



Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

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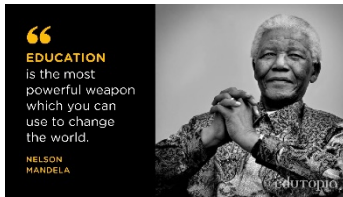


Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

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

Talk Sup Week 38 Review and Preview June 8, 2020

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a nice and relaxing weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Review and Preview*.



Although this week our focus will be on ending an unprecedented school year and celebrating our amazing young men and women from the Class of 2020, who will be participating in their last week of school and graduating from our school district, before we do, it is essential that we reflect upon the fight to end the senseless violence, racial oppression, and social injustice going on right now in our country, state, and even local community. As an educator, I have dedicated myself and career toward promoting the

most positive outcomes for ALL children, and have harnessed the strong belief that education is the great equalizer in our society, as it provides ALL the children we serve with the power of possibility and the opportunities that will enable them to aspire to great heights, achieve their goals, and live the happy and productive life they deserve and are entitled to in this country. However, it is painfully obvious nationally and even locally, that we are failing in that endeavor, as systemic racism is still rooted in our society and quite possibly in our school district. While contrary to what you may have heard or read on social media, our district has never nor will ever tolerate overt discriminatory, biased, or racially offensive behavior by anyone in our school community and will exercise our board of education policies and regulations, as well as state and local laws to impose consequences against anyone that we can substantiate has committed them, but I would be naïve to suggest that covert or hidden forms of systemic racism do not exist in our school district culture and curriculum.

In fact, within the past several years our district has addressed incidences of racial bias, including one just recently. Although the reaction by the district to this intolerable and disgusting behavior has always been appropriately addressed in accordance with our BOE code of conduct and state law, they are still a painful reminder that we are not effectively teaching our community members, particularly our students, the essential message of diversity and that we must not only respect differences in others, we must embrace and appreciate them. Moreover, while I strongly denounce the false accusations and slanderous attacks on the character of some of our students and staff, including me, made recently by individuals on social media, we clearly hear the underlying message of mistreatment and injustice expressed by current and former black students. Therefore, effective immediately, our district will begin the meticulous process of self-assessing and reexamining our cultural norms, school climates, and curriculum in order to identify assumptions, biases, and other elements of systemic racism, as well as deficiencies that may be fostering it. It is inherently important that ALL members of our school community, especially our students of color, know that we equally love and value them very much, will turn over every stone possible to ensure their physical safety and emotional well-being, and will use the powerful weapon of education to promote the most fruitful opportunities for them to succeed and to change the world they and we will live in.

As per my Off Day Update email to the community yesterday (click [here](#) to see it), which will be the last one that I send to the community this school year, based upon the absence of a formal decision by Governor Murphy and guidance from NJDOE, we had no other choice than to cancel Camp XL and Summer Enrichment. Instead, this summer we will only be providing virtual instructional and therapy services for students with disabilities who, based upon what is stipulated in their individualized education programs (IEP), are eligible for extended school year (ESY). In addition, we will be providing virtual instructional services for students in the middle school in need of credit completion.

Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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Later today and tomorrow afternoon, we will be delivering high school diplomas during intimate individual ceremonies at the residences of all our Class of 2020 Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) graduates. While I know that this is not what they wanted and more importantly, what they deserve, we hope that all our students in the Class of 2020 and their families have an enjoyable and memorable experience. The pre-taped and edited ceremony will be posted and streamed live on our website at 6 pm on Thursday evening. Likewise, the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony will be posted and streamed live on our website at 6 pm on Wednesday evening.

As also noted in my Off Day Update, there is currently no vendor to provide subscription busing for our students at the middle school and high school who are not eligible for district transportation, as Durham School Services is no longer willing to provide it. Thus, since the district is not responsible for nor involved in providing this service, we are asking for a parent volunteer to emerge to engage potential vendors in negotiations for providing this service. In addition, this week we will complete the vehicle drive-up and drop-off/pick-up process for all remaining students at the high school and middle school, along with all students in the upper elementary school, K-3 elementary schools, and preschool. Finally, since this will be the last week for meal deliveries, and since many of the parents of our students may still need assistance with providing their children with nutritious meals, I included in my broadcast email the process for parents who may be food insecure this summer to receive assistance from the New Jersey Department of Human Services Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by means of Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) funds.



As they have been since the beginning of the pandemic, last week our amazing group of Operation BStrongSayreville volunteers once again prepared and delivered over 3,000 meals, several devices, countless student work packets, and toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues for anyone who needed such last week. Since many of our volunteers will need to shift their focus on fulfilling their end of the year responsibilities, our district cafeteria workers and cafeteria/ playground aides will assist us in preparing breakfast/lunches for delivery on **Monday** and **Wednesday**, which will be our **last** delivery days of the year. Thus, we are asking parents to order for two days at a time for today and Tuesday, and three days at a time for this 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 Sunday morning. As per it, remember that we are also allowing community members to refill one 12-ounce container of hand sanitizer in the main vestibule of SWMHS from 8 am – 12 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.



This past week our amazing staff and students were hard at work producing more impressive and inspiring videos. Click [here](#) to enjoy this amazing Class of 2020 Decision Day video produced by Ms. O'Donnell and the

VIRTUAL HALL OF FAME

wonderful Guidance Department at SWMHS. Likewise, click [here](#) to see several very touching and remarkably well done videos produced by Ms. Boyd, the Class of 2020 Advisor, and Mr. Taylor, Video Productions Teacher, in order to commemorate and celebrate the Class of 2020 and their time as students in Sayreville. In addition, you have to check out these 3rd Grade Talented and Academically Gifted (TAG) Student Virtual Hall of Fame videos ([Arleth](#), [Eisenhower](#), [Truman](#), and [Wilson](#)) produced by Elementary TAG Teacher, Ms. Mihalenko. To see them, click on each. Similarly, you cannot miss these adorable Eisenhower

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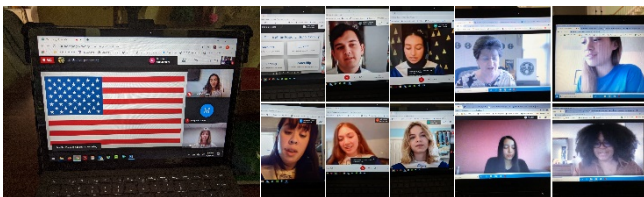
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Elementary School Talent Show videos ([Kindergarten](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), and [3rd Grade](#)) produced Ms. Cruz,



Music Teacher. Lastly, click [here](#) to view this fabulous video tribute to all our certificated and non-certificated staff members who participated in Sayreville University workshops this year. All these videos are examples of the extraordinary way in which our teachers and students are continuing learning during this very challenging time.



This week our students and staff continued to impress us with online learning. At SWMHS, the National Honor Society held its 2019-20



Virtual Induction Ceremony, as did the Business National Honor Society.

Likewise, the Air Force Junior ROTC program held its annual Awards Night Ceremony virtually. In Project Before,



our preschool teachers visited the homes of their four and five year old students in order to provide them with promotion signs and



certificates. In addition, students in Miss Kathleen's and Ms. Susan's class had quite the adventure reading *Flat Stanley* adventure books. At the Truman Elementary School, students had a ton of fun participating in their virtual Field Day. See the video of it [here](#). At the Wilson School, Ms. Wonastek continued his climb to 100 burpees per day. Lastly, at the

Arleth School, students and staff demonstrated their school spirit by sharing pictures of themselves wearing their grade level color of the day.



This week our students, their parents, our staff, and other Sayreville community members continued to impress and inspire us with their amazing accomplishments. We begin by congratulating the many cadets from our SWMHS AFJROTC program who won national and local awards, ribbons, and certificates during their aforementioned Virtual Awards Ceremony held last Friday evening. Likewise, we commend Cadet Tristan



Hidalgo for performing wonderfully as the master of ceremonies. We also commend and congratulate the following team members of the SWMHS Odyssey of the Mind Team for their award winning solutions to problems that they were recognized for during the recent Virtual World Finals:

- 7th Place –Problem Team 5: Justin Bruhn, Musawwir Rizvi, Benjamin Wells, Rohan Patel, Rueben Geironimo, Aaryan Parikh, and Muhtasim Noor.

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- 8th Place –Problem Team 2A: Tanisha Kore, Prachi Kumar, James Harrison, Zachary Brown, Anoop Dindigal, Musawwir Rizvi, and Ruchir B.
- 12th Place – Problem Team 4: Roshen ,Rhena Johnson, Owen Cherney, Wade Guerra, Masharib Iman Manan Gosai, and Vihaan Easwar

In addition, we commend SMS student Janelle Addai, who increased her reading lexile level by an incredible 560 points this year. We also commend Ms. Mondano, her English Teacher, for assisting her in achieving this remarkable feat. Furthermore, we congratulate SWMHS senior Ajay Churaman, who recently committed to furthering his academic and athletic career at Jefferson University. Finally, we commend and thank the staff from the our Project Before preschool program who collected and donated \$200 worth of food to the Sayreville Police Department so that they could distribute it to Sayreville families in need. Similarly, we commend and thank Eli's Hot Bagels and Mrs.



Carrie, parent of students in our district and one of our amazing Operation BStrongSayreville volunteers, for generously donated delicious bagels and donuts for our Operation BStrongSayreville volunteers last week. Bomber Nation salutes and them and all our students, their parents and our staff for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



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

Dr. Labbe