



Red Bank Borough Public Schools

Dream BIG...We'll help you get there!

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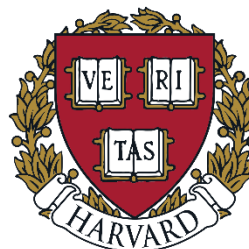


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A Decade of Excellence: How #RBBisBIA Paved the Way to Harvard

Jacqueline Pena-Gomez and Mae Woolley became friends as members of Red Bank Middle School's Class of 2020. But they went separate ways for high school — Pena-Gomez to Trinity Hall and Woolley to the Marine Academy of Science and Technology.

But they will be reunited this fall as members of Harvard's Class of 2028.

Both credited the #RBBisBIA mindset of the Red Bank Borough Public Schools for helping them get into a college as selective as Harvard, which admitted only 3 percent of the nearly 55,000 students who applied for the current class.

Pena-Gomez said the Red Bank Borough Public Schools teachers, programs and mindset set her up for success.

"I am thankful for being able to attend the Red Bank Borough Public Schools because my teachers, classmates, and the staff taught me the values of respect, determination, and perseverance. Being able to be in an environment where our teachers encouraged us to seek the opportunities allowed me to dream bigger every day. Programs such as AVID allowed me to better understand the value of earning an education and not being afraid of stepping out of my comfort zone. Therefore, it goes without saying that the Red Bank Borough Public Schools have become an essential stepping stone in my educational growth." Pena-Gomez said.

Woolley agreed.

"The Red Bank Borough Public Schools made me excited to learn. The amazing teachers and staff created an environment that taught me how to study, perform, and succeed. These schools gave me vision and grit, and helped me realize that I can reach my goals if I am only brave enough to dream big. If not for the Red Bank Borough Public Schools, I would never have been prepared to do well at MAST, and prepared now to thrive at Harvard," Woolley said.

Red Bank Borough Public Schools Superintendent Jared J. Rumage said Pena-Gomez and Woolley exemplified the district motto of Dream BIG.

"As a small school district, it was impressive to hear that two students from the same graduating class applied to Harvard," Rumage said. "But to have both be accepted was amazing."

Pena-Gomez plans to study economics with hopes to someday work in finance or investment banking. As a first generation student, she hopes to join cultural and academic clubs in order to help educate the younger generation on the value of an education. Woolley will study government and hopes for a career in national defense or diplomacy. She is the recipient of an Army ROTC scholarship.

Rumage noted that great teams and organizations always have intangible qualities that drive their success and create a culture.

In school systems, attitudes, vision, and mindset can be even more integral to serving the needs of a community than curriculum, technology, or facilities - and the Red Bank Borough Public Schools are proof. Since 2014, the District has utilized the hashtag RBBisBIA, Red Bank Borough is Best In America. Simultaneously, the District incorporated the tagline "Dream BIG...We'll Help You Get There!". This hashtag and tagline represent much more than letters and words. They are visions embraced by an entire community that have led to a palpable school spirit and numerous accolades for students, staff and the District as a whole.

Without question, the past decade for the Red Bank Borough Public Schools has been its best decade.

Prior to 2014, less than one-third of RBBPS students applied to the Academies offered at Red Bank Regional High School (RBR). During the last three years, that number is nearly 50%.

Even more noteworthy, in 2015-16 the district had 22 students accepted to RBR Academies, Monmouth County Vocational School District (MCVSD) schools, or Private High Schools.

In comparison, the past three years the district has averaged 59 acceptances. Beyond the RBR Academies, the list includes schools such as the Monmouth County Vocational School District's Career Academies: M.A.S.T, High Tech, Biotechnology High School, Communications High School and the Academy of Allied Health & Science. Other students have gone on to attend private high schools such as Christian Brothers Academy, Trinity Hall, and Red Bank Catholic and private boarding schools including but not limited to Cushing Academy (MA), Pomfret School (CT), Peddie School (NJ), Northfield Mount Hermon (MA), Darrow School (NY), and Cate School (CA).

In addition to Mae and Jacqueline, the district is proud of the numerous other recent Rocket graduates who have found success at Harvard, Yale, MIT, Villanova, Rutgers, Drew, FIT, University of Maryland, Monmouth, Florida State, University of Miami, University of Rhode Island, Stevens Institute of Technology, Penn State and Temple, just to name a few! Dr. Rumage noted, "We are also proud of who we are and what we do in the Red Bank Borough Public Schools. The #RBBisBIA mindset has inspired BIG Dreams for many and will continue to do so as we embark on our new Strategic Plan - Dream Bigger: A Five Year Roadmap."

Some Red Bank Borough Public Schools milestones:

- 2014 NJPSA Visionary Leadership Award Winner for NJ, Principal, Red Bank Middle School
- 2014 NAESP National Distinguished Principal, Principal, Red Bank Middle School
- 2017 VIP Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Award from the NJ Department of Agriculture
- 2017-2023 ASBO Certificate of Excellence for Financial Reporting
- 2018 Classroom Close-up NJ Spotlight Emmy Award-Winning Episode: It Takes a Village
- 2018 NJ State Board of Education Service Learning Award, Red Bank Middle School
- 2019 NJ Department of Education Lighthouse District
- 2020 NJPSA Visionary Leadership Award Winner for NJ, Vice Principal, Red Bank Primary School
- 2020 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, Red Bank Primary School
- 2021 Monmouth County Teacher of the Year
- 2023 Monmouth County Superintendent of the Year

- NJDOE Exemplary Elementary Educator 2016, 2018, 2020 (9 Total)
- NJDOE Exemplary Secondary Educator 2017, 2021 (4 Total)

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