



## Sayreville Public Schools Vision 2030

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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 32 Review and Preview April 20, 2020

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a nice and relaxing weekend, and that you and your entire family are healthy and safe. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Review and Preview*. Please remember that **all our schools** will be **closed** and under **quarantine** for all students, staff, and parents this week and according to Governor Murphy, at least until **May 15, 2020**. However, **all** our students will continue with **virtual school/instruction** today and until our next school holiday, which will be **Memorial Day**.

If you did not yet have the opportunity to read the [BStrongSayreville Off Day Update email](#) that I sent to the community last Saturday evening, please take the time to do so as I provided some very important information pertaining to the education of our students for the next several weeks. You can do so by clicking [here](#). Nevertheless, as I referenced above and in my email update, last Thursday Governor Murphy announced that our schools will remain closed at least until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thus, while I am still hoping and praying that our students and staff will be back in our schools soon after that, it does not appear to be likely. In the event that we are not able to return to our schools, I will recommend to the Sayreville Board of Education that we end the school year two days earlier on June 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, among many others, we have begun the process of developing contingency plans for our staff and students to safely retrieve their personal belongings, to provide our high school seniors with a safe and memorable graduation commencement ceremony, and to potentially provide our middle school 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a safe way to celebrate their promotion. Information on these and more contingency plans will be forthcoming within the next several weeks.



Naturally, we are steadfastly committed to delivering the best virtual educational services possible for all our students during the next 4-8 weeks and to assess their learning in the fairest manner possible, which is why in last Saturday evening's email, we outlined revisions to our system for grading students in grades 6-12. We will ask our Board of Education (BOE) to approve them during the next BOE Business Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Led by Dr. Shediack, our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, we took the time to survey our teachers and administrators in grades 6-12 to determine the fairest way to assess and grade the performance of our students in those grades. Based upon their direction, we created a hybrid system that blends traditional grading with a "pass/fail" system that many high schools and even colleges have implemented as a result of the pandemic. In essence, this new system makes a student's 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period grade their baseline for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period, provided that they satisfactorily meet their teachers learning expectations, or in other words, pass. However, in order to incentivize our students to want to improve their grade beyond their baseline, if the work that a student submits results in a grade above their baseline, they will earn that grade. For more details on this system, please contact your child's teacher or building principal.

Finally, we announced in [Saturday's update email](#) that beginning this Friday, every Friday will now be known as a "BStrongSayreville 🐾 Flex Friday." Hence, beginning **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**, our teachers will not post any assignments or instructional aides. Rather, they will use these Fridays to encourage their students to complete and submit missing assignments, and to work individually with those who are struggling or just in need of additional assistance with any academic and/or social and emotional challenges. They will also use these days to reach out to any children in their classes who have been either unresponsive or have fallen behind in their work.

**Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders**



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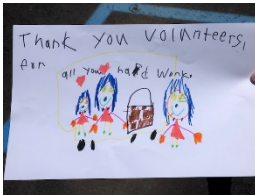
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As they have been since the beginning of the pandemic, our amazing group of Operation BStrongSayreville volunteers once again prepared and delivered over 3,000 meals, many devices, countless student work packets, and toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues for anyone who needed such last week. This week, we will once again be delivering breakfast/lunches on just Mondays and Wednesdays. Thus, we will be asking parents to order for two



days at a time for Monday and Tuesday, and three days at a time for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. For more information pertaining to the ordering and delivery of meals and supplies this week, see my [BStrongSayreville Off Day Update email](#), which I sent to the community on Saturday evening.



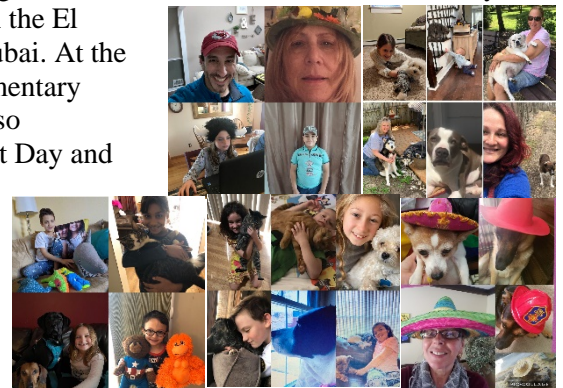
This week our students and staff continued to impress us with online learning. At the Truman Elementary School, students showed their school spirit by participating in Pajama Day, Workout Wednesday, Whatcha Reading Day, and a Pet Day. Also, children in Ms. Greene's class shared photos of deserts, including one in which a student of hers is actually pictured walking in the El Qudra Desert in Dubai. At the Samsel Upper Elementary School, students also participated in a Pet Day and



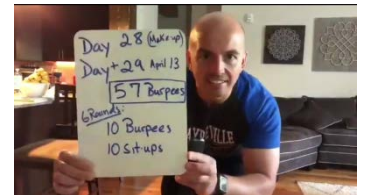
displayed their school spirit by displaying their favorite hat. In Project before, preschool students participated in an un-frog-ettable



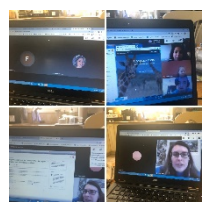
Friday by hopping to numbers, participating in finger plays, drawing frogs, and performing frog yoga, while others had a ton of fun playing the math game Repeat and



Replicate. Furthermore, others demonstrated their fitness for Ms. Abby (Tonzola), their beloved physical education (PE) teacher. Similarly, preschool students working with our physical therapist, Ms. DeMaio, had a blast scaling obstacles and freeze dancing. Speaking of fitness and



beloved PE teachers, at the Wilson Elementary School Mr. Wonaszek continued with



his Burpee Challenge, in which he is now up to 29+ a day. At SWMHS, some of our English language arts teachers engaged their students in some interactive online writing activities, while some of our Spanish teachers engaged their students in a live game of Spanish Quizlet. Finally, at the Sayreville Middle School, students in Ms. Ciampa's Language Arts Literacy class

reflected on scenes from the book, *Wonder*, which included characters, setting, and dialogue through storyboards. In addition, other students crafted



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SAYREVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



and shared Senses Poems. Lastly, the students on the middle school Odyssey of the Mind Team reminded us all to stay creative while we are home keeping ourselves healthy and safe.

This week our students, their parents, and our staff continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We would like to commend and congratulate SWMHS senior Ruth Itua, who announced last week that she will be attending and participating in track and field at the University of Pennsylvania next year. In addition, we congratulate and commend SWMHS student Madison Ranieri, who was nominated for Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actress by the Montclair Theatre Night Awards for her performance as Mary Hatch in *It's a*

*Wonderful Life*. The awards ceremony will be held virtually on May 19, 2020. We also extend our commendations to the seniors at SWMHS who participated earlier in the year in the Word Write National Reading Challenge. According to the results that they recently released, SWMHS ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the United States. Lastly, we commend and thank all members of our community, like 2012 SWMHS graduate Courtney Aich, who work in healthcare and are on the front line fighting COVID and caring for all of us with such courage and fierce dedication. Bomber Nation salutes and them and all our students, their parents and our staff for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



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.

Have a good day and week, and **please stay home**. May God bless you and your family and keep you healthy and safe.

Dr. Labbe