

# Springfield 2021

Superintendent's Report

February 22, 2021

#SearchLearnServeSpringfield

# Report Overview

- Student News
- Athletics Updates
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access in SPS Updates
- 2021-2022 Registration Updates
- Expanding Learning in SPS
- Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Abuse, HIB  
Period 1 Report: Dana Kelly, Director of Human Resources

# Student News

**Congratulations to JDHS 10th Grader Diana Elguera!**

**Rising Star Award for Aspirations in Computing  
National Council for Women in Technology New Jersey Affiliate**



# Student News

**Kindness Spirit Week at Sandmeier!  
Crazy Hair + 225 Senior Citizen Postcards**



**Walton, Caldwell, and Sandmeier are  
participating in HeroSquad with the  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!  
Together, they have raised over \$2,800!**



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# February is Black History Month!





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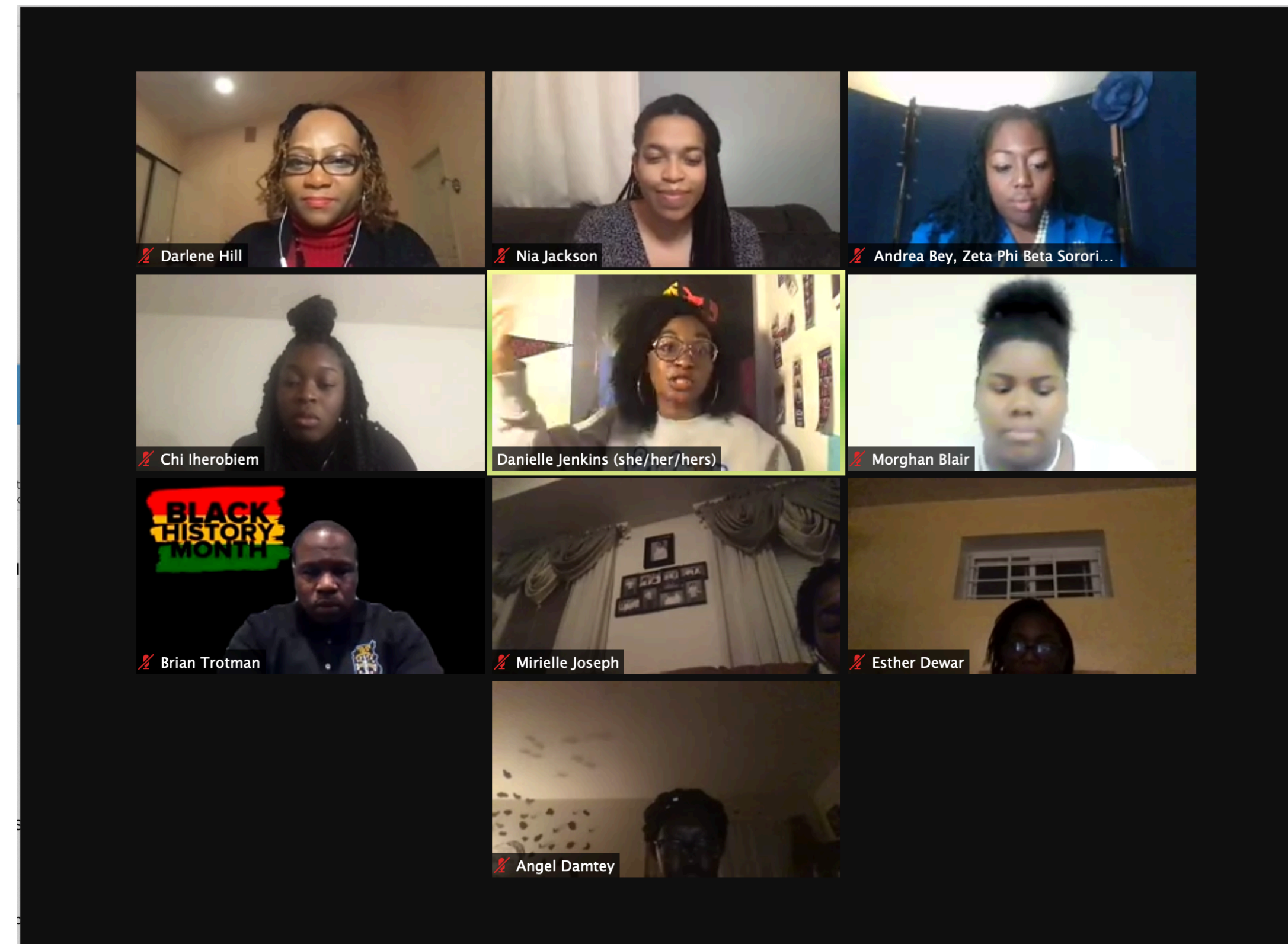
7th Graders at FMG celebrated the legacy of African-Americans in Space & watched the live Mars Perseverance landing!





# February is Black History Month!

Congratulations to the JDHS Black Student Union for sponsoring a thoughtful panel of local leaders , students, and teachers!



# Parent Program



## *Here and Now – How Can I Help My Child and Self!*

*A Workshop Addressing Teen Mental Health in the Covid Era*

Presented February 23, 2021 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us on Zoom

Meet ID: 836 0648 7403/Passcode: 462216

This interactive program is designed to address the mental health concerns of parents regarding their children with practical interventions. A counselor from High Focus Centers will cover issues ranging from



- Motivating my child to get up
- Complete and hand in school work
- Depression
- Substance Use
- Hopelessness



# Athletics Updates

## **JDHS Girls Varsity Basketball Team is 7-1!**

**6 Win Streak!!!**

Caitlyn Del Duca (freshman):  
Averaging 14 points per game over the last 3 games

Sami Casey (sophomore):  
Leads the team with 84 total points and 73 rebounds

Aiyona Wood (senior):  
Second on the team with 73 points and 72 rebounds  
Leads the team with 19 blocked shots

Molly Martys (freshman):  
Leads the team with 31 assists and 44 steals



# Athletics Updates

## **Dayton Winter Track**

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> Dayton's Winter Track team had great performances in the Union County Qualifier Meet. We took 1st place in each event that we entered! The following student-athletes competed, and the students that finished top 2 qualified for the County Championship on March 21st in those events. Congratulations to Coach VanDeursen and JDHS Students!!!!

### **Boys**

#### **55 Meter Dash**

- Takeo Cobbs 1st Place **7.13**
- Alex Jean-Baptiste 3rd Place **7.31**

#### **1600 Meter Run**

- Colin Riley 1st Place **4:42.5**
- Allan Jean-Baptiste 3rd Place **5:03.52**

#### **55M Hurdles**

- Didier Salinas 1st Place **10.17**

### **Girls**

#### **55M High Hurdles**

- Mirielle Joseph 1st Place **9.91**
- Ayana Alles 2nd Place **10.30**

#### **1600 Meter Run**

- Claudia Reines 1st Place **5:57.64**



# Council for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access in SPS

48 Community Members  
Responded  
to the Survey!

We will begin reviewing the  
survey and identifying  
leadership member with  
information to follow!





# SPS Council for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access



SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## QUICK LINKS

District News

Email List Sign up

Employment

Food Services

Parent & Student Resources ▾

Before & After School Program

Diversity Council Information

OnCourse Parent Portal

School Time Schedules

School Contacts

Title I Information

Q Search



## DIVERSITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

The Springfield Public Schools Council for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access is an initiative to support listening, acknowledging, learning, building, and celebrating the diverse community that makes our schools special.

Springfield Public Schools is committed to supporting an academic environment that recognizes each member of our learning community brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to enrich learning within our classrooms AND empowers them to meet their full potential. These differences can be along dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, ability, religion, personal beliefs, or other different ideologies.

Our schools engage students from a wide array of backgrounds and experiences. In 2020-2021 school year, our schools are 55% White, 18 % Hispanic, 13% Black/African-American, 8% Asian, 5% 2 or more races, and 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

During the 20-21 school year, our district goals and objectives includes a commitment to engage in district-wide learning to collaboratively learn and implement culturally responsive practices across all grades and content areas that celebrate the uniqueness of all students and the diverse experiences that serve as an integral part of our learning environment. This requires that all levels of the district work to support equitable learning opportunities and expectations for student achievement.

While we have begun this work in our schools, we recognize that in order to support learning and growth, it is essential that we include voices that represent the experiences of staff, students, and parents.

The Council will have a leadership team that meets on a regular basis to set an agenda for our work and identify opportunities to support courageous conversations and learning experiences that will move the district forward. If you are interested in being considered for a leadership position, or you want to share your thoughts regarding diversity in our schools, please take a few minutes to fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/PhPhWizuURKwhguQA>.



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# Transition to Online Registration



# New Registration Process

## Part I: OnCourse Online Form

New Registration for SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Year

School year for which student is being registered\*

Please be sure to pick the correct year. School years generally run from September to June.

< Previous

Next >

Families will fill out all initial forms online.

# New Registration Process

## **Part II: Paperwork Verification**

- A process is being finalized for families to bring the paperwork required for verification
- After the OnCourse Registration is submitted, families will be contacted to schedule a verification meeting
- These meetings will occur in late March and early April so we can utilize outdoor space for in-person meetings.



# Expanding Learning Updates

# Phases of Reopening: Critical Factors

## Full Virtual

- COVID-19 Activity Report indicates “Very High” Activity Level
- Local hospitals report severe capacity challenges
- The number of cases is significantly increasing
- Multiple positive cases reported in a school
- Recommendation by local health officials
- Insufficient Staff to Student Ratio

## A/B Hybrid In-Person

- COVID-19 Activity Report indicates “High” Risk Level (Orange)
- Hospitals report capacity challenges
- The number of cases is moderately increasing
- Maintain 6 Feet of Social Distance
- Recommendation by local health officials
- Sufficient Staff to Student Ratio

## Expanded Hybrid

- COVID-19 Activity Report is “High” or “Moderate”
- The number of cases is stable, or decreasing
- Zero to limited school site transmission cases
- Additional risk mitigation efforts allow for less than 6 feet of physical distance between desks
- Sufficient Staff to Student Ratio
- Staff identified as “At-Risk” have access to vaccine.

## New Normal

- COVID-19 Activity Report is “Low”
- State is no longer under “State of Emergency”
- Indoor capacity requirements eased
- Social distancing requirements responsibly mitigated
- All staff have access to the vaccine



# Phases of Reopening: Critical Factors

Today

## A/B Hybrid In-Person

- COVID-19 Activity Report indicates “High” Risk Level (Orange)
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Anticipated  
3.15.21

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September  
2021

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- Social distancing requirements responsibly mitigated
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# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Preparation:**

- ☒ Updated preliminary classroom capacity
- ☒ Review updated CDC guidelines released 2/12/21
- ☒ Review current A & B hybrid participation status
- ☒ Learn from other local districts
- ☒ Gather feedback from team members
- ☒ Evaluate transmission data from SPS
- ☒ Identify school and classroom needs
- ☒ Review recommendations with local health officials



# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Expanded Learning Schedule- Phase I**

- 4 Days a Week
- Students will learn in-person or virtually
  - Parents must commit to a model
  - If students do not come in, they will be moved to the remote group
- Wednesdays will be virtual
  - Maintain current schedule during implementation
  - Monitor transmission of COVID-19 in expanded model
  - Provide critical professional development and planning time for teachers

# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Setting Expectations**

- In PK-5, based on classroom capacity, this may require students to change classrooms
  - Parents will be contacted to review based on classroom
- In 6-12, based on classroom capacity, we may need to rebalance class sections and shift your students' schedule
- We may return to A/B Model or Full Virtual at any time
- Remains a higher likelihood of full class remote when a positive case is identified.



# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Identification of Risk Mitigation Measures:**

- Expand use of air purifiers into all classrooms
- Implement use of classroom partitions in all grades
  - In grades PK-5, they will be secured to desks
  - In grades 6-12, they will be able to move with students to minimize sanitation during the school day

# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Classroom & School Resources:**

- 500 new iPads will move into K-5 classrooms to support technology use in the hybrid model
- Maintain at home devices to support equitable access to virtual instruction and at-home technology
- Ongoing use of PPE and isolation spaces in schools



# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## **Critical Dates**

- Survey Tool Open 2/19/21-3/2/21
  - Additional Communication
  - If no response, student will continue in current placement
- Survey Response Study
  - Number of in-person students in each classroom
  - Desk locations and distance review
- Receipt & Placement of Partitions
  - Orders placed
  - PK-8 Classroom adjustments March 8, 9, 10
- Health official review prior to opening

# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

**Approximate Total Expenditures to Date:**  
**\$ 833,285**

General Fund: \$ 453,389      Federal, State, & County Grants: \$ 379,897

## **Investments In:**

- Instructional Technology
  - Google for Education
  - iReady Expansion
  - NearPod
  - NewsELA
- Technology Hardware
  - 500 iPads
  - 95 new MacBooks
  - 27 Internet Hotspots
- PPE
  - Air Curtains
  - Desk Partitions
  - Air Purifiers



# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## Next Steps

- If Phase I is successful, consideration for further expansion in mid-April will be communicated. **This will not be communicated until after Spring Break.**
- While the State is under emergency orders and the indoor dining capacity remains significantly limited, we will not consider expanding to full day.

# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## What can you do?

- We rely on the honesty of the community, so please:
  - **Do not send a symptomatic child into school or athletics**
  - If a member of the household has a reason to get a COVID-19 test, please do not send the child into school until the test results indicate a negative result
  - Recognize and respect that we are consulting with health officials and no two decisions are the same
  - Remind your children and teens that wearing a mask is not a choice
- If you are traveling outside of the state during Spring Break, please let your teacher/principal know, we will follow state guidelines



# Expanded Hybrid Instruction- Phase I

## What can you do?

- Avoid community dialogue that includes “us vs. them”. We are expanding access to in-person instruction together, and we must be a team. Decisions regarding this process are made through the ongoing evaluation of many different data points.
- Recognize that teachers are working to continually adapt to the changes
  - There will be more students in-person than remote, please recognize that will impact classroom dynamics. Please refrain from criticism that is hurtful or demeaning.
- Share gratitude with staff members that you see- it really makes our day!

# Vaccination Survey Update

Approximately 57% of staff members have participated in an anonymous, optional survey regarding vaccination status.

## **As of 2/22/21:**

- **153** Team Members Responded
- **43% (66)** Have received or are scheduled to receive a vaccine/ **25% total staff**
- Of the **52** who have received the vaccine, **45** have either received the second dose or are scheduled to do so
- We do have staff members meet the current eligibility requirements but have not been able to secure an appointment.

**Community Members- we need your help to advocate for our school members to have access to the vaccine! Please reach out to local lawmakers to ask for their assistance!**



# Current Status of Schools

**Since January 11, 2021:**

19 Positive Cases of COVID-19 Reported  
6 Staff Members/ 13 Students

## **Notes:**

It is ESSENTIAL to keep your children home when any member of the household is experiencing symptoms or if they are waiting on a COVID-19 test.

# Violence, Vandalism, Weapons, Substance Use Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying

## Period 1 Report: September 1, 2020- December 31, 2020:

	Total Incidents	HIB Trainings	Period 1 HIB Programs
Edward V. Walton	0	1	22
James Caldwell	0	1	10
Thelma L. Sandmeier	0	2	19
Florence M. Gaudineer	1	4	17
Jonathan Dayton High School	8	1	12
<b>Incident Total</b> = Violence, Vandalism, Substance, Weapons, HIB Confirmed <b>Violence</b> = Fight, Kidnapping, Robbery/Extortion, Sexual Assault, Sexual Contact, Threat/Simple, Threat/Criminal <b>Vandalism</b> = Arson, Computer Trespass, Damage to Property False Public Alarm, Theft, Trespass			