



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 26 Review and Preview

March 9, 2020

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Review and Preview*. Please remember that we will **dismiss all students early this afternoon**. Also, please note that **3rd Marking Period Progress Reports** for students in **grades 6-12** will be populated in Oncourse Connect **tomorrow afternoon**.

As you probably already know, last Thursday the district received guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on the requirements for public health-related school closures should the Coronavirus spread throughout our community. According to the information we received, since schools may be directed to close preemptively or reactively by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and/or the NJDOE, we were instructed to begin making plans for what to do if we are directed to close schools or cancel events. Furthermore, we were informed by the NJDOE that since the NJDOH has identified school closure as a potential pandemic strategy to limit transmission of a contagion within a community, in the event that we are directed to institute a public health-related closure, we will be permitted to utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to all students impacted. While the home instruction services must be guided by New Jersey Administrative Code, it can include online instruction and/or any other means developed by our district to meet the needs of the students affected. Moreover, we were informed that any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services provided consistent with the previously mentioned guidance, the days will count as actual school days in compliance with the New Jersey statutory 180-day requirement. Finally, the memo directed school districts to prepare for submission to the NJDOE school health-related closure preparedness plans to provide home instruction in the event of a public health-related school closure.

Thus, late last week our administrators began the development of Sayreville's school health-related closure preparedness plan, which will be included in our existing Pandemic Plan. In addition, rather than participating in the professional development previously planned for today's half day of school, our administrators will review our school health-related closure preparedness plan with our staff and will provide them with an opportunity to either receive training on the software that we will utilize in the plan or begin making their own preparations. In addition, later this week, our Technology Department will be requesting that all parents complete an online survey to determine the technology needs of our student households, particularly if they have wifi or an educational device to access our home instruction software. In such cases, preparations will be made to provide students in such households with paper packets of work. Finally, we will continue to update our website with information from the NJDOH and Center for Disease Control (CDC) on the Coronavirus. To view the NJDOH information, click [here](#). For the CDC information, click [here](#).



Last week, many honored guests and myself, had the privilege to be able to participate in Read Across America in our elementary schools. Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association (NEA) that began in 1997. According to the NEA, it is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every



child in every community to celebrate reading on or around March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who this year turned 116. This is truly one of the best days of the school year for me, as I have so much fun reading to and getting to know, albeit very briefly, our very impressive and most talented elementary school students.

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We commend all of our amazing teachers, administrators, and parents who made 2020 Read Across America such a memorable experience for all who participated, especially our most gracious guest readers, which included central administrators, Board of Education Members, Borough Council Members, and Sayreville Police Officers.



In addition to Read Across America, last Friday morning Ms. Sicola, Supervisor of Guidance, and Mr. Rubino, Principal of the Sayreville War Memorial High School, introduced in rank order and honored the Top 10 Students from the SWMHS Class of 2020 based upon grade point average. Thus, below please find the name of each remarkable child. As we noted during their celebratory breakfast last Friday, we recognize that the amazing academic accomplishments of these students could not have happened if it were not for the proficiency, competency, and hard work of their incredibly dedicated and talented teachers and counselors, and the never-ending support and assistance that they have received from their wonderful parents. As we have done in the past, these students will also be recognized and honored during a Board of Education Meeting in the Spring and during Senior Awards Night.

1. Julianna Castlegiant – **Valedictorian**
2. Jill Shah – **Salutatorian**
3. James Adams
4. Mueez Khan
5. Sierra Farrell
6. Cesar Espejo
7. Christian Quilon
8. Ruth Itua
9. Ria Patel
10. Gabriel Costa



Last Friday evening, I also had the honor and privilege to attend the SWMHS Air Force Junior ROTC Ball in Morganville, New Jersey, which featured a keynote presentation by a Master Sergeant. I was extremely impressed by the manner in which the cadets represented themselves during the entire evening, particularly the Co-Cadet Leaders, who demonstrated tremendous leadership, especially during several very touching and symbolic ceremonies. We commend and salute all our cadets, and thank them for representing SWMHS and district in such an impeccable manner. In addition, we commend and congratulate Colonel Jonathan Spare and Master Sergeant Marcus Knowlton, for their leadership in facilitating such a wonderful experience for our students and all who attended. Bomber Nation salutes the Colonel, Master Sergeant, and all our amazing SWMHS AFJROTC Cadets! HUA!!



In other happenings in our schools, this week, our preschoolers from Project Before had a blast participating in Unified track and field events. At SWMHS, student in Ms. Feliz's and Mr. Shreibman's class visited the Municipal Court. Students were able to take a tour of the police department including the jail cells. Additionally, they observed court proceedings by former SWMHS graduate, Judge Weber. In addition, the SWMHS Guidance

Department took 70 juniors to the Woodbridge College Fair. In the classrooms, Mr. Cicciari provided his Physics class students a tutorial on





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scuba diving, while the students in Ms. Corraro's English class participated in a mock funeral and gave eulogies as part of a very cool *Fences* post reading activity. At the Truman Elementary School, students participated in a Dr. Seuss Stem Challenge with Mrs. Mihalenko, TAG Teacher. At Samsel Upper Elementary

School (SUES), students participated in Movie Night with special guest Coco and raised needed funds to support the character education program there. Lastly, speaking of special guests, Jiji, the adorable ST Math penguin visited and chilled out with our students and staff from all of our elementary schools.



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Business Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3rd, here is what you missed. During the meeting, the Board of Education (BOE) and Central Administration were joined by about two dozen 5th graders from SUES as part of the annual "Let the Children Lead" program. During this very popular and unique activity, the 5th grade students who participated actually applied to perform in the capacity of a specific board of education member or administrator. Thus, except for a few occasions, the 5th grade representatives for each, including Ms. Coglianese, Principal of SUES and Mr. Tola, Assistant Principal of SUES, voted and commented publicly on behalf of the BOE member or administrator who they represented.



During the presentation portion of the meeting, Ms. Magistro, Supervisor of Elementary School Instruction, and her adorable special guest Jiji gave a brief presentation on ST Math. In addition, the students representing each BOE member and administrator shared their thoughts on the upcoming referendum and whether climate control would be something that they would desire in their classroom and school. The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved all of them. To see the Agenda click [here](#). To see the Agenda Addendum click [here](#). Finally, to see the video of the meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board retroactively awarded several quoted bus route packages, previously performed by Durham School Services, to Jays Bus Service. In addition, it awarded a recent request for proposal for scoreboard advertising services to Side Effects, Inc. for a term of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2025. On the Governance portion of the agenda, the BOE approved a revision to the previously approved 2021-22 School District Calendar. To see it, click [here](#). It also approved the 2020-21 SEA Full-Time Technician Holiday Schedule. Finally, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education approved motions to hire new certificated and non-certificated staff, and to transfer a non-certificated staff member for the 2019-20 school year.



During the public comment portions of the meeting, two parents and a non-resident of Sayreville questioned and expressed their concern about the absence of Mr. Ciak and his connection to the criminal matter recently reported about a middle school teacher. In response to this, some parents expressed bewilderment and frustration over why such comments would be made during this very special meeting, which had been scheduled for quite some time and had taken place for the past 16 years. Likewise, during open BOE discussions, Mrs. Kenney reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Student Achievement Committee Meeting. Likewise, Mrs. Bloom reviewed news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

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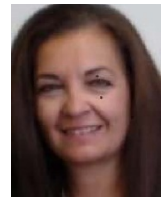
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The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 17th**. During this meeting, the Board will vote on the Preliminary 2020-21 School district Budget. In addition, during the presentation portion of the meeting, the BOE will recognize and honor the SWMHS Girls Bowling Team for their GMC White Division and State Championships. Likewise, it will do the same for the SWMHS Boys and Girls Indoor Track Teams, as well as the Wrestling Team, all of which won GMC White Division Championships. If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, it will be posted in the evening on our website on Friday, March 13th. In addition, a complete copy of the **March 3rd** 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 **March 17, 2020**.



This week our students, their parents, and our staff continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We begin by once again congratulating the aforementioned SWMHS Top 10 Students from the Class of 2020. We also congratulate SWMHS senior Sierra Farrell who earned full tuition 4-year scholarship to attend the University of Hartford. Furthermore, we congratulate SWMHS student Anisa Ismail, who actually published her first novel entitled, *Truth*. In addition, we commend and congratulate Mrs.



Josephine Tutela, teacher at SUES, who was selected as a member of the 2020 Class of Teachers that Make Magic. Her name and story was announced on radio station Magic 98.3 last week. Finally, we congratulate the following 2020 SWMHS Hall of Fame Inductees:

Chris Beagan, Class of 1990: 3-Time State Championship Coach, 2009, 2016 & 2018; GMC Coach of the Year, 2003, 2009 & 2016.

Steven Casano, Class of 1985: Founding Executive Director, NeuroSearch, Scientific Search Firm; Sayreville Little League Coach, Sponsorship Coordinator and Board Member.

William D'Amico, Class of 1973: Distinguished Military Career/3 Special Operations Commanding Officer Tours of Duty; Post-military career in Corporate Medical device, consumer goods & industrial manufacturing Industries.

Matthew Lynch (Posthumous Award), Class of 1985: President of Friends

Of Children's Hospital in Warsaw, Poland; Honored by US Ambassador to Poland for 20 years of service.

Farrah Reilly, Class of 1994: New York Times & USA Today bestselling author under the pen name Emma Chase; Books translated into over 20 Languages Around the world.

The 2020 Hall of Fame Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 25th, in the VFW Hall on Jernee Mill Road. Tickets are \$50.00 each and \$30.00 for children with a choice of meals. For further information, call Elaine Kubacz at 732-727-0192. For even more information and to access the forms for ordering tickets and/or purchasing an ad, click [here](#). Bomber Nation salutes and thanks these and all our students, their parents and our staff for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!

As per the March Head of the Class Calendar, please remember that we will **dismiss students early today (Monday, March 9th)** so that our staff can participate in school closure preparedness training. Likewise, please note that there will be a second BOE Meeting of the month on **Tuesday, March 17th**. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the district website in the evening on Friday, March 13th. Finally, please remember that **3rd Marking Period Progress Reports** for students in **grades 6-12** will be populated in Oncourse Connect on **March 10th** and **Report Cards** for students in grades **K-5** will be populated in Oncourse Connect on **March 30th**.

Have a wonderful day and fantastic week.

Dr. Labbe

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