



SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educate. Empower. Lead.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

HIGHLIGHTS

June 2026



Congratulations on the successful completion of another outstanding school year! Together, our students, staff, and families demonstrated dedication, resilience, and a commitment to growth throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. As we begin our well-deserved summer break, we take pride in the many accomplishments and milestones achieved across our district.

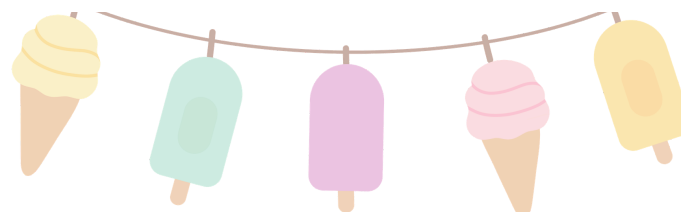
It was a pleasure celebrating our students during this year’s Moving Up Ceremonies and Graduation events. We congratulate our 5th grade and 8th grade students as they transition to the next chapter of their educational journey, and we extend our best wishes to the Class of 2026 as they embark on exciting new opportunities beyond high school.

Summer office hours for all district offices will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays through August 28, 2026. Please note that vacation schedules for staff and administrators may vary throughout the summer. We encourage you to plan ahead if you anticipate needing records, assistance, or other information to ensure the appropriate personnel are available.

Whether your summer plans include travel, time with family and friends, or simply relaxing at home, we hope you enjoy a safe, restful, and enjoyable break. Summer always seems to pass quickly, and before long we will be welcoming everyone back for the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Have a wonderful summer, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance.

-Dr, Frederick Williams.



- Superintendent's Message
- District Vacancies/Events
- ES Highlights
- MHS Highlights
- Athletics & Activities
- Special Services
- Curriculum

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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QUICK LINKS

SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE



DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PAGES



GENESIS PARENT PORTAL



District

South Amboy Board of Education



DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY 4: DISTRICT/SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED

JULY 27: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AUGUST 24: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AUGUST 25-26: NEW HIRE ORIENTATION

SEPTEMBER 1-2: STAFF IN SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 3: FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 7: LABOR DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)

SEPTEMBER 28: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DISTRICT JOB VACANCIES

- ES
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Part Time Paraprofessional
- MHS
 - World Language Teacher
 - Literacy Coach at MHS



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEAN DUNPHY, PRINCIPAL | MICHELLE BUCHANAN, VICE PRINCIPAL



Mock City Council Meeting

The South Amboy Elementary School Student Council held its Mock City Council Meeting on April 15, 2026. Under the guidance of advisor Ms. Gemellaro, students worked collaboratively to develop a proposal and present it during a simulated City Hall meeting.

The event was attended by parents, family members, friends, Superintendent Williams, members of the Board of Education, several city council members, and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. The students demonstrated outstanding preparation and professionalism, with each participant playing an important role throughout the meeting.

This unique experience provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn about local government, public speaking, civic engagement, and the legislative process. Their hard work and dedication were evident as they confidently presented their proposal and responded to questions.



A special thank you goes to Councilman Reilly for helping organize this event alongside Ms. Gemellaro and the Student Council. Their efforts made this meaningful and educational experience possible for our students.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEAN DUNPHY, PRINCIPAL | MICHELLE BUCHANAN, VICE PRINCIPAL



Around the World in 285 Feet

On May 7, South Amboy Elementary School proudly hosted its annual Art Show, featuring the outstanding work of students from Mrs. Borbone's art classes. Each student had a unique piece of artwork displayed, giving families and community members the opportunity to celebrate the creativity and talent of our young artists. In addition, the creative works of our SOAR students were showcased, highlighting their imagination, hard work, and artistic expression.



This year's theme, "Around the World in 285 Feet," transformed the hallways into a global journey, taking visitors on an artistic adventure through different countries, cultures, and traditions from around the world. The event was a wonderful celebration of creativity, learning, and community, and we thank Mrs. Borbone for her dedication and hard work in making the evening such a success.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEAN DUNPHY, PRINCIPAL | MICHELLE BUCHANAN, VICE PRINCIPAL



D.A.R.E Program

In April, our fifth-grade students proudly completed the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. D.A.R.E. is designed to help students make safe and responsible choices by educating them about the dangers of drug misuse, gang involvement, and violent behavior.

To celebrate the completion of the program, Chief Kanecke, Detective Kales, and members of the South Amboy Police Department joined our students for a special recognition event. The department generously sponsored completion certificates and a pizza party to honor the students' hard work and commitment throughout the program.



The celebration was a wonderful way to recognize our students' accomplishments and reinforce the positive lessons they learned. We are grateful to the South Amboy Police Department for their continued partnership and support of our school community. Fun was had by all!



Interactive Biographical Wax Museum

On April 1, 2026, fourth-grade students at South Amboy Elementary School proudly presented their Interactive Biographical Wax Museum. Students researched and portrayed influential figures from both the past and present, bringing history to life through engaging presentations and impressive costumes. Families, staff, and community members had the unique opportunity to interact with these "living" historical figures and learn about their accomplishments, challenges, and lasting impact on the world.

The event showcased not only students' research and public speaking skills but also their creativity, confidence, and dedication. A special thank you to Ms. Conklin and Ms. Febres for their hard work, guidance, and commitment to creating this memorable learning experience for our students. Great job to all of our fourth-grade students for an outstanding performance and for bringing history to life!



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



Students of the Month

Throughout the spring, South Amboy Middle High School proudly recognized our Students of the Month for February, March, April, May, and June. These students were selected by their teachers for demonstrating outstanding character, leadership, academic achievement, perseverance, and commitment to our school community. We congratulate all of our honorees and thank them for setting a positive example for their peers.



FEBRUARY



MARCH



MAY



JUNE

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



Frozen: The Musical



This spring, our talented students brought the magic of Frozen to life on stage. Through months of rehearsals, dedication, and teamwork, the cast, crew, musicians, and directors delivered an incredible performance that showcased the creativity and talent of our students. Thank you to everyone who helped make this production a memorable experience for our school community.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



NHS, NJHS, and NAHS Inductions

South Amboy Middle High School celebrated an Evening of Excellence as we welcomed new members into the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society. These students have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, character, and the arts. We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to the positive impact they will continue to make within our school and community.



Scholarship Night

SAMHS hosted its Fourth Annual Scholarship Night, recognizing seniors who demonstrated initiative and determination by applying for scholarship opportunities to support their future educational goals. Thanks to the generosity of our scholarship sponsors and the hard work of our students, thousands of dollars were awarded to help make higher education more accessible. We are incredibly proud of our recipients and their achievements.



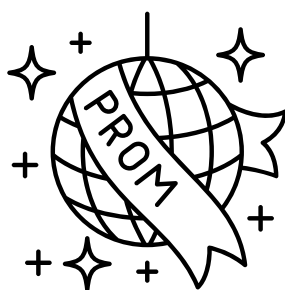
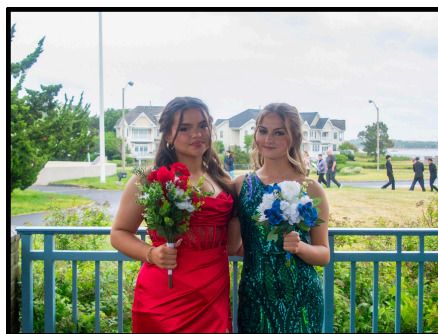
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



Prom

The Class of 2026 celebrated Prom with an evening filled with music, dancing, and memories. Students enjoyed a beautiful night surrounded by friends as they marked one of the most anticipated milestones of their high school experience. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped make the event a success.



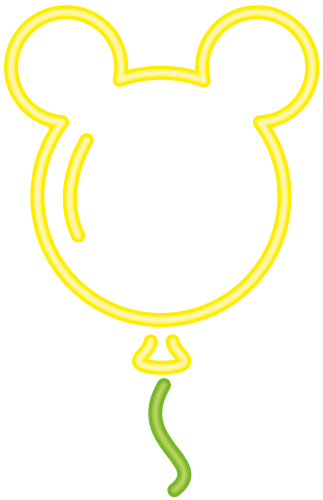
Eighth Grade Formal

Our 8th Grade Formal provided students with a special opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of their middle school years. The evening was filled with fun, laughter, and friendship as students reflected on their accomplishments and looked forward to the next chapter of their educational journey.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



Disney Trip

Students recently enjoyed an unforgettable educational trip to Walt Disney World, where they had the opportunity to create lifelong memories with their classmates while experiencing teamwork, responsibility, and independence outside the classroom. The trip was filled with exciting adventures and valuable experiences that students will remember for years to come.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

ERIN LAMBERSON PRINCIPAL | WENDY DANZY, VICE PRINCIPAL



Spring Concert

Our Spring Concert showcased the incredible musical talents of our band and chorus students. Through dedication, practice, and passion, students delivered an outstanding performance for families, staff, and community members. Congratulations to all of our musicians and Mrs. Veronica Zarrella on a successful and entertaining evening.



Dare to Dream Conference at Rutgers University

South Amboy Middle High School was proudly represented at the Dare to Dream Conference at Rutgers University by our very own Devante Mount. Devante had the distinguished honor of serving as a student presenter, sharing his experiences and inspiring others through his leadership and accomplishments. We are incredibly proud of Devante for representing SAMHS with professionalism, confidence, and excellence.



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

JA'MON DUNN, DIRECTOR



Spring Sports

The Spring 2026 season was another outstanding chapter in South Amboy Athletics. Our spring sports included Varsity Softball, Varsity Baseball, Varsity Boys Tennis, Varsity Track & Field, Middle School Softball, Middle School Baseball, and Middle School Track & Field. Throughout the season, our student-athletes demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence both in competition and in the classroom.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our coaches, whose leadership, mentorship, and tireless efforts continue to shape the success and growth of our athletic programs. Their commitment to developing student-athletes of character is an essential part of what makes South Amboy Athletics special.



Spring Media Day

Student-athletes participated in Spring Media Day on March 28. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate our spring sports programs through team and individual photos while showcasing the pride, enthusiasm, and school spirit that define the Governor athletic experience. Special thanks to our coaches and staff for their efforts in organizing the event and helping make it a memorable highlight of the season.



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

JA'MON DUNN, DIRECTOR



Spotlight

On June 2, Seniors **Hali McNulty** and **Joseph Foreman** were recognized as Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Scholar Athlete Award recipients at the Pines Manor. Their recognition reflects a sustained commitment to academic excellence, athletic achievement, and leadership. Additionally, Senior **Joseph Foreman** was selected as a member of the 2026 Baseball GMC All-Academic Team. Together, these honorees exemplify the values of South Amboy Athletics and demonstrate what it means to excel both in the classroom and in competition.



Several South Amboy student-athletes reached significant career milestones during the spring season. Junior **Micah Nemeth** recorded his 100th career strikeout, a testament to his hard work, dedication, and development on the baseball field. On the softball diamond, Junior **Sophia Hernandez** achieved an impressive 300 career strikeouts, further establishing herself as one of the program's standout performers.



These accomplishments reflect countless hours of preparation, perseverance, and commitment to their respective sports. As both student-athletes prepare for their senior seasons, we look forward to watching them build upon these achievements and continue to make their mark on South Amboy Athletics.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

JA'MON DUNN, DIRECTOR



Spotlight

South Amboy student-athletes continued to distinguish themselves through their achievements in academics, leadership, and sportsmanship. On April 15, Senior **Mario Garcete** and Sophomore **Gabrielle Evanski** were recognized as Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Sportsmanship Award recipients at the Pines Manor. This honor recognizes student-athletes who consistently demonstrate respect, integrity and leadership.



On May 17, Senior **Ashley Moreira-Burgos** was recognized as South Amboy's **NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award recipient**. This prestigious award honors student-athletes who have achieved excellence in the classroom while making meaningful contributions to their athletic programs and school community through leadership, character, and service.



All-Division Selections

The following athletes were selected for All-Division honors in their respective sport:

Softball Blue American Division

- Sophia Hernandez
- Gwen Kalatsis
- Addison Lonordo

Baseball Gold Division

- Micah Nemeth
- Robert Senape
- Joseph Foreman



Track Gold Division

- Mario Garcete
- Brandon Ojo



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

JA'MON DUNN, DIRECTOR



Athletes of the Month

The Athlete of the Month award recognizes student-athletes who exemplify strong character, sportsmanship, and a commitment to being positive role models in our community. This honor celebrates not only athletic performance but also the meaningful impact our athletes have on those around them.

Our award winners are listed below:



March 2026

- Sophia Hernandez - Varsity Softball
- Madden Bizzarro - Varsity Baseball
- Sebastian Roessle- Varsity Track
- Caleb Michelsen- Varsity Tennis
- Nathaniel Pitsios - Middle School Track
- Zoey Mercado - Middle School Softball
- Austin Holovacko - Middle School Baseball

April 2026

- Gwen Kalantsis- Varsity Softball
- Micah Nemeth - Varsity Baseball
- Brandon Ojo - Varsity Track
- Julian Cruz- Varsity Tennis
- Thomas Downs - Middle School Track
- Emma Tavaras- Middle School Softball
- Ben Yunker - Middle School Baseball

May 2026

- Robert Senape - Varsity Softball
- Jeremy Vasquez- Varsity Baseball
- Devin Vergara - Varsity Track
- Caleb Michelson - Varsity Tennis
- Brielle Moreau - Middle School Track
- Sophia Santos - Middle School Softball
- Jayden Cruz - Middle School Baseball

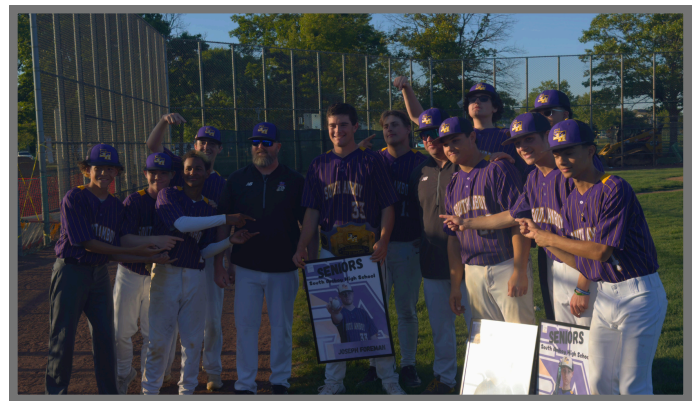
ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

JA'MON DUNN, DIRECTOR



Congratulations, Class of 2026!

As we close another successful year, we extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the Class of 2026 for the many contributions they have made to South Amboy Athletics. Through their leadership, character, accomplishments, and school spirit, they have helped shape our school community and leave a lasting legacy for future Governors. Once a Governor, always a Governor. #GoGuvs



Athletic Registration

Athletic registration for the Fall 2026 season is now open for all middle and high school student-athletes. Beginning this year, families will complete the registration process through the Genesis Parent Portal. High school student-athletes must be registered by August 15, 2026, while middle school student-athletes must be registered by August 30, 2026. Families with questions regarding registration or athletic participation can contact the Athletic Department for additional information.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Meryl Gill, Interim Director Of Special Services



Our Life Skills students have been busy learning both in and out of the classroom! Recently, students attended the Rutgers Dare to Dream Conference, where they explored future opportunities, built self confidence, and participated in engaging activities designed to inspire them to reach their goals.

Students also enjoyed a visit to Rutgers Gardens, where they learned about nature, explored beautiful gardens, and connected classroom lessons to real world experiences.

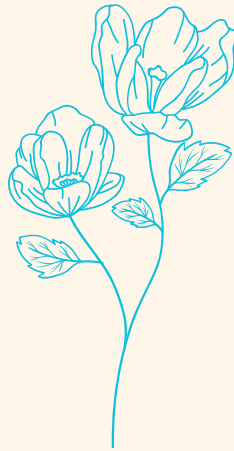
As part of our Community-Based Instruction (CBI) program, students traveled to Woodbridge Center, where they practiced important independent living skills by navigating the mall, placing their own orders at Chick-fil-A, and interacting with community members.

Most recently, students visited Turtle Back Zoo, where they used maps to navigate throughout the zoo and had the exciting opportunity to see many of the animals they have been studying in class up close and in person. These hands on experiences help students build independence, confidence, communication skills, and real world problem solving abilities.



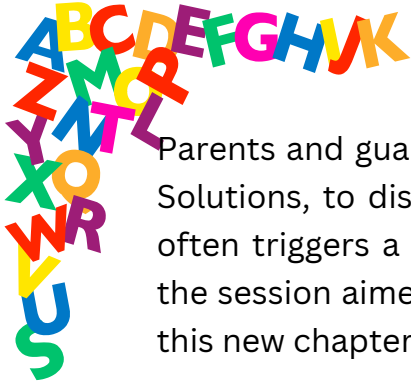
SPECIAL SERVICES

Meryl Gill, Interim Director Of Special Services



Curriculum

DR. MARTIN GURCZESKI, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



New Preschool Celebration

Parents and guardians attended a workshop on June 11, 2026, led by Effective School Solutions, to discuss the upcoming transition to preschool. This significant milestone often triggers a range of feelings, from pride and excitement to sadness and anxiety; the session aimed to normalize these emotions and offer families practical support for this new chapter.

Simultaneously, incoming students gathered for a welcoming event where they explored the playground and began building new friendships through play. These activities were intentional efforts to reduce first-day nerves and promote healthy social engagement prior to the September start.

Together, the student gathering and parent workshop established a supportive foundation for the preschool experience, strengthening community ties and building anticipation for future growth. The district extends its gratitude to the South Amboy PTO and Leading Edge, our before and after care provider, for their contributions.



Grow Amboy

South Amboy Public Schools received a \$10,000 grant from Sustain New Jersey in partnership with the New Jersey Education Association. This money will help build a new greenhouse for the district. This project will bring together students from the Life Skills Program, Environmental Science classes, and preschool to work as a team. Students will learn about plants, healthy food production, and protecting the environment.

The school was one of only 13 winners in the state to receive this award. The greenhouse should be finished by the start of the next school year, and there will be a special opening ceremony soon.

