visited our classes and read books to our students. Here are some of the [photos](#).
- District vendor Burke created a rendition of the TSL playground. The design was created with K students and their specific needs in mind. The proposal will be shared with students who developed 3D versions of the equipment they hope to see in the future.
- Lacey School celebrated Read Across America from March 1 - 7. Flyer and photos [HERE](#)
- Lacey School PTA met on March 7. The agenda can be found [HERE](#).
- On March 7, Hackensack Homeless Shelter collected over 150 kindness bags created by Lacey students and families.
- On March 15, Lacey School will feature The NED Show, an anti-bullying assembly for our students.

Hawthorne Elementary School

- Special thanks to the PTA for creating candy grams and ensuring that every child had a gift on the 100th day of School.
- Hawthorne's second graders created remarkable replicas of inventions from Black Americans. These replicas are currently on display in our media center.
- Read Across America Week was celebrated with themed days. It is such a wonderful sight to see our students and staff celebrating literacy through themed attire and corresponding books. Principal Pitt had the privilege of being a "special guest reader" in some classes.
- The second administration of the Star Assessments is complete. Individual student reports were distributed to parents/guardians. The Hawthorne staff have been participating in data analysis meetings and using the data as one source to inform their instruction.
- On Thursday, March 3, the Hawthorne PTA held the March PTA meeting.
- On March 8, the Student of the Month recipients were honored for the character trait of creativity.
- Our students were camera ready on Wednesday, March 9 for picture day. Our fourth grade students excitedly took their Class of '22 photo.
- The Spring Book Fair is taking place during the week of March 14.
- Family Fun Night will be on Tuesday, March 15 at Hawthorne School.
- In honor of World Down Syndrome Day, the Hawthorne family is invited to wear mismatched or extraordinary socks on Monday, March 21.
- The PTA is selling healthy snacks on Friday, March 25.
- An adults only bingo night is taking place at Hawthorne School on Tuesday, March 29.

Lowell Elementary School

- Lowell celebrated Read Across America from Tuesday, March 1 through March 4. Each day had two different tasks - one in regards to reading a specific type of book and another about what attire to wear to school.
 - Mrs. Blake Arroyo organized a first-time (morning) classroom swap that occurred on Wednesday, March 2. This classroom swap consisted of teachers and staff entering a classroom (and grade) that isn't their own to read a book to the students. Mrs. Sandvig helped provide books from the library.
 - The Read Across America flyer and classroom swap pictures can be found [HERE](#).
- Ms. Giannikos started a virtual book club for 3rd and 4th grade students for the months of March and April to increase family engagement. A reading schedule and home assignments were posted on a Google Classroom where read-aloud videos were also provided. Books were provided to the students to keep. Prizes are a possibility.
 - There was a live launch for the book club on Thursday, March 10 where parents and students learned more about the club, heard the first chapter and won prizes.
- There was a Greg Tang Live Event on Wednesday, March 2. It was about Math in Literacy so the students participated in a Wordy Wednesday activity.
 - There will be a Greg Tang Help Session on Wednesday the 16th at 7pm.
- Lowell's math and literacy enrichment coaches are hosting a virtual Parent Curriculum Night on Wednesday, March 23rd at 7pm. Our coaches will be presenting our newest homework expectations and online programs to help your child maintain and further their reading and math fluency skills.

- Mrs. Williams 3rd grade class continued to study the life and works of Maya Angelou. They were a rainbow in someone else's cloud through classroom acts of kindness and hallway decorations.
- Our music teacher, Ms. Kim, had all the homerooms record videos to create a virtual concert program for parents and staff to enjoy. The concert program was in honor of Black History Month. It was sent to parents on Tuesday, March 8.
 - You can view the concert program and other Black History Month decorations [HERE](#)
- Our guidance counselor, Ms. Guyden, booked Jim Vagias to visit the school on Wednesday, March 30 to conduct an SEL and Character Education assembly. He uses magic to teach and will see each grade one at a time. His website can be found [HERE](#).
- Ms. Guyden and Principal Green teamed up with the Parent Institute to provide Lowell families a new electronic resource, the Family Engagement Library. This library offers booklets, quick-tip brochures, cards, and videos on a range of topics from how to work with your child's teacher and get involved to tools on motivating and teaching your child at home. You can find it [HERE](#).
- Ms. Ryerson chose Mr. Bushoven's homeroom as the February Golden Sneaker winner.
- [HERE](#) is our March Kindness Calendar
- There will be a virtual PTO meeting on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30pm. Agenda and link will be provided as the date gets closer.

Whittier Elementary School

- Whittier School shared their Black History Month virtual concerts with the whole school community. The K-2 concert is [here](#) and the 3rd/4th grade concert is [here](#).
- Whittier School is celebrating "Music in Our Schools" month. During music classes, students will engage in Rhythm Battles. The top three classes will receive a prize of their choosing. We will also celebrate with Music Festive Fridays. Students will dress to a theme each week. Once again, the March Music Madness Battle is returning. This year's theme is "A Song of My Heart."
- Our spring picture date will be held on Tuesday, March 29
- The PTO will hold its next PTO Meeting (virtual) on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.
- In celebration of Women in History Month, Whittier's morning announcements include a segment on famous/infamous women who contributed to history. An example of this month's morning announcements is [here](#).
- Humphrey is Back! Whittier School is once again participating in One Book, One School. All students are reading Mysteries According to Humphrey. The event was kicked off during our Family Literacy Night on February 28 with fun literacy based games such as Guess the Idiom, Scattergories, Scavenger Hunt and Guess the Literary Character.
- Whittier School will host an assembly "Bullyproof Your School" on Thursday, March 31.
- Whittier's Third Grade students attended a field trip on March 16 to the Sea Life Aquarium/Legoland at the American Dream Mall. Students learned about sea animals, the importance of ocean life and environments. The Sea Life Aquarium provided teachers with resources to teach about rockpools, sea stars, etc prior to going on the trip.
- Whittier 3rd graders will have their annual Black History Wax Museum on Thursday, March 24th.
- Through the generosity of the Teaneck Township Educational Association and the New Jersey Educational Association, Whittier School will be holding its first Family Math Night of the year on Thursday, March 31 at 6:30PM. Families are invited to participate in four different activity stations during the hour and half event. Board games, a collaborative art/math project, an estimation station, and "What Do You Notice" station are on the agenda. Homework passes and

snacks will be available to all participants. Parents will also receive a Parent Guide detailing powerful ways to strengthen math skills and build positive attitudes towards mathematics.

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

- On March 8, Benjamin Franklin Middle School (BFMS) will host its Student of the Month ceremony. The event will take place at 6pm and will be virtual.
- The BFMS PTO Meeting for parents, staff, and other stakeholders was held on March 8 virtually.
- On March 8 BFMS celebrated International Women's Day by wearing purple to collectively honor women from around the world.
- SEL Day was held on Friday, March 11.
- On March 11, Heroes and Cool Kids returned to BFMS as students from Teaneck High School came to offer learners their perspective on high school life and expectations. We also had a guest speaker, "The Sneaker Preacher" come to speak with our 8th graders about "getting out of the box and off of the shelf."
- On March 16, 24 & 25, BFMS students will partner with Teaneck Creek Conservancy and the National Environment Education Foundation (NEEF) to perform water quality testing at the local watershed.
- On March 18, BFMS will host a "Tea Talk" in celebration of Women's History Month. The event will take place between 8:45 am - 10 am in the BFMS Cafeteria. Dress Attire: BFMS Apparel or Red & White.
- BFMS will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 by asking staff and students to wear "mismatched socks" to acknowledge and honor the different abilities we find in individuals.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

- TJMS acknowledges the National Junior Honor Society students with an Induction ceremony held on March 1.
- On March 7, the Faculty vs Students Volleyball Game was held to encourage team-building skills at TJMS atmosphere as we believe "teamwork makes the difference".
- On March 8, the PTA meeting was held at 7pm for TJMS families.
- Heroes & Cool Kids presentations for TJMS 6th grade classrooms occurred on March 11. Students were excited to merge with older peers and learn new things.
- On March 15, the North Jersey Spelling Bee championship will be held virtually with 8th grader Maya Aguilar representing TJMS.
- TJMS celebrates World Down Syndrome Day as staff and students wear blue and yellow to show support on March 21. TJ will host a socks challenge where students should wear bright colored, long or printed socks to school on this day. <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>
- On March 25, TJMS participated in DEAR time during the 7th period.

Teaneck High School

- Both Boys and Girls Basketball teams played in the State Tournament. The girls won the first round and lost in the second round to Ramapo. The boys made it to the third round and lost by 2 points to Tenafly.
- Preparations for *The Wiz*, the High School Spring Musical, continue. The performances will be on April 1 and 2 at 8:00 pm and also April 3 at 3:00 pm.
- Krispy Kreme Fundraising sale until March 25.
- Spring Sports began Friday, March 11.

- FORUM held a Real Estate Vocational Career Fair on Thursday, March 10.
- Everyday HEAL is making announcements highlighting an important woman in history for the month of March.
- All League Winter Sports:
 - Girls Basketball - 1st Team - Deja Young, Rachel Gordon, & Elyssa Russo
 - Girls Fencing - 1st Team Epee - Elizabeth Moyston, 2nd Team Sabre - Layla Williams, Foil - Katy Chang
 - Boys Basketball - 1st Team - Tyler Tejada and Keith McKnight. 2nd Team - David Teele, Ty Carnegie, and Jarrell Harmitt. Honorable Mention - Branden Moore and Kyle Perez.
 - Indoor Track - 1st Team - Daye Karibi-Whyte, Zuri Williamson, Denea Solomon, As'asia Malcom, Josh Carter, and Zoe Branch. 2nd Team - Lydia Rojas and Kwaku Asante-Nkrumah. Honorable Mention - Alyvia Polite and Alex Caba.
 - Boys Fencing - Phillip Cho
 - Wrestling - 1st Team - Sebastian Jusma and Jaden Coffee. 2nd Team - Danny Paulino. Honorable Mention - Jeremiah Harmitt and Ahmmad Halakmurphy
- All County Winter Sports:
 - Girls Basketball - 1st Team - Rachel Gordon. 2nd Team - Elyssa Russo. Honorable Mention - Deja YOUNG.
 - Boys Basketball - 1st Team - Tyler Tejada
 - Indoor Track - 2nd Team - Daye Karibi-Whyte and Zuri Williamson. 3rd Team - Denea Solomon.
 - Boys Fencing - 1st Team - Phillip Cho

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



VACANCIES as of 03.14.2022

DISTRICT

Certificated:

English as a Second Language (ESL)
Teacher

Non-Certificated:

Manager, Human Resources & Compliance
Director of Technology
General Mechanic III / Grounds Foreman
(O&M)
Substitute Safety Officer

TEANECK HIGH

Certificated:

Special Education (Mathematics) Teacher (2)
Special Education (Science) Teacher (2)
Computer Science Teacher
Mathematics Teacher
*Athletic Trainer

Non-Certificated:

Receptionist / Clerk (FORUM) (anticipated:
May 2022)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Certificated:

Special Education Teacher
*Mathematics Coach

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Certificated:

Grade 5 Teacher

BRYANT

Certificated:

*CST Social Worker

LOWELL

Certificated:

*Special Education (MD) Teacher
Grade 4 Teacher

*Indicates position is anticipated for the 2022-2023 School Year.
Positions listed in **BOLD** have been advertised.

Interim positions filled until recommendations are confirmed for permanent appointment: School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Supervisor of Mathematics (District) & Middle School Assistant Principal (Thomas Jefferson Middle School)