BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

SUMMER EDITION - AUGUST 2025

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From the Desk of the Superintendent

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



As Glenn Frey once sang, "The Heat Is On." The summer temperatures have certainly been hot in Bergenfield, but we are just getting warmed up for what promises to be another outstanding school year! The anticipation is building, and we are filled with excitement as we look forward and imagine what our students will accomplish during the 2025-26 school year.

Preparation is one of the most important parts of our equation that result in having a successful school year. We are fortunate to have an outstanding team of custodians and maintenance staff that have been busy cleaning, repairing, and making our buildings shine, and keeping our grounds well-maintained. I am pleased to report that our buildings look amazing.

Our world-class faculty and staff have also been preparing in their own ways, which include recharging, reflecting, and refining their skills to better serve our students. Many of our staff use the summer to continue to perfect their craft in an effort to help our students achieve their dreams. I am forever grateful for their efforts. As I have said before, we are extremely lucky to have such a caring, dedicated, and professional staff that has a laser-like focus on providing our students with an education that is second to none.

This summer, we had a few important capital projects to further enhance our district's facilities. These projects included:

- Exterior security lighting upgrades
- Bathroom renovation at Franklin School
- Basement fire escape replacement at Hoover School
- Brick repointing at Lincoln School
- Flooring replacement at Bergenfield High School
- Boiler replacement at Roy Brown Middle School
- Toilet replacement at Roy Brown Middle School

These projects are funded through capital reserve funds, designated specifically to maintain and extend the life of our facilities. Notably, the boiler replacement project at Roy Brown Middle School that was approved two years ago continues to receive 40% funding through a ROD Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education. That funding is saving the Bergenfield taxpayers $1,898,040.

As we begin to transition from the warmth of summer into the crisp days of fall, I would like to once again thank our entire community for their continued partnership and support. Working together, we are able to provide an educational environment and opportunities that allow our students to dream big, aim high, and truly reach for the stars.

Enjoy these final weeks of summer. We look forward to seeing what amazing accomplishments lie ahead in another incredible school year. Remember, the best is yet to come!

BHS Ranked Top 6% In U.S. By US News & World Report

The Best High Schools badge awarded to top schools.

For the tenth year in a row, Bergenfield High School has been ranked among the top high schools in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report.* Bergenfield High School was recognized as 1,440th in the nation, 66th in the state, and 15th in Bergen County in the latest rankings.

The "2025-2026 Best High Schools" rankings include data on nearly 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

Rob Violante Memorial Scholarship

Thank you to all who have contributed to this scholarship. Over $28,000 has been raised so far!

Please consider donating via **check** made out to the **Bergenfield Board of Education**, C/O Rob Violante Memorial Scholarship, 225 W. Clinton Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

We Are Bergenfield: A Snapshot of the Class of 2025



Mia Acosta | Soccer Captain, All Big North Conference selection, National Honor Society, James Madison University



Rhayana Sales | Valedictorian, STEM Graduate, Tennis Captain, Science National Honor Society, Rutgers University



Jimmy Hernandez | Cross-Country/Track Captain, Art Honor Society, Track Athlete of the Year nominee, Fordham University



Laila Little | BOE student representative, National Honor Society, Drama Club, French Honor Society, Temple University



Josuah Mitchell | Indoor Percussion, Marching Band, Science Honor Society, Northeastern University





Kailey Supan | Salutatorian, National Merit Commended Scholar, Stevens Institute of Technology Pinnacle Scholars Program



Maria Alexis Ching | AP Scholar with Distinction, Basketball Captain, National Honor Society, DECA, Boston University



Matthew Quintana | Drama Club, VP Class of 2025, Metro Theatre Award Nominee, Penn State University



Sidney Rodriguez | Dance Team, Marching Band, AP Scholar, French Club, Clemson University



Aiden Castellanos | Student Congress VP, Rutgers CTE Health Science Award, AP Scholar, AP Capstone Program, Rutgers University

BHS Student Studies Abroad



Abigail observes sunrise at Masada—an ancient mountain-top fortress in the Israeli desert.

This past school year, incoming senior Abigail Inglis became the first-ever Bergenfield High School student to participate in an accredited international high school program.

Abigail spent the last two months of the school year completing her high school coursework and exams while abroad in Israel. During her stay, she also learned all about Israeli history while traveling throughout the country.

When asked about her trip, Abigail shared, "I had the experience of a lifetime spending two months in Israel. I learned so much about the history, land, and people of Israel—and about myself. I can't wait to go back!"

Abigail was one of only thirteen students across the United States attending Alexander Muss High School in Israel during the spring "mini-mester." The program uses the land as the classroom, enriching their lessons on Israel.

Stigma Free Essay Winners



Essay winners with committee and school officials.

On May 30th, BHS, the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, and the Stigma-Free Committee announced winners of its annual essay contest. The winners were: *1st*–Jaymie Milaor; *2nd*–Xavier Lacap; *3rd*–Iliana Navarro Graves; *Honorable Mentions*–Samantha Valencia, Brianna Gomez Segura, and Cassia Da Costa.

The James Fasano "It's a Great Day To Be a Bear" Scholarship

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this scholarship fund. Over $47,000 has been raised so far!

Please consider donating via **check** made out to the **Bergenfield Board of Education**, C/O James Fasano It's A Great Day To Be A Bear Scholarship, 225 W. Clinton Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

Mock Board Meeting



The Antlers held a mock board meeting in June.

Each year, the Board of Education partners with the Bergenfield Elks to provide "Antlers" an opportunity to learn about conducting a board of education meeting. These junior-level Elks receive a deeper understanding of civic participation by learning how a school board functions and supports the district's mission.

Coach of the Year



Dr. Tully, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Lapi, and Mr. Massey.

On June 27th, Dr. Christopher Tully, Darren Massey, Elwin Rodriguez, and Joe Lapi accepted the 2024-25 North Jersey Coach of the Year award from *The Record* (NorthJersey.com) on behalf of Robert Violante.

Coach Violante, who took over the BHS Football Program in 2011, tragically lost his life in an accident in May.

Therapy Dogs Visit



Ms. Phelan & Ms. DiLorenzo with Glitter and Echo.

Retired RWB Middle School teachers Ms. Phelan & Ms. DiLorenzo brought their therapy dogs to the Board of Education meeting in June to meet the board members.

Glitter and Echo have been visiting our schools for several years, and have brought much happiness and joy to countless students.

Bergenfield Board of Education
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Dedicated in Remembrance of Coach Violante

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