

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES - OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

### RISING SENIORS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AT BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE

#### 10-Day Summer Program

Over the summer of 2021, twenty rising seniors had the opportunity to participate in a 10-day College to Career Readiness program at Bloomfield College. The Class of 2022 was able to immerse themselves in different

activities such as the college search and application process. The students also met with Bloomfield College staff (e.g. Admissions, Residential Education and Housing, Center for Student Success, Writing Center,

Athletics and the Wellness Center) to explore the various components involved in transitioning to college life.

The students also participated in a distinguished career panel that was organized by the NBOE. In this panel discussion, topics including how to interview,

networking, professional development and how to become a leader was addressed. This engagement with industry leaders provided students with information on career readiness expectations.

Following the completion of the program, students were surprised with a certificate of

acceptance to Bloomfield College during the closing-day ceremony.

**“IT WAS HIGHLY STIMULATING FOR THE STUDENTS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE.”**  
**MARCHETA P. EVANS**  
**COLLEGE PRESIDENT**



#### EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- [NBOE Support Spa](#)
- [Suggested Climate and Culture Annual Calendar](#)
- [FAFSA Fall Series 2021](#)
- [Anti-Bullying Prevention Resources](#)
- [Rainbows for all Children Services Overview](#)
- [McKinney Vento](#)
- [Crisis Support Checklist](#)
- [DCP&P Teacher Desk Reference](#)
- [HIB Process Overview](#)
- [High School Voter Registration](#)

## MAYASA “TO WALK WITH PRIDE”

### SST/I&RS – Providing an Ecosystem of School-wide Support

The NBOE is expanding their partnership with Suzy Batcha of Mayasa to provide SST/I&RS supports and professional development for the district. Over the summer, Ms. Batcha presented at the Superintendent Summer Conferences to provide an overview and purpose of Student Support Teams (SST) and Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS). In this overview,

district leaders were shown the importance of building a collaborative community of support and learning.

Included in this partnership, this school year, Ms. Batcha will be conducting monthly training sessions with district student support staff to deepen their understanding of the impact that adversity has on brain development, learning and

behavior to enhance utilization of trauma informed care interventions and school-wide practices. This unified relationship is designed to create opportunities for behavior support staff to be active partners in the refinement and standardization of district wide SST and I&RS practices within the NBOE.

## PROJECT PREVENT

### Providing Tools and Skills to Deal with Trauma

The NBOE entered their second year of a 5-year grant, Project Prevent Newark. This grant has allowed for a multi-tiered system of supports that focuses on creating culturally responsive learning environments, and builds the social emotional learning capacity of teachers and students. Additionally, the supports increase mental health counseling services for students to ensure they are equipped with the tools/skills needed to deal with trauma in order to break the cycle of violence prevalent in Newark communities.

In the grants second year, the NBOE will be working with a new cohort of six schools

(Belmont Runyon, Speedway, McKinley, South Street, Sussex Avenue and Weequahic HS). As part of the grant, the NBOE will be continuing their partnerships with Rethink Ed, Rutgers UBHC, Culturally Relevant Education (Dr. Knight and Dr. Marciano) and Project U.S.E. These continued partnerships will expand outreach to students coping with trauma, providing professional development and curriculum that provides behavioral supports, conflict resolution and culturally-responsive learning strategies to promote a safer and improved school environment.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

### Promoting Civic Responsibility and Engagement

In collaboration with the Mayor's Office, voter registration drives occurred during the months of September and October to promote civic responsibility and engagement. Eligible high school students registered for the November 2, 2021 election.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-27, The High School Voter Registrations Law requires districts to provide

eligible voters registration materials, a summary of voter registration eligibility requirements, materials describing the role of a citizen, and materials articulating the importance of voting to all eligible high school students. To that end, all high schools have a resource link that provides students with access to this required information on their homepage.

# RETHINK ED IN USE

## Summer Learning and SEL



As part of the NBOE's Summer Enrichment Program, students throughout the district were able to participate in a 6-week Summer Learning and SEL program. This program infused the Rethink Ed SEL curriculum to support social emotional wellness through interactive lessons and activities. All the lesson activities can be found in Rethink Ed's Social Emotional Learning Platform.



The lessons are user friendly and comes with an introduction to the topic with a student video, a short practice activity, and an extended Dive Deeper activity.

Throughout this program, students had the opportunity to focus on SEL competencies, such as, Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness, Relationship and Social Skills.



Students also tapped into their critical thinking and creative skills by applying what they have learned to create Happy Monster emotional wheels and Support System Octopuses. The summer SEL program afforded students with the opportunity to apply skills that can be used for calming and grounding one's self through meditation and yoga.



## QUITMAN STREET CREATES "PEACEFUL PEACOCKS"

SEL in practice by  
creating calming corners

Ms. Rosemary Coyle, Social Worker 2, at Quitman Street Elementary was awarded funding from the Office of Student Life to be applied towards social emotional instructional aids and supplies for students.

As a result, Ms. Coyle purchased supplies and created SEL baskets and welcome back peacock



bags to be utilized by students in the Calming Corner. The theme for the baskets was the Peaceful Peacocks. These baskets and welcome back bags included notebooks, stickers, pencils and informational brochures on school attendance and bullying prevention.

## WEEK OF RESPECT

Celebrating and Educating Awareness  
Anti Bullying Prevention Month



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL**

Throughout the district, schools raised awareness for Anti Bully Prevention Month and to celebrate the Week of Respect.

At Benjamin Franklin School, students and staff wore tie-dye shirts and created artwork.

Camden Street Elementary incorporated ELA strategies into their Week of Respect, as well as, rocked out their "Be a Hero and Not a Bully" gear.

At the Central Office, 765 Broad Street, people demonstrated their spirit by wearing blue, posting Acts



of Kindness on the Padlet wall and ended the week by sporting their crazy socks to stomp out bullying.



**ABINGTON AVE -  
WILMA DAVIS AND FAMILY**

## FAFSA/NJAFSA GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

NBOE Requires Completion of FAFSA/NJAFSA,  
Effective with the Class of 2022

Effective with the Class of 2022, the NBOE has revised the High School Graduation Requirements to include the completion of the FAFSA/NJAFSA application. Research has indicated that two-thirds of almost all living wage jobs will require a postsecondary credential. Training for credentials can be expensive and entrance applications and process can be challenging. To continue with their commitment to support and prepare students for college and career readiness, the NBOE will assist students and families with successfully completing the process. Throughout the school year, the Office of Student Life in partnership with the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, will provide

virtual parent FAFSA Workshops to assist with understanding and completing the application process.

By completing the FAFSA, students gain access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or vocational school. Students can also be considered for federal financial aid, grants, work-study programs and loans. Research shows that students who complete the FAFSA or more likely to go to college and persist through graduation. Students with financial aid assistance, have a greater chance of completing postsecondary educational programs and achieving their economic, career and personal goals.

## HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES BEGIN

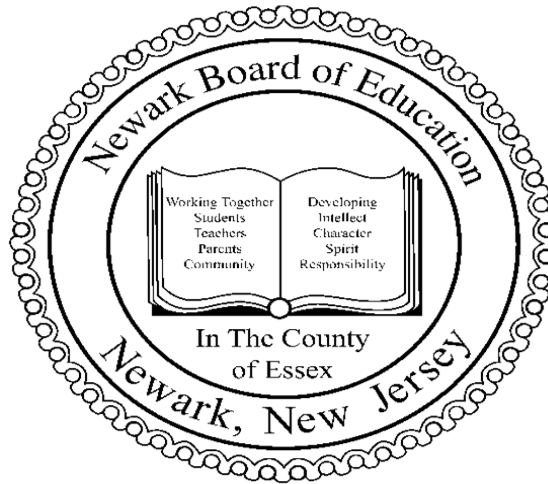
Recruitment Activities for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

School counselors and social worker 2s posted and promoted the upcoming open houses at Newark School of Global Studies, Malcolm X Shabazz, Newark School of Data Science and Information Technology, Newark

Vocational, and Weequahic High Schools. Flyers were created with a focus on the career and technical education opportunities afforded at each school. QR codes were provided to register for each

open house. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders were encouraged to register and attend multiple open houses with their parent/guardians to determine the best fit before the application process begins on Saturday, November 13, 2021.





Roger León, Superintendent  
Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

**Student Support Services - Office of Student Life**

Carolyn Granato, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services  
Mary Leigh Harvey, Director of Student Support Services  
Mary Garripoli, Supervisor of Student Support Services  
Vernon Pullins Jr., Supervisor - School Counselors (Secondary)  
Jessica Silva-Olmo, Supervisor – Social Worker 2  
Rashon Dwight, Program Specialist 2 (HIB Specialist)  
Ana Osoria, Program Specialist 3 (McKinney Vento - Homeless & Foster care Management)  
Keisha Gifford, Management Specialist  
Bianca Smith, Clerk 3

The Office of Student Life (OSL) is comprised of school counselors, social workers, and program specialists. The department works collaboratively to provide wraparound services for students to be successful by addressing their academic, social emotional needs and acknowledging and addressing the differences among students.

Our mission is to advance student success and close equity gaps by ensuring students have the skills, supports, knowledge and attitudes to become effective students, responsible citizens, career oriented individuals, and lifelong learners.