



## Sayreville Public Schools Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997  
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871  
Phone: 732-525-5200  
Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

### Talk Sup Week 11 Review and Preview

November 22, 2021

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a most relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup. Please remember that this week our schools will be closed for instruction on **November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Thanksgiving. Likewise, please note that students and staff will be dismissed early on **November 24<sup>th</sup>** so that they can get a head start on the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. Finally, please remember that **1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period Report Cards** for students in **grades 6-12** will be viewable in Oncourse Connect on November 24<sup>th</sup>.



At this time of year, particularly during these very challenging times, we pause so that we can think about the wonders of life that we have all been blessed with. Moreover, we think about the people in our lives who have profoundly impacted us and are forever grateful for those irreplaceable moments we have shared. Therefore, please know how incredibly grateful I am to have the privilege to work with and be a

part of the lives of our amazing students, their incredibly supportive parents, and our wonderful staff. Hence, on behalf of the Sayreville Board of Education and Administration, we wish you and your entire family a blessed and very Happy Thanksgiving.



I am thrilled to report to you that thanks to our incredible new Director and Assistant Director of Transportation, we have finally overcome and remedied the three-month bus delays caused by the inability of Durham Bus Services to appropriately staff the routes they were contractually obligated to drive. As I mentioned to the Board of Education during last Tuesday evening's BOE Business Meeting, Mr. Cerniglia, our Director of Transportation, combined several of their routes and brokered a deal with

Durham in which they agreed to lease us several buses for a dollar each so that we could take them over once we hired enough drivers. Thus, thanks to Mr. Cerniglia and Ms. Padilla, Assistant Director, as well as Dr. Aguiles and Ms. Flanagan in our Human Resources Department, we now have enough drivers to take over all the understaffed Durham routes. Therefore, while we may continue to have minor delays throughout the year for a number of reasons, which we will work to remedy as swiftly as possible, beginning today, the major bus delays will cease. Nonetheless, we sincerely apologize once again to all our students, parents, and staff who were inconvenienced, stressed, and burdened by the Durham bus delays. Likewise, we once again commend and thank our staff, particularly those in our Transportation Department and at our schools, which includes our wonderful supervisors of instruction, for working tirelessly for the past three months to supervise and ensure that every student affected by the delays got home safely. Finally, we once again thank the parents of all affected students for their understanding and patience.

Over the weekend, one individual from the Truman School, one from the Arleth School, and one from the Project Before at Cheesequake School tested positive for COVID-19. After conducting contact tracing in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines, individuals from each school were determined to be in "close contact" with the infected people. At this time all have been notified and directed to quarantine. Please remember that, as part of our district's [Safe Return Plan](#), **today** we will resume **voluntary staff/family and student/family COVID-19 testing** with Back to School Solutions from **2:30 – 5 pm** and **voluntary vaccinations** with the Parlin Pharmacy from **4 -7 pm** in the **Sayreville War Memorial High School Cafeteria**. Please also note that the pharmacy is also providing **Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson booster** shots. **Likewise, they are now also providing vaccinations for children 5 years of age and older.**

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**However, in accordance with the CDC and NJDOH it is recommended that parents consult with their child's pediatrician prior to getting them vaccinated, especially those under that age of 12.** Below, please find the tentative dates for both of these services throughout the fall. With regard to testing, since **we do not test people who are demonstrating symptoms**, if you are symptomatic, you should ask your healthcare provider for an appropriate testing location. If you are a staff member or the parent of a student who is interested in learning more information about how you and your residing family members can participate in this vital virus spreading prevention activity, click [here](#). **Please note** that if you have already participated in testing with us, you only need to conduct a telemedicine appointment. If you have never tested with us in the past, you would need to register using the following link <https://backtoworksolutions.com/SayervillePSD.html>. Once you have conducted your telemedicine appointment, you will receive a **prescription** for the **PCR** test.

As mentioned above the Parlin Pharmacy will once again administer **Flu and COVID-19 Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccine shots to anyone 5 years of age and older, as well as Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J booster shots, in the Sayreville War Memorial High School Cafeteria.** Naturally, **any individuals under the age of 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian, who will need to provide signed consent for the vaccination.** Therefore, anyone interested in receiving the vaccine **must register online in advance** by clicking [here](#) or by going to the **Parlin Pharmacy** website ([www.parlinrx.com](http://www.parlinrx.com)). Unfortunately, for safety purposes, **no "walk-ins" will be permitted into the school.** In fact, with in-district COVID-19 testing, **all registered participants must report to Door 22 of the high school cafeteria (adjacent to the dumpsters),** where they will be screened by our security team before being allowed into the vaccination room. Below please find the tentative dates and times.

#### **COVID-19 Testing Schedule Via Back to School Solutions**

- **Monday, November 21, 2021**
- Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- Wednesday, December 8, 2021
- Wednesday, December 15, 2021
- Wednesday, December 22, 2021

#### **COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations with the Parlin Pharmacy**

- **Monday, November 21, 2021**
- Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- Wednesday, December 8, 2021
- Wednesday, December 15, 2021
- Wednesday, December 22, 2021

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, here is what you missed. Stephanie Castellitto from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) and Jayda Ronquillo from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. Next, Mr. Esposito expressed his opening remarks and Mr. Walsh shared a few district highlights. During the presentation portion of the meeting, Mr. Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent of Information, Technology, and Operations presented the 2020-21 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Self-Assessment ratings. To view them, click [here](#).

The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved them all. To see the Agenda, click [here](#). To see the Agenda Addendum, click [here](#). To view the video of this meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the resubmission of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Consolidated Grant Application in the total amount of \$6,444,640. Likewise, it approved the submission of an amended application for funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), due to recently released additional carryover funds, in the total amount of \$1,468,985. It also approved the submission of an amended application for funding under the Perkins Secondary Consolidated Grant in the total amount of \$2,523. Furthermore, the Board accepted the Middle Grades Career Exploration Grant in the amount of \$68,992; and it approved the submission of the 2022-2023 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Five-Year Preschool Program Operational Plan and Budget. Finally, the Board of Education approved an amended Agreement for Professional Services between the Board and the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., in which the Board will pay the firm \$12,500 for additional professional services related to HVAC upgrades at the Selover School.



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On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the Board approved new and revised curriculum guides, along with new books to be used in the middle school language arts program. Likewise, among other motions, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education adopted the revised Sayreville Board of Education [By-Laws](#), [Policies](#), and [Regulations](#) Manuals. Click on each to review them. It also approved the 2021 Qualitative School Accountability Continuum District Performance Review Self-Assessment and Declaration. In addition, the BOE approved the 2021 School Safety and Security Plan Review Statement of Assurance. Lastly, the Board approved the revised 2022-23 School District Calendar. To view it, click [here](#).

Finally, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of James Craft, Vocal Music Teacher at SWMHS, effective January 1, 2022. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2021-22 school year. Likewise, it appointed staff for the elementary and middle school Math and Literacy Academies and Tier 3 Tutoring. Lastly, the Board approved the transfer of non-certificated staff members for the 2021-22 school year.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting several students from SWMHS appealed to the Board to reinstate the Walt Disney World senior trip. Likewise, another student expressed to the Board his opposition to the BOE Student Code of Conduct consequences for failing to wear a student identification badge. Finally, another students expressed her displeasure with the current mechanisms in place at the high school for students to communicate ideas for change, and shared her recommendations for creating a forum for students to do so.

During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Balka reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Carrie and Mr. Walsh for the last Student Achievement and Personnel Committee Meetings. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association. Finally, Mr. Fernandez provided an update on happenings with the Sayreville/South Amboy Rotary Club.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the district website on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. A complete copy of the **November 16<sup>th</sup>** meeting minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next BOE Meeting on **December 21, 2021**.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) virtual meeting. During the meeting, we discussed the major facility and infrastructure renovations that the district has made, particularly the installation of highly efficient air-conditioning systems, and the facilities improvement bond referendum that the district will be seeking BOE and NJDOE approval for later this year.



Last Thursday, the district held the annual Bombers Unified Indoor Soccer Tournament at SWMHS, the Arelth School, and at the Project Before at Cheesecake School. However, what made this year's tournament so special is that for the first time ever, the



SWMHS team played against another high school, Perth Amboy High School. During all three games, those in attendance were both impressed and inspired to watch our students with intellectual and developmental disabilities compete with and against their typically developing peers. Moreover, everyone was moved to see the comradery and

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friendship between our student athletes, which undoubtedly evolved during the process of practicing and preparing for the tournament together. Finally, everyone was overwhelmed with joy to witness the amount of staff members, parents, and students who came out to assist and support these incredible student athletes. We thank and commend Ms. Carkeek, the district Unified Activities Coordinator, and all the Bombers Unified advisors, coaches, teachers, and paraprofessionals, for the tremendous job they did in coordinating this event and preparing their student/athletes for it.



In other happening across the district, thanks to our magnificent teachers and instructional staff, our students continued to progress in learning and had a ton of fun



doing so this past week. Speaking of Bombers Unified activities, at the high school the Bombers Unified Club held its first meeting of the year. In Project Before, our preschoolers had a blast grocery shopping and making breakfast

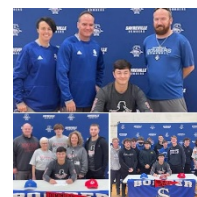


during creative play. At the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES), students in Ms. Pacansky's classes had an awesome time producing movies and videos. Likewise, SUES students and staff demonstrated their school spirit by wearing flannel.



This past week our students, staff, and community members continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We congratulate SWMHS senior Brian Zapoticzny, who recently committed to attend Rutgers University at Newark, where he will also play collegiate baseball. Likewise, we once again congratulate SWMHS senior Dennis Whitford who officially signed his letter of intent last week to play

baseball at Dominican College next year. Bomber Nation salutes these and all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



As you know, the fall athletics season ended last week. The following is a summary of each high school and middle school program, compliments of Ms. Badami, Director of Athletics. The SWMHS Boys Cross Country Team ended their season with a record of 3-2. The team was led by sophomore Sean Wilson who placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the county. The team placed 10<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Championship Meet, making them the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in the Gold Division. The Varsity Team was made up of largely underclassman, all of whom showed great promise for the future. At the State Sectional Meet, sophomore Sean Wilson placed 19<sup>th</sup> out of 116 runners, posting a season and team best run of 16:52. The Girls Cross Country team had a dominant season, going undefeated to win their first GMC Gold Divisional Championship since 2009. Sophomore Crystal Margotta was unbeaten in dual meets, leading the Bombers team to consecutive shutouts and three wins that were decided by more than 25 points each.

The SWMHS Field Hockey Team season was filled with many accomplishments for the program. First and foremost, for the first time in the history of the program, there were five teams in the program (two middle school teams, a freshman team, a junior varsity team and a varsity team). All levels worked hard to develop their skills and love for the game of field hockey. The varsity team recorded a total of 25 goals, 16 assists, 9 defensive line saves, 99 saves by the goalie and completed the season with a record of 5-10-1. Haylie Petras was named Offensive Player of the Year. Likewise, Sophia Abbassi was selected to the All County First Team. Finally, Coach Mary Charmello was named the GMC Coach of the Year.



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After an 0-2 start, the SWMHS Football Team strung together an impressive eight game win streak which unfortunately ended two weekends ago in the sectional semi-finals. However, they won the BCC 5D Division with a division record of 5-0 and an overall record of 8-2. Sophomore Zaimer Wright was voted the Week 3 Central Jersey Sports Zone Game Ball Player of the Week and CJsportsradio Player of the Game. Zaimer also set a new school record with 25 rushing touchdowns in a season.

The SWMHS Boys Soccer Team completed the 2021 season with a final record of 9-10. They finished 7-7 in GMC White Division play. They qualified for the NJSIAA tournament for the 18<sup>th</sup> time in the last 21 years. They entered the state playoffs the 16<sup>th</sup> seed and defeated the number one seeded North Brunswick High School Raiders 4-1. Juniors John Kovalchuk and Kofi Darbo were selected to the GMC All-White Division Team as well as one of the SCANJ All-State Teams. John was also selected to the All-GMC Team. Seniors Rohit Sharma and Kelvin Appau were selected to play in the GMC Senior Showcase. The team also held a Melanoma Awareness night in which a donation was made to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. In fact, over the past 20 years, the SWMHS Boys Soccer Team has donated over \$32,000 to local charities.

The SWMHS Girls Soccer Team exhibited wonderful character both on and off the field throughout the season, which was reflected by the team receiving the GMC White Division Sportsmanship Award. The girls displayed great effort, supported each other, celebrated their victories, and learned from their losses. Their hard work on the field advanced the team to the second round of the GMC Tournament. Senior, Adrianna Westcott earned All-White Division and All-State honors, for her excellence on the field. Off the field, the Bombers generously gave back to the community by fundraising over \$1,100 during its Blue and White Tournament, which supported the Go for the Goal Foundation for pediatric cancer. A total of \$12,231 was raised collectively, as 14 county teams participated in the Tournament. Additionally, the team hosted an Ovarian Cancer night at the high school during Cancer Awareness Month.

The SWMHS Girls Tennis Team fought through much adversity this season. Despite injuries and a lack of experience, they battled each match. Next year, with only one senior, the team will look to come back stronger due to the skills and knowledge they learned from this season. We congratulate senior Giany Alba on her amazing Sayreville tennis career.

The Sayreville Middle School Cross Country team ended the season on a high note with the Boys Team taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Middle School GMC Championships. The boys were led by 7<sup>th</sup> grader Damien Oliver, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> overall, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Haven Ibarra, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the regular season, the Girls Team was led by 8<sup>th</sup> graders Angeleah Lepre and Julia Kuklicz, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Gabriella Ascolese. All runners on both teams worked hard to improve their times and hit individual goals throughout the season.

The Middle School Field Hockey Team had a tremendous turn out this season with 41 players. The girls were dedicated to becoming stronger athletes, and with persistence, each player took their athleticism to the next level. The program focused on training three goalies with the hopes of having four next year. Elizabeth Wilkinson and Deanna Cantalupo were great 8<sup>th</sup> grade role models for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade goalie, Kaylee Roland. In addition to the goalies, Paige Cleary, Julia Hilarzyk, and Emma Hart were the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who led the defense. Adriana Grasso and Danica Unkel were our 8<sup>th</sup> graders that created a brick wall, stopping the opponents in their tracks at midfield. Finally, 8<sup>th</sup> graders Gianna Cafaro and Madison Hronich started each game on the forward line, passing the ball to create corner opportunities. Also, Avery Hronich, Olivia Charmello, Madison Hronich, and Sabrina Brown scored goals this season the blue team. On the Gray team, Sabrina Brown, Cecilia Caruso, and Olivia Lombardi were commended for

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their commitment to assisting the newer players in drills and games. Finally, Weronica Glazewski, was named the most improved player for this season by her coaches.

The middle school Boys Soccer Team completed their first season featuring 2 teams and almost 40 athletes. The Gray Team, coached by Jason Price, and Blue Team, which was coached by Brian Truchan, practiced and worked together to improve throughout the season, but played 2 unique sets of schedules. However, the teams attended each other's games where they demonstrated tremendous support for one another. The Girls Soccer Team finished their 2021 season with 7 wins, 1 loss and 3 ties. Ava Mason was the leading scorer for the season followed by Isabelle Deoliveira and Emma Halmo. The defense was led by Samantha Mierzwiak, Karina Cardoso, Vanessa Abban and Sabriny Costa, along with goaltender Hillary Saeteros-Flores.

Win or lose, all our amazing fall student athletes competed fiercely and demonstrated the teamwork and sportsmanship that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the manner in which they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules and view all the action by watching them on the live streaming links posted on the Athletics page of our website or by clicking [here](#).

As per the [2021-22 School District Calendar](#) and the [November Monthly Activities Calendar](#), please remember that this week our schools will be closed for instruction on **November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Thanksgiving. Likewise, please note that students and staff will be dismissed early on **November 24<sup>th</sup>** so that they can get a head start on the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. Finally, please remember that **1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period Report Cards** for students in **grades 6-12** will be viewable in Oncourse Connect on November 24<sup>th</sup>.



If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click [here](#) and submit an inquiry with *School Revenue Partners*. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **buses**, click [here](#).

Have a great day and wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe