

MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



VOLUME 8
APRIL 2024

Staff Members of the Month: March

Congratulations to our March Staff Members of the Month. Their dedication to the district and to the school community has been recognized. We celebrate their contributions this month!



AP Exam Schedule

Advanced Placements exams will be held in both high schools on **May 6-10** and **May 13-17**. Good luck to those taking these assessments!

High School Final Exam Schedule

Now that the amended calendar has been approved the high school final exam schedule has also been set. Seniors will have final exams scheduled from June 12 - 18 to accommodate graduation practices. Underclassmen will have final exams scheduled from June 13 - 18. You can access the full exam schedule below:

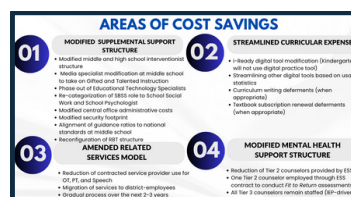
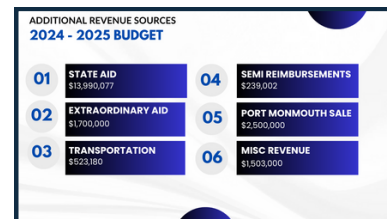
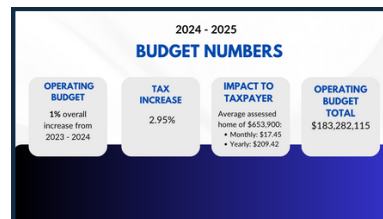
[High School Final Exam Schedule](#)

Amended School Calendar

The amended school calendar was approved at the April 30 BOE meeting. The last day of school for students is June 20. The last day for staff members is scheduled for June 24. However, staff members can waive their federal day observance on June 21, report to work, and have this count as their last day for the school year. Staff members who exercise this option will not have to return on June 24.

[Amended School Calendar 2023-2024](#)

Public Budget Presentation 2024-25



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Triple A: Athlete Allies for Autism

A new district initiative, Athlete Allies for Autism, has been launched. Students at HS North visit New Monmouth Elementary School during their advisory/lunch to interact with students in the Autism programs. Together, HSN students and our students with autism engage in physical activities both inside and outside their classrooms. Whether they are throwing and catching a ball, playing a new game, coloring, or on the playground; everyone has a great time fostering positive social experiences. We have a few more dates scheduled for the remainder of the school year!



Art Fusion at High School North

Students in our Art classes at High School North had the opportunity to display their tremendous talents at the Art Fusion show held on April 11. The media center was adorned with beautiful work crafted by our students. These talented young artists worked in a variety of mediums and exhibited a vast array of styles. Such talent in our Arts programs!



Bayshore and Thorne Middle Schools Host Autism Acceptance Week

Led by our middle school Anti-Bullying Specialists, Jill Maline and Mary Prugno, Thorne and Bayshore Middle Schools hosted a full week of Autism Acceptance activities. The activities were aimed at developing awareness about neurodiversity and encouraging empathy and compassion with the students. Throughout the week, students participated in work stations where students were able to simulate various neurodiverse attributes while performing specific tasks. The simulations were crafted with the intent to provide students with firsthand experiences of the challenges and perspectives of their peers with autism and other neurodiverse conditions.



Parent Resource: Early Signs of Dyslexia

The Institute of Multi-Sensory Education (ISME) has provided access to a parent resource on identifying the early signs of dyslexia. These early "look-fors" are critical in supporting early intervention efforts. You can access the podcast at the following link:

[Dyslexia: Early Clues](#)

Echos Cafe at Bayshore

Mrs. Tarrazzi and Mrs. Ramos launched the Echos Cafe that is open on specific dates for staff. The space was transformed into an adorable coffee cafe and is student-run and operated. Staff can purchase "Dolphin Dollars" to pay for purchases in the cafe.



Congratulations High School North and High School South

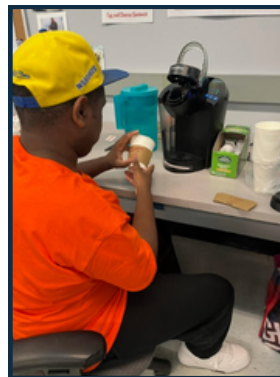
High School North and High School South both received recognition as a US News and World Report Best High School for 2024. North and South obtained this honor at the state, regional, and national levels. This award exemplifies the high-quality experiences that we are able to offer to our students at both of the district's high schools. Congratulations to students and staff members!



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

MILES Breakfast Cart at High School South

Mr. Tomo & Mrs. Forte launched the MILES Breakfast Cart at Middletown High School South. Our two 18-21 year old programs are operating a breakfast cart on Fridays that are available to all staff. They are serving hot beverages and breakfast sandwiches! This program supports students gaining pre-employment skills, as students have an active role in the entire process--from shopping for supplies, taking orders, cooking, preparing the cart, organizing orders, and serving/delivering orders. The program will put the funds towards community based instruction trips.



Middletown North and South Ice Hockey Day

The HS South Hockey Team & HS South Special Class programs along with the HS North Hockey Team and Bayview & New Monmouth Special Class programs met at the ice rink for a morning of skating! Additionally, students were assisted onto the ice by the ice hockey team, along with support from school staff. Many students took risks and had an amazing time!



Elementary Literacy Grades 3-5

In conjunction with our Orton Gillingham program implementation in Grades K-2 for next school year, we will be piloting the word study companion, Morphology, in two of our elementary schools for next year, Leonardo and Nut Swamp. For September, we will also be revamping our 3-5th grade reading curriculum to better align with the core components of standards-based skills and concepts. This will provide our learners with better opportunities for mastering skills before entering middle school.

AP Advantage Fairs

The district will be holding the AP Advantage Fairs again during blocks 3 and 4 on 5/20 (North) and 5/21 (South). The purpose of these fairs is to introduce incoming AP students to their teachers, learn about the courses from their peers, become familiar with summer opportunities available, and much more. Interested students can attend during their lunch/advisory. These fairs will help to ensure student success in the various rigorous AP courses the district offers.

High School Students Receive Basie Award Nominations

Congratulations to students and staff in our Fine and Performing Arts programs at High School North and High School South on their Basie Award nominations. This demonstrates the extraordinary level of talents of our program participants. Congratulations and best of luck on awards night!



Take Your Child to Work Day a Huge Success!

April 25, the Middletown School District participated in *Take Your Child to Work Day*. Many of our staff members brought their children to work where they had the opportunity to learn about the school and interact with students and staff members. Each building organized activities for the guests and a great day was had by all involved!





CONGRATULATIONS

2023 - 2024

Support Staff Professionals of the Year

Michelle Alaia-High School North



Susan Richichi-High School South



Catherine Comisa-Desatnick-Bayshore Middle School



Jessica DiNero-Thorne Middle School



Daniel Henningsen-Thompson Middle School



June Isaksen-Bayview Elementary School



Nancy Gray-Harmony Elementary School



Jean Marie Doherty-Leonardo Grade School



Victoria McBurney-Lincroft Elementary School



Monique Scarimbolo-Fairview Elementary School





Gail Flaim-New Monmouth Elementary School



Ida O'Neill-Nut Swamp Elementary School



Sloan Falihee-Ocean Avenue Elementary School



William Gibbons-River Plaza Elementary School



Margaret Tezler-Village Elementary School



Wendy Topoleski-Navesink Elementary School



Tami Brady-Central Office



John Kerestan-Buildings & Grounds, Maintenance



Robert Kozlowski-Buildings & Grounds, Maintenance

