

Tenaflly Public Schools

Annual Update



2026-27



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TENAFLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the start of the school year.

Now in my fourth year as Superintendent, I remain deeply proud of our work in the Tenaflly Public Schools and the partnership we share with our community. Tenaflly continues to stand among the nation's premier open-enrollment K-12 public school systems, and our performance "[By the Numbers](#)" reflects both sustained excellence and a shared commitment to continuous growth.

The engine powering our success is a high-achievement culture that permeates our classrooms, schools, performance centers, and athletic facilities. Coupled with a talented, dedicated, and tireless teaching, administrative, and support staff, we have built a district capable of consistent educational excellence.

In this year's [Annual Update](#), our central office departments have assembled a brief overview of some of their most relevant/timely work together with some historical and performance data that we think you will find interesting. Inside this edition you will also be introduced to our newest educators; celebrate our milestone teachers; understand how we are attempting to navigate the AI landscape; learn a little about our budget and its allocations; and get an up to the minute look at the status of our referendum projects.

Our mission in the Tenaflly schools is to greatly advance student growth and student achievement. As the Superintendent of the Tenaflly Public Schools, please know that my team and I remain steadfastly focused on curating an educational ecosystem that focuses on the people, programs, facilities and finances that best engage students and staff.

See you soon!



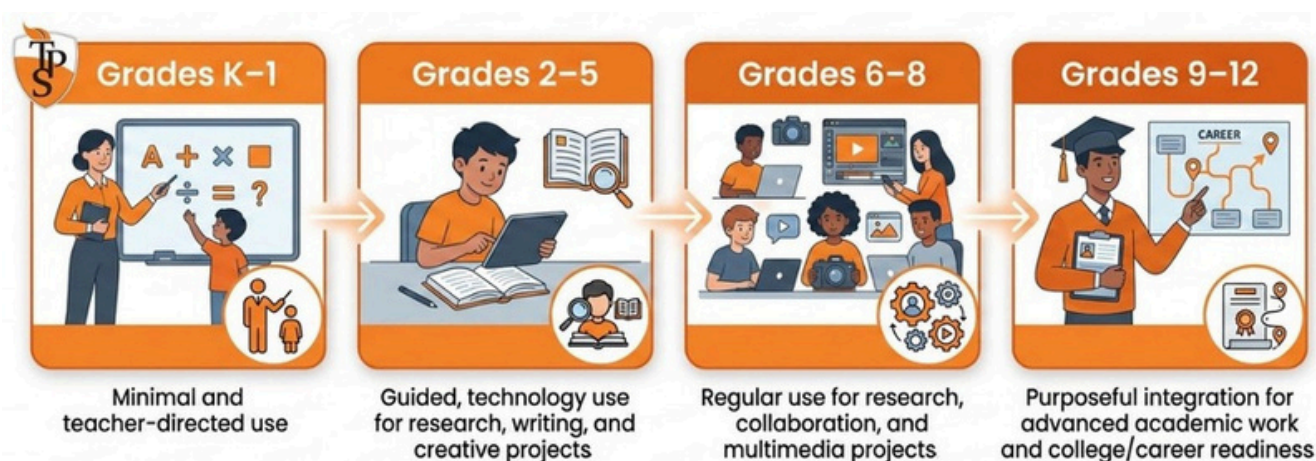
MICHAEL BEN-DAVID
SUPERINTENDENT

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

At the heart of every classroom in our district is a human connection that drives discovery. While technology has become a powerful bridge to the future, we view it as a partner to our students and teachers rather than a replacement. Our goal is to create a thoughtful balance where digital tools enhance the magic of face-to-face learning, deep discussion, and hands-on exploration.

Our instructional philosophy is grounded in intentionality. We start by identifying clear learning goals and then select the digital resources that best support them. We believe technology should empower students to be active creators and collaborators rather than passive consumers of content. Whether it is research, creative media production, or solving complex problems, we prioritize experiences that would not be possible with traditional tools alone.

As our students grow, their relationship with technology evolves to match their developmental needs. In the early years, we focus on teacher-directed exploration, gradually shifting toward more independent and advanced academic work as they prepare for college and careers. This progression is outlined in the table below to show how we tailor our approach at every stage:



CORE PRINCIPLES

1. Technology Supports Instruction

Digital tools must meaningfully enhance learning goals and instructional strategies, rather than acting as a substitute for teacher-led education.

2. Developmentally Appropriate Use

Integration reflects changing needs, prioritizing hands-on, face-to-face learning for younger students while gradually increasing digital use.

3. Balanced Learning Environments

A healthy mix of digital and non-digital experiences, including print-based reading, science inquiry, and classroom discussion.

4. Active Learning vs. Consumption

Priority is given to creation, inquiry, and collaboration over passive consumption like extended video viewing.

Please view our [District Guiding Philosophy for the Instructional Use of Technology](#) to learn more about our philosophy.



BRENDA YOO
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT

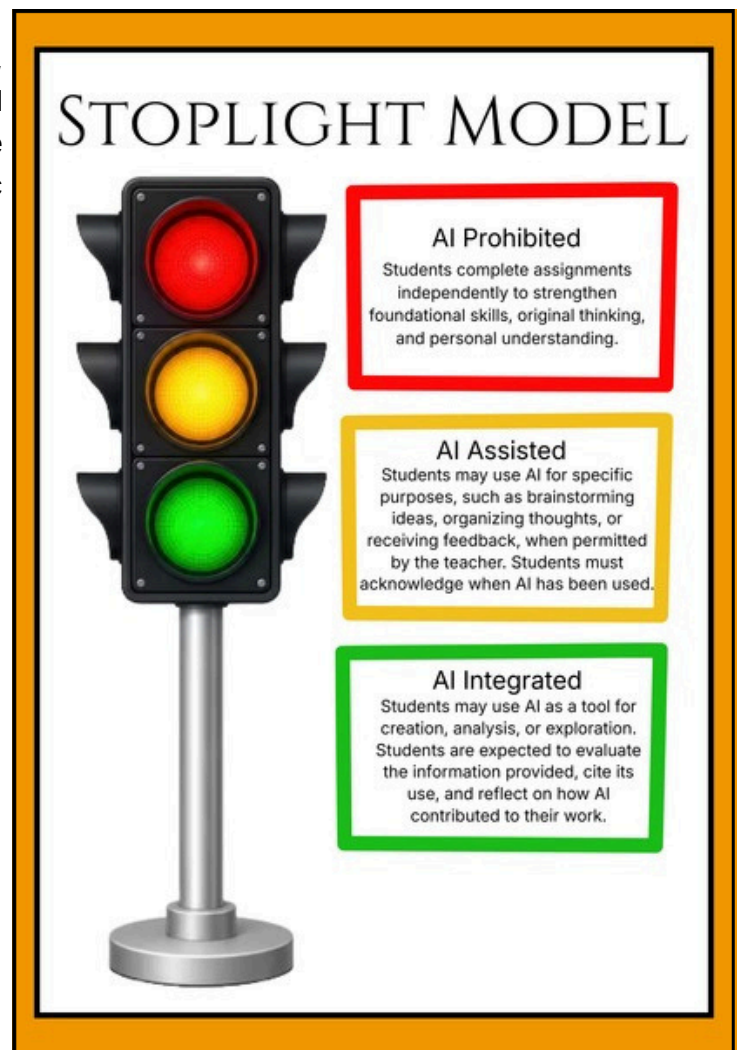
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS HERE. TEACHERS STILL LEAD.

Tenaflly Public Schools recognizes Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) as a transformative tool that, when used responsibly, can enhance learning and critical thinking while preparing students for a digital future. The district's philosophy centers on integrating AI into the educational framework as a support mechanism rather than a replacement for high-quality, human-centered instruction. By thoughtfully implementing these guidelines, the district aims to empower educators and students to navigate new technologies while upholding rigorous standards for academic integrity.

To provide clear direction, the district has adopted an "AI Use Scale" known as the Stoplight Model, which helps teachers and students identify acceptable levels of AI usage for every assignment. Level 1 (Red) signifies that AI is prohibited, Level 2 (Yellow) allows for AI assistance with specific teacher permission and citation, and Level 3 (Green) encourages AI for co-creation and iteration. These guidelines are grounded in core principles that prioritize developmentally appropriate usage - **limiting use for grades K-5 while introducing it progressively for grades 6-12** - and ensuring strict adherence to privacy and safety, including the protection of personally identifiable information.

Success in this area relies on a collaborative effort between the school community, teachers, and students. Teachers are responsible for communicating clear AI expectations, while students must practice transparency by properly citing any AI tools used and ensuring final submissions reflect their own understanding.

Parents are encouraged to discuss these standards with their children to foster a culture of honesty and ethical technology use. As AI technology evolves, the district remains committed to reviewing and updating these guidelines to ensure they continue to support our educational mission.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT THE
TENAFLY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS:

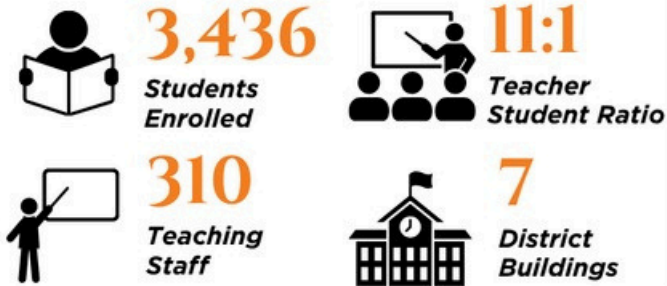
DISTRICT AI GUIDELINES



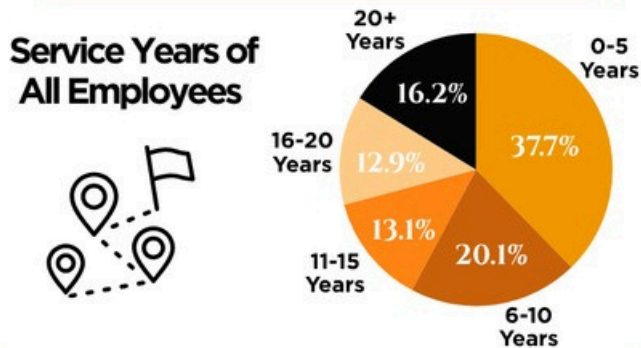
BRENDA YOO
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

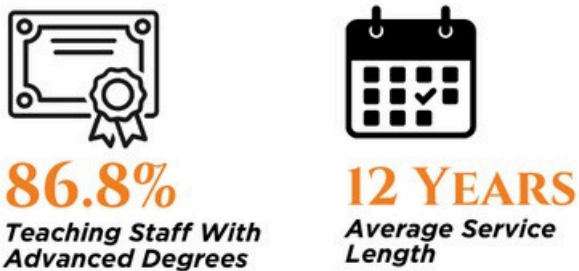
THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



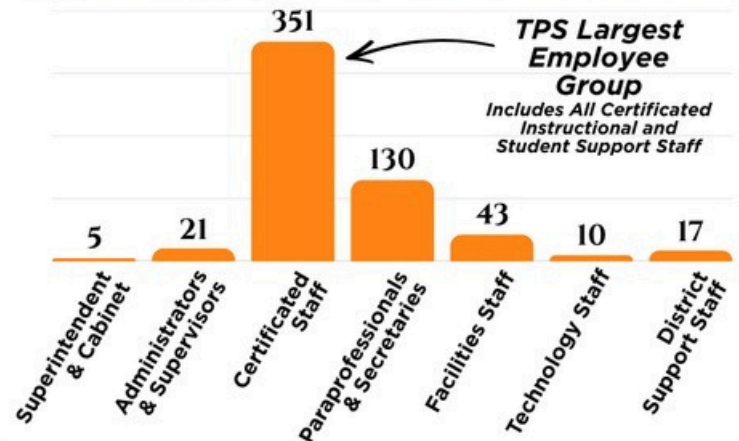
EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE



Narrowing it Down: The Teacher Experience



WORKFORCE HIGHLIGHTS



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



BETH GRANT
CHIEF HUMAN
RESOURCES OFFICER

FINANCE & OPERATIONS



CARMELA COLLAZO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The 2025–2026 school year marked a significant milestone as long-awaited building improvements commenced throughout the district through the voter-approved Referendum.

Construction of modern security vestibules at each of our schools is now substantially complete, with final wiring, networking, and technology upgrades currently in progress. Together with exterior door replacements and enhanced access control systems, these improvements represent an important investment in the safety and security of our students, staff, and community.

The Smith drainage project is making excellent progress and has already demonstrated its effectiveness during several intense summer storms.

At the high school, major HVAC improvements—including unit ventilator replacements, exhaust ventilation upgrades, and the chiller replacement—are

near completion. Work also continues on the auditorium as we advance these critical facility enhancements.

Building on this momentum, we will soon begin a comprehensive renovation of the Middle School, along with additions at Stillman, Smith, and Maugham. The Maugham project is especially notable, as its expanded scope will help ensure that one of our oldest and most historic buildings continues to meet the needs of our growing community.

Looking ahead, we are also beginning the architectural phase of the athletic complex behind the high school, a new turf field at Geissinger, and HVAC projects at TMS and our elementary schools. Our current estimate is that these projects will begin in summer 2027, alongside the Geissinger field house project.

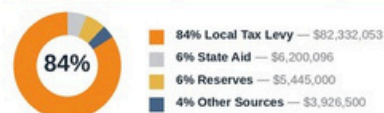
We look forward to an exciting year ahead as these transformative projects continue to take shape, creating safer, more modern learning environments for our students, staff, and community.

2026-2027 TENAFLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FISCAL OVERVIEW

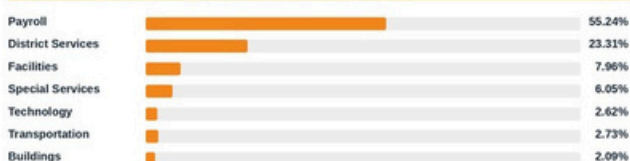
REVENUE & TAX IMPACT



REVENUE SOURCES (PROPOSED 2026-27)



EXPENSE CATEGORY ALLOCATION COMPARISON



MAJOR EXPENDITURES & DRIVERS

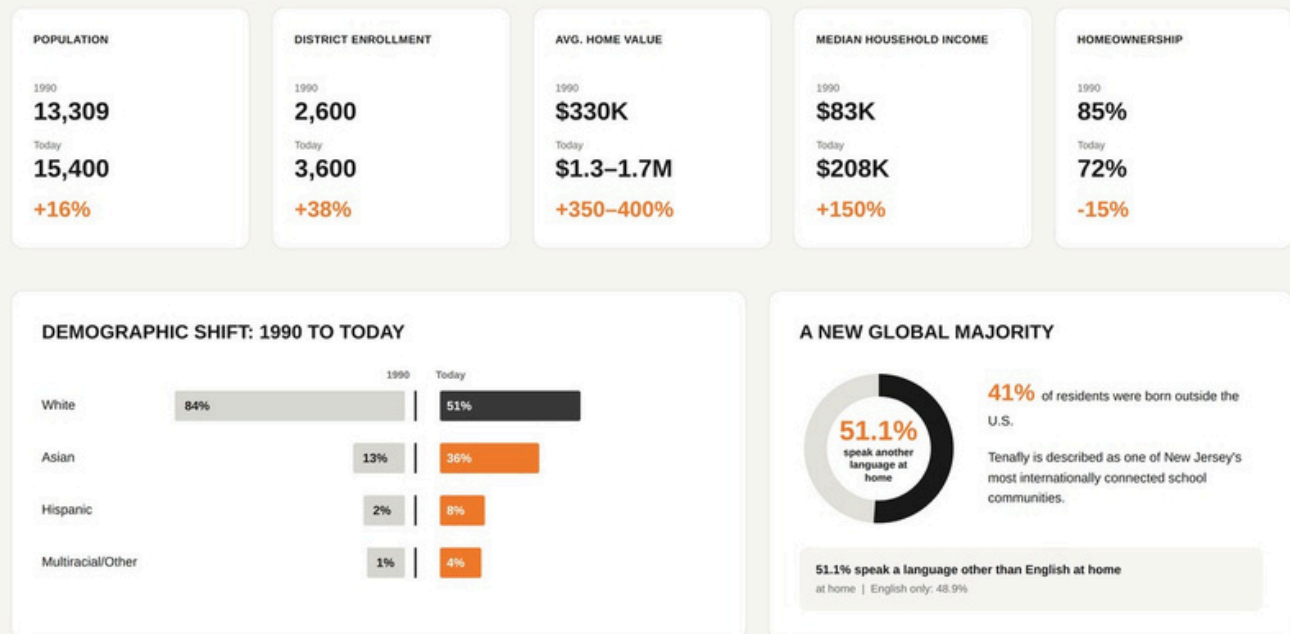
 **SIGNIFICANT HEALTH BENEFIT SPIKES**

 \$23,876
PER PUPIL COST

The proposed budgetary comparative cost per pupil has risen from \$21,477 in 2023-24

BY THE NUMBERS HISTORICAL DATA

TENAFLY: A COMMUNITY IN TRANSFORMATION



SCHOOL COMMUNITY: 2020–2025

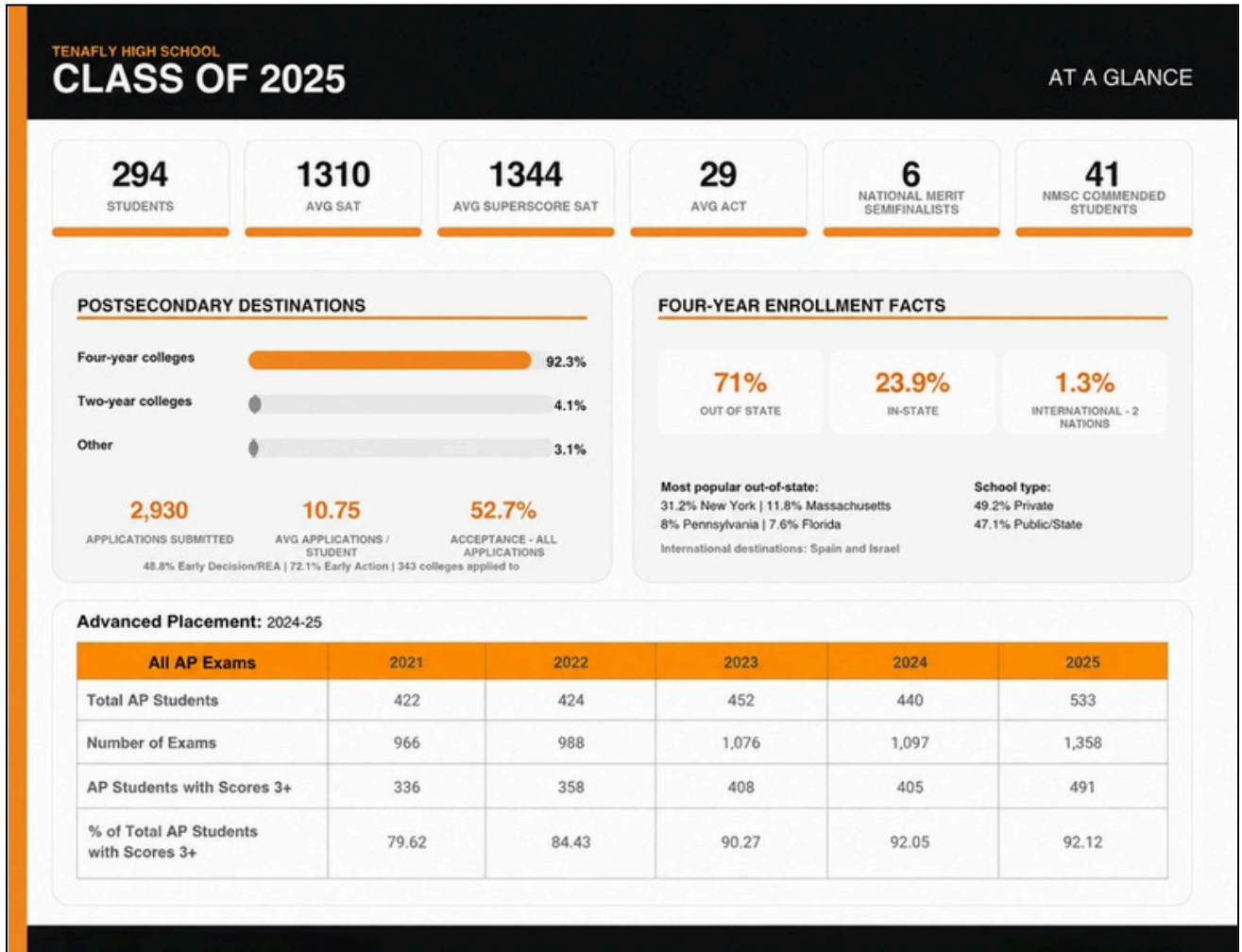


METRICS THAT MATTER TENAFLYPUBLICSCHOOLS-PERFORMANCEBENCHMARKS (2025–2026)

Grade Level/Band	Metric	Goal	2025 Data		2026 Data		Outcome	
K-8 (Grades 3, 5, 8 only)	District Benchmark (i-Ready)	Meet: 75% or more at or above grade level Exceeded: 80% or more	Math Gr 3: 86 Gr 5: 86 Gr 8: 80	ELA Gr 3: 86 Gr 5: 81 Gr 8: 76	Math Gr 3: 81 Gr 5: 86 Gr 8: 84	ELA Gr 3: 85 Gr 5: 73 Gr 8: 80	Math: Exceeded Goal	ELA: Goal not yet met
K-8 (Grades 3, 5, 8 only)	NJSLA Math & ELA	Meet: 75% or above pass rate Exceeded: 80% or above	Math Gr 3: 82.9 Gr 5: 79.7 Gr 8: 80.3	ELA Gr 3: 71.9 Gr 5: 82.6 Gr 8: 80	Math Gr 3: TBD Gr 5: TBD Gr 8: TBD	ELA Gr 3: TBD Gr 5: TBD Gr 8: TBD	Spring 2026 reports to be released by NJDOE in December 2026	
9-12	AP Unique Scorers	Meet: Increase percentage of students with one or more exams with a score of at least 3 on AP exams by 1-2% Exceeded: Increase percentage by more than 2%	Total AP Students: 533 Number of Exams: 1358 AP Students with Scores 3+: 491 % of Total AP Students with Scores 3+: 92.1%		Total AP Students: 559 Number of Exams: 1572 AP Students with Scores 3+: 527 Percent increase = 7%		Exceeded Goal	
9-12	SAT Average	Meet: Rank in top 2-3% of open enrollment (public) NJ high schools for average SAT score Exceeded: Rank in top 1%	Reading/Writing: 652 Math: 658 Combined: 1310 Rank: #6 Percentile: 6/326 = 1.8%		Reading/Writing: 645 Math: 673 Combined: 1318 Rank: #5 Percentile: 5/326 = 1.5%		Met Goal	
9-12	Extracurricular Participation	Meet: Increase percentage of 9th, 10th, 11th grade students involved in at least 1 TPS extracurricular program by 2% Exceeded: Increase by more than 2%	Gr 9: 83% Gr 10: 85% Gr 11: 88%		Gr 9: 90.3% Gr 10: 89.6% Gr 11: 90.1%		Exceeded Goal	

BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



DISTRICT GOALS

2026-2027

01

REFERENDUM IMPLEMENTATION

02

STAFF EVALUATION SYSTEM/RUBRICS

03

SECURITY STRUCTURE 2.0

Design a robust and sustainable district/school security structure deployable by the 2027-2028 school year.

04

DISTRICT AUDIT/S

- Instructional Support: Strengthen MTSS systems and student data practices.
- Instructional Technology: Evaluate and strengthen the intentional use of instructional technology and homework.
- Middle School Schedule: Assess the feasibility of transitioning to a semester schedule aligned with the high school.
- Middle School Athletics: Evaluate and align middle school athletic offerings with high school programs.

05

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Establish the personnel, programming, and operations necessary to launch Tenafly High School's first Multiple Disabilities Program in 2027-2028.

06

METRICS THAT MATTER

Grade Level/Band	Metric	2027 Goal	
K-8 (Grades 3, 5, 8 only)	District Benchmark (i-Ready)	Meet: 78% or more at or above grade level * Only two years of trailing data	Exceed: 82% or more
K-8 (Grades 3, 5, 8 only)	NJSLA: Math & ELA	TBD Based on Spring 2026 test results and 2026 goal outcome	
9-12	AP Unique Scorers	Meet: Increase percentage of unique students with one or more AP exams with a score of at least three by 1-2%	Exceed: Increase percentage by more than 2%
9-12	SAT Average	Meet: Rank in top 2-3% of open enrollment (public) NJ high schools for average SAT score	Exceed: Rank in the top 1%
9-12	Extra-curricular Participation	Meet: 90-92% participation (Gr. 9-11)	Exceed: Over 92% participation (Gr. 9-11)

Please click [here](#) to learn more about the District Goals.

REFERENDUM COMPLETED PROJECTS



MIDDLE SCHOOL
GYM



HIGH SCHOOL GYM



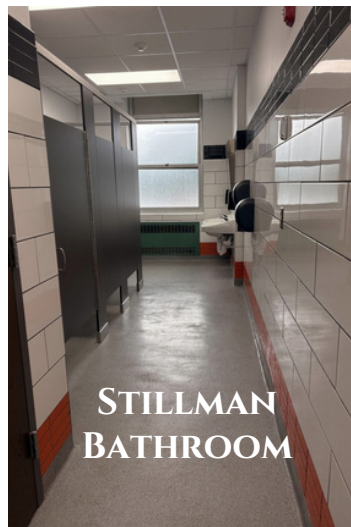
STILLMAN
CLASSROOMS



MAUGHAM VESTIBULE



MIDDLE
SCHOOL
LOCKERS



STILLMAN
BATHROOM



MAUGHAM HALLWAY FLOORS



MAUGHAM GYM FLOOR



MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENTRANCE



STILLMAN ELEVATOR

PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION



SMITH ENTRANCE



MACKAY VESTIBULE



SMITH DRAINAGE



MACKAY
ENTRANCE



HIGH SCHOOL
VESTIBULE

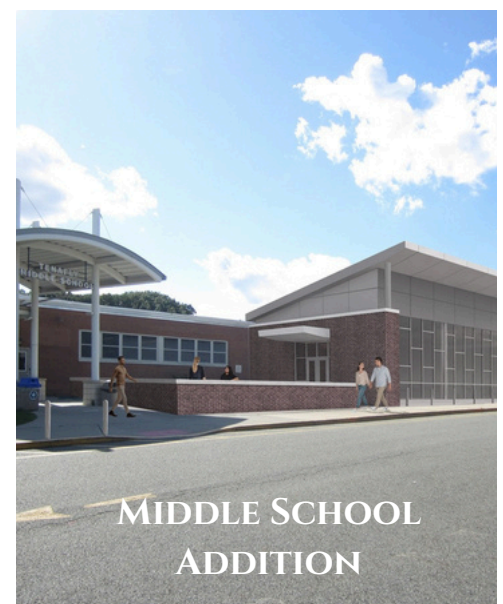
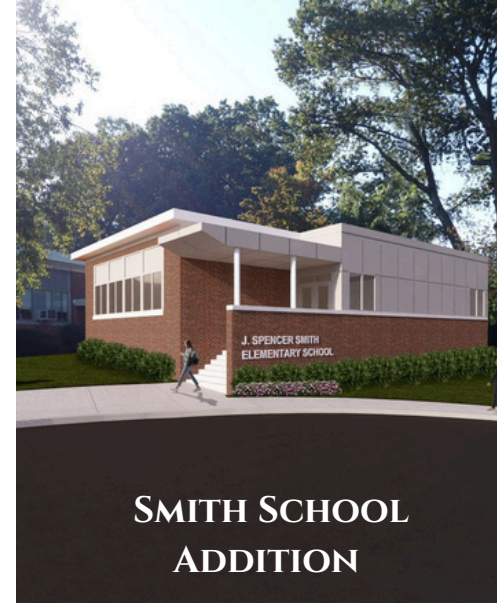


HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM



HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE

WHAT'S AHEAD



STAFF INFO & MILESTONES

MEET THE NEW STAFF

Welcome

ADMINISTRATORS

Carmela Collazo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Allie Slane
Middle School Vice Principal
Arielle Coven
Smith Elementary School Principal

DISTRICT

Amy Ko-Tang
Assistant Business Administrator
Danielle Aglione
Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant
Patricia Daniels
Speech Language Specialist Leave Replacement

MACKAY

Amelia Strunck
Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Katherine McGinley
Teacher of Students With Disabilities (LLD 3-5)
Lindsay Rosenberger
Third Grade Teacher

MAUGHAM

Vanessa Johnson
Fifth Grade Teacher

SMITH

Alyssa Frost
School Counselor
Anna Gonzalez
Fourth Grade Teacher
Jasmine Martinez
Teacher of Students with Disabilities (MD K-2) Leave Replacement
Nicole Weaver
Fifth Grade Teacher
Paul Donevan
Teacher of English as a Second Language Leave Replacement
Saida Deljanin
Teacher of Students with Disabilities Leave Replacement

TENAFLY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Allyson Romer
Teacher of Social Studies
Anthony Sturm
Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Brendan Germain
Teacher of French
Christian Velazquez
Teacher of Health & Physical Education
Danielle Sibilio
Teacher of Health & Physical Education
Estella Barran
Teacher of English Leave Replacement
Hannah Grossman
Teacher of Mathematics
Madeline Campbell
Teacher of English
Nathan Schwed
Teacher of Music
Sauna Wennerod
Teacher of Chinese

TENAFLY HIGH SCHOOL

Angela Wilson
School Nurse
Colleen Walcott
Teacher of English Leave Replacement
Hong In Yoon
Teacher of Mathematics Leave Replacement
James Donohue III
Teacher of Health & Physical Education Leave Replacement
Jenna Meluso
Teacher of Biology
Jonathan Fung
Teacher of Biology
Megan Socas
Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Michael Garzon
Teacher of English
Michelle Steidle
Teacher of Social Studies Leave Replacement
Monique Batto
Teacher of French
Peter Kaplan
Teacher of Social Studies Leave Replacement
Rafal Krauze
Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Zachary Roth
Teacher of Mathematics Leave Replacement

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

15 YEARS

Douglas Bond
Thomas Crisafulli
Robert Caputo
Anju Kapoor
Beth Ann Wells
Matthew Kougasian
Amanda Oppedisano
Annunziata Parker
Agapi Schmarge
Matthew White

20 YEARS

Brenda Yoo
Androulla Gude
Susan Dindial
Rachel Barker
Allison Bross
Kimberly Burja
David Burns
Colleen Fernandez
Pamela Goretsky
Jane Grady
Lisa Greco
Carol Lee
Jennifer Shenloogian
Mireille Tang-Johnson

25 YEARS

Joseph Latiano
Bertha Weil
Wendy Damiano
Christian DeVries
Terri Eisenberg
Melissa Lennett
Lois Mayz

30+ YEARS

David Digregorio
Catherine Paz
Leigh Barker
Robert Gansel
Adam Rendell
Dawn Signorile
Tricia Lyons

Thank you!!

HELPFUL LINKS & RESOURCES



Please visit our [Tenaflly Home page](#) to find even more information about our schools!



500 TENAFLY ROAD
TENAFLY, NJ 07670
201-816-4500

WWW.TENAFLYSCHOOLS.ORG