

BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS



SPRING BUDGET EDITION - JUNE 2024



www.bergenfield.org



www.facebook.com/bergenfieldsd



[@bergenfieldsd](https://twitter.com/bergenfieldsd)

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



As we inch closer to the end of another excellent school year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective efforts that have made this year a resounding success.

Our students continue to excel both inside of the classroom as well as within our wide range of extracurricular activities. This continued forward progress is the direct result of our hard-working students, the dedication of our world-class educators, and the unwavering support of our community.

Our school district remains a top destination for families looking to purchase a home, raise their children, and provide them with outstanding educational opportunities. We have maintained a robust program in academics, arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, which provide an enriching experience that prepares them for their bright futures. Equally as important, we have been able to provide this well-rounded program while being mindful of our fiduciary responsibilities, ensuring that we remain within our means.

As we start to turn the page and look forward to the 2024-25 school year, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to our taxpayers for their continued investment in our school district. Your support is paramount to our ability to maintain the high standards of education that our students deserve. This most recent budget cycle was one of the most challenging in recent times given the rapidly increasing costs in a few key areas, including employee health benefits, special education programs, and transportation.

Despite these financial challenges, we remain laser-focused in our commitment to offering world-class educational opportunities for all students. We are actively exploring additional ways to generate alternative sources of revenue to offset tax increases, ensuring that we can continue to provide excellent programs without placing an undue burden on our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. It is only through our collective efforts that we can continue to move our school district forward, reaching for the stars. Together, we continue to put children first as we prepare them for the bright futures that lie ahead of them.

2023-24 FACILITY UPGRADES



New tennis courts installed at BHS.



New walkways at Franklin School.



New flooring in RWB gymnasium.

2024 BCME AWARD



Brought to you by The **NAMM** Foundation®

The district was recognized for the 17th time.

Once again, the Bergenfield Public School District has been recognized by The NAMM Foundation as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" (BCME). This marks the 15th consecutive year in which the district has earned this distinction.

Over the past 25 years, the national BCME award has honored more than 1,000 schools and districts in 43 states for their unwavering commitment to music education as an integral part of a well-rounded education for all students.

Thank you for your ongoing support of music and its positive influence on our community.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

With the exception of Hoover School, all schools will be closed June 4th and June 14th due to the return of unused emergency days.

On those dates, Hoover School will operate on half-day schedules to make up for emergency closings the school had in March.

The last day of school for students will be June 19th.



DISTRICT NEWS

CONTRAST OF THE 2023-24 AND 2024-25 SCHOOL BUDGETS

INSTRUCTION	Budgeted for 2023-24	Budgeted for 2024-25
Regular Programs	23,624,747	23,884,511
Special Education	10,186,098	12,462,485
Basic Skills	338,887	315,807
Bilingual Education	910,896	969,422
School Sponsored Co/Extra Activities	415,426	380,855
School Sponsored Athletics	710,970	716,733
Total Summer School	127,000	127,000
Community Services Programs/Operations	6,155	2,155
Total General Instruction Expenses	\$ 36,320,179	\$ 38,858,968
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Tuition	5,482,661	6,005,245
Health Services	950,554	937,611
Speech, OT, PT, Related & Extra Services	561,980	622,087
Other Support Services	1,727,097	1,876,769
Guidance	1,404,121	1,399,323
Child Study Teams	1,585,894	1,695,243
Improvement of Instructional Services	16,768	6,768
Educational Media Services/School Libraries	950,940	915,150
Instructional Staff Training Services	9,784	4,784
General Administration	1,580,821	1,682,342
School Administration	3,390,603	3,558,835
Central Svcs	734,770	758,558
Admin Info Technology	190,872	194,792
Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services	6,248,665	6,341,031
Security	985,775	1,054,437
Student Transportation Services	3,368,823	3,367,440
Employee Benefits	13,143,528	14,576,992
Total General Support Services Expenses	\$ 42,333,656	\$ 44,997,407
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CURRENT EXPENSES	\$ 78,653,837	\$ 83,856,375
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Equipment	372,861	80,464
Facilities Acquisition/Construction	10,486	553,486
Capital Reserve: Transfer to Capital Projects	2,967,060	0
Total Capital Outlay	\$ 3,350,408	\$ 633,950
SPECIAL SCHOOLS		
Special Schools	38,283	38,283
Transfer of Funds to Charter Schools	213,896	257,379
OPERATING BUDGET GRAND TOTAL	\$ 82,256,424	\$ 84,785,987



BHS PRESENTS "ONCE ON THIS ISLAND"



Alejandro Londono as "Daniel" and Laila Little as "Timoune." (Photo: Kenneth Gregorio).

On Thursday, March 7th, Bergenfield High School debuted its spring musical, "Once On This Island," with shows continuing through Saturday, March 9th. The story, set in the Caribbean, is a fairy tale based on "The Little Mermaid," and tells a tale of love conquering death.

Over 50 students participated in the production and assisted in many facets—combining the talents of the computer graphics, music, band, drama, and art departments to bring the show to life.

The musical was directed by Ms. Kathryn Osborne, with musical direction by Ms. Elaine Thoman, choreography by Madeleine Kuder, and pit band direction by Dr. Brian Timmons.

Thank you to all of the directors and students who made the show possible. We are all looking forward to what comes next in 2024-25!

PROMISING PRACTICES



Aerial shot of Hoover students and staff.

Hoover School was selected by the NJDOE, the New Jersey State Policy Lab, and the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers to participate in The Promising Practices Project. The school was one of 78 schools selected for this study based on post-pandemic student growth in English and math.

BAND PERFORMS IN NYC



The concert band playing at Carnegie Hall.

The BHS Honors Wind Ensemble, the premier concert band of the high school, performed at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, March 19th as part of the Animado Events NYC Invitational Festival. The 48-member ensemble performed an exciting program, and presented an encore performance at the BHS Spring Gala on March 21st.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



A student and resident working on a canvas painting.

The BHS National Art Honor Society recently visited the Chelsea Assisted Living Facility in Washington Township. Within minutes of arriving, the students bonded with the residents of the facility. Together, they painted while enjoying each other's conversation and company. The residents and staff shared their appreciation of the visit, while the students were moved—emotionally and profoundly—by the experience.



A resident and student converse together.

YOUNG ARTISTS CELEBRATED



Students pose with Bergen County officials.

On March 30th, Venpa Ramesh, Ava Villaroman, and Gabriella De Leon of Hoover School, along with Franklin School's Adam Abdelhamid, all had their artwork on display at the Bergen County Youth Art Month celebration in Hackensack. The young artists competed in a highly selective, juried art contest to earn this honor.

Bergenfield Board of Education
100 South Prospect Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621-1958

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Paramus, N.J.
Permit No.
357

ECRWSS

Postal Customer
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

DISTRICT NEWS | JUNE 2024

District Central Administration

Dr. Christopher M. Tully, Superintendent of Schools
JoAnn Khoury-Frias, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Darlene Markman, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum
Shane Biggins, Director of Personnel

Board of Education

Dr. Joseph Amara, President
Guadalupe Ruiz-Catala, Vice-President
Fanny Cruz-Betesh, Trustee
Deborah Podwin, Trustee
Dr. Nelson Reynoso, Trustee



 www.bergenfield.org

 www.facebook.com/bergenfieldsd

 [@bergenfieldsd](https://twitter.com/bergenfieldsd)

DISTRICT NEWS



"ONCE ON THIS ISLAND" SPRING MUSICAL IS A HIT
(PHOTO BY KENNETH GREGORIO)

Inside This Issue

From the Desk of the Superintendent.....Pg 1	BHS Presents "Once On This Island"Pg 3
2023-24 Facility Upgrades.....Pg 1	Community Service.....Pg 3
Best Communities in Education Award.....Pg 1	Promising Practices.....Pg 3
Important Reminders.....Pg 1	Band Performs in NYC.....Pg 3
Contrast of the 2023-24 and 2024-25 School Budgets.....Pg 2	Young Artists Celebrated.....Pg 3