



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

Winter Break: December 23 - January 1

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 Thespian 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 Holtmann, High School North - The Crucible
 - Featured Performance in a Drama: South Grove, High School North - The Crucible
 - Supporting Performance in a Comedy: Jay Fabling, High School South - Teen One Faggy Christmas Eve
- Musicals**
- Evaluators Special Award: The Future of High School Theatre: Marshall Tappan in High School North's rendition of Les Miserables
 - Carolee 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
 - Any Other Fredricka Award for Outstanding Musical Director: Peter Irsenrud, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Outstanding Festival Group: High School South, Chicago
 - Outstanding Performance in a Musical: Rebecca Grindel, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Featured Performance in a Musical: Bryn Ramsey, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Supporting Performance in a Musical: Ava Giga, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Supporting Performance in a Musical: South Grove, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Lead Performance in a Musical: Samuel Cusson, High School North - Les Miserables
 - Outstanding Director of a Musical: Amanda Fink, 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



HSN Earns 1st NJNG Champions of Sustainability
June 2023

Annual Thanksgiving Day Football Game
November 2023



Holiday Express returns to HSS
December 2023



HSN 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



Thompson honors our Veterans
November 2023



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



Students from Thorne and Thompson Rise Against Hunger
March 2023



Bayshore musicians earn merit awards from NAMM
April 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



Little Eagles and Lions graduate
June 2023

Elementary students participate in Girls on the Run 5K
May 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



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

ABC Countdown for River Plaza 5th Graders
June 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



Happy New Year!!!