



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 27 Review and Preview

March 16, 2020

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Review and Preview*. Please remember that **all our schools are closed and all activities are cancelled this entire week.**



As you may have heard, the latest reports on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) indicate that there are now 98 confirmed cases in New Jersey. Of those cases, about a dozen are in Middlesex County. However, although this will more than likely change, currently in Sayreville there are only five potential cases of exposure to COVID-19. For the latest information on COVID-19 in Middlesex County, go to the Middlesex County Department of Health (MCDOH) [Local Information Network and Communication System](#) website. Speaking of LINCS, there are some changes with regard to residents reaching the Communicable Disease Service (CDS) after hours that the MCDOH asked for school districts to clarify. Thus, please note that **CDS is accepting COVID-19 calls from the public via the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 if using a non-NJ cell phone.** However, please remember that the public hotline cannot provide information about where or how to get tested, testing results, or provide personal medical advice.

Because of the rapid spread of the virus in New Jersey, we anticipate that Governor Murphy will close all schools in the state for at least the next several weeks during his press conference scheduled for later this afternoon. When he does, he will require that all school districts implement a Continuity of Nutrition Plan as part of their Health Related School Closing Preparedness Plan within each district's Pandemic Plan. Therefore, we will implement the continuity of nutrition plans included in our [Pandemic Plan](#) this **Wednesday, March 18th** for any of our parents who request such, particularly those who are **eligible for free and reduced lunch and/or breakfast**. As per our plan, we will prepare the breakfasts and/or lunches and deliver them to designated bus stops for parents of students who are bused, as well as other locations, possibly at schools, for parents of students who walk. Likewise, we will utilize the same system to deliver and potentially pick-up completed packets of work. We will provide more details on both of these procedures in a broadcast email that I will send to you tomorrow afternoon or evening after the Governor's press conference.

As indicated in my broadcast email last Friday, while we believe that our first day of virtual instruction last Friday was successful overall, there are still many wrinkles that we need to iron out. Therefore, our Pandemic Crisis Response Team will be meeting this morning to see if we can identify solutions to these and other reported and foreseeable issues. Likewise, our entire administrative team will be meeting on Tuesday morning to discuss solutions and to collaboratively perform further troubleshooting. Thus, we are committed to improving the online (virtual) or packet-based home instruction services outlined in our NJDOE approved [School Health-Related Closure Preparedness Plan](#), which is in our [Pandemic Plan](#), and thus will continue to utilize them today and throughout the time we will be closed. Finally, we will continue to update the [Pandemic Plan](#) page of our website with my communication and information from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) and [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) on the Coronavirus.



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In our schools this week, students in Mrs. Knaster and Mrs. Currie's science classes at the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) tested the buildings they engineered and constructed in the "Earthquake Challenge." In addition, the School Climate Team at SMS sold sentimental snowballs during lunch periods last week so that students could throw CARE and SENTIMENT around through the means of

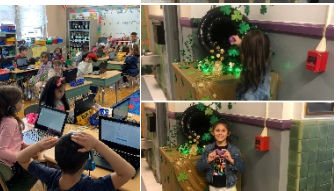
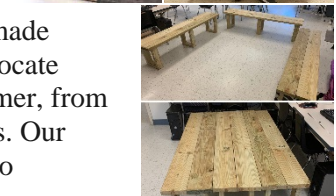
those snowballs. At Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS), several students made beautiful benches for the courtyard. When they come back to school, they will stain and locate them. At Project Before, special guests Bart McDade, bagpiper, and John DeMaio, drummer, from the Pipes and Drums of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, visited our preschool students. Our preschoolers and their teachers loved listening to the traditional Irish Music they played so



splendidly. Similarly, at the Truman Elementary School, the students and staff commenced their Clovers for a Cure Pot of Gold fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for Kids.

Finally, like all our students across the district, kindergarteners at the Wilson Elementary School practiced virtual learning by writing and exchanging correspondence electronically with their

teachers.



This week our students, their parents, and our staff continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We begin by congratulating SWMHS senior Janeva Holland who was recently awarded the Madison Holleran Mental Health Action Scholarship from Effective School Solutions for her proposed initiative, which was inspired by Dr. Laurie Santos' podcast series, "The Happiness Lab." Janeva's initiative is a mandatory half-year elective course, "Happiness

Acquisition," which would help students cope with the stresses that life brings. She was one of only four students in New Jersey to achieve this prestigious scholarship. Furthermore, congratulations go out to SWMHS students Ian Kelly and Penelope Luna who, along with several other classmates from the SWMHS Art Department, Poetry Club, and Images Literary Magazine participated in the 2020 Teen Arts Festival at Middlesex County College last week. Ian's painting, "My Fridge" and the poetry written by Penelope, were selected for the State Teen Arts Festival in June at Ocean County College. Finally, we congratulate the following SWMHS seniors for their acceptance to attend the various colleges and universities: Aya Al Assafi – Mason Gross School of the Arts/Rutgers University; Ian Kelly – University of Delaware and West Virginia University, Paulina Letts – Kean University; Angela Pistilli – Mason Gross School of the Arts/Rutgers University; Sophia Scarpato – College for Creative Studies, Maine College of Art, Maryland Institute College of Art, Savannah College of Art and Design; and Jair Velez – Mason Gross School of the Arts/Rutgers University, Montclair State University. 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!



In athletics, we congratulate Mr. Pastva, Head Coach of the SWMHS Indoor Track Team, and Mr. Ivy, Head Coach of the SWMHS Wrestling Team on being named 2019-20 Greater Middlesex Conference White Division Coaches of the Year. Coach Pastva was also named Middlesex County Coach of the Year. Likewise, we congratulate SWMHS wrestlers Dylan Acevedo, Darren Figueroa, Jake Wagner, Ryan Bouchard, and Joey Porcaro for being named to

2019-2020 GMC White Division 1st Team. Finally, we congratulate the members of the SWMHS Boys and Girls



Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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Indoor Track and Swim Teams for great seasons, and thank their coaches and parents for hosting wonderful banquets to celebrate their seasons and recognize all their accomplishments. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate 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.

As per the March Head of the Class Calendar, please remember that there will be a BOE Business Meeting tomorrow (**Tuesday, March 17th**) evening in the SWMHS Cafeteria at 7:30 pm. To see the agenda, click [here](#). Finally, please remember that **Report Cards** for students in grades **K-5** will be populated in Oncourse Connect on **March 30th**.

The parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 to being preschool and 5 to begin kindergarten by September 30, 2020**) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register for our **free full-day Project Before Preschool or Kindergarten** programs via **Oncourse Connect**, our online registration software. The link to student registration is clearly identified on our district website homepage (www.sayrevillek12.net) as "**Student Registration**". Once on this registration page, parents can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students, including preschool and kindergarten students, and they can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following appropriate links noted in the 2020-2021 Project Before and Kindergarten text box: **Students New to Sayreville: New Student Registration Preschool and Kindergarten** or **Returning Students: Returning Student Enrollment Update, Grades PreK and Kindergarten.**

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 **busses**, click [here](#). Lastly, if you or someone you know wants to **lease our facilities**, contact Deborah DeVico at deborah.devico@sayrevillek12.net.

Have a good day and week. Please stay healthy and safe, and do all you can to keep your loved ones the same.

Dr. Labbe