



# MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



## Special Holiday Edition



Dear Middletown School Community

As the holiday season wraps us in its warm embrace, I wanted to take a moment to extend heartfelt wishes to every member of our wonderful school family.

May this festive season bring you joy that knows no bounds, laughter that echoes in your hearts, and moments of pure happiness shared with loved ones. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply enjoying the magic of the season, I hope it is filled with warmth, love, and cherished memories.

As we reflect on the year gone by, let's also look forward to the possibilities and opportunities that the coming year holds. Together, as a united and supportive community, we can create an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and included. While we anticipate the new year and the opportunity for new beginnings, it is also important to reflect upon all the accomplishments and bright moments that occurred throughout our MTPS Community during 2023. The rest of this update will be a celebration of some of these wonderful moments that make this school district and community so special.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Middletown family. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and passion contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our school community, making it a place we are all proud to call home. May the holiday season bring you peace, prosperity, and an abundance of goodwill. Here's to a joyous holiday and a New Year filled with hope, growth, and shared successes.

Warmest wishes,

Jessica Alfone  
Superintendent of Schools

## New High School Course Structure for 2024-2025

In response to feedback from our students and staff members, the district will be implementing a new high school course structure for the 2024-2025 school year. This structure will not only provide equity in the Fine and Performing Arts in both high schools, but it will also serve to prepare 9th graders to be successful throughout their high school careers. The main components of this structure include the dissolution of the Arts Academy with a move to Fine and Performing Arts Pathways in both high schools. This will afford our students greater flexibility in expanding coursework within, and across, content areas. In addition, the new structure will include a Freshmen Academy experience, which will be named *Freshmen Frontiers*. Moving forward, students entering into 9th grade will be eligible to select a pathway and corresponding courses as 10th graders. Providing our 9th graders a year to acclimate to high school life will be of benefit in maximizing their high school coursework and career. More information will be forthcoming in the new year for incoming 9th graders and current Arts Academy students who will be able to finish their coursework in their selected tracks. Please use the links below to access some additional information.

[Freshmen Frontiers](#)

[STEM Pathway](#)

[GLP3 Pathway](#)

[BMAP/CTE](#)

[Arts Pathway](#)

## Senior Open Campus Initiative

We are excited to share that beginning in the new year, we will move forward with the implementation of a Senior Open Campus program. This initiative came directly from student feedback during the Superintendent's forums. Seniors will be permitted, with parental/guardian permission, to leave campus during blocks 3 and 4. When we return in January, Mr. Cullen and Mr. Olausen will be holding assemblies with the senior students to discuss the procedures and expectations of this privilege. Parents/guardians will also be receiving this information, in addition to the permission form.



Fall Student-Athletes at  
HSN sign Letters of  
Intent  
November 2023



# High School Highlights 2023 The Year in Review

Fall Student-Athletes at  
HSS sign Letters of Intent  
November 2023



High School South  
Wrestlers earn  
honors in winter  
wrestling  
tournaments  
January 2023



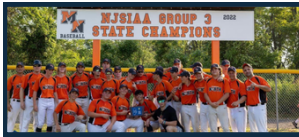
High School  
North Drama  
Students earn  
honors at the NJ  
Thespians Festival  
January 2023



Unified Sports  
Basketball  
competes at High  
School South  
February 2023



HSN Baseball  
wins sectional  
title  
May 2023



High School  
South Senior  
Athlete wins  
Shore  
Conference  
title  
January 2023



High Schools North and  
South Junior Varsity Ice  
Hockey teams raise money  
for pediatric cancer  
January 2023

HSN Ice Hockey captures State Title  
March 2023



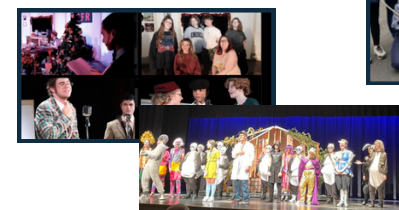
Italian classes at  
HSN visit the Little  
Lions Program  
March 2023



Annual Mayor's Cup raises  
money to support  
pediatric cancer. Over  
\$26,000 was raised by the  
North and South Ice  
Hockey Teams.  
January 2023



Fall Productions at HSN and HSS  
November 2023



The HSS Marching  
Band plays at the  
NYC St. Patrick's  
Day Parade  
March 2023



High School  
Seniors receive  
Guidance  
Director's  
Caring Awards  
March 2023



Senior at HSS earns  
two Social Studies  
awards for her  
leadership and  
contributions to her  
high school  
March 2023

MILES Program  
provides work-  
based learning for  
students in the  
Transition Program  
March 2023



Spring  
student-athletes  
sign National  
Letters of Intent  
May 2023



- Dramas and Comedies**
- Featured Performance in a Drama: Jessica Holmann, High School North - The Crucible
  - Featured Performance in a Drama: South Gower, High School North - The Crucible
  - Supporting Performance in a Comedy: Jay Fieling, High School South - Then One Fuggy Christmas Eve
- Musicals**
- Evaluators Special Award: The Future of High School Theatre: Marshall Tappan in High School North's rendition of Les Miserables
  - Carolyn Malik Award for Outstanding Costume Design of a Musical: Laura Mazza in High School South's rendition of Chicago
  - Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical: Tom Smith in High School North's rendition of Les Miserables
  - Outstanding All Student Orchestra: High School South, Chicago
  - Outstanding Featured Ensemble Group: High School South, Chicago
  - Featured Performance in a Musical: Rebecca Grisham, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Featured Performance in a Musical: Brynne Ramsey, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Supporting Performance in a Musical: Ava Giga, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Supporting Performance in a Musical: South Gower, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Lead Performance in a Musical: Samuel Cusson, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Outstanding Director of a Musical: Amanda Farris, High School North - Les Miserables
  - Outstanding Production of a Musical: High School North - Les Miserables

Arts students  
receive Basie  
Honors  
May 2023



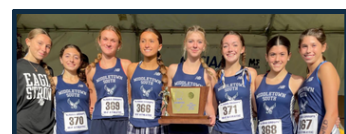
Annual  
Homecoming  
bonfires at  
HSN and HSS  
November 2023

Holiday Express  
returns to HSS  
December 2023



HSN Earns 1st  
NJNG Champions  
of Sustainability  
June 2023

Annual  
Thanksgiving  
Day Football  
Game  
November 2023



HSS Girls' XC  
wins title and  
set individual  
records  
November 2023

HSN Track  
earns sectional  
title  
June 2023



HSS Girls'  
Soccer wins first  
Shore  
Conference Title  
October 2023







# Middle School Highlights 2023

## The Year in Review



**Bayshore E-Sports Wins Title**  
January 2023



**Bayshore Participates in the Great Kindness Challenge**  
January 2023



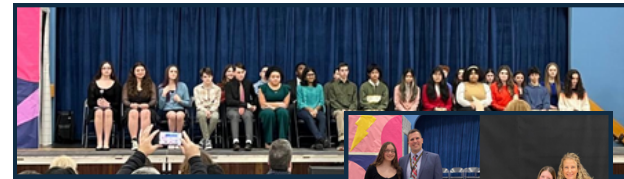
**Thorne Students visit No Limits Cafe to learn about employment**  
February 2023



**Thorne Middle School gets a visit from self-advocacy expert**  
January 2023



**Bayshore students beautify the hallways**  
March 2023



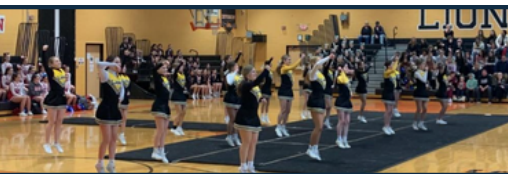
**Students represent the district at a county dialogue event**  
March 2023



**Middle School Cheerleaders from all three schools participate in the Second Annual Cheering Championship with Thorne winning the title**  
February 2023



**Thompson honors our Veterans**  
November 2023



**Bayshore musicians earn merit awards from NAMM**  
April 2023



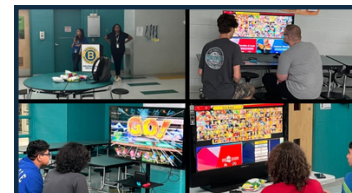
**Students from Thorne and Thompson Rise Against Hunger**  
March 2023

**Play Productions take place for Middle School performers**  
March 2023



**Thompson inducts Honor Society members**  
May 2023

**E-Sports Smash Invitational**  
June 2023



**Thorne students send military care packages**  
April 2023



**Thorne celebrates Anita Thorne Rochelle-Keyser's 99th Birthday**  
October 2023

**Thompson Boys' Soccer Undefeated season**  
October 2023



**Middle School kicks off the I.N.S.P.I.R.E Mentor Program**  
October 2023



**Thompson band participates in Music in the Parks Competition**  
May 2023



**Bayshore Girls' Soccer wins Shore Conference Title**  
October 2023

**High School North Bottlecappers visit Thorne**  
December 2023



**Middle School ABSs talk to winter athletes about sportsmanship**  
December 2023







# Elementary School Highlights 2023

## The Year in Review



**River Plaza holds 40th Veterans' Day Celebration**  
November 2023



**Bayview listens to speaker Tim Rohrer to raise Autism Awareness**  
April 2023

**Bayview student honored by Commissioners for volunteer work in establishing the Heroes Cafe at Bayview**  
March 2023



**Lincroft inducts new Student Council members**  
November 2023



**Elementary students celebrate Pi Day**  
March 2023



**Fairview students celebrate Earth Day**  
April 2023



**Elementary students celebrate the 100th Day of School**  
February 2023

**New Monmouth Students learn about drug and violence prevention from the MTPD**  
February 2023



**Leonardo celebrates Mardi Gras**  
February 2023



**Little Leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day**  
March 2023



**River Plaza holds Science Exploration Fair**  
May 2023



**Elementary students celebrate Read Across America**  
March 2023



**Ocean Avenue School hosts Family Math Night**  
March 2023

**Lincroft Student Council holds a fundraiser for sports equipment for students**  
March 2023



**New Monmouth hosts Special Person snack time**  
May 2023



**Bayview and MTPD host a bike rodeo**  
May 2023



**Elementary musicians selected for Honors Band**  
April 2023







# Elementary School Highlights 2023

## The Year in Review



**Chicks with Kicks**  
has great first season  
May 2023



**OAS Kindergartners**  
are super readers  
March 2023

**Kindergartners graduate**  
June 2023



**Elementary students**  
participate in  
Girls on the  
Run 5K  
May 2023



**Little Eagles and Lions graduate**  
June 2023

**River Plaza 5th Graders**  
put on a play  
production  
December 2023



**Nut Swamp holds Project Pride a Celebration of Cultures**  
March 2023



**Nut Swamp students**  
honored for raising money for Breast Intentions  
December 2023

**Lincroft holds Frosty Fest**  
December 2023



**Village holds Wiz-Fit Celebration for 3-5th graders**  
March 2023



**Village Story Time**  
in celebration of  
World Read-Aloud Day  
January 2023



**Fire Safety for First Graders at Navesink**  
October 2023



**Author of Saga of the Selenixes visits Leonardo School**  
October 2023



**Fairview gets a visit from Bayshore Band**  
January 2023

**Monmouth County Sheriff's Officer talk to Harmony 1st Graders about dialing 911**  
December 2023



**Lincroft students hold Hot Chocolate sale**  
February 2023



**Better Than Broadway Productions work with Harmony students**  
May 2023



**New Monmouth holds annual craft fair**  
December 2023



**ABC Countdown for River Plaza 5th Graders**  
June 2023



Happy New year!!!