

NEWS RELEASE



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Science Park High School in Newark, New Jersey Named National Blue Ribbon School

October 29, 2009, Newark, NJ---Newark Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Clifford B. Janey announced today that Science Park High School has received The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools award. This prestigious award is given to schools that are academically superior and have made significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

As one of Newark's premiere magnet schools, Science Park High School's curriculum exemplifies research-based approaches. All science courses, except for electives offered on site meet for 450 minutes per week. Students follow an academic track as 7th and 8th graders and one for incoming 9th graders. The first track includes Physics, Chemistry and AP courses at Essex County College or the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

The second track includes Earth/Space/Life Science Systems, Physics, Chemistry as well as AP courses at local colleges. "Many of our partnerships were formed decades ago and have allowed our students to take college courses while in high school. These partnerships have also given our students the chance to work alongside PHD students at UMDNJ-giving our students an advantage over most other high schools nationwide," said Lamont Thomas, current principal of Science Park High School.

Science Park High School has also been the recipient of numerous grants from major corporations including Toshiba. The "Build Your Own Green Building" project gave students the opportunity to build working models to simulate the school's solar and geothermal systems. Superintendent Janey proudly said, "It is through these types of grants and partnerships that our students will be able to compete globally. They are at the forefront of academic experiences that will prepare them for careers as scientists, doctors and engineers."

Former [retired] principal Christine Taylor stated, "I am so proud of my students and their hard work. As a principal, I was honored to work with a dedicated staff who constantly challenged students to excel and seek opportunities not limited to the classroom."

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