

P.O. Box 997 Sayreville, New Jersey 08871 Phone: 732-525-5200 Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools Mr. David Knaster, Assistant Superintendent

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

Talk Sup Week 0 Review and Preview

September 4, 2023



Good morning Sayreville and happy Labor Day! I hope you had a most relaxing and enjoyable summer. Welcome to another edition of my *Talk Sup(erintendent) Review and Preview* newsletter, which was created years ago for the purpose of communicating district news and information to you on a more frequent and consistent basis. During these weekly newsletters, I will review the major school district news from the previous week and provide you with a preview of the week to come. With that said, I would like to begin

my first edition this year by once again welcoming all our staff, students and parents back to what we hope will be an exciting, successful, and memorable school year for everyone.

As per the Welcome Back emails that I sent to the community last Thursday and Friday, please remember



that our schools will open for instruction for all students in grades 1-12 on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Students in preschool and kindergarten will have their respective orientations on Thursday morning and/or afternoon, and thus will start school the following day on Friday, September 8, 2023. However, please also remember that if your child is entering preschool, Kindergarten, or 6th grade, they will NOT be able to start school without up to date immunizations. Therefore, if

you did not upload your updated immunization certificate when you performed your enrollment update, you MUST submit them to your child's school prior to **September 6**th if your child will be in 6th grade or **September 7**th if your child will be in preschool or kindergarten. For more information on immunization requirements, please click here. For all student health and immunization requirement information click here.

As I indicated in my aforementioned Welcome Back emails, the district will be developing a new four-year Vision 2030 Strategic Action Plan. In fact, we have already begun this process by soliciting information pertaining to it from the Sayreville Board of Education and Administration. Naturally, your feedback is crucial to this process. Therefore, please click one of the following links that best describes your role in the community: SPS - Strategic Planning Survey for Staff, SPS - Strategic Planning Survey for Parents/Guardians, and SPS - Strategic Planning Survey for Community Members; and take the time (3-5 minutes) to complete a brief survey. On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the district will be hosting an Education Summit for anyone in the Sayreville community, including you, to participate in. During the Summit, participants will construct goals in the following domains: Finance and Facilities, Technology, Security, Student Achievement, and Culture and Climate, based upon the survey feedback provided by you, our staff, and other members of the community. If you would like to participate in the development of our 2023-2027 Strategic Action Plan during our September 30th Education Summit, please RSVP by emailing me at Richard.labbe@sayrevillek12.net.

If you are one of the very few parents of returning (not new) students that will be entering $\underline{1^{st} \text{ through } 12^{th}}$ grade who have not yet completed and submitted your child(ren)'s enrollment update in $\underline{\text{Oncourse}}$



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Connect, please do so as soon as possible. To complete your update, click here or on Oncourse Connect. When doing so, please make sure that you update any changes to your contact information, identify all legal guardians, and include the appropriate number of emergency contacts. In addition, as noted above, please remember that if your child will be entering 6th grade, they will need updated immunization certificates to attend school. For specific directions on how to complete and submit the enrollment update, please click here to access the Enrollment Update User Guide. To review the Oncourse Enrollment Update FAOs, click here. For any more information visit the Student Registration page on our website by clicking here. If at any point in time you experience technical difficulty, please do not hesitate to seek our assistance by emailing parent.portal@sayrevillek12.net.

Parents, please remember also that if you have any questions or concerns about schedules, please contact your child's principal. Likewise, you should email our Transportation Department (TransDept@sayrevillek12.net) if you have any questions or concerns about your child(ren)'s bus information. In fact, if you have not already received and responded to it, please be on the lookout for an email from Stopfinder, a new resource that we purchased and have made available to our parents so that you can receive real-time notifications and information about your child(ren)'s bus, especially delays, With that said, as with the beginning of any school year, please anticipate some delays and accept my apologies in advance for any inconvenience that they may cause. In addition, if you are looking for the list of school supplies recommended for students, please visit the Families page of your child(ren)'s school's website. Lastly, please make sure that your child(ren), especially those who are in or will be entering the high school, have completed ALL summer reading and math assignments/packets.

If you have not done so already, please make sure that you visit our website (www.sayrevillek12.net). The Families page, which you can access by clicking here, consists of an abundance of information that you will find very helpful, particularly the 2023-24 School District Calendar, the September 2023 Monthly Activities Calendar, and the 2022-24 Our Schools Guide. In addition, please take the time to read my weekly Talk Sup messages, which will begin this Monday morning. Finally, enjoy the Bomber Blasts, which are stored in the Bomber Backpack on the Families page, and tweets that stream real time in the News and Events section on the bottom half of the homepage, as well as on each school's page, and do not forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Business Meetings held over the summer on <u>July 25th</u> and <u>August 29th</u>, please take the opportunity to peruse the agendas and addendums, as well as all supporting documentation, by clicking on each, so that you can see what we were able to accomplish over the summer, as all motions on them were approved by our Board of Education. Likewise, click on each respective meeting videos (<u>July 25th</u> and <u>August 29th</u>) to learn what was discussed during each meeting.

This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We commend and congratulate the below Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) students for winning the indicated art awards.



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Sayreville Shade Tree Commission Art Contest

- *Janai Negroni, grade 12-1st place 3D (ceramics)
- *Ethan Sanfiorenzo, grade 12-1st Place 2D (painting)

Students were asked to express what a tree means and represents to them through art. There were 5 different categories to accommodate different ages. Ethan and Janai won first place in their respective categories.

**Mrs. LaScala and Ms. Mojzsis, teachers

Peter's Valley School of Craft Annual High School Exhibition

- *Alexander Olmo, grade 11, painting, "Metro in Motion"
- *Anaya Siraj, grade 12, drawing, "Polar Reflection"
- *Diya Bawa, grade 10, drawing, "Untitled"
- *Isabella Collazo, grade 11,, painting, "Her Favorite Color was Green"
- *Trischelle Afihene, grade 12, drawing, "Stillness, Outside of Chaos"

This annual exhibition is held in the Sally D. Francisco Gallery at Peter's Valley School of Craft from 2/8/23-2/27/23. It showcases work from high school students grade 9-12 working in all media. Five students from SWHMS were selected to be included in the exhibition.

**Ms. Mojzsis, teacher

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

*Isabella Collazo, grade 11, Honorable Mention, painting, "Her Favorite Color was Green"

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. For this competition, the state of New Jersey is divided into 2 regions-North and South. For the South Jersey region, Isabella Collazo received an honorable mention out of a field that included approximately 2,000 entries.

**Ms. Mojzsis, teacher

Clay in Mind

- *Janai Negroni, grade 12
- *Alexandria Rosario, grade 12
- *Ethan Sanfiorenzo, grade 12

Clay in Mind ceramic competition takes place at Sayreville War Memorial HIgh School each year. The contest includes students from different districts throughout the state. 3 SWMHS students were selected to have their work on view at the Noyes Arts Garage in Atlantic City from 5/24/23-6/17/23.

**Mrs. LaScala, teacher

New Jersey County Teen Arts Festival

*Kyriaki Kakadelis, grade 10, drawing, "Lightshow"

The art department at SWMHS selected 20 pieces of student work to be shown in the exhibition. The work included drawing, painting, stained glass, and ceramics. Those students as well as many other talented artists from our school attended the festival in order to take part in workshops and critiques by professional artists. The festival took place March 15, 2023. Kyriaki Kakdelis's drawing was nominated to be included in the State Teen Arts Festival.

**Mrs. Charmello, Mrs. LaScala, Mr. Mergner, Ms. Mojzsis, and Mr. Rice, teachers

New Jersey StateTeen Arts Festival

*Kyriaki Kakadelis, grade 10, drawing, "Lightshow"

The New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival is a statewide celebration of the arts. Since Kyriaki Kakadelis's drawing was chosen to be included, students at SWMHS were invited to attend the festival. Kyriaki once again received an award granting her the honor of having her drawing take part in a traveling exhibition culminating with a display that will include her artwork at the fall NJEA convention.

**Ms. Mojzsis, teacher

We also commend and thank CMC Steel, the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club, and Patrick Cerpico and Starbucks for their gracious donation of backpacks and school supplies. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



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In athletics, the SWMHS Football Team got off to a fast start two weeks ago with an impressive win over Colonia High School. After a disappointing loss to perennial football powerhouse Phillipsburg High School, they are now 1-1 on the season. 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 way they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules by visiting the Athletics page of our website or by clicking here.

As per the 2023-24 School District Calendar, and/or the September 2023 Monthly Activities Calendar, which you can view respectively by clicking on each, on Tuesday, September 26th, there will be a Board of Education Business Meeting in the Samsel Upper Elementary School Board Meeting Room. In addition, during the week of September 18th, we will hold Back to School Nights at each school beginning with the upper elementary school on September 18th, all K-3 elementary schools on September 19th, Project Before and the high school on September 20th, and the middle school on September 21st. Likewise, please note that students and faculty will be dismissed early on Friday, September 22nd. Finally, please remember that our schools will be closed on Monday, September 25th in observance of Yom Kippur.

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 wonderful first week of school!

Dr. Labbe