



Red Bank Borough Public Schools

Dream BIG... We'll Help You Get There!

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For Immediate Release

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Living the Community School Model

In the Red Bank Public Schools, we firmly believe in the age-old proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Being a true Community School means extending our reach far beyond standard classroom instruction. It means transforming our school buildings into vibrant hubs where academics, health, social services, youth development, and community engagement converge.

When we support the whole child—and lift up the entire family—we eliminate barriers to learning and create an environment where every student has the tools and confidence to pursue their aspirations. Our tagline is not just a phrase; it is our operational promise: Dream BIG... We'll Help You Get There! This commitment was on full display on Wednesday, August 19, during our annual September Packet Pickup event and our two-day vision clinic on August 19–20, 2026.

September Packet Pickup began over a decade ago as a targeted effort for the Primary School. In August 2015, it expanded into a comprehensive district-wide initiative. Hosted in the Red Bank Middle School Gymnasium, this year's event ran across two sessions (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM) to accommodate working schedules.

Our community's response was unprecedented with 87% of families attending the event. According to Dr. Jared J. Rumage, Superintendent, *"There are so many reasons to be proud of how our district supports Red Bank families, but this event is always one of my favorites. It perfectly captures 'who we are' and 'what we do' as an organization dedicated to serving our community. People often view late August as the end of summer on the Jersey Shore, but looking out at the incredible turnout and seeing the excitement on our students' faces as they came back into our schools, it felt like a celebration from start to finish!"*

Event Highlights & Resources Distributed

- Administrators, school counselors, and school nurses were on site to welcome families directly and provide essential back-to-school information.
- Facilitated by teacher leaders, office staff, and our technology team, parents received hands-on support logging into the Genesis Parent Portal and ParentSquare, ensuring seamless communication for academics and notices.
- Families toured a large distribution area featuring books, school uniforms, and academic supplies, while every family received a reusable Red Bank tote bag and frisbee.

- Through our close partnership with the Parker Family Health Center, we distributed 250 pairs of shoes to families.

On **August 19 and 20**, the Red Bank Middle School Cafeteria transformed into a full-service mobile vision clinic through a joint partnership with the **Parker Family Health Center** and the **Vision Service Plan (VSP) Eyes of Hope Program**. According to Suzy Dyer, Esq., CHC, Executive Director of the Parker Family Health Center, "It is a privilege to do this work in such a wonderful community. Thank you to VSP, Trinity Church in Asbury Park and the Red Bank Borough Public Schools for being such awesome partners."

- Nearly **200 students and parents** received **FREE vision screenings and custom prescription eyeglasses** made on-site.
- Monmouth County Commissioner Director **Thomas Arnone** and Commissioner **Sue Kiley** toured the clinic, expressing high praise for the district's coordinated effort to prepare students physically and academically for the school year.
- We are actively supporting Parker Family Health Center in securing this grant again so we can bring the program back next summer.
- A very special thank you to the members of the Parker Family Health Center that enabled our families and students to benefit from this experience: Suzy R. Dyer (Executive Director), Dr. Roheena Malik (Recipient of the Dr. Stephanie Kirschbaum Living in Purpose Award), Ana Taylor and Jeanne Wagner.

The feedback from participating organizations underscores the power of our district's community partnerships:

"Thank you so much for having us, it was a great time meeting the families, and we got to hand out lots of school supplies left over from our Backpack giveaway!"

"Thank you so much for having us! It was a pleasure to connect with the families of Red Bank."

"Awesome numbers! I had a lot of fun :) Here's to a great school year ahead!"

"Thank you both for inviting us to talk to your families. I believe I made some great connections, and a few families were definitely interested in our services."

"Thank you for helping to make it all happen! A fabulous event with so many wonderful resources for families!"

"It was impressive! I'm glad I got to be part of it."

Over **25 community organizations** joined us in the Middle School Gym, surrounding our families with wraparound support:

- **180 Turning Lives Around, Inc.**
- **Boy Scouts**
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Monmouth County**
- **Buccaneer Lacrosse Club**
- **Child Care Resources**
- **Community Affairs & Resource Center (CARC)**
- **Count Basie Center for the Arts**
- **Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore**
- **Hunger Free New Jersey**
- **Lunch Break**

- MMC Southern Campus SNAP Navigators
- Monmouth Cares, Inc.
- Monmouth County Parks System
- Parker Family Health Center
- Project Write Now
- Red Bank Public Library
- Red Bank Recreation
- Red Bank Resource Network / MHA of Monmouth County
- Red Bank Scouts Troop 67
- SNAP Gap Program Visiting Fellow
- Two River Theater
- VNACJ (Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey)
- VNACJ Community Health Center
- YMCA
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An 87% family turnout demonstrates that when we remove barriers and build authentic relationships, our community responds. By partnering with healthcare providers, non-profits, arts organizations, and municipal services, Red Bank Public Schools ensures that every child enters the classroom healthy, equipped, and supported.

Together with our Board of Education, staff, and village partners, we will continue to ensure our students can **Dream BIG... We'll Help You Get There!**

About Red Bank Borough Public Schools

The Red Bank Borough Public Schools serve students from Preschool through Grade 8 in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Driven by the "Dream BIG" philosophy and a commitment to excellence, the district provides a safe, inclusive, and innovative educational experience designed to empower every learner. We continue our journey to be the best school district in America and share our story with the hashtag #RBBisBIA. If you would like to learn more about the #RBBisBIA story, we invite prospective families to come learn more about our schools and our robust instructional programming inclusive of academics, arts, athletics, and extra-curricular activities. Feel free to contact us at 732.758.1507 or visit www.rbb.k12.nj.us to schedule a tour at your convenience.

Red Bank, NJ – September 25, 2026





