



WATCHUNG

BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



State of the District Strategic Planning Session 1

January 29, 2025



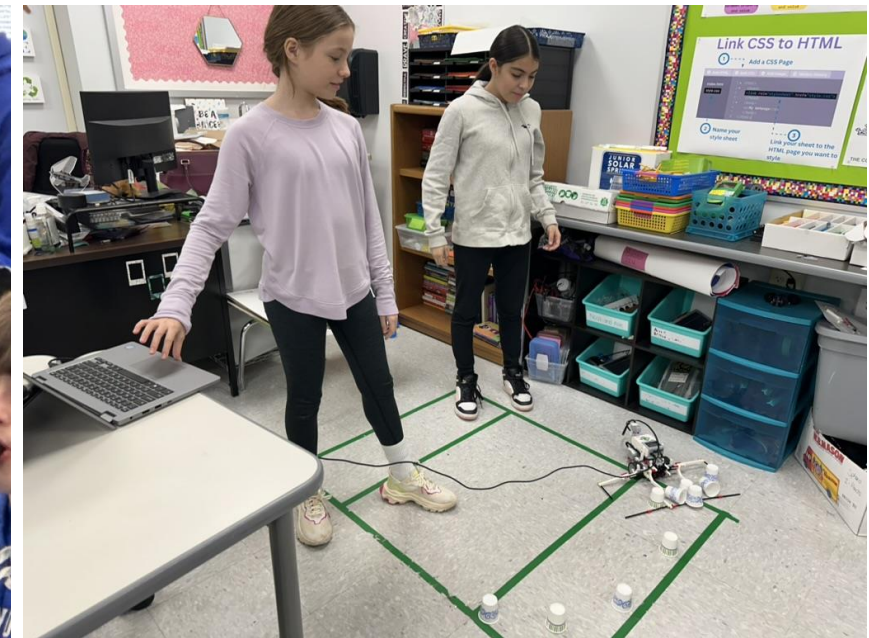
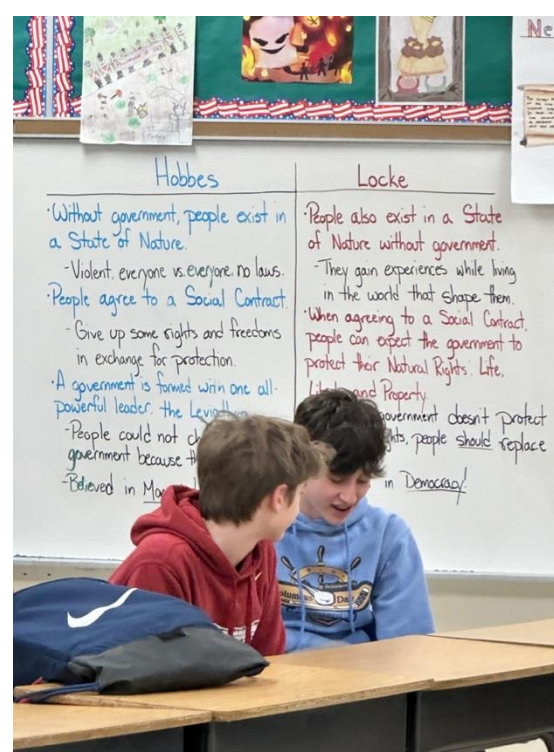
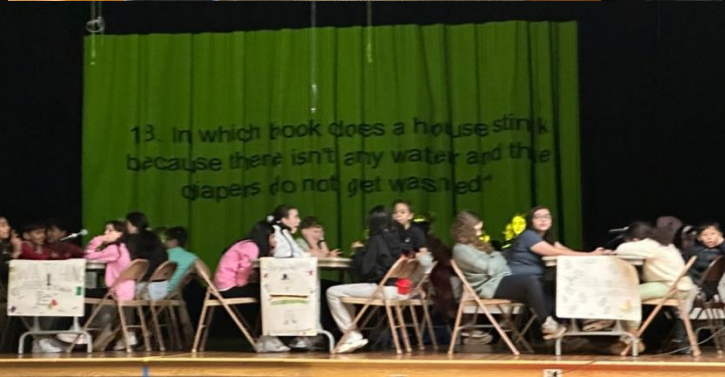
Dr. Julie Glazer
Superintendent of Schools



MISSION OF BAYBERRY SCHOOL

The mission of Bayberry School is to introduce the young child to formal learning by building a foundation of knowledge and skills (NJSLS) within a nurturing environment that promotes self-confidence, encourages love of learning, and celebrates the uniqueness of each child.





MISSION OF VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL
The mission of Valley View School is to enhance and further develop the academic and social competencies of every student (NJSLS) by providing varied experiences that promote self-reliance, self-motivation, and community awareness.

“EXCELLENCE ON THE HILL”



Vision Statement

The Watchung Borough School District is committed to inspiring learners to explore, inquire, and collaborate on their joyful journey toward discovery, independent thinking, and creative problem solving. Our culture of acceptance and inclusion provides the foundation for learning and social and emotional growth. Through reflection and ethical decision-making, we continue to learn and grow, embrace differences, and prepare for an increasingly complex, ever-changing world.

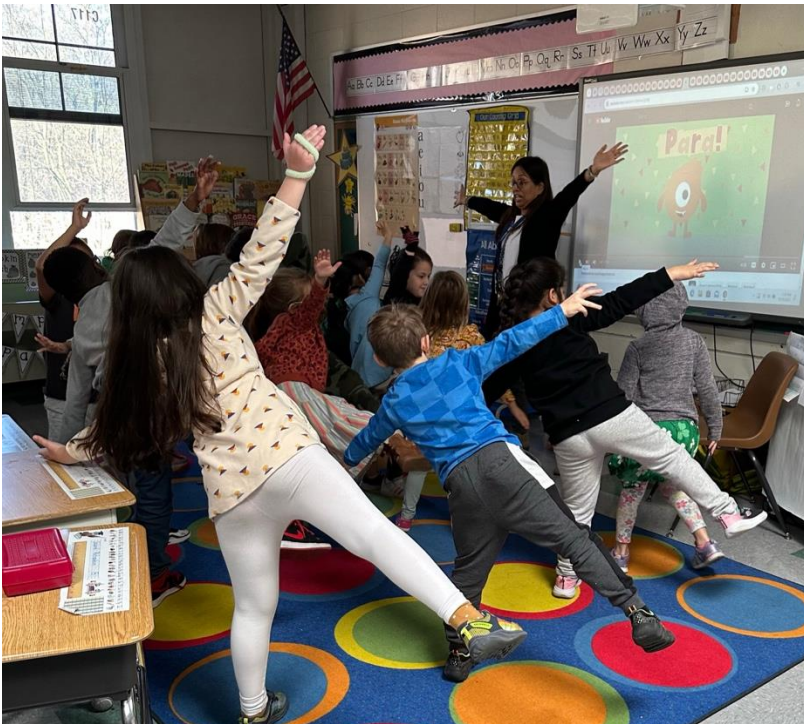
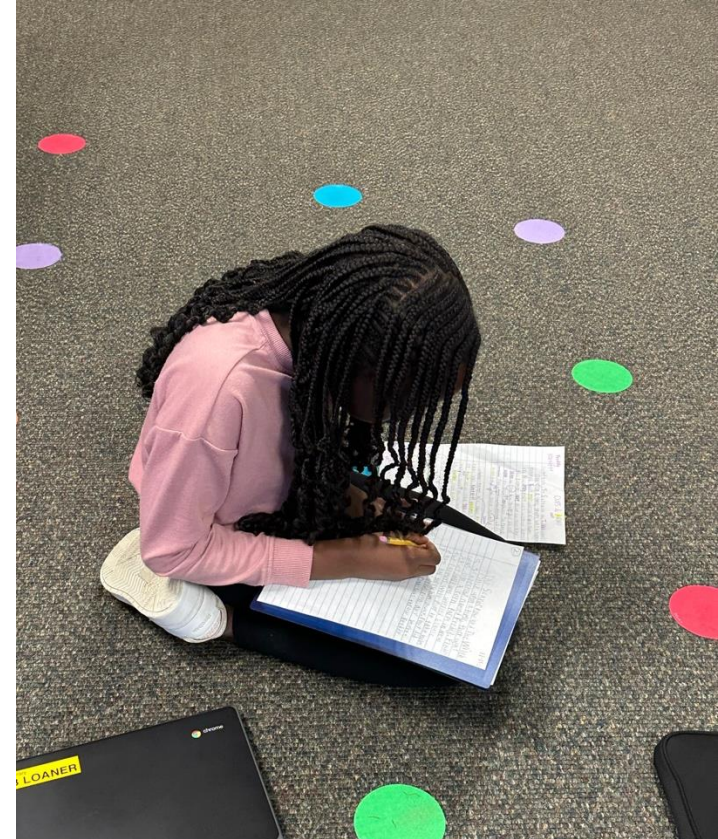
Our Story

Bayberry Elementary, Pre-K through Grade 4 – 47 Certificated Staff Members

Valley View Middle, Grades 5 through 8 – 35 Certificated Staff Members

There are 89 Certificated Staff Members District Wide, 30% of which are Non-Tenured

The District Employs 1 Maintenance Worker and 8 Custodial Staff



Enrollment

	Pre-K	KG	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	OOD	Totals
2022-2023	38	87	64	75	76	81	64	66	69	54	10	684
2023-2024	30	62	85	63	77	82	70	68	64	71	6	678
2024-2025	28	71	64	86	67	74	80	70	63	65	5	673

Demographics

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Multi-Racial	MLL	Classified
2022-2023	50.7%	15%	8%	21.5%	4.5%	2.3%	18%
2023-2024	50.5%	16.3%	7.4%	20.5%	5.3%	3.39%	17.7%
2024-2025	50.7%	18%	6.2%	18.6%	6.5%	4.75%	16.8%

Highlights

STEAM

SOAR

Pursuit of Excellence

PTO, Educational Foundation, SEPAG

Therapy dogs

Outdoor classroom Valley View, expanding partnership with Garden Club

Professional Learning

Curriculum Writing

Resources

Clubs, extra-curriculars

Field trips

Student opportunities for academic, arts, and sports enrichment and competition

- **Battle of the Books**
- **Aims Math**
- **TEAMS**
- **Spelling, History, Geography Bees**
- **Solar Sprints**
- **Honors Band**
- **Science Bowl**
- **Robotics**



Highlights

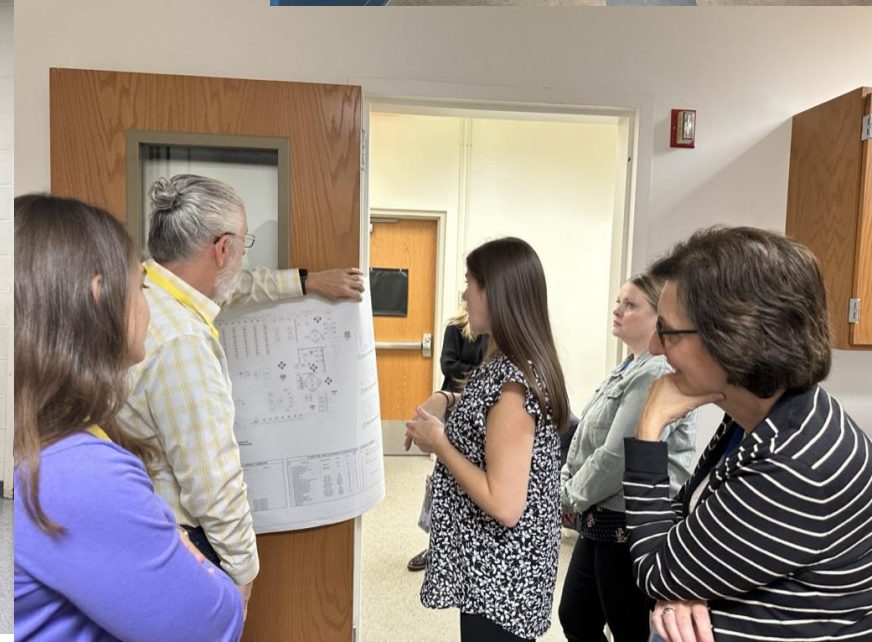
Partnership with the Borough and Police Department in managing and supporting Phillips Field, Very successful initiative adding a school resource officer to our buildings further enhancing safety/security implementing with referendum. Includes joint training in systems and protocols.

Regionalization Feasibility Study

Valley View Boys and Girls Basketball



Referendum Projects



Transportation

Thought Exchange Survey and Engagement--December 2024

- The District has been successful in providing safe and efficient transportation so far this year
- The bus service provided by Durham and First Student have met my expectations for safety and reliability
- Our bus drivers have been professional, safe, and courteous



- Pick up and drop off times have been consistent after October adjustments
- My child's current pick-up and drop-off stop is safe
- The district's communication about transportation (e.g., delays, sub drivers)
- Bayberry afternoon school pick-up for some routes
- Opt-out of service

2024-2025 Watchung Borough District Goals

- **Develop a sustainable budget that supports identified curricular changes and implement program initiatives and professional development to support both.**
- **To develop a strategic plan during the 2024-2025 school year**



2024-2025 Budget Objectives

- Support teaching and learning in accordance with the district vision
- Maintain current class sizes
- Restore fundamental positions and programs cut from previous budgets and funded through grants, interest, and private donations no longer available
- Manage budget efficiently and seek to reduce expenditures
- Explore ways to generate surplus and build reserves



Key Decisions to Meet Objectives, 2024-2025

- Maintain current class sizes
- Maintain all staffing levels within the district budget
- Maintain current level of programming for transportation, clubs, sports
- Continue and expand professional learning and collaboration initiatives
- Prioritize curriculum, instruction, and assessment to improve academic outcomes
- Strategic stabilization of operations including staffing, support services, and purchased services,



General Fund Revenue Projections 2024-2025

General Fund Budgeted Revenues (Fund11)		\$17,254,299
Local tax levy (12%)		\$14,374,143
Other local revenues		\$ 477,000
Budgeted fund balance (from FY23)		\$ 801,242
State aid (increase of \$209,291)		\$ 1,601,914
Transportation Aid	\$451,320	
Special Education	\$807,647	
Security Aid	\$ 67,026	
Extraordinary Aid	\$275,921	
Total:		\$ 17,254,299
Special Revenue (Grants) (Fund 20)		\$ 259,664
Debt Service (Fund 40)		\$ 1,206,539
Total Revenue (All Funds)		\$18,720,502



2024-2025 Restore

\$455,978

Bayberry PE .7 to 1.0

Bayberry School Counsellor .5 to 1.0

Bayberry Teacher (class size reduction) 1.0

Bayberry Librarian 1.0

School Resource Officer

Professional Learning Bayberry and Valley View (IDE, Conquer Math, individual opportunities)

Curriculum Writing Bayberry and Valley View

Bayberry Report Card Revisions

Chromebooks 2nd/5th Grade

Extended School Year Program (ESY)



2024-2025 Maintain

\$112,440

Valley View Sports

Valley View Clubs

Bayberry Clubs



2024-2025 Watchung Borough Board of Education Goals



- Foster a more positive and supportive working environment during board of education meetings and committee meetings. Create an environment of civility and professionalism with more straightforward communication among board members and the Superintendent during all meetings.



- The board will engage in professional development on identified topics as needed that will enhance our collective governance skills and knowledge.
- Provide support within our role as board members for the district's strategic plan.

Referendum Town Hall: February 5, 2025

Strategic Planning:

Session 2: March 3, 2025

Session 3: March 26, 2025

