



# Report of the Superintendent

September 17, 2025

# *Our Student Representatives*

*Bernardsville Middle School*

**Teo Consolla-Kutsuna**, *representing XC*

**Grace Flaherty**, *representing XC*

*Bernards High School*

**Nolan Baker**

**Sophia Fazel-Sarjui**



In The News...



## Raising Their Voices



Eight talented students from Bernardsville Middle School were selected to participate in the New Jersey American Choral Directors Association (NJ-ACDA) Summer Honors Choir. This particular ensemble boasted SSA voicing, completely memorized music, and a full two days of rehearsal preparation. They performed on August 7th in Nicholas Hall at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers.




Their repertoire included songs such as Plena (Diana Saez), In Time of Silver Rain (B.E. Boykin), Crowded Table (Andrea Ramsey), and O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice (Haydn/Jacob Narverund). The concert was performed for family, friends, the surrounding community, and a wide array of choral educators from across the entire state of New Jersey.

Representing the middle school, and the Somerset Hills School District with pride, professionalism, and musical excellence throughout the event were Harper Watt, Jillian Pooler, Addison Pagel, Charlotte Mitchell, Maggie Morrison, Brielle Morrison, Olivia Hamada and Gillian Goodwin. These current 8th and 9th graders were personally recommended to the ensemble by their Choir Director, Ms. Allyssa Jurgens, and were formally accepted by the organization in June.



This is a tremendous accomplishment, as the NJ-ACDA Honors Choir is a prestigious and highly selective ensemble that brings together outstanding young vocalists from across the state.

“Their participation not only highlights their individual talent, but also shines a spotlight on the strength of our school’s music program. I am grateful for the continuous support of the arts and music here in SHSD by parents, colleagues and the administration,” shared Jurgens, who joined the SHSD community in 2024. She is the Bernardsville Middle School Choral Director for grades 5-8, the BMS Drama Director for grades 5-8, and the Percussion Technician for the BHS Marching Mountaineers.  She is also proud to be the Membership Chair on the Executive Board for NJ-ACDA.



## In The News...

# Community Change Agents



## In The News...

### We Listen & We Don't Judge

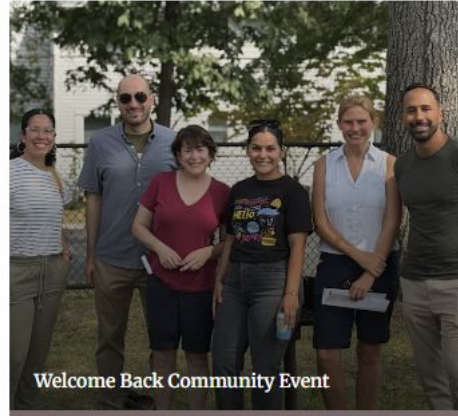
Developing a podcast was one idea the group was very excited about. Meeting weekly with Ms. Cox during lunch, they brainstormed and more high school students. With motivation and determination, they learned the various components of recording, editing, adding musical elements and more able to launch their very first podcast on Spotify in February. That episode featured an interview with SHSD K-8 Mental Health Counselor Jackie Pasquarelli. In the second podcast episode launched at the start of this month. It featured an interview with Avi Seigel, Director of Teen Initiatives at Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, where he imparted his vast knowledge of the history of antisemitism. The interview sparked an important dialogue highlighting issues that Jewish students face and what can be done to prevent antisemitism today. The next two topics that the group will tackle on their podcast are combating bullying and the prevalence of body image issues in young people today. Additionally, they started a YouTube channel and have posted eight shorts so far. The videos are a mix of positive messages, statistics, and real-life tips for eliminating hate in the community.

As part of the *No Hate in the Garden State* public awareness campaign, youth participants are welcome to join a competition, with their projects due at the end of April. In order to compete in the competition, students are required to attend evening Zoom meetings each month where they learn about critical topics and how to apply knowledge to positively impact their communities. The February Zoom was about fighting bias in New Jersey, followed by bystander intervention training in March. For this month's meeting, the students will learn about careers in civil rights and social justice. These virtual gatherings are wonderful opportunities for students to listen to, and confer with, high-level officials across the state, as well as to network with peers who are committed and passionate about the world around them. By elevating their voices, it is clear that they can act as community change agents.

Check it out at: Spotify: [We Listen and We Don't Judge Podcast](#)  
 YouTube: [@ListenAndDontJudge](#)



## District News



Welcome Back Community Event

### Raising Their Voices

Sep 9 2025



### Celebrating our Webmaster and Website

Sep 3 2025



### Excitement is in the air!

Aug 29 2025



[VIEW ALL NEWS](#)



# 2025 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Data Presentation

Somerset Hills School District  
*September 17, 2025*





# Presentation Overview



For each subject area (ELA, Math, and Science) the data presented includes:

- District's state assessment performance data - Spring 2025 (ELA grades 3-9, Math grades 3-8, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 grade 9, and Science grades 5, 8, and 11)
- Analysis within each data set
- Multi-year trends and subgroups' performance (disaggregated)
- Observations on student learning
- Next steps





# NJSLA Assessment Program - ELA and Math



NJSLA assessments are administered in Spring and are summative.

The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material and describe student mastery relative to meeting grade-level or course-level standards – content and practices.

In ELA and Mathematics, there are five performance levels for NJSLA assessments:

Level 1 - Not Yet Meeting Expectations

Level 2 - Partially Meeting Expectations

Level 3 - Approaching Expectations

Level 4 - Meeting Expectations

Level 5 - Exceeding Expectations





# NJSLA Assessment Program - Science



Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11

The tests measure how well students have learned grade-band level material and describe student mastery relative to meeting grade-band level standards – content and practices.

In Science, there are four performance levels for NJSLA assessments:

Level 1 - Below Proficiency (a minimal understanding of the standards)

Level 2 - Near Proficiency (limited grade-level understanding of the standards)

Level 3 - Proficient (appropriate grade-level understanding of the standards)

Level 4 - Advanced Proficient (exemplary grade-level understanding of the standards)



# District & NJ Spring 2023 - 2025 NJSLA Proficiency Comparison



SUBJECT	NJSLA 2023 SHSD [State]	NJSLA 2024 SHSD [State]	NJSLA 2025 SHSD [State]
ELA	<b>72.8%</b> [51.3]	<b>71.9%</b> [52.2]	<b>70.8%</b> [53.1]
MATHEMATICS	<b>56.9%</b> [37.5]	<b>59.9%</b> [39.5]	<b>57.7%</b> [41.6]
SCIENCE	<b>43.1%</b> [24.9]	<b>40.5%</b> [24.0]	<b>45.1%</b> [26.7]





# English Language Arts



# District and State 2025 NJSLA Comparison by Level: ELA



Grade	Levels 1 & 2		Level 3		Levels 4 & 5	
	SHSD	State	SHSD	State	SHSD	State
3	29.1%	35.0%	20.1%	16.5%	54.4%	44.9%
4	15.9%	26.8%	17.1%	19.3%	67.1%	53.5%
5	13.8%	26.5%	16.5%	20.8%	69.7%	52.8%
6	11.2%	23.3%	12.2%	20.9%	76.5%	56.1%
7	9.6%	23.5%	10.6%	19.3%	79.8%	57.0%
8	6.0%	24.8%	6.8%	18.1%	87.2%	57.1%
9	20.9%	30.9%	17.4%	19.3%	61.6%	49.9%



# SHSD Spring 2025 NJSLA Administration: ELA Percentages



Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Levels 4&5 SHSD
3	17.7%	11.4%	16.5%	38.0%	16.5%	54.5%
4	9.8%	6.1%	17.1%	35.4%	31.7%	67.1%
5	3.7%	10.1%	16.5%	44.0%	25.7%	69.7%
6	4.1%	7.1%	12.2%	56.1%	20.4%	76.5%
7	4.3%	5.3%	10.6%	31.9%	47.9%	79.8%
8	4.3%	1.7%	6.8%	26.5%	60.7%	87.2%
9	11.6%	9.3%	17.4%	44.2%	17.4%	61.6%

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



# Trends and Comparison of District Performance Data 2015-2025: ELA 3-9 (The percentage of students who achieved a Level 4 or 5)



Grade	Levels 4&5 2015 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2016 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2017 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2018 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD
3	57.8%	66.6%	66.7%	62.1%	56.8%	58.4%	65.7%	61.8%	54.4%
4	70.6%	62.9%	68.3%	75.5%	64.8%	72.3%	67.8%	66.3%	67.1%
5	67.5%	77.3%	78.3%	74.4%	68.5%	70.2%	64%	68.8%	69.7%
6	46.0%	72.4%	78.3%	79.4%	72.7%	69.2%	75.9%	71.1%	76.5%
7	67.8%	58.7%	68.9%	73.4%	83%	73.5%	73.8%	68.7%	79.8%
8	80.2%	70.5%	55.2%	71.2%	75.2%	86.2%	79.5%	75.8%	87.2%
9	61.8%	63.6%	68.4%	64.2%	66.1%	70.6%	77.3%	81.3%	61.6%
<i>District Passing Rate</i>			68.8%	71.2%	69.8%	71.5%	72.8%	71.9%	70.8%

*Note: Subgroups included are those with over 30 students*



# Trends and Comparison of District Subgroups Spring 2017-2025: ELA 3-9\*



Subgroup	Levels 4&5 2017 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2018 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD [State*]
<b>Student Demographics</b>							
<i>White</i>	73%	73%	76%	78% [58.5]	79.2% [61.0]	77.9% [62.0]	<b>78.4%</b>
<i>Hispanic</i>	34%	39%	40%	48% [34.8]	49.2% [37.1]	47.8% [37.8]	<b>46.6%</b>
<i>Asian</i>	80%	90%	96%	91% [78.8]	87.2% [80.6]	91.4% [80.9]	<b>82.8%</b>
<i>Two or more races</i>	-	-	-	-	-	83.7%	<b>89.5%</b>
<b>Other Subgroups</b>							
<i>Students with Disabilities</i>	35%	38%	35%	40% [16.3]	34.0% [18.0]	37.1% [18.6]	<b>38.9%</b>
<i>Economically Disadvantaged</i>	27%	31%	33%	33% [30.6]	32.1% [33.1]	36.6% [34.3]	<b>35.8%</b>
<i>Multilingual Learners</i>	-	-	-	3% [21.7]	11.1% [23.6]	10.4% [22.8]	<b>7.4%</b>

*Note: Subgroups included are those with over 30 students*

*\* 2025 statewide subgroup performance is not yet available for comparison*



# Observations on Student Learning and Next Steps



- SHSD grade-level cohorts typically exhibit growth as they move across grades.
- District-wide performance remained consistent in comparison to past years.
- Collaborate with Building Admin to conduct an in-depth analysis of student performance compared to district assessments, student attendance, classroom instructional minutes, and student support placements.
- Support Director of Special Services and Director of Multilingual Education in providing targeted instruction for sub-groups.
- Support teachers in the process of analyzing current state data and utilizing internal assessments to track student progress and provide focused instructional supports.
- Review new NJSLA - A adaptive format and key changes, learn structure and question types, and provide professional development to staff.





# Mathematics



# District & State 2025 NJSLA Comparison by Level: Math



Grade	Levels 1&2		Level 3		Levels 4&5	
	SHSD	State	SHSD	State	SHSD	State
3	20.3%	26.5%	25.3%	23.8%	54.4%	49.7%
4	20.4%	28.7%	15.7%	24.6%	63.9%	46.7%
5	16.6%	29.5%	31.2%	26.3%	52.3%	44.2%
6	14.3%	34.0%	22.4%	26.2%	63.3%	39.8%
7	10.2%	30.8%	21.6%	30.5%	68.2%	38.7%
8*	37.5%	56.8%	29.7%	22.5%	32.8%	20.7%
Algebra I	27.5%	38.9%	21.9%	23.2%	50.6%	37.9%
Geometry	4.3%	15.9%	20.0%	28.1%	75.7%	56.0%
Algebra II *	-	16.9%	-	10.6%	100%	72.5%



# SHSD Spring 2025 NJSLA Administration: Math Percentages



Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Levels 4&5 SHSD
3	3.8%	16.5%	25.3%	41.8%	12.7%	54.4%
4	10.8%	9.6%	15.7%	48.2%	15.7%	63.9%
5	2.8%	13.8%	31.2%	40.4%	11.9%	52.3%
6	3.1%	11.2%	22.4%	51.0%	12.2%	63.3%
7*	3.4%	6.8%	21.6%	44.3%	23.9%	68.2%
8*	15.6%	21.9%	29.7%	32.8%	0.0%	32.8%
Algebra 1	10.0%	17.5%	21.9%	42.5%	8.1%	50.6%
Geometry	0%	4.3%	20.0%	60.0%	15.7%	75.7%
Algebra 2	-	-	-	-	-	100%

Notes: \*Some students in grade 8 participated in the Algebra I and Geometry assessment in place of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math assessment. Thus, Math 8 outcomes are not representative of grade 8 performance as a whole.

Note: Subgroups included are those with over 30 students



# Trends and Comparison of District Performance Data 2015-2025: Math (The percentage of students who achieved a Level 4 or 5)



Grade	Levels 4&5 2015 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2016 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2017 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2018 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD
3	59.6%	65.3%	70.2%	69.2%	68.1%	59.6%	56.0%	62.8%	54.4%
4	54.9%	57.5%	60.7%	66.0%	68.8%	59.8%	62.6%	59.0%	63.9%
5	47.0%	59.8%	59.9%	67.2%	58.9%	51.7%	58.7%	59.6%	52.3%
6	31.7%	56.0%	53.8%	61.3%	59.8%	49.6%	59.3%	64.9%	63.3%
7**	53.8%	38.9%	52.5%	63.1%	62.3%	57.4%	57.1%	60.6%	68.2%
8**	44.6%	27.8%	7.2%	13.8%	14.6%	17.3%	26.7%	33.3%	32.8%
<i>Algebra 1</i>	58.7%	46.4%	42%	50.5%	53.0%	49.7%	52.2%	59.2%	50.6%
<i>Geometry*</i>	50.0%	62.7%	61.7%	43.7%	44.6%	75.0%	74.4%	76.3%	75.7%
<i>Algebra 2*</i>	33.3%	34.2%	45%	38.1%	45.7%	-	-	-	-
<i>District Passing Rate</i>			52.7%	55.3%	56.0%	53.7%	56.9%	59.9%	57.7%



# Trends and Comparison of District Subgroups Spring 2017-2025: Math\*



Subgroup	Levels 4&5 2017 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2018 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD
<b>Student Demographics</b>							
<i>White</i>	57%	60%	63%	61% [46.0]	63.7% [48.6]	66.9% [51.1]	<b>65.6%</b>
<i>Hispanic</i>	24%	24%	28%	30% [19.1]	31.4% [21.3]	35.7% [23.2]	<b>31.5%</b>
<i>Asian</i>	80%	75%	78%	79% [71.7]	79.2% [73.7]	85.7% [75.1]	<b>75.9%</b>
<i>Two or more races</i>	-	-	-	-	-	72.1%	<b>84.2%</b>
<b>Other Subgroups</b>							
<i>Students with Disabilities</i>	30%	27%	30%	27% [13.0]	28.6% [14.2]	26.5% [15.1]	<b>24.8%</b>
<i>Economically Disadvantaged</i>	17%	21%	21%	19% [16.6]	19.7% [18.7]	30.4% [20.9]	<b>22.9%</b>
<i>Multilingual Learners</i>	-	-	-	5% [15.2]	7.0% [17.2]	9.2% [17.7]	<b>4.9%</b>

*Note: Subgroups included are those with over 30 students*

*\* 2025 statewide subgroup performance is not yet available for comparison*



# Observations on Student Learning and Next Steps



- SHSD grade-level cohorts typically exhibit growth as they move across grades.
- District-wide performance remained consistent in comparison to past years.
- Collaborate with Building Admin to conduct an in-depth analysis of student performance compared to district assessments, student attendance, classroom instructional minutes, and student support placements.
- Support Director of Special Services and Director of Multilingual Education in providing targeted instruction for sub-groups.
- Support teachers in the process of analyzing current state data and utilizing internal assessments to track student progress and provide focused instructional supports.
- Review new NJSLA - A adaptive format and key changes, learn structure and question types, and provide professional development to staff.





# Science



# District and State 2025 NJSLA Comparison by Level: Science



Grade	Levels 1		Level 2		Levels 3&4	
	SHSD	State	SHSD	State	SHSD	State
5	11.8%	30.6%	42.7%	39.3%	45.5%	30.1%
8	10.3%	33.8%	44.4%	47.2%	45.3%	19.0%
11	32.5%	40.5%	22.7%	28.1%	44.8%	31.3%



# SHSD Spring 2025 NJSLA Administration: Science Percentages



Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Levels 3&4 SHSD
5	11.8%	42.7%	30.9%	14.5%	45.5%
8	10.3%	44.4%	27.4%	17.9%	45.3%
11	32.5%	22.7%	26.8%	18.0%	44.8%

*Students whose score places them in Level 3 are described as having “demonstrated appropriate grade-level understanding of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science.”*



# Trends and Comparison of District Performance Data 2019-2025: Science (The percentage of students who achieved a Level 3 or 4)



Grade	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD
5	45.9%	46.6%	51.5%	40.4%	45.5%
8	34.4%	36.4%	32.8%	35.8%	45.3%
11	38.4%	47.9%	45.6%	43.5%	44.8%
<i>District Passing Rate</i>	<b>39.2%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>45.1%</b>



# Trends and Comparison of Somerset Hills School District's Subgroups Spring 2019-2025 NJSLA Administrations: Science



Subgroup	Levels 4&5 2019 SHSD	Levels 4&5 2022 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2023 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2024 SHSD [State]	Levels 4&5 2025 SHSD*
<b><i>Student Demographics</i></b>					
<i>White</i>	44.7%	50.4% [29.7]	53.3% [32.3]	44.4% [32.6]	<b>50.2%</b>
<i>Hispanic</i>	15.3%	20.6% [10.5]	16.7% [11.4]	21.5% [11.4]	<b>24.5%</b>
<i>Asian</i>	58.3%	61.9% [53.1]	47.1% [55.7]	61.5% [55.5]	<b>62.1%</b>
<i>Two or more races</i>	-	-	-	66.7%	<b>71.4%</b>
<b><i>Other Subgroups</i></b>					
<i>Students with Disabilities</i>	25%	26.3% [6.5]	22.4% [7.0]	10.4% [7.0]	<b>18.8%</b>
<i>Economically Disadvantaged</i>	9.5%	11.9% [8.8]	2.1% [9.8]	19.5% [10.2]	<b>18.8%</b>
<i>English Language Learners</i>	0%	3.2% [5.5]	3.6% [5.8]	4.2% [5.4]	<b>3.8%</b>

**Note: Subgroups included are those with over 10 students**

**\* 2025 statewide subgroup performance is not yet available for comparison**





## Other Statewide Assessments:

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- **ACCESS for MLs:** for students identified as English Language Learners, grades K-12.
- **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)** for identified students with disabilities for whom general state assessments are not developmentally appropriate: grades 3-8, and 11.

*These results are individual and not publicly shared to protect students' privacy.*



# Spring 2026 New Jersey State Testing (NJSLA-A&NJGPA-A) and Fall 2025 field testing



The New Jersey Department of Education, in partnership with Cambium Assessment, has announced the launch of the new NJSLA-A (adaptive) and the NJGPA-A (adaptive) assessments. These assessments will be aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for ELA and Mathematics, and are designed to continue to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a meaningful way.

The rollout of the NJSLA-Adaptive and the NJGPA-Adaptive will occur in the fall (2025) with a field test administration.

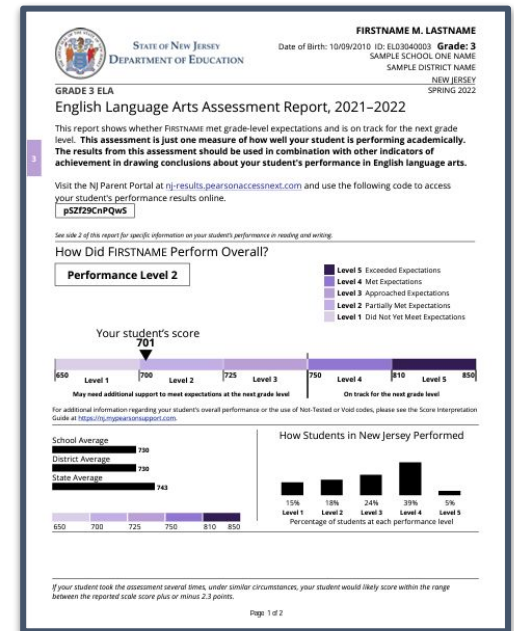
- NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A Fall Field tests, grades 4-12: October 27 - November 14, 2025
- New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA - A), grade 11: March 16-20, 2026
- NJSLA-A ELA grades 3-9, NJSLA-A Math, grades 3-8, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2, and NJSLA-Science Administration grades 5, 8 and 11: April 27 - May 22, 2026



# Individual Student Reports



Printed copies of the NJSLA  
(ELA, Math, and Science)  
individual student reports  
will be mailed home  
to parents/guardians  
by September 30, 2025.





## Off to a Great Start!

### In The News...



SHSD welcomed  
308 staff  
and the following  
students:

456 @ BES

388 @ BMS

708 @ BHS





*In The News...*

## Grab your Passport!



Bedwell Elementary School had a successful *Passport to Bedwell* event for all students new to BES! Under the direction of the HSA, students and families entered Bedwell the evening of August 28th and took their "passport" around the school where it could be stamped by BMS student volunteers.

They also hosted a *PreK/K Meet & Greet* the day before students arrived where they had the opportunity to meet their teachers and spend some time in their very own classroom. That very same day, 1st-4th graders were able to bring in their school supplies and find the location of their classrooms as well.

*It was a fun start to the 25-26 school year!*



In The News...

## Staff Spotlight



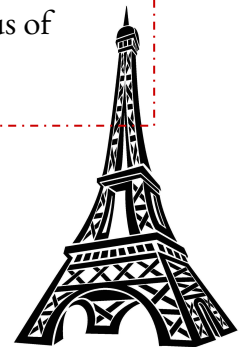
This summer, Patricia Kupper accepted the National Award for Exemplary Programs in French.

At the national conference of the American Association of Teachers of French, nine schools in the nation received an award. Bernardsville Middle School was the only middle school to receive this award.

Mrs. Kupper has developed a French program which encourages the enjoyment of learning French and provides opportunities for students to participate in French events outside of the school. Several students have won national awards via competitions. The BMS French program has traveled to MoMA in NYC and Montclair State University.

The AATF Award recognizes the parental, administrative, and community support of learning French and student retention of French into high school.

Our district is honored to be granted the status of Exemplary Programs for French.





# BHS

## In The News... Peer Leaders

The Peer Leadership Program at Bernards High School continues to be a hallmark of student engagement, service, and leadership development. Guided by faculty advisors Justin Kaufman (Mathematics) and Alyssa Samson (Physical Education), the program brings together a dedicated group of students who embody empathy, inclusivity, and a passion for supporting their peers.



Peer Leaders consist of mostly juniors and seniors, with some sophomores. Mrs. Samson returns for her 10th year and Mr. Kaufman for his 3rd year, as advisors for the program. Each year, the students collaborate to define what it means to be a peer leader, and this year they established the following vision: “A peer leader is a friendly and inspirational mentor and student role model who values inclusivity, leads with strength and kindness, cares about providing support to those in need, and is a guide to ease the transition to the BHS community.”

The Peer Leaders play an essential role in welcoming new students and building a positive school culture. This past summer, they facilitated the 8th Grade Summit in June and hosted New Student Orientation before the first day of school in September, both of which saw record participation and success. The Peer Leader Board met with Mr. Kaufman and Mrs. Samson over the summer to plan the upcoming year, and then the whole program met at the end of August to prepare for orientation. Throughout the first semester, Peer Leaders meet weekly with freshmen in small-group sessions to foster social skills, leadership, decision-making, and a sense of belonging. These efforts culminate in a ropes course experience, where students practice teamwork, risk-taking, and safe decision-making in an engaging, supportive environment. Peer Leaders themselves also meet weekly in the evening to plan and reflect on upcoming sessions, strengthening their own leadership and collaboration skills.

Looking ahead, the program is deepening its impact through expanded community involvement. This year, Peer Leaders plans to partner with the local organization Community in Crisis to participate in service projects, leadership workshops, and fundraising initiatives—including an October car wash to benefit the organization. The application and interview process for next year’s Peer Leadership team will begin in the spring, open to all incoming sophomores, juniors, and seniors, ensuring that the program continues to cultivate strong, compassionate student leaders who enrich both the high school and the broader community.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Peer Leadership Team: Will Simpson, Westin Lukes, Vanessa Moffett, Vadaant Vasandi, Sophia Fazel-Sarjui\*, Sonny Liranzo, Sofia Velasco, Sean Arcelay, Riley Omlor, Nathaniel DeNicola, Maggie Todd, Lyla Carey\*, Lucie Robles\*, Lucian Spiteri, Liam Calulo, Leah Simpson, Laura Velasco, Krisztina Lekai, Kristen Lee, Keenan Metro, Kaia Alexander, Juliette Raguso, Julian Bonk, Julia Schmidt\*, Joseph Sorge, Jessica Fu\*, Jane Stauffer, Jack Rutz, Jack Martin, Jack Ecklund\*, Hassan Shoukry, Hannah Vinegra, Fiona Dougherty, Emerson Schroeder, Ellie Hill, Ellie Frank, Ella Patel, Elana Babich, Charlie Quinn, Brendan Sharkey, Brady Stevinson, Avery Calulo, Ari Dori, Anakh Sawhney, Ana Carolina Borbolla Menare\*, Allison Arcentalez, Alex Fraunfelder, Aidan Reaume, Abby Wolkow, and Abbie Dooley\*. (\*An asterisk denotes Peer Leadership Board Member.)



*In The News...*

## Community Matters

The Somerset Hills School District partnered with the community at large to host another successful event welcoming students and families back to school! On September 6th, in nearby Kiwanis Park, it was dubbed a “one-stop shop” for the Spanish speaking community. This family friendly event was attended by well over 100 people. Parents were able to get information, resources, and all of their questions answered by staff and translators. The Technology Department helped with Genesis, the Transportation Department assisted with busing, and the ESL/Bilingual Department helped with forms and questions about curriculum, to name just a few.



The event has been going on for more than a decade, although after 2020 it moved from inside to outside, a change everyone appreciated more. “Being in a public space enhances the fun atmosphere; children can run and play, lunch is served in the fresh air, and the school and community are able to mingle,” shared Michael Catelli, the district Director of Multilingual Education and chief event organizer from the district. While he worked to connect with organizations and get the word out to the families, continuing to create wonderful partnerships year after year, the help he received from three local churches was instrumental. Working on the logistics were Somerset Hills Lutheran Church, Camino De Fe Church and St. Bernard's Episcopal Church. Other organizations giving of their time were the following: Bernardsville Library, Bernardsville Police Department, Somerset Hills YMCA, Preschool Advantage, Community in Crisis, Grupo Cajola, Bernards Health Department and NJFood4JKids.



A huge and heartfelt thanks goes to the following SHSD staff members who shared their weekend hours with the school community: Jasmine Akauola, Rickey Saez, Chris Griffith, Manuel Delapaz, Tatiana Gutierrez, Sarah Roth, Stephan Mirando, Derek Boudreau, Salome Escobar-Chaffee, Amy Hart, Grindy Lopez, Janet Garay, Ed Maldonado, Indira Gonzalez, Debbie Cortigiani, Dr. Coleen Butler and Michael Catelli.



# Off and running!



“Cross country is off to a great start this fall. The boys team enters the season ranked number 10 in the state for all schools (public and private, large and small) and looks to contend for conference, county, sectional and state championships.

One goal is to repeat as Somerset County Champions, which we won last year for the first time since 1986, and recapture the State Sectional Championship which we have won 35 times, most recently in 2023.

Our girls team is small in numbers, but we have some awesome runners, both experienced and newcomers. We are looking to qualify for the state championships for the 9th consecutive year and repeat as Skyland Division Champions for the third year in a row!”

~Coach Szostak



# Stay Informed



[Messages from the Superintendent](#) (Third Thursday of every month and as needed)

[District News](#) (ongoing)

[Superintendent Reports](#) (posted after each Board meeting)

[Board Briefs](#) (Monday following each Board Meeting)

[Pathways](#) (Every other month)

[YouTube Channel](#) (ongoing)

School Friday Folders (Every Friday, except winter/spring break)



# ***Conducting the Work of the Board***

## ***Examining Board schedule and structure***

*No common preferred structure*

*Members like buffer between Committees and Public Meetings as it is now*

*Members like streamlined Committee Meetings and Board Meetings as it was*

*Considerations for Committee Chairs and Reports for full Board appraisal*

*Possible Solution: Committees meet early the week prior to a Regular Public Meeting to provide less time between Committee and Regular Public Meeting and ample time for Committee Meeting report submission to the Board Secretary*

*Possible Solution: Eliminate Committees and modify Bylaws to include a Committee of the Whole or Work Session structure*

*Other considerations: Make a plan and commit to it; agenda development process completion*

# ***BHS Lower Gym Project***

***Anonymous Donation: \$50,000***

*Work started*

*Floor covering ordered*

*On schedule completion for winter athletics calendar*

# ***BHS Lower Gym Project***



# SAINTS AND HEROES AMONG US IN SOMERSET HILLS: 2023 HONOREES

Anne Acuff

Melissa Leonard

Jeannette Bracero

Chris Whitlock

Chris Griffith

Alyssa Samson

George Petrie

Amy Hart

Kevin Brenner

Michael Catelli

Derek Boudreau

Didier Gonzalez

Annika Grueters

Khambone Singsongkham

Jessica d'Annunziaco

Frank Riccio

Lisa Kotz

Suzanne Ryan

Tae Vonvilay

Rickey Saez

# SAINTS AND HEROES AMONG US IN SOMERSET HILLS: 2025 HONOREES

Manny Delapaz

Deb Meyer

Anna Sosley

Dan Kaplan

Anne O'Halloran

Connor Flynn

Dawn Russo

Lin Jastrabek

Lauren Volosin

Allen Thurlow

# School Regionalization Study: Joint Meeting October 29, 2025 @ BHS Media Center

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs awarded the Somerset Hills School District \$130,000 to conduct a *regionalization study* to assess the feasibility of merging Somerset Hills and Bedminster Township (Pre K-8) into one Pre-K through Grade 12 District.

A joint meeting between the Somerset Hills Board of Education and Bedminster Township Board of Education is in the process of being scheduled (Fall).

The *Sweeney Center for Public Policy* led by the *Rowan University School Regionalization Institute* will present to both Boards in a public meeting.

The study will determine whether or not regionalization is feasible and if variables have changed since the last study was conducted in 2003. The outcome of the study does not determine or guarantee future actions considered by both Boards; they only inform the Boards.