



Report of the Superintendent

September 16, 2026

Our Student Representatives

Bernardsville Middle School

Grace Flaherty

representing Cross Country

Poppy Pickett

representing Cross Country

Bernards High School

Krisztina Lekai

Jack Martin



GAGA PIT 2.0



After learning last spring that the GAGA Pit had been closed and awaiting repairs for some rotted and fallen boards, Cub Scout Pack #150 of the Somerset Hills were excited to use their time and skills to help!

Working together, they removed the entire top two courses of old lumber from the sides of the octagonal pit, and replaced them with 16 brand new 2x10 boards, along with all new carriage bolts, washers, and acorn nuts.

The Scouts participated in all aspects of the repair, from measuring and drilling holes for the bolts, to setting the lumber in place, and bolting the wood onto the corner braces using wrenches and ratchets.



“Good Things” at BMS



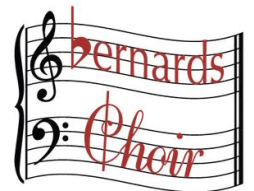
Three talented students from BMS were selected to participate in this year's New Jersey American Choral Directors Association (NJ-ACDA) Summer Honors Choir hosted at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

Ella Hunscher
Maddie Church
Shayla Leonard

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. Our students represented BMS with pride, professionalism, and musical excellence throughout the event.

We congratulate them on their hard work, dedication, and exceptional achievement. Their participation not only highlights their individual talent, but also shines a spotlight on the strength of our SHSD music program.

Special thanks to BMS Chorus Director Ally Jurgens.



Capturing Kids' Hearts: from the Board of Education to...

In April 2026, presenter Shane Naterman visited the Somerset Hills School District to provide an overview of Capturing Kids' Hearts to members of the Board of Education. At the end of August, he returned with colleague Angelo DelliSanti to meet with the Board of Education and develop a CKH™ Social Contract.



Capturing Kids' Hearts... at Bernards High School



At the start of the 2026-2027 school year, the District incorporated CKH-1 training into its opening days at Bernards High School. With guidance from presenters Shane Naterman and Kenny Kay Hudson, those days were participatory experiences where teachers, staff, and administrators learned and practiced skills they could immediately use and model in their classrooms and around the high school campus.

Participants explored:



- Creating safe learning environments
- Building meaningful, productive relationships with students and colleagues
- Developing self-managing, high-performing classrooms through team-building strategies and a CKH™ Social Contract
- Applying practical strategies for navigating conflict and challenging behaviors.

CKH-1 is only the beginning of the implementation process. Throughout the year, CKH trainers will work with school leaders and staff to help move the learning from training into practice. A team of Process Champions will be created to help lead and sustain the work internally, and Traction Visits will be conducted to witness hands-on implementation, celebrate progress, and assess areas for growth.

In the months ahead, culture and climate surveys, completed by SHSD staff, students, and families, will provide multiple perspectives on how CKH is being implemented and experienced. These will help in understanding the program's impact on the culture and climate within the school and across the district.



"Our staff truly embraced the Capturing Kids' Hearts training, and there is a real sense of excitement about bringing these strategies into our classrooms to strengthen relationships, build connections, and create an environment where every student feels valued and supported," shared Dr. Scott Neigel, BHS Principal.

The implementation of CKH at Bernards High School follows the work done at Bernardsville Middle School beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of that year, Principal Lisa Garofalo and her staff were recognized as a Rising Star School. The following year, they won the National Showcase Award, capturing not only kids' hearts but also a solid belief in the CKH tenets and pride in their collective efforts.



American
Heart
Association®

SHSD Receives the Heart of Gold Award



The American Heart Association has recognized the Somerset Hills School District for its exceptional commitment to heart health and student well-being. We are dedicated to supporting programs and initiatives that promote healthier lives for students, staff, and families.

A few highlights that contributed to this recognition include:

- A passion for promoting heart health and creating a culture of wellness throughout the school community
- Outstanding participation in supporting the American Heart Association's mission
- Strong engagement in fundraising, educational programs, and school-wide initiatives
- Helping educate students on the importance of Hands-Only CPR and empowering the next generation of lifesavers
- Demonstrating a commitment to student health, wellness, and community impact



It's Official!



Coaches Salome Chaffee, Doug Voight and Derek Boudreau are thrilled to lead their athletes on the new tennis courts this 2026-2027 school year.

Beginning in late-May and finishing mid-August, Halecon Inc. was responsible for this multi-step project, overseen by Solutions Architecture. It included ripping up asphalt, completing detailed drainage work to prevent pooling water or cracking issues, and laying new asphalt before painting the court boundaries.



Off and...

**running,
marching,
cheering,
and more!**





GO TEAM(s)!

**GOOD LUCK
THIS SEASON!**





Khloey Kouflie, a junior at Bernards High School, was recognized by the school as the “Everyday Hero” for September!

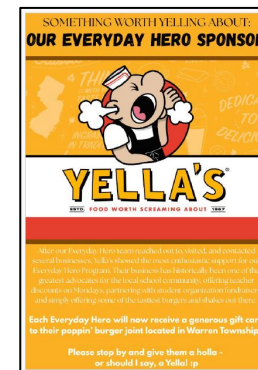
Nominees for the monthly Everyday Hero Program are students who have a positive influence on the student body through exemplary qualities. Selected students inspire others, are responsible and respectable and have a commitment to peers and the school community. Students are nominated by one or more teachers, selected by the Everyday Hero committee, and announced schoolwide by either Principal Scott Neigel or Assistant Principal Mike Corbett.

Khloey is an extremely kind and caring young person. She is respectful to her peers, her teachers, and everyone she interacts with. Khloey is involved in several clubs, including starting the DECA Club as a 9th grader! She is involved in the AAPI Club, bringing new opportunities for her peers to further involve themselves in the school community. Khloey also distinguishes herself in her grade as the recording secretary for the Class of 2028, working on new projects and activities all the time.

In addition to all of the ways she is involved at BHS, Khloey cares for her friends, is always there to listen and support others, and is always sharing her positivity throughout the school - in class, in the hallways, and everywhere she goes! Khloey is a leader among her peers; she is not afraid to correct negative actions when she sees them, or to model positive and respectful behavior at every turn. Her radiance and actions help to make BHS a kinder place to go to school.

Congratulations to September’s Everyday Hero, Khloey!

A BIG thank you to **YELLA's** in Warren Township, our Everyday Hero program sponsor. Their business continues to be an enthusiastic advocate for our school community by offering teacher discounts, partnering with student organization fundraisers, and now for our Everyday Heroes by awarding them with a generous gift card each month!



In The News...

BHS Everyday Hero



Khloey Kouflie

Community in Action

The Somerset Hills School District partnered with the community to host another successful event welcoming students and families back to school. On September 5th, in nearby Kiwanis Park, this family-oriented event was attended by over 100 people. Parents were able to get information, resources, and have their questions answered by teachers, staff, and translators. They assisted with Genesis, busing, sports registration, back-to-school forms and so much more!



“We are proud to share that this event has been going on for more than a decade,” said Dr. 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, Community in Crisis, Grupo Cajola, ZuFall, Sweet Reads, and the RWJ Barnabas Community Health Program.



Special
thanks to
Mayor
Canose for
her visit!



Calling all SHSD Families!

You've Got... Plans!

A Message from SHEF:

For 30 years, the Somerset Hills Education Foundation has brought our community together around one simple idea: when we invest in our teachers and their ideas, we create extraordinary opportunities for our students. This fall, we have a milestone worth celebrating together and you're invited!

Please join us on Saturday, September 26th, from 3–7pm at the Polo Grounds in Bernardsville for SHEF30: 30 Years of Impact. One Incredible Community.

Bring the kids, meet up with friends and neighbors, and spend the afternoon enjoying food trucks, live music, a silent auction, family activities, local vendors, and plenty of Somerset Hills spirit. Most importantly, spend time with the students, educators, families, alumni, businesses, and neighbors who make this community so special.

SHEF30 is both a celebration and a fundraiser for what comes next. Proceeds help SHEF continue funding innovative educational opportunities at SHSD.



We can't wait to see you there!

NJGPA-A Results: Spring 2026 Administration





NJGPA-A Overview (1 of 2)

In spring 2026, students in grade 11 participated in the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A), which measured the extent to which our students are graduation ready in ELA and mathematics.

The ELA component of the NJGPA-A assesses student graduation readiness based on grade 10 standards. The mathematics component of the NJGPA-A assesses student graduation readiness based on Algebra I and Geometry standards. Graduation readiness is reported separately for each content component.

The NJGPA-A is required to be administered to students in grade 11 in accordance with state statute (N.J.S.A. 18A-7C-1 et seq).



NJGPA-A Overview (2 of 2)

A minimum score of 450 is required for each component (ELA and mathematics) of the NJGPA-A and was adopted by the State Board of Education on August 5, 2026.

Students who took the test, but did not meet the minimum required score on each component of the assessment (450), will have the opportunity to receive additional supports and may take the following steps:

- Retake the ELA and/or mathematics components of the NJGPA-A in the fall (October 2026);
- Meet designated cut scores from the menu of substitute competency tests (ACT, Accuplacer, PSAT, or SAT) or
- Complete a portfolio appeal (January - May, 2027).



NJGPA-A 2026 vs. NJGPA 2025

- As in previous years, NJGPA-A results include two proficiency classifications: *Graduation Ready* and *Not Yet Graduation Ready*
- The assessment moved from a fixed-form to an adaptive model
- The unit structure changed
- Math testing time is decreased by 30 minutes
- ELA testing time is increased by 60 minutes with a separate writing component

The 2026 NJGPA-A represents a substantially different assessment from the 2025 NJGPA. Comparisons should be considered in the context of these changes.

Comparison of Somerset Hills School District Spring 2026 NJGPA-A Administration - Percentages and Averages

Content Component	Average Scale Score, State	Average Scale Score, County	Average Scale Score, District	Percent Graduation Ready, State	Percent Graduation Ready, County	Percent Graduation Ready, District
English Language Arts (ELA) Student Count: 169	481	495	503	76%	84%	92%
Mathematics Student count: 169	460	478	487	61%	75%	83%

Not Yet Graduation Ready: 300-449
Proficient / Graduation Ready: 450-650

Comparison of Somerset Hills School District Spring 2023-2026 NJGPA and NJGPA-A Administrations - Percentages

Content Component	2023 Graduation Ready, District / [State]	2024 Graduation Ready, District / [State]	2025 Graduation Ready, District / [State]	2026 Graduation Ready, District / [State]
English Language Arts (ELA)	85.1% [80.5%]	82.5% [81.6%]	88.8% [80.7%]	91.7% [76%]
Mathematics	77.6% [55.0%]	76.0% [54.7%]	80.2% [58.0%]	83.4% [61%]

2023-2026 ELA: Somerset Hills School District's Subgroup Results

ELA / Subgroup (# Students)	Graduation Ready, District 2023 / [State 2023]	Graduation Ready, District 2024 / [State 2024]	Graduation Ready, District 2025 / [State 2025]	Graduation Ready, District 2026 / [State 2026]
District (n:169)	85.1% [80.5]	82.5% [81.6]	88.8% [80.7]	91.7% [76]
<i>Gender</i>				
Female (n:83)	89.4% [85.4]	87.5% [86.1]	91.1% [85.1]	92.8%
Male (n:86)	81.8% [75.7]	77.1% [77.3]	86.9% [76.5]	90.7%
<i>Ethnicity/Race</i>				
Hispanic or Latino (n:38)	67.3% [69.4]	47.2% [70.9]	68.1% [69.9]	84.2%
Asian (n:13)	100% [*]	* [*]	100% [*]	100%
White (n:108)	91.0% [88.3]	89.0% [89.9]	94.4% [89.3]	92.6%
<i>Other Subgroups</i>				
Students with Disabilities - IEP (n:28)	58.1% [47.1]	43.2% [53.0]	68.0% [51.1]	78.6%
Economically Disadvantaged (n:26)	42.9% [67.9]	33.3% [70.7]	54.8% [70.6]	76.9%

2023-2026 Math: Somerset Hills School District's Subgroup Results

Mathematics/ Subgroup (# Students)	Graduation Ready, District 2023 / [State 2023]	Graduation Ready, District 2024 / [State 2024]	Graduation Ready, District 2025 / [State 2025]	Graduation Ready, District 2026 / [State 2026]
District (n:169)	77.6% [55.0]	76.0% [54.7]	80.2% [58.0]	83.4% [61]
<i>Gender</i>				
Female (n:83)	76.3% [55.9]	77.9% [55.6]	76.7% [56.9]	85.5%
Male (n:86)	78.5% [54.2]	74.0% [53.8]	83.2% [59]	81.4%
<i>Ethnicity/Race</i>				
Hispanic or Latino (n:38)	47.3% [36.3]	47.2% [36.9]	57.4% [41]	76.1%
Asian (n:13)	100% [87.5]	* [88.2]	90% [88.9]	100%
White (n:108)	87.4% [68.0]	81.5% [68.9]	87.2% [72]	83.3%
<i>Other Subgroups</i>				
Students with Disabilities - IEP (n:28)	36.7% [17.0]	29.7% [17.9]	48.0% [20.7]	57.1%
Economically Disadvantaged (n:26)	23.8% [34.1]	38.1% [35.2]	38.7% [40.5]	61.5%



NJGPA-A Breakdown Data Available for Educators

Breakdown		Total	Total			
View Details	Student With Disabilities	Student Count	Average Scale Score	Performance Distribution	Percent Proficient	
☒	All	169	503	 Percent Count: 8% (14), 92% (155)	92%	
☒	No	124	511	 Percent Count: 6% (8), 94% (116)	94%	
☒	IEP	28	468	 Percent Count: 21% (6), 79% (22)	79%	
☒	504	17	499	 Percent Count: 100% (17)	100%	

Breakdown		Total	Total			
View Details	Gender	Student Count	Average Scale Score	Performance Distribution	Percent Proficient	
☒	All	169	487	 Percent Count: 17% (28), 83% (141)	83%	
☒	Male	86	489	 Percent Count: 19% (16), 81% (70)	81%	
☒	Female	83	486	 Percent Count: 14% (12), 86% (71)	86%	

Performance across reporting categories is classified as *below*, *within*, and *above expectations*.



NJGPA-A Individual Student Reports

- Printed copies of the NJGPA-A (ELA and Math) Individual Student Reports were mailed to parents/guardians on September 8, 2026
- Family Portal: <https://nj-familyportal.cambiumast.com/>

State of New Jersey
Department of Education

2026 NJGPA-A Report

FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

FIRSTNAME'S PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

English Language Arts	Mathematics
1 Level 1 NOT YET GRADUATION READY Test Date: Spring 2026	2 Level 2 GRADUATION READY Test Date: Spring 2026

From the Commissioner

The New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) provides information about how well a student is meeting New Jersey's high school graduation requirements in English language arts and mathematics. This report shows the student's performance on that assessment.

The NJGPA-A is one of several pathways students may use to demonstrate they are ready for graduation. If a student does not meet the graduation standard on the NJGPA-A, there are additional pathways available, including other assessment options and portfolio appeals, consistent with New Jersey's graduation requirements.

These results are just one piece of information and do not define a student. They can help students, families, and educators better understand current skills, identify strengths, and determine where additional support may be helpful.

If something in this report is unclear, please talk with a teacher or school counselor about the results, next steps, and the supports available to help the student stay on track for graduation.

Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner of Education

Log in to the Family Portal at <https://nj-familyportal.cambiumast.com/> to learn more.

FIRSTNAME'S UNIQUE ACCESS CODE
999999

9999 9999 9999 1

State of New Jersey
Department of Education

Performance: Grade 11

FIRSTNAME LASTNAME **ENROLLED GRADE: 11**

Student ID: 9999999999 Date of Birth: 04/16/09 Date of Testing: SPRING 2026

School: 9999 9999 SCHOOL NAME District: 9999 DISTRICT NAME

English Language Arts Test Date: Spring 2026

Knowledge and Skills Categories for English Language Arts

Category	Performance	How Did Your Student Perform in Different Reporting Categories?
Reading Literary Text	1 Below Expectations	Your student's performance is Below Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an ability to read and analyze literary texts, including analyzing themes, how characters, events, and ideas develop and interact, text structure, author perspective and purpose, information presented in different media, and relationships among texts.
Reading Informational Text	2 Within Expectations	Your student's performance is Within Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an ability to read and analyze informational texts, including analyzing central ideas, how ideas and details develop and interact, text structure, author perspective and purpose, arguments, information presented in different media, and relationships among texts.
Language	1 Below Expectations	Your student's performance is Below Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an ability to understand and use vocabulary in context, including figurative language, and to apply standard written English conventions, including grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

How Did Your Student Perform on Writing?

Writing Prompt	Composition Rubric Score	Just Proficient Score	Category Description
Opinion/Argumentative	3 Points Earned Out of 5 True Pass	2.3	The response demonstrates an ability to provide a basic written response to an on-demand prompt. It demonstrates some understanding of the task and purpose. (3 out of 5 points)

* The Just Proficient Score is the average of the composition rubric scores for the students who scored at the proficient cut score of 400 on the English Language Arts assessment.

Mathematics Test Date: Spring 2026

Knowledge and Skills Categories for Mathematics

Category	Performance	How Did Your Student Perform in Different Reporting Categories?
Algebra I	2 Above Expectations	Your student's performance is Above Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an understanding of creating and using expressions, equations, and inequalities, building and interpreting functions, using quantitative reasoning and units to solve problems, and analyzing, representing, and interpreting data.
Algebra II	2 Above Expectations	Your student's performance is Above Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an understanding of creating equations, reasoning with equations and inequalities, and writing and interpreting functions in expressions.
Functions	2 Within Expectations	Your student's performance is Within Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an understanding of building, interpreting, and modeling with functions.
Geometry	2 Within Expectations	Your student's performance is Within Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an understanding of similarity, trigonometric ratios, congruence, geometric measurement, and theorems about circles.
Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry	2 Within Expectations	Your student's performance is Within Expectations. Students meet expectations by demonstrating an understanding of similarity, trigonometric ratios, congruence, geometric measurement, and theorems about circles.

9999 9999 9999 1



NJGPA-A Next Steps

- Analyze NJGPA-A results to identify school-wide strengths, areas for growth, and trends across ELA and mathematics
- Examine student subgroup performance to identify areas of need and opportunity
- Build familiarity with the new reporting system and its range of data tools, with a focus on understanding how the available reports can best inform instruction and student support
- Identify potential focus areas in preparation for the Spring 2027 administration of NJGPA-A to students expected to graduate in the class of 2028.
- Explore the use of IXL analytics to research potential correlation with NJGPA-A performance to identify patterns in student performance
- Use findings to inform instructional planning, targeted support, and intervention for identified students
- Continue Sheltered Instruction training to support Multilingual Learners



Additional Information

- Additional information about the NJGPA-A can be found on the NJDOE Assessments webpage at <https://nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/>
- NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) <https://nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/faq.shtml>
- The graduation assessment requirements for the class of 2027 are available on the Graduation Assessment Requirements webpage at nj.gov/education/assessment/requirements
- 2026 NJSLA-A reports are expected to be available in December 2027

Looking Ahead

Regionalization Study continuing and includes an October 12, 2026 convening in Bedminster Township for collaboration and interviews

Quarterly meeting of Mayors of Somerset Hills on September 18th

Board Retreat - review of 2026 Demographic Report authored by Dr. Richard Grip; and review of Board & District Goals on September 29th @ 6:30 pm

FY28 budget development begins in October

BHS bleacher installation: upper and lower gymnasiums