



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 30 Review and Preview

April 17, 2023

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter. Please remember that our **schools will be closed this Friday, April 21st** in observance of Eid al Fitr.



Last Wednesday evening, I had the privilege of attending the Sayreville War Memorial High School National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony. As is the case each year, the high school recognized and inducted the amazing juniors and seniors who



have demonstrated excellence inside and outside of the classroom this year. As always, the ceremony was rich with tradition and spirit, as the inductees took the time to thank the wonderful teachers at SWMHS who were pivotal in their success. We commend and thank Ms. Jennifer Vazquez and Ms. Mary Kruh, Co-NHS Advisors, and all the staff members, particularly Ms. Lizbeth Victorero, who assisted them in coordinating such a memorable experience for our 2023 NHS students and their parents.

Thank you to the members of the Sayreville school district community who took the time to complete the Proposed 2023-23 Start and End Times Survey. Based upon the survey results and comments, which you can read by clicking [here](#), we will **not** be recommending the proposed time changes to the Sayreville Board of Education for approval. As you will see, the data reflected strong opposition to changing the start and end times, especially at the elementary school level. In fact, most of the respondents agreed that our high school students are not getting enough sleep and that moving the start of their school day could be beneficial to them but did not want to do so if it meant pushing the start and end times for the elementary school students back 25 minutes. Therefore, we will continue to explore how we can change the high school schedule without adversely impacting other students, particularly those in the elementary schools.

This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We begin by congratulating and commending SWMHS senior Aminata Kamara who was selected as one of 25 students in New Jersey to receive the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association Student Leadership Scholarship of \$2,000. We also commend and congratulate the members of the Health Occupation Students of America Club (HOSA) who competed at the New Jersey HOSA State Conference on March 18th and 19th. They competed in many different health science events, in

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which the following students earned Top 5 in their events: EMT-Dayannara Medina Nunez and Roshan Mohanakrishnan; Pharmacology- Jai Desai; and Public Service Announcement-Laury Estefont, Nicholas Bernardi and Daniel Autunnale. Jai Desai and Shriya Patel are currently competing in the Emotional Well Being Challenge, in which we will learn if they are finalists on May 1st. Furthermore, we congratulate and commend the members of the SWMHS Odyssey of the Mind Team, who competed recently at the New Jersey State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on April 1st. They competed as teams in two different problems. The Problem 4 Team: Where's the Structure, earned 2nd Place and the Problem 5 Team: The Most Dramatic Problem Ever, earned 3rd Place. Both teams have earned a chance to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals on May 23rd through May 28th at Michigan State University. Seniors Doris Lee and Muteeba Rizvi received the Dr. Harold Kurtz Memorial Scholarship from NJ Odyssey of the Mind. Doris also recently learned that she was accepted to attend Princeton University. Likewise, SWMHS seniors Adrian Mejia and Lasya Bhattiprolu recently learned that they were accepted to attend Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania respectively.

Where Are They Now

April 2023

Compliments of the "Where Are They Now" Committee at the high school, we commend SWMHS Class of 2013 graduate Jacqueline O'Connor. After being a strong English language arts student while attending

Jacqueline O'Connor, 2013

BS Mechanical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

After being a strong LAL student while attending SWMHS, Jackie switched gears and majored in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, graduating in 2017. Since then, she has used her learned skills to fill the role as Supply Chain Leader for PepsiCo / Frito-Lay. She has continued to work in manufacturing as a Product Owner for the German company, Korber Supply Chain. Living and working in Denver, Colorado.



SWMHS, Jackie switched gears and majored in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, where she graduated in 2017. Since then, she has used her learned skills to fill the role as Supply Chain Leader for PepsiCo / Frito-Lay, while also working in manufacturing as a Product Owner for the German company, Korber Supply Chain. She is currently living and working in Denver, Colorado. We

Michael P. VonGonten, 2009

B.A., Stevens Institute of Technology
and Navy Nuclear Power School

While at Stevens, Michael helped contribute major changes to Sigma Phi Epsilon's "Balanced Man Program" to eliminate hazing practices nationwide. He then went on to the Navy, contributing to the first deployment of USS North Dakota and completing missions that directly affected national security. Michael then became a nuclear qualified engineering officer in all matters of operation and safety related to Navy Nuclear propulsion systems. He has been awarded multiple military awards and is now married and has two children.



also commend SWMHS Class of 2009 graduate Michael P. VonGonten. While attending the Stevens Institute of Technology, Michael contributed to major changes to Sigma Phi Epsilon's "Balanced Man Program" to eliminate hazing practices nationwide. He then went on to the Navy, contributing to the first deployment of the USS North Dakota and completing missions that directly affected national security. Michael then became a nuclear qualified engineering officer in all matters of operation

and safety related to Navy nuclear propulsion systems. In fact, he has been awarded multiple military awards and is now married and has two children. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



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Thanks to our magnificent teachers and instructional staff, our students had a ton of fun learning last week. At the high school, students in Ms. Mojzsis's Advanced Placement Art History class experienced a full day of art in New York City, beginning with the Thomas Art Conservation where students saw firsthand how Renaissance-era paintings are cleaned and restored. Next, the gallery director at Pace

Prints showed students work by contemporary artists. After that, the director of the Pace African and Oceanic gallery presented their sculpture collection. The final stop was the Whitney Museum. Similarly, members of the SWMHS Guidance Department visited the Universal Technical Institute with students on Friday, April 14th. The 11th and 12th grades students received an informative presentation on many interesting trades, watched live demos, and toured the campus and



classrooms. In addition, the members of the SWMHS Baseball and Softball Teams visited the Bomber Beyond Café to construct and hang an Autism puzzle heart in commemoration of Autism Awareness Month. Every year, both teams collaborate in the Autism Awareness Challenge where they raise funds and spread awareness about Autism and inclusive education and athletics.



At the middle school, students and staff had a blast during the Harlem Wizards PTO Fundraiser in



which our courageous faculty from across the district competed against the famed basketball team to show



off their skills and raise money for our students. In addition, Students in Ms. Duhigg's and Ms. Ciampa's classes toured the Bombers Beyond Café where they even helped with jobs like cleaning, prepping orders and making change. Students in Ms. Ciampa's class also celebrated National Poetry Month by



making acrostic poems. Lastly, Dr. Milou visited our mathematics teachers to provide them with professional development, particularly the impact of artificial intelligence on teaching mathematics.

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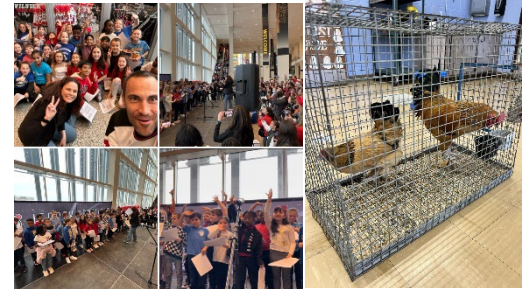


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At the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES), staff, students, and their families had a world of fun during the PTO International Night. Students also participated in bus evacuation drills. At the Eisenhower School, students in the chorus performed at the New Jersey Devils Game at the Prudential Center in Newark. Additionally, a chicken farmer visited and left first grade students with some eggs. They can't wait for the chicks to hatch. Finally, in Project Before, students had a blast participating in their new



Community Creative Play Centers. Students at the Cheesequake School began practicing for the upcoming Unified Sports Track and Field Competition. Similarly, at the Peace Rose School, Kidz Fitness visited to engage students in fitness and fun. In addition, students at the Selover



School practiced their artwork and writing skills.



In athletics, the SWMHS Girls Softball Team won three consecutive games last week against North Plainfield, John F. Kennedy, and Colonia High Schools (HS) to improve their record to 4-1 for the season. Likewise, the SWMHS Baseball Team beat Woodbridge HS and Edison HS last week to improve its record to 5-2 on the season. Click [here](#) to check out this extraordinary run saving catch made by senior Michael Colonnello. It made the ESPN Top Ten Highlights (Number 4) last week. The SWMHS Boys Golf Team defeated



Spotswood HS to even its record for the season to 4-4. With wins over South Plainfield HS and Edison HS respectively last week, the Girls and Boys Lacrosse Teams improved their season records to 2-2. 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. Please remember that you can see all athletic team

schedules and view all the action by watching them on the live streaming links posted on the Athletics page of our website or by clicking [here](#).

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Tomorrow evening at **7:30 pm**, there will be a Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting in the new **BOE Room at the Samsel Upper Elementary School**. During the meeting, the district will provide a presentation on the college and career planning services that we provide our students, particularly in the middle school and high school. To see the agenda for the meeting, click [here](#). To access the live streaming of the meeting click [here](#). Since the viewing of the live stream will be handled by YouTube, you must be viewing the stream on a browser or application that is live stream compatible. If you are unable to hear audio you may need to try a different browser/application. The live stream will only be available during the real-time duration of the meeting. Directions for public participation during the meeting will be provided on the above-mentioned live stream page of the website. Finally, if on Wednesday you wish to view it or other past-recorded BOE meetings, click [here](#).

As per the [2022-23 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, there will be a BOE Business Meeting tomorrow, **April 18th**. Please remember that our **schools will be closed this Friday, April 21st** in observance of Eid al Fitr. In addition, please note that the **3rd Marking Period Report Cards** for students in **grades 6-12** will be issued and populated in Oncourse on **April 20th**.

On January 30, 2023, the district officially opened registration for our **free Full-Day Project Before Preschool and Kindergarten Programs**. Therefore, parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 for preschool and 5 for kindergarten by September 30, 2023**) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register via **Oncourse Connect**, our online registration software. The link to student registration will be clearly identified on our district website homepage (www.sayrevillek12.net) as "[Student Registration](#)". Once on this registration page, you can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students including preschool and kindergarten students, and you can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following links noted in the [2023-2024 Project Before and Kindergarten](#) drop down menu: [New Student Registration Preschool and Kindergarten](#) or [Returning Student Enrollment Update for students entering grades PreK and Kindergarten during the 2023-2024 school year](#).

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 **buses**, click [here](#).

Have a great day and wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe