



Superintendent's Report

January 19, 2022

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

Tonight's Recognition Ceremony

The fall Fairleigh Dickinson University STEM programs recently concluded and tonight we will be recognizing those who successfully completed the following programs: Girls Exploring Engineering STEM Program (9 middle school students...most in one semester to date), Computing and Security Enrichment Outreach Program (4 high school students), Technical Enrichment Outreach Program (3 high schools students), and the Mathematics Enrichment Through Applications STEM Program (4 high school students). Congratulations to all of these outstanding achievers!

PTA Video

Many may have heard that the PTA's of Lacey, Hawthorne and Thomas Jefferson Middle School participated in the National Reflections Program which taps into a child's creative potential by asking how they might change the world. We are going to play a video that gives a brief introduction about the PTA Reflections Program and the Reflections winners at each of the schools. The PTA Council wishes to thank Ms. Dominique Martin-Portes, a Hawthorne parent who took the time to do the video and the Teaneck Public Library who agreed to showcase the kids' artwork once we get them back. We plan to recognize the Reflections winners/students along with a group of Hawthorne children who were recently published at a special time prior to next month's Workshop Meeting (7:30 pm).

COVID-19 Update

Staff Testing: On January 6 & 7, the district staff participated in mandatory PCR testing. 472 used the vendor/service provided directly by the district and all others who used other facilities had to submit their test results by Sunday, January 9 before returning to work.

Pediatric Vaccine Clinic: The District & Holy Name Medical Center co-hosted a third Pediatric Vaccine Clinic (January 10 at BFMS...second doses will be administered on January 31).

COVID-19 Dashboard: We are actively updating our COVID-19 section of the website with the latest information including Frequently Asked Questions and other related documents. **NEW:** Our Weekly COVID-19 Dashboard provides an at-a-glance view of positive cases, by school, and the total number of students and staff in quarantine. This dashboard will also be posted on the school websites.

HR Virtual Fair

Winter Job Fair: The District is hosting another virtual Job Fair on January 25. For more details including how to register to attend, visit:

<https://www.teaneckschools.org/Downloads/Virtual%20Job%20Fair2.pdf>

Curriculum & Instruction

On January 17, our district was closed to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only do we observe the legacy of Dr. King, Jr. on the 17th of January, but we collectively further the movement as we intentionally advocate for equity and justice everywhere.

Below are three resources that can be used to learn more about Dr. King's advocacy and leadership.

- [The King Center: The Urgency of Creating the Beloved Community](#)
- [NAACP: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr](#)
- [The Best of our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Teaching Resources](#)

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." - Dr. King, Jr.

- *Visual and Performing Arts* -The Vocal Music Department at Teaneck High School will be hosting their annual THS Choral Festival on January 27. Vocal students from Teaneck High School, Benjamin Franklin Middle School, and Thomas Jefferson Middle School will share their concert repertoire, engage in team building activities, and participate in a number of vocal workshops. In addition, the Teaneck Public School District's Fourth Grade Saturday Instrumental Music Program will begin January 29 and it will conclude on May 21 with a concert to celebrate our students' accomplishments.
- *Humanities / Social Studies* - Social Studies teachers in the High School and Middle Schools have been developing and implementing a new lesson in December and January using the Teaching History Through Literature (THTL) methodology learned during the December Professional Development with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. High School Social Studies teachers have also continued to develop and implement a new lesson in December and January using the Inquiry Design Model. Both approaches seek to help students develop their literacy, research and critical thinking skills. In addition, Ms. Mack (THS Assistant Principal & Business Supervisor) and Mr. Sularz (Supervisor of Humanities & Gifted Education) met with Ms. Barbara Ostroth and Ms. Margot Fisher from the Teaneck League of Women's Voters about continuing the partnership and previously developed initiatives between Teaneck Public Schools and the Teaneck LWV.
- *Gifted and Talented* - The Teaneck Academically Gifted and Talented Program is currently preparing for the introduction of in-person enrichment for Kindergarten classes during the month of February. In addition, teachers are currently engaged in curriculum writing for the 1st / 2nd Grade program as well as the Kindergarten program.

Special Services

- *Special Education Advisory Group (SEPAG)* - Tomorrow January 20, from 6:30 PM -7:30 PM, the Department of Special Services in collaboration with SPAN Advocacy Parent Network will be presenting a virtual parent workshop titled:

- *Starting and Running an Effective Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG).*
- **Presenters:**
 - Dr. Maura Tuite, Acting Director of Special Education - High School Graduation Requirement Update
 - Debbie Esposito, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network Co-Director and Vanessa Schwippert, Bi-lingual Parent Group Specialist in Bergen County
- This virtual workshop is designed to provide an overview of the role and function of a Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) and discuss best practices, tips, and strategies for the effective implementation of SEPAGs or other parent groups. Anyone interested in developing, and participating in an effective parent group to support the engagement of parents to improve outcomes for **all** students, especially students identified for special education services are welcome.
- *District-Funded Orton Gillingham (OG) Multisensory Reading Teacher Certification Program* - The Department of Special Services in conjunction with the Curriculum and Instruction Department and Fairleigh Dickinson University is pleased to announce that the Cohort 1 of the districted-funded OG multisensory reading program started today. Cohort 1 comprises 13 educators and two administrators (Ms. Patricia Dent, Director of Innovation English and ESL, and Shellian Mirander, Assistant Director of Special Education, who will both co-direct the initiative). Participants in the program will matriculate in the Fairleigh Dickinson University Orton Gillingham certification program, a 12 credit program nationally accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC).

School Counseling Department

- *High School*
 - MLK Birthday Committee Scholarship Recipient
 - Senior Summer Smith was recognized by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Scholarship Committee on January 17 during the virtual program. This year's theme was "No Vote...No Voice...No Power." Summer was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Committee and commendations from the NJ State Legislature and Bergen County officials. Additionally, Summer submitted an essay on the topic "Why is it so important today to ensure the right to vote?" and was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. Link to view the program in its entirety <https://vimeo.com/661628473>
 - Fall Colleges/University Rep Visits Recap - The THS Counseling Department welcomed 27 amazing colleges and universities to present to our students. 70 juniors and seniors attended one or more rep visits in-person or virtual. In-Person - Bloomfield College, Cedar Crest College, Dominican College (NY), FDU's Latino Promise, Georgian Court University, Grinnell College, Kean University, Pace University, Savannah College of Art & Design, Stockton University. Virtual- Bryant University, CUNY Hunter College (NY), Emmanuel College, High Point University, Iona College (NY), Johnson & Wales University, Lincoln University, Moravian University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Seton Hall University, Stony Brook University (PA), SUNY College at Oswego, University of Buffalo, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, University of Rochester, University of Scranton (PA).
 - Instant Decision Day - On January 27, the THS Counseling Department will host a virtual Instant Decision Day. Seniors will have the opportunity to meet with college admissions

officers and receive decisions. Thus far, 21 colleges have been confirmed including NJIT, Seton Hall University, Western Connecticut, Johnson and Wales University, Delaware State, and Lincoln University.

- Scholarships- Information can be found in the Senior Guidance Info Google Classroom and on the [Scholarship](#) tab.
- *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 News

The Teaneck Public Library Board has selected a new Library Director, Ms. Shinae Hyun, who will begin on February 1. Ms. Hyun has a Masters Degree in Library & Information Science and was previously working as the Library Director for Haworth Municipal Library.

COVID-19 Section of Website & January 10 Pediatric Vaccine Clinic

Another 53 children were vaccinated on January 10 - thanks again to our partners at Holy Name Medical Center. We have also made considerable updates to the COVID-19 section of our website. Be sure to click on the COVID-19 icon or visit: <https://www.teaneckschools.org/COVID-19Resources.aspx>

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 is currently in search of a new Director of Technology to work alongside our staff and students in providing a 21st Century classroom environment and to maintain the district infrastructure. Interested candidates should apply here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/teaneck/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Technology>

Additionally, the Technology Department has hired their newest member, Christian Om, as a Technology Support Specialist. Christian will be working with the Technology Department to continue to assist faculty and staff and provide high quality technical support.

Bryant School

- Congratulations to the Bryant School PTO on their Popcorn Fundraiser that ran from December 13 to December 17th. In the short amount of time, our Bryant families delivered on the goal and raised over \$2,900 that will go toward our end-of-year activities. Thank you to all our supporters.
- Our **PTO Holiday Food Drive** was a SUCCESS! Our final collection day was on Wednesday, December 15. The donations were boxed up and picked up by members of our local community

and the Center for Food Action. Special Thank you to Mrs. Jonisha Lewis for her help with the drop-off. Click [HERE](#) for photos of the donation area.

- The PTO Spirit Store went online on Monday, January 17, 2022 and closes on Monday, January 31st. Show us your Bryant Spirit! Please click [HERE](#) for the link.
- 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!
- This month, our students transitioned to the Restaurant Theme. Students are engaged in creating props and enjoying Make Believe Play in various Restaurant Themes. We have Pizzerias, Ice Cream Shops, Asian Noodle Houses, and McDonald's Drive-Thrus! Please enjoy the [slideshow](#) from Ms. Lee's and Mrs. Jeon's classes. You may even see Mr. D having a plate of yummy noodles.
- Our Bryant School families enjoyed the first snow of the season, and a much-deserved break with the January 7 "snow day". Here is a little [video](#) showing our Bryant School families having some snow day fun!
- Join Bryant School by celebrating Fun Themed Fridays! Click [HERE](#) for our Friday Themes.
- The January school calendar can be found [HERE](#)
- We encourage our parents to visit the website for information on the January events hosted by the Bergen County Council for Young Children. Flyers and details may be found [HERE](#)

Theodora Smiley Lacey School

- Lacey School held its first annual Sock Drive collecting over 450 pairs of brand new socks. The drive was held during the month of December ([see flier](#)). The socks were donated to Never Alone Again Resource Center located in Teaneck. [Photos here](#)
- Lacey School received over 75 snack packs from Center for Food Action which were distributed to families in need.
- The Lacey Learning Lab after-school program will conclude on Thursday, January 20. There will be a virtual celebration for students and parents on January 25.
- Lacey School is planning a Black History Month celebration scheduled for February 25 where our special guest speaker will be Ms. Theodora Smiley Lacey.

Hawthorne Elementary School

- The Hawthorne Cares gift drive provided gifts for 33 of our students. We extend a huge thank you to the Hawthorne staff, parents, and guardians who sponsored students and helped to brighten the holiday season.
- On January 4, we recognized 11 of our students as December Student of the Month recipients with a virtual evening ceremony. December's Student of the Month trait was compassion.
- Last month, 36 of our students were recognized as a part of our "High Five" program for demonstrating kindness.
- The safety patrol is well underway. Our students are exercising great citizenship and serving as role models daily.
- The peer mediation program will have its kick-off training meeting on January 21st. Twelve 4th grade students will participate as peer mediators. Each student was nominated by their peers for exhibiting good citizenship. Peer mediators will be contributing to the positive culture of our school by providing assistance to peers with conflict resolution.

- The National Elementary Honor Society applications have been distributed. Selections are scheduled to be made in early February.
- Hawthorne School will be commemorating “No Name Calling” Week during the week of January 17 by reinforcing our ideals of fair treatment and kindness. Our students will be viewing motivational messages, engaging in classroom activities, and participating in a culminating school-wide “respect” dance.
- The PTA will be selling smencils on January 21. The PTA will also be selling healthy snacks on January 28. The Hawthorne PTA is on social media. Please check them out on Facebook and Instagram: TeaneckHawthornePTA.

Lowell Elementary School

- Lowell School completed a December full of fun activities and events during the last few days prior to the break. Please click [HERE](#) for details on the various activities and events our staff and students participated in.
- The Safety Patrol Program launched in late December, led by Ms. Ryerson. Consisting of 4th Graders, our Safety Patrol students are role models who exhibit positive citizenship while ensuring the safety of our students, especially during arrival and dismissal.
- Lowell's Afterschool Math and Literacy Support Program program kicked off in late December. The program, led by Mr. Hiel, meets virtually every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 8:10 pm. The program consists of 82 students across grades 1-4 with a total of 7 teachers. The program will run until April 28, 2022.
- Lowell School celebrates a month of kindness. One of our 3rd Grade Teachers, Ms. Drelich, introduced the Lowell Students to the Kindness Calendar. The calendar gives daily acts of kindness for the students to participate in. The Kindness Calendar provides a wonderful initiative to address character education in classrooms and to continue to promote positive behavior with students daily. Please click [HERE](#)
- The PTO will hold the next virtual meeting on January 25 at 6:30 PM
- The January Calendar may be found [HERE](#)

Whittier Elementary School

- The PTO sponsored a “Spirit Night” fundraiser at Chick-fil-A in Englewood on Wednesday, January 5. A portion of the sales were donated to Whittier School.
- Whittier School will celebrate No Name Calling Week from January 18 through January 21. Whittier Morning News announcements will be focussed on kindness and respect in and out of the classroom and how important it is to help others and be mindful of what is said to others. The following week there will be lessons to reinforce the acceptance of diversity and differences.
- The PTO will hold its next virtual meeting on January 25 at 6:30 PM
- Whittier School will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King during the week of January 18. On January 21, selected students will make a short presentation on World Peace to the student body. 4th graders also read Dr. King's famous “I have a Dream Speech” which was shared with the school community. The video can be found [here](#).

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

- The PTO provided hot chocolate to all students and staff for Literacy Day where students wore PJs and spent the day reading with peers.

- Principal Williams accepted citations from Congressman Clyburn, Congresswoman Yvette Clark, and Teaneck Deputy Mayor Elie Katz on behalf of the Benjamin Franklin Middle School community.
- Katelyn Darko, student, presented Principal Williams with an advanced copy of her first published book entitled, "Middle School Misfortune."
- Information was shared on the Nguzo Saba during each day of Kwanzaa on its social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) by highlighting each principle of Kwanzaa with images of what these principles look like as practiced by people around the globe.
- January 11: The Benjamin Franklin Middle School Store officially opened in the school's cafeteria.
- January 11: BFMS PTO held three meetings for their executive board, general body, and 8th Grade Committee to discuss the plan forward for the PTO during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The School Student Council sponsored a fundraiser at Chipotle in Englewood on January 12 to support the student activities.
- January 14: BFMS kicked off Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with playing excerpts of "I've Been to the Mountain Top" sermon by Dr. King and reminding the school community about our duty to service for equality, freedom, and peace.

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

- TJMS acknowledges Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day along with providing teaching resources that teachers can utilize to teach students about MLK: [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- January 11: PTA Meeting via Zoom at 7pm.
- January 12: TJMS held a Spelling Bee during lunch/recess periods (top 2 from each ELA class).
- January 19: BQMT meeting held at 8am
- TJMS collaborates with Heroes & Cool Kids presentations in 6th grade classrooms on January 21.
- January 26:- TJMS Spelling Bee finals in the Media Center at 3:30pm.
- January 28: TJMS encourages staff and student to DEAR time at 2:15pm

Teaneck High School

- Due to severe staffing shortages, Teaneck High School returned to school virtually the week of January 3, and back in person on January 10.
- Progress reports available online on January 6, 2022
- The week leading up to Martin Luther King Day we made announcements to spread awareness about Dr. King's beliefs and life all with quotes from Dr. King.
- National Honor Society Induction on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00 pm. This will be a virtual ceremony.
- Class meetings held Thursday and Friday, January 13 and 14 to go over expectations and norms with all students. Meetings were held during physical education classes.
- Over 44% of students were on Honor Roll for the first marking period.
- Winter sports are back on track
- Teaneck High School Magnets are on sale for \$5.00. QR code can be found on the High School website.
- Parent Conferences have been moved to March 3, 2022. The conference will be held virtually.
- Python Scholars Spring 2022 Program:
 - The program will begin approximately the third week in January (15 weekends, 5 hours each Saturday)

- We are being asked to substitute the Python College credits for a high school computer science, math or science elective or required course ,to lighten their load and reduce stress.
- We will be allowed to submit fifteen 10th and 11th grade applicants
 - Candidates should be girls of middle or lower income (of any race or ethnicity), African Americans (of any gender), Latinx or US Hispanics (of any gender), and indigrnous Americans who may identify as Native Americans, American Indians (of any gender), Alaskan, Pacifica Islanders (of any gender)
- Applicants should:
 - Be high performing STEM “honors students” who have taken 1 or more computer language, earning a “B” grade or higher
 - The STEM GPA will factor in grade point average for science, technology, engineering and math courses
 - Write a 100 word essay expressing their motivation for taking the course.
 - We currently have 5 students signed up for the program.

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 01.14.2022

DISTRICT

Certificated:

English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher
Supervisor of Mathematics (C&I)

Non-Certificated:

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

TEANECK HIGH

Certificated:

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

Non-Certificated:

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

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Certificated:

Special Education Teacher

*Anticipated for the 2022-2023 School Year.

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