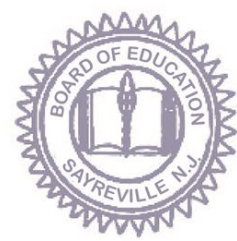


# Sayreville Public Schools

## Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997  
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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 29 Review and Preview

April 8, 2024

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 Wednesday, **April 10<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Eid al-Fitr.



As you know, for the first time since 2017, there will be a complete solar eclipse later today at about 3:30 pm. According to physicians and astronomers alike, there is only one safe way to look directly at the sun, whether during an eclipse or not, and that is through **special-purpose solar filters**. These solar filters are used in **eclipse glasses or in hand-held solar viewers**. In fact, physicians warn that if you look directly at an eclipse without the solar filtered glasses or viewers, your pupils will expand to

accommodate for low light even though the ultraviolet radiation from the sun remains high, which can cause permanent damage to the cornea and retina of the eye. Fortunately, thanks to the incredibly generous donation of a Wilson School parent, we will be providing solar filtered glasses or viewers to all our students in the elementary school, including Samsel, and the middle school. Therefore, please remind our students to use their solar filtered glasses or viewers before looking at the eclipse.



As you probably know, **Thursday, April 25, 2024**, is designated as "**Bring Your Child to Work Day**." This activity is in conjunction with the national observance of "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" and is designed to help children ages **8-18** explore the workforce. Therefore, we anticipate that some of our students will be accompanying their parents/guardians to work on this day. Likewise, we anticipate that staff members will be taking their children to work for the same reasons. As we have done in the past, the parents of our students aged 8-18 that wish for their child(ren) to participate in this event at their place of employment and for them to receive credit for attending school, will be required to have their employer complete a form indicating their child(ren)'s participation and return it to their child(ren)'s school by **Tuesday, April 23, 2024**. If they have not already shared it with you, **contact your child(ren)'s principal for the form**. Similarly, staff members who wish to take their child(ren) aged 8-18 to school will also need to complete a form and submit it to their immediate supervisor and/or building principal by April 25<sup>th</sup>. **Staff should also contact their principal for the this form if it has not already been provided**. Our hope is that our students and the children of our staff members will benefit from the experience of "Bring Your Child to Work Day" and enjoy spending time with a parent/guardian in their workplace.

This past week the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released the 2022-2023 New Jersey School Performance Reports. They are available on the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) page on the district's website or the [NJ School Performance Reports](#) page of the NJDOE website for review. Click on either

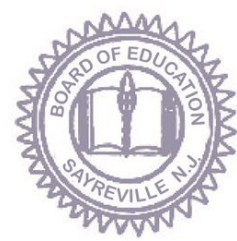
**Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders**



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one to read them. In addition, this week each individual school's report will be posted on their respective websites. If you are not aware of it, the School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. The NJDOE encourages you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about your school and district.
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions.
- **Engage** with school communities to identify what schools are doing well and where they can improve.

The 2022-2023 School Performance Reports include all data that was previously reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes all assessment, student growth, and accountability data. The NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the data in the reports, along with other information collected directly within districts and communities, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and continue to find ways to ensure all students receive the support and resources that they need. The School Performance Reports can and should be used in conjunction with available school and district data to identify priorities for upcoming year planning and the use of state and federal dollars. As data over the last three years was impacted by the pandemic in various ways, the NJDOE does recommend caution in comparing data from year to year.

The 2022-2023 School Performance Reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback, federal and state requirements, and data availability. These changes include:

- **Student growth data** as measured by median student growth percentile for the first time since the 2018-2019 reports;
- Expanded **computer science course participation data** showing participation for all grades kindergarten through 12; and
- Results from the fall 2023 **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability process**.



If you did not have a chance to attend the Special "Let the Children Lead" BOE Business Meeting held on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, here is what you missed. During this meeting, the Board of Education (BOE) and Central Administration were joined by almost two dozen 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) as part of the annual "Let the Children Lead" program. During this very popular and unique activity, the selected 5<sup>th</sup> grade students actually performed in the capacity of a specific board of education member or administrators. Thus, except for a few occasions, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade representatives for each, including Ms.



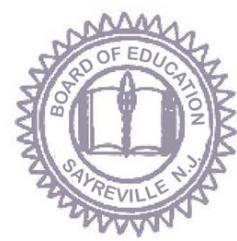
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Coglianesse, Principal of SUES, and Mr. Tola, Assistant Principal of SUES, voted and commented publicly on behalf of the BOE member or administrator that they represented.



The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved them all. To see the Agenda, click [here](#). To see all attachments, click [here](#). To view the video of the meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the acceptance of a grant from the Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage in the amount of \$2,000 to be used for transportation costs for the SUES field trip to East Jersey Old Town and Cornelius Low House Museum. It also approve structured learning experiences for several high school students participating in the STEM Capstone Externship program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 School Year in accordance with the conditions established by the NJDOE Structured Learning Experience Agreement.

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the long-term suspension of a student. Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board approved revisions to Board of Education [Policy 5570 Sportsmanship](#) and [Policy](#) and [Regulation 8660 Student Transportation](#) for a First Reading. To review them, click on each.

On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education appointed new certificated and non-certificated substitutes for the 2023-24 school year. Likewise, the Board appoint staff for the SUES STEAM clubs which will run from April 8, 2024 through June 12, 2024.

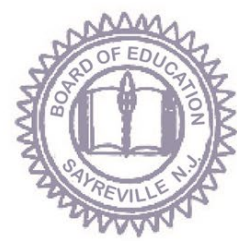
During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Smith reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Pieloch for the last Personnel Committee Meeting. Likewise, Mr. Callahan reviewed what was discussed during the last Student Achievement Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Napolitano for the last Governance Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association. Finally, each student representative shared their recommendations for this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on how to navigate the successful transition to the upper elementary school.

The next meeting will take place at **7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** in the **SUES Board Room**. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the district website on **April 12<sup>th</sup>**. A complete copy of the **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting** minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next BOE Meeting on **April 16, 2024**.



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Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning last week. At the Truman School, students and staff celebrated World Autism Day by wearing blue. In Physical Education classes, students participated in Jump



Rope for Heart, which is an American Heart Association fundraising activity. In

total, the school raised \$3,088. We congratulate and commend Bryan Ruzich, who was the highest fundraiser. At the high school, students in Ms. DeLucia's World History classes visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in N.Y.C. In addition, members of the Heroes and Cool Kids club participated in training before they visited students at the upper elementary school. Speaking of the upper elementary school, a representative from the Flagstar Bank visited 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to share financial literacy lessons. At the middle school, students



participated in two amazing and extremely successful assemblies. With funds



*In classrooms transformed into boardrooms, young minds pitch their passions, not just for grades but for the chance to turn dreams into reality.*

from the Career Awareness and Exploration Grant, Jason "Humble Tip" Lewis and the "Beautiful Tomorrow" visited to talk to the entire middle school student body. The next day, he returned to give a presentation to grade 6 and 7 students where he discussed pathways to success and how there is "no time for fake friends." After our students shared their future goals, he provided them with motivational tips through song. The following day, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who saw the

assembly last year participated in a panel discussion with some special guests from around the district to speak about how they got to the position they are in. Lastly, some students participated in Shark Tank, where they presented their projects, pitched their ideas, negotiated equity, and secured potential funding. In Project Before at the Cheesequake School, students and staff celebrated the work of author April Martin with a school egg drop contest. Also, in art classes, students learned all about the upcoming eclipse and painted pictures of this rare event.

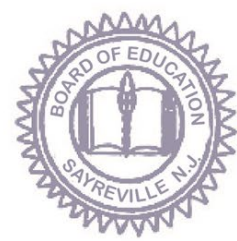




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This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. Compliments of the “Where Are They Now” Committee at the high school, we commend SWMHS Class of 2012 graduate Erica Stolte-Minnella. Erica lives in Phoenix, AZ, with her husband, Joe. She has worked as a Teacher’s Assistant



**Erica Stolte-Minnella, 2012**

Middlesex County College, Assoc. of Fine Arts  
Montclair State University, BFA w/ Concentration in Studio Art Painting  
Grand Canyon University, MS in Business Analytics

Erica lives in Phoenix, AZ, with her husband, Joe. She has worked as a Teacher’s Assistant and Substitute Teacher, and is now working in the College of Education for Grand Canyon University as Director of Assessment and Program Operations. In 2018, Erica was 1st Runner-Up in an international pageant system. She has held a National Title, multiple state and local pageant titles in NJ and AZ, won “Miss Congeniality” twice, won “The Spirit Award” and “The Director’s Award” for promoting sportsmanship and friendship. Erica has a passion for mentoring young women through pageant coaching and has collaborated and fundraised with various causes and organizations.



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**Deanna Peterson, 2009**

North Carolina Wesleyan University, BS in Mathematics, Minor in Accounting

Deanna went on to North Carolina Wesleyan University for her BS in Mathematics, graduating with Honors and participating in Choir for four years on scholarship (she thanks Mr. Craft!). She also continued to play soccer for 2 yrs. She returned to NJ and obtained her Alternate Route certification in Secondary Math Ed., and then a Masters in Special Ed.. She has now worked at East Brunswick Magnet School for 11 years as a Special Education Math Teacher and has also coached soccer at various schools. Deanna currently resides in South River and enjoys road trips to MLB stadiums with her boyfriend.



through pageant coaching and has collaborated and fundraised with various causes and organizations. We also commend SWMHS Class of 2009 graduate Deanna Peterson. Deanna went on to North Carolina Wesleyan University for her BS in Mathematics, graduating with Honors and participating in Choir for four years on scholarship (she thanks Mr. Craft!). She also continued to play soccer for 2 years. She returned to New Jersey and obtained her Alternate Route certification in Secondary Math Education, and then a Master’s Degree in Special Education. She

has worked at the East Brunswick Magnet School for 11 years as a Special Education Math Teacher and has also coached soccer at various schools. Deanna currently resides in South River and enjoys road trips to Major League Baseball stadiums with her boyfriend. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



In athletics, the SWMHS Girls and Boys Lacrosse Teams won their first games last week against Edison High School (HS) and Rutherford HS respectively. Likewise, the SWMHS Baseball and Softball Teams also recorded their first victories of the season over Middlesex HS and Spotswood HS. The SWMHS Girls and Boys



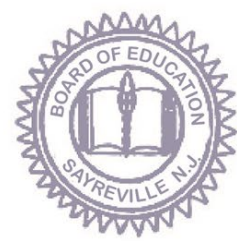
Track and Field Teams performed very well during the Metuchen Relays, their first meet of the season. In fact, the following girls placed: Jayda Roque (4<sup>th</sup> in the 400 Meter Hurdles), Sandy Costa, Julia Kuklicz, Sarah Smith and Morgan Koonce (2<sup>nd</sup> in 4x800 Meter Relay), Molly



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Logan, Angeleah Lepre and Crystal Margotta (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 1600 Meter), Zaila Khan and Morolake Akinrefon (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Shot Put), and Lily Poulson (2<sup>nd</sup> in the Javelin). 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](#).

As per the [2023-24 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, please remember that there will be a **BOE Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please also remember that **our schools will be closed** this **Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Eid al-Fitr and on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** in observance of Passover. Likewise, please note that we will **dismiss students early on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** so that our staff can participate in professional development. Finally, please remember that the **3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period** for students in **grades 6-12** will **end on April 15<sup>th</sup>** and that **report cards** will be **issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect** for those students on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

On January 29, 2024, 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, 2024**) 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](http://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 **2024-2025 Project Before and Kindergarten** drop down menu: [New Student Registration Link](#) or [Returning Student Registration Link](#)

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