



Back - TO - School

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STAR NEWS GROUP®
AUGUST 10 & 11, 2023



SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — AVON-BY-THE-SEA

Avon School chief welcomes students back to school

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Avon Tigers,
The Avon School District is preparing to welcome our students and staff back for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope your summer has provided the rest and vacation so rightfully earned. As our summer winds down, the thoughts, excitement, and expectations of a new school year begin to take shape. The promise of a new school year always brings a welcomed fresh start.

We have used the summer months, working diligently, to prepare a rich learning environment that provides our students with the curriculum and activities necessary for even more achievement and success. The planning and preparation by our staff is in full swing. Attention to the academic needs of our students, their health and well being, and con-

tinued growth has guided us in our preparation for the upcoming school year.

The custodial and maintenance staff have been hard at work to ensure that the building is ready for our learners. Cleaning and painting projects, classroom furniture deliveries, as well as technology and equipment upgrades in our classrooms are all being completed.

The past few weeks have seen our Extended School Year and Summer Enrichment Programs get underway. And their success has continued thanks to the dedicated Avon teachers who are always there for the betterment of our students. This year, programs will be available for our students to help support them and their emotional well being. Our Social Emotional Learning curriculum, alongside our peer led leadership movement, will help us continue providing a well empowered student body that positively impacts the community. "Flex" courses, school clubs and activities, and student participation in a variety of after school opportunities will allow students to expand their interests outside of the traditional academic setting.

students and parents to the Avon Elementary School family. This year we will continue to offer Bridge Care for our preschool children at the end of the day.

Joining us this year is our new first grade teacher, Ms. Julia Sullivan and our new reading specialist, Mrs. Sharon Cumiskey.

We will be implementing our new strategic plan and mission statement which was developed with the help of our community members. It is important to recognize the hard work and dedication of all our Board Members, the Avon Home & School Association, our Education foundation, our teachers and staff that continually support and help create such a rich learning experience for students here at Avon Elementary School.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer. We are all looking forward to seeing each and every one of you for the start of another great school year! The Avon School District continuously strives to cultivate respectful, responsible, and caring students who are empowered to think creatively and critically and work collaboratively to positively impact their community.

Michael-John Herits, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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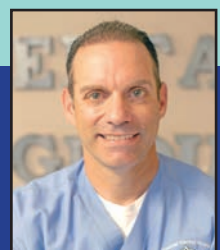
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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — POINT BEACH

Point Pleasant Beach superintendent previews 2023-2024 school year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Garnet Gull School Community Members,

In just a few short weeks the Point Pleasant Beach School District will welcome our students and staff to the 2023-2024 school year. I am hopeful that the summer months have given everyone the opportunity to relax, refresh, and think about setting some new goals to strive towards for this school year.

The summer recess gave us an opportunity to offer programs at a different pace. Following a successful Extended School Year program for students, we hosted Rutgers University's Advanced Placement Summer Institute for teachers. By the time you read this message, our popular summer bootcamp ramp-up courses will be near their conclusion, and both students and staff will turn all eyes to Opening Day.

Antrim is excited for the return of its "One

Book, One School" program, with themed activities embedded across grade levels and throughout the curriculum. This year we will also build upon our efforts to emphasize health and wellness among both staff and students. Supporting our staff and students' physical and emotional well-being helps sustain both high performing classrooms and a positive school environment. At Point Pleasant Beach High School, our dual-credit partnership with Ocean County College, Gull Flight School, remains a high-interest, high-reward opportunity for high school students, offering steeply discounted college credits and even a pathway to a college degree before students graduate high school. Over the past two years, families have realized \$1 million in tuition savings! The Gull 360 program will provide seniors credit-earning opportunities to explore career paths available in our community. PPBHS

will also launch several new courses this year, among them History of Rock n' Roll, Integrated Algebra, and AP Seminar. Our high school fall athletes and musicians will soon return to the fields to prepare for a Fall Sports season that we hope will prove as exciting as last year's. Our custodial and maintenance staff members have been diligently preparing and polishing our facilities so they look fantastic for our reopening. We encourage you to follow the latest information and see announcements about orientation events by visiting our website at www.ptbeach.com. The opening day for all students is Thursday, September 7th. I hope you will join me in cheering for the Garnet Gulls this autumn. I wish everyone a healthy and inspiring school year. Thank you for your continued support of Point Pleasant Beach schools.

Sincerely,
William T. Smith, Ed.D.



**SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BRADLEY BEACH**

Superintendent Heidelberg welcomes students back to school

STAR NEWS GROUP

As the start of the 23-24 school year rapidly approaches, the Bradley Beach Elementary School community is brimming with anticipation. Our diverse, small-scale learning environment, rich with a variety of programs, clubs, and supportive services, sets the stage for another exciting year of academic excellence and overall student success.

A cornerstone of our student development strategy this year will be the introduction of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. Specially tailored for middle school students, the AVID program is designed to equip our learners with essential skills for high school, college, and beyond. We expect it to enhance students' organizational capabilities and strengthen their academic foundation in preparation for tertiary education.

Moreover, we continue to champion advanced learning opportunities through our revitalized Gifted and Talented Program. Students will engage in a myriad of stimulating projects throughout the year, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. To address literacy challenges, we've also enlisted a

new Reading Intervention teacher, committed to bolstering reading proficiency among students requiring additional support.

We are proud to maintain a vibrant athletic program, offering activities ranging from baseball, softball, basketball, and soccer to cheerleading. Our commitment to promoting student interests and talents extends beyond the sports field, with an array of clubs and activities on offer. These include a student-run newspaper, a Computer Club, Student Council, Garden Club, National Junior Honor Society, Environmental Club, Yearbook Club, and a Safety Patrol.

On the artistic front, we feature several performing arts groups, such as Drama Club, Band, Guitar Ensemble, Chorus, and Percussion Ensemble, providing an outlet for creative expression.

With an eye on early education, we're thrilled to announce an additional preschool class this year. We are committed to employing an array of effective preschool strategies, ensuring our youngest learners are well-prepared for their kindergarten journey.

Our collaboration with local community organizations remains robust, enabling us to host en-

riching events like 'One Beach, One Read,' and our DARE program. Prioritizing student wellness, we offer support services including a counselor, and our innovative SOLE program that encourages positive character development among all students.

We owe much of our success to our dynamic, experienced staff. Our team has attended top-tier professional development workshops this summer, focusing on reading and writing instruction at Teachers College in Columbia and the AVID program in Baltimore. This experience, coupled with our low student-teacher ratio, fosters an enriching and attentive learning environment.

As always, Bradley Beach Elementary School accepts tuition students. Spaces are available across various grade levels; interested parties are encouraged to contact the school at 732-775-4413.

Last but not least, we extend a special thanks to our active PTA organization for their continued support of our school. Together, we look forward to a productive, engaging, and successful 23-24 academic year.

Michael Heidelberg, Superintendent



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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — MANASQUAN Superintendent looks forward to coming school year

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September, throughout my career, has always brought about a sense of newness to me. A new school year and its openings affords us opportunities and endless possibilities. As Billy Joel sang in River of Dreams, *"One thing is certain: Nothing can hold back the light. Time is relentless and as the past disappears, we're on the verge of all new things."* I hope that this letter finds you and your family enjoying the pleasures a summer break can offer. A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings - new classes, new faces, new materials, and the lighting of a new lamp of knowledge. Summer and vacation can be great healers; and as we approach the opening day of a new school year, the year-end pressures of June seem quite remote and inconsequential.

Beginning my tenth year as superintendent of the Manasquan School District gives me a sense of excitement

and anxious anticipation. We were blessed with so many examples of academic and athletic achievements last year thanks to the dedication and tireless efforts of our staff and students. The 2023-2024 school year will be a year filled with rigor and relevance in the classroom, paralleled with engaging and meaningful classroom activities. This year promises to be another magical year for the Manasquan School District. Students will be met with many challenges and opportunities helping them reach their full potential.

When the Coast Star reached out to me to construct a piece on the upcoming school year, it served as a reminder that the last days of summer were upon us. I for one am looking forward to the arrival of our staff and students who fill our hallways and classrooms with enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity. Administrators, secretaries, the technology department, custodians and other twelve-month staff

have been hard at work to ensure you return to a District even better than the one you left in June. When you arrive on campus, you will see a new roof on the High School, a newly paved lower parking lot, and construction underway on a new playground at the Elementary School. These projects represent the initial phases of the construction that will take place over the next two years made possible by the passage of the referendum in January 2023. Through the generosity of the Alumni Foundation and the Liv Morro Memorial Foundation, our High School auditorium has undergone a complete renovation of the sound and lighting systems as well as the installation of new seating. The support of these foundations and the community at large are what makes Manasquan such an incredible place to learn.

The mantra of the Manasquan School District is *EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION* and as Nelson Mandela stated, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* During the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to build upon and refine our proven foundation of good work, honored traditions, and continued excellence in education.





SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — SPRING LAKE

H.W. Mountz announces change in administration for new year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear H.W. Mountz School Community,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We hope this letter finds all of our families enjoying the remaining days of summer break. We are extremely excited to welcome our students back to the building. The school just is not the same without their laughter and smiles. We always look forward to the start of the school year with great anticipation. The energy the children bring to the school is a refreshing change to our quiet, but busy summer routine.

We would like to extend a big thank you to our custodial and secretarial staff. They have done an outstanding job preparing the building for the upcoming school year. Their hard work helps make our school a pleasant, safe and welcoming environment for students, staff and parents.

As we enter this school year it is important to note that the following administrative positions have been restructured to provide an in-depth focus on our district and school operations to support students' educational success. Dr. Stephen LaValva will be serving as

the Superintendent and Business Administrator. Mr. Daniel Layton will be serving as the Principal, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, and Board Secretary. Mrs. Natalie Levine will be serving as the Assistant Principal and Supervisor of Student Services.

We are excited to announce that we have also added some new staff members to our team at H.W. Mountz. Mrs. Michelle Mason will be joining us as a part time Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Mason will be working to support our students socially and emotionally, as well as assisting students in their

transition to high school. Mrs. Julie Maywalt will embark upon her journey at Mountz as our World Language Teacher. She will provide instruction to our students with a focus on learning the Spanish language and development in World Cultures.

This school year, our primary students will continue to be provided with Language Arts lessons that align with the Science of Reading in both decoding and encoding instruction. With the implementation of a new resource entitled Wit and Wisdom, students in grades K through 2 will be ex-

posed to various genres of literature while participating in robust conversations reflecting upon their reading and writing skills. Primary students will be asked to think beyond the texts they read to make further connections and enhance their comprehension strategies.

In addition, we are pleased to offer more challenging opportunities for math instruction by providing students the opportunity to accelerate learning through a differentiated course structure as they transition from intermediate into and during their middle school pathway.

Developing the whole child is a meaningful value at H.W. Mountz. In doing so, we are happy to share the continuation of robust, interest based middle school elective offerings for our students to participate in multi-sensory learning.

With only a short time left in Summer Break, we hope everyone is able to spend time enjoying fun activities and making great memories.

Educationally yours,
Stephen V. LaValva,
Ed.D.

Daniel Layton
Natalie Levine

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — POINT BOROUGH

Point Pleasant schools look forward to new year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Point Pleasant School District Community Members,

As we enjoy the last month of summer and look forward to a new school year, Point Pleasant Borough Schools are again booming with activities. The buildings & grounds crew is hard at work putting on fresh coats of paint, renovating STEAM [science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics] labs, waxing floors and preparing schools for September. Our student-athletes and coaches are hosting summer workouts and camps in preparation for the start of the Fall Season, and community organizations like Panthers Let's Eat continue to work diligently in support of those who need some additional help. School counselors and the administrative team continue to work with student schedules, ensure that teachers and students have what they need for the 2023-2024 school year, and revisit and revise procedures, systems and student support measures.

Our district will continue to focus on student learning and achievement in the upcoming school year. Teachers and school administrators led by our Curriculum and Instruction Department have taken a close look at the instructional model to leverage those strategies that have been shown to

increase student learning achievement efficiently and effectively. In the upcoming school year, our teachers and support staff will engage in teaching where those research-based strategies proliferate across all classrooms in all four buildings. Curricula are being revised to reflect standards-aligned best practices in STEAM, Media Literacy, Work-Based Learning, Essentials of Business Software and Computer Science. In addition, we will continue to build upon offerings for our reconstituted Special Education Parents Advisory Committee, and our teachers have prepared for the district-wide rollout of a multi-sensory reading program and intervention for students who need additional support.

With informational sessions such as Navigating Kindergarten Night and Advanced Placement Potential Night, our district will continue to provide families and, ultimately, students with support that will enable them to develop the skills and knowledge to successfully navigate through school, grade-level, and post-secondary transitions. Our Academy of Business Careers at Point Pleasant High School will see its first cohort of students in the 2023-2024 school year, and our School Counseling Department will further implement YouScience software to help students create

customized learning and career plans. Moreover, we will continue to examine opportunities for authentic learning at all four schools as we expand programs like our student support internships and work-based education, advanced placement, and dual enrollment coursework. Finally, with the elementary schools' counseling services and curriculum in place, our school counselors will revisit and revise how we assist students in navigating their middle school years.

Throughout their time in Point Pleasant Borough Schools, we strive to help students find their Panther Paths. We will expand upon the administration of the PSAT for students in grades 8-11. That information will be utilized to develop plans for individualized learning paths designed to challenge students in the most rigorous coursework where they can meet success. From floor to ceiling and the curriculum to robotics supplies, the STEAM Labs and coursework at Ocean Road and Nellie F. Bennett Elementary Schools have been renovated and revised to allow students additional opportunities to collaborate, consider, code, critically think, calculate, communicate, and create as we launch our 7-Cs initiative. Furthermore, through new

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BAY HEAD

Bay Head School to focus on student achievement

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Bay Head School Community Members,

I am excited to join the Bay Head School Community as the Superintendent. As I have

BORO

FROM PAGE 8

messaging options and an updated calendar, we look to foster additional family communication options while we continue to expand the opportunities and experiences for our students.

Our district is committed to promoting passion and resilience through diverse and challenging learning opportunities as we move beyond the trying past three school years. We will guide students toward developing leadership and interpersonal skills as a school community. Our teachers, counselors, support staff, and administrators will continue to help our students achieve their fullest potential.

I look forward to our ongoing partnership and collaboration as we strive to achieve goals and support our students. Take the time to enjoy the rest of your summer, and we'll see you when we welcome students back to school on Tuesday, September 5.

Sincerely,

Adam L. Angelozzi,
Ed.D.

come to know the area as the Superintendent of Point Pleasant Borough Schools, it has become apparent that Bay Head Elementary School is a unique place where students have extraordinary opportunities to grow and learn in a shore town. As we look forward to the 2023-2024 school year, we will focus on student achievement and well-being to ensure that Bay Head Elementary School will continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for all students.

Over the summer months, our Buildings and Grounds Crew have been hard at work prepping classrooms, waxing floors and tending to the facilities in anticipation of school opening in September. Furthermore, doors throughout Bay Head Elementary School are being replaced through previously allocated federal funds. In collaboration with teachers, the school counselor and support staff, administrative team members are finalizing schedules, classroom locations and curricula while also moving the district with some new initiatives in a new year.

This school year will bring about the implementation of the National Junior Honor Society [NJHS] for students in grades seven and eight. Creating an NJHS Chapter for Bay Head students shows our school's com-

mitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. In addition, the district will increase student opportunities and support through increased basic skills and enrichment programs for students in grades six through eight. New instructional technology that supports teaching and learning will also be available to teachers and students. Desmos and the Legends of Learning science and math program provide supports and tools that enhance the curriculum through exploratory and gamified digital learning environments. Finally, students across all grade levels will continue through the Positive Actions school counseling curriculum, which helps ensure students' well-being and a positive school climate by fostering an intrinsic interest in learning and promoting community.

Again, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the community of Bay Head, and I look forward to supporting the district, the school, the staff and, most importantly, the students in the 2023-2024 school year. Take the time to enjoy the rest of your summer, and we are excited to welcome students back to school on Tuesday, September 5.

Sincerely,

Adam L. Angelozzi,
Ed.D.

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SUPERINTENDENT’S WELCOME — SEA GIRT

Sea Girt Superintendent welcomes students back for 2023-24 year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Students, Families, and Members of the Sea Girt Community,

Hello, Patriots! I hope you are having a fabulous summer! It is going by very quickly!

It has been very busy here at SGES with all of the summer activities going on. We have had over 90 students in the building participating in Brain Camp, Summer Music, Lego Camp, Gardening Club, Archery, Pre-High Summer Reading, Pre-High Math, Monthly Munchies, Art Class, Babysitting Certification, and Welcome to Kinder-

garten. It has been great having students and staff here all summer. Outside, we have seen many of you participating in activities sponsored by the Sea Girt Boosters. Thank you to all that participated and helped to make this summer a success!

I cannot wait to welcome you all back on September 6th! I would also like to welcome all of the new families and staff members who have joined our school community. There will be a lot of new faces! Almost every classroom will have at least one new student! Many of the students were here during our summer programs.

I look forward to our ongoing partnership with the SGPD. As a part of a shared service agreement, we will have an officer assigned to the building every day.

I would like to let you know that in the Spring, the Board of Education voted to rename the gym in honor of Coach Frank Mazzitelle. The ceremony is scheduled for November 15, 2023.

All are welcome, family, friends, and alumni.

Have a great rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Mr. Rick Papera

SUPERINTENDENT’S WELCOME — BRICK TOWNSHIP

Brick superintendent welcomes students back to school

STAR NEWS GROUP

BTPS Students, Staff, and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back students, staff and parents! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We had a busy summer with facility upgrades, summer programming such as ESY and “JumpStart”, scheduling, hiring of staff, etc.

The 2023-2024 school year’s focus on performance indicators such as improved student and staff attendance, as well as best-practice academic strategies that assist in increasing student performance. Once again we will emphasize a learning environment that fosters student-teacher connections [“Student-Centered, Teacher-Led”] and where support systems are in place for all learners and staff.

First day for staff is Friday, Sept. 1. First day for students will be Tuesday, Sept 5.

Parents are able to access their child’s schedule via the Parent Portal.

Thank you for your continued support to Brick Schools!

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Farrell, Ed.D.



SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — WALL TOWNSHIP

Wall superintendent discusses new curricula for 23-24 school year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear WTPS Families:

September is right around the corner and we at WTPS are so excited to welcome the 2023-2024 school year! This summer our schools have been brimming with students enjoying and benefiting from our summer programming. I wish to thank all of the students that participated and the staff who amplified the excitement of summer learning.

WTPS has some exciting curricular endeavors on the horizon. K-2 educators will launch a brain-research, evidenced-based reading approach for emerging/developing readers. Also, the district-wide intervention program has been restructured in order to provide more targeted student services. Throughout the course of this school year, faculty will be provided with focused professional development on research-based instructional strategies that will support students in increasing academic achievement. Additionally, the WTPS community will be embarking on developing our 7 Mindsets! This K-12, evidenced-based, comprehensive wellness program will enable the WTPS family to strengthen our community connections through

common language and habits of mind.

On July 18, 2023, WTPS closed on the sale of bonds made possible through the passed referendum. I would be remiss if I did not thank the voters of Wall Township for enabling the district to invest in our schools and infrastructure. THANK YOU! As a result of the passed referendum, we were able to capture millions of dollars in additional state aid that would have otherwise been allocated to different school districts. Since closing on the bonds, we have been able to move forward with two major referendum projects. You may have noticed the replacement roof project at Wall High School and the parking lot project at Allenwood School are well underway. I invite you to visit

the "Referendum" tab on our website [www.wall-publicschools.org] to see photos of the progress to date. WTPS looks forward to continued collaboration with architects and other professionals on the design phase of other referendum capital projects throughout this upcoming year. For direct updates on the referendum projects and other important information, please follow us on your preferred social media platform [see website for details.]

We at WTPS look forward to welcoming our students on Wednesday, September 6. This upcoming year promises to be a great one!

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Handerhan,
D.Litt.Wall Township Public
Schools Superintendent
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Sat., September 2nd, 8am-2pm**Enjoy shopping Vintage and Antique vendors
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FALL APPLE FESTIVAL

**Sat., September 23rd,
11am-4pm****Join us as we kick-off the Fall Season for
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Live Animals, Apple Pie Baking Contest,
Ice Cream, Live Demonstrations, History and FUN!
Pre-registered Child (4-12) \$4 & Adult \$8****Day of Event \$10****Hurry....We Always Sell Out!**

FALL CRAFT SHOW

Sat., Sept. 30th, 10am-4pm**Over 125 crafters spread throughout the village -
Local & Handmade Items!****\$5 per person 6 years & older****Rain Date: Oct. 1st**

Go to AllaireVillage.org for more information, village hours & tickets to the above listed events. Events, dates, times & pricing are subject to change.

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KITE FEST
Saturday, October 21

TRUNK OR TREAT
Thursday, October 26

SCAVENGER HUNT
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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — LAVALLETTE

Lavallette superintendent welcomes back parents, students and faculty

STAR NEWS GROUP

Lavallette Elementary School is excited to welcome back students and staff to the 2023-24 school year! Our school district is the cornerstone of a truly amazing school community. Together with the support of the Lavallette Board of Education, our parents and families, the PTO, our partnership with the mayor and council, our police department, public works, and community organizations, Lavallette Elementary School is a thriving, safe, caring and academically challenging environment where students develop the confidence and competencies to become socially responsible, civic-minded citizens who think critically about the world around them.

Located just one block between the picturesque Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay, Lavallette Elementary School provides an idyllic setting in which students can explore the community and surrounding ecosystems in a classroom essentially without walls. Our students have access to the groundbreaking facilities that make our school stand out, including our state-of-the-art aquaponics garden, our innovative STEAM lab, and our daily focus on children's social-emotional learning. Known for our small class sizes with teachers who are passionate about providing the very best

learning experiences, our students enjoy learning environments that are rigorous, innovative, and customized to the unique learning needs of each student. Using multiple measures of data, our team of educators uses a research-based Response to Intervention framework and evidenced-based co-teaching practices to ensure that each student is challenged to meet their unique potential while providing the intervention or enrichment needed to do so.

What makes Lavallette Elementary School special?

Each day begins with a social-emotional framework, called Circle of Power and Respect, that builds community in the classroom and helps students acquire and apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Our Career Awareness and Exploration Program (CAEP) provides students with an opportunity to explore their own personal interests, talents and skills while learning about careers in the proper context. Through Career Speakers in the classrooms, lunch and learn with industry professionals and

career exposure in the community and beyond, students at Lavallette Elementary School build the foundation for learning about a vast array of career opportunities, and how their talents and skills can be matched to a variety of careers. As Albert Schweitzer said, "Where your talents meet the needs of the world, therein lies your vocation."

Our aquaponics garden and innovative STEAM lab provide a visual, hands-on experiential learning opportunity for students. Whether it's harvesting the 133 heads of lettuce grown monthly in our aquaponics garden, or learning robotics through Sphero, our curriculum encourages exploration, imagination, and perseverance through STEAM and computer science. Learning comes alive when students learn about fishing conservation and aquatic resources aboard the Gambler fishing boat or whale watching excursions.

Our curricular, co- and extracurricular activities provide a comprehensive menu of learning experiences for students, including school-wide literacy projects, related arts, meaningful field trips, and athletics for students in grades 6-8. Our Summer STEAM Camp and After School Academy extend the learning beyond the

SEE LAVALLETTE PAGE 13

**LAVALLETTE**

FROM PAGE 12

school day for students to ensure higher levels of academic excellence.

We are proud to offer New Jersey's first and currently only Montessori Preschool program for both Lavallette residents and out-of-district families. Our program follows the highest standards for Montessori implementation through the support of Montessori Public Works, with AMI-trained teachers.

Our preschool tuition costs are comparable to other public preschool programs, and a fraction of the cost of private Montessori programs, without sacrificing quality. Discounted tuition rates are given to Lavallette and Seaside Park residents.

The Lavallette Board of Education, our teachers, staff, and administrators are committed to unlocking the potential in every student we serve. Partnerships between school and home are powerful drivers of student success and we look forward to working TOGETHER with our families as we focus on providing every child the highest quality education. We are currently accepting applications for tuition students.

In partnership with our school community, Lavallette School District is committed to providing and preserving a safe and personalized environment where each student embraces learning and strives for excellence.

Leadership, Achievement, Values, and Aspirations...We are #LavaProud!

Dr. Lisa J. Gleason, Superintendent

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
WELCOME — BRIELLE**

Superintendent welcomes back students and new faculty

STAR NEWS GROUP

I am honored to have been selected as the Superintendent/Principal of Brielle Elementary school and I look forward to my first year of service in the district. I am excited to lead the advancement of the vision and mission of Brielle Elementary School, and I truly appreciate the warm welcome from the community. I eagerly anticipate working with the professional staff, families, and students to create experiences that foster a lifelong love of learning.


It has been a very busy summer at Brielle Elementary School. Our students were involved in a variety of great programming, and our staff engaged in a range of professional activities that will enhance students' learning experiences throughout the next school year. Our maintenance and custodial staff have worked diligently to make preparations for September, and our office staff has contributed tremendously to ensuring a smooth start to the school year.

We are looking forward to the addition of the following new staff members to our school community: Nancy Pearson, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruc-

tion, Meaghan Caulfield, Speech Language Specialist, John Morris, social studies teacher, and Summer Smith, fourth grade teacher.

As we move into the new school year, I would like to thank the Board of Education and all stakeholders who support our efforts to provide students with an excellent education. The partnership with our school and community organizations contributes to the success of our mission, and we look forward to a productive and successful school year for the students of Brielle.

Sincerely,
Stacie Poelstra
Superintendent/Principal


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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BELMAR

Belmar superintendent previews new school year

Dear BES Families,
On behalf of the Belmar School District administration, faculty, and staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our students and their families as we begin the 2023-24 school year. We are looking forward to working with you to ensure our children achieve their highest potential.

Our recent strategic plan continues to guide BES as we forge a path into this school year. We are looking forward to leveraging both internal growth data along with state testing results to pinpoint our areas of need and celebrate our achievements. Creative scheduling structures and an all-hands-on-deck approach will assist us in meeting the individual needs of all of our students, helping them flourish in the coming years.

Belmar Elementary School has continued to make significant upgrades to our facilities. The flooring in all of our bathrooms has been upgraded to an epoxy-based floor, making maintenance

and sanitation more streamlined and effective. A new roofing system was installed in the center flat roof to repair recent issues and offer protection for the BES gym and our recently renovated auditorium. We are also looking forward to utilizing our increased outdoor seating this fall when students return.

In preparation for the 2023-24 school year opening, please log in to the Genesis Parent Portal, which will be open on Monday, August 21, 2023. Please complete the necessary documents and forms to view your child's classroom placement. If you require assistance accessing Genesis Parent Portal, please email helpdesk@belmar.k12.nj.us.

"Inspired, United, Prepared, Soaring to Excellence." Our motto represents the shared vision of our BES school family and is fostered by a leadership team that promotes a nurturing and academically challenging school environment. We will continue to promote

positive Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons and the SOAR program will continue to play a significant role in our instructional plan.

Our first school day for students is Wednesday, September 6, 2023. On September 6th, 7th, and 8th we will have a 12:30 dismissal. Lunch will be available on those days. September 11th is the start of our full-day schedule from 8:05 -2:55 for students in grades K-8 and 8:05-2:00 for all students in preschool. Breakfast will be available to students from 7:40 to 8:00 in the large cafeteria.

We look forward to meeting all of our families at Back To School Night on Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Mr. Jimmy Alvarez, Superintendent

Mrs. Sarah Wilton, Principal

Mrs. Lauren Vasile, Director of PreK/Supervisor of Special Services

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS

Heights superintendent touts renovations, welcoming students

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Spring Lake Heights Families,

We hope your summer break has been one filled with relaxation and memorable experiences! It has been nice to not have to plan for any pandemic-related issues this summer and truly focus on preparing for another amazing year filled with great educational experiences for our students.

In addition to all of the planning for the reopening of the SLH school building, we have some exciting upgrades/renovations that have taken place as well. Bathroom floors have been upgraded and repaired in most of the bathrooms. We have new audio visual systems being installed in both the cafeteria and the gymnasium. Our parking lot is getting a fresh coat of sealer and fresh paint before the school year begins.

A positive home-school connection is essential to the success of our students. We encourage you to stay actively involved in your child's studies as well as the activities in which they participate. Your support is paramount to their success both in and out of school. We are fortunate to have numerous ways for you to stay in touch with the happenings of SLHS through our school website, Face-

book, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Please consider "following" these accounts in an effort to stay as up to date as possible. Additionally, we encourage you to stay involved with our incredible PTA which has been hard at work this summer planning fun and exciting activities for your children. We have also begun our work with our Community Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and look forward to the great ideas that will come from this important work.

Our amazing custodial team has been working diligently all summer to keep the building in great shape. Walls have been painted, floors shined, windows cleaned and everything else scrubbed from top to bottom. We'd like to publicly thank our custodial team of Bert, Tim, Keith, Dave, Craig and Rick for all of their hard work this sum-

mer and throughout the school year.

We want to also make sure that we thank the office staff for their dedication to our students, faculty, and the community. Their hard work ensures that SLHS is ready for a smooth opening each September and operates efficiently all year long. Thank you Jessica, Cheryl, Kate and Lindsay.

As you can tell, there are many things to be excited about as we get closer to the 2023-24 school year. Overall, we look forward to the start of school as our district continues to embody our motto: Preparation. Pride. Possibilities. At SLH, the possibilities for our students are endless and we cannot wait to begin exploring them together. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

The SLH Administrative Team,
John Spalthoff & Danielle Holter



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Boro school chief gives update on five-year strategic plan

STAR NEWS GROUP

Point Pleasant Superintendent Adam Angelozzi presented a year one update on the Point Pleasant School District's five-year Strategic Plan, "Charting the Course" at the Board of Education's recent meeting.

The presentation highlighted the district's progress in the plan's three core areas of opportunities and experiences, learning and achievement, and growth and wellness.

In the area of opportunities and experiences, the district supports students in finding their "Panther Path" through safe, inclusive, challenging and engaging learning experiences. Action steps taken in this area include PSAT administration to students in grades nine through 11, co-facilitating a county-wide AP curriculum and creating science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics [STEAM] labs at both elementary schools.

Additionally, the Special Education Advisory Committee [SEPAC] held monthly information sessions for parents, including "Introduction to SEPAC," "The Special Education Process: From Referral to IEP," "Parental Rights in Special

Education [PRISE] and Special Education Law" and "Making the Future More Secure for Your Loved Ones with Special Needs."

For learning and achievement, the district delivered a curriculum through research-based best instructional practices that foster teaching and learning towards enhancing student success, well-being and achievement. Action steps included a lesson study cycle, with teachers district-wide collaborating to develop common lesson goals and objectives and the first-ever STEAM Night held for sixth-grade students and their families.

Additionally, curriculum revisions are underway in the areas of STEAM, media literacy, work-based learning, essentials of business software and AP computer science courses.

The third area of growth and wellness focuses on providing students with support that will enable them to develop the skills and knowledge to successfully navigate through school, grade-level and postsecondary transitions. As part of the action steps, the district organized multiple parent information presentations, including a Navigating

Kindergarten Night and an Advanced Placement Potential Night.

A new business studies pathway, the Academy of Business Careers [ABC] was developed at the high school that allows students to earn a Business Studies Certificate from Ocean County College.

For year two, the district's action step priorities include cataloging and enhancing authentic learning experiences and community partnerships, exploring and planning the expansion of Pre-K and developing and refining communication strategies. In addition, the district will launch the "7 Cs" initiative, which will encourage students to collaborate, consider, code, critically think, calculate, communicate and create.

"I am proud of the work that our district accomplished in the 2022-2023 school year; however, the year one update of our strategic plan, 'Charting the Course,' represents a turning of the page as we look to refocus our efforts in the core areas of learning and achievement, opportunities and experiences, and growth and wellness," Superintendent Angelozzi said.

back 2 SCHOOL





Bay Head and Point Pleasant share school superintendent

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Bay Head Board of Education [BOE] unanimously voted to approve a shared service agreement for the superintendent's position with Point Pleasant Borough schools, at the meeting on Tuesday.

The position, to be held by current Point Pleasant District Superintendent Adam Angelozzi, was approved to become a shared service between the two school districts.

It comes via a recommendation from Bay Head Superintendent Steve Corso, who is set to retire at the end of the month. Superintendent Corso explained that in preparation for his retirement, the BOE interviewed many candidates, but decided to continue a relationship between the Point Pleasant and Bay Head school districts.

Superintendent Corso is also the Point Pleasant school district business administrator, hence the previous relationship.

"Adam is basically just going to take on the responsibilities that I had. Now he has to go through a process in Point Pleasant; his contract needs to be changed and so on and so forth. There are a number of steps they need to take in Point Pleasant to make it happen officially," said Superintendent Corso.

While the work on Bay Head BOE's end is done, the Point Pleasant BOE will have to approve this decision as well, and rework Superintendent

Angelozzi's contract. However, according to Superintendent Corso, the Point Pleasant BOE is expected to approve this decision. "Their intention is to approve. They like the situation; it is beneficial to both sides. I know the board is looking to continue that."

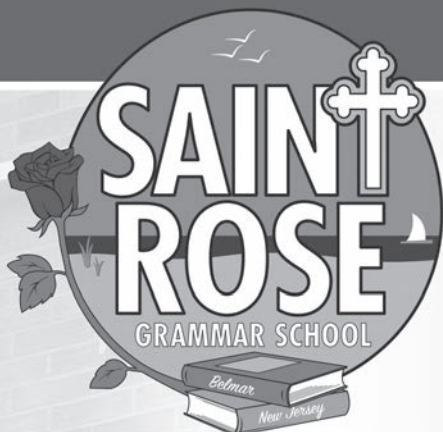
This is one of many shared service agreements Bay Head has held with not only Point Pleasant, but many other surrounding districts as well. Superintendent Corso said, "It is a good

thing to share resources. It saves Bay Head money, it makes a little bit of money for Point, so trying to expand shared services with neighboring districts helps us and it helps the neighboring school districts."

If approved by the Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education, Superintendent Angelozzi will start on Aug. 1 and his contract will run to June 30, 2024. He is expected to be paid \$4,264 monthly.

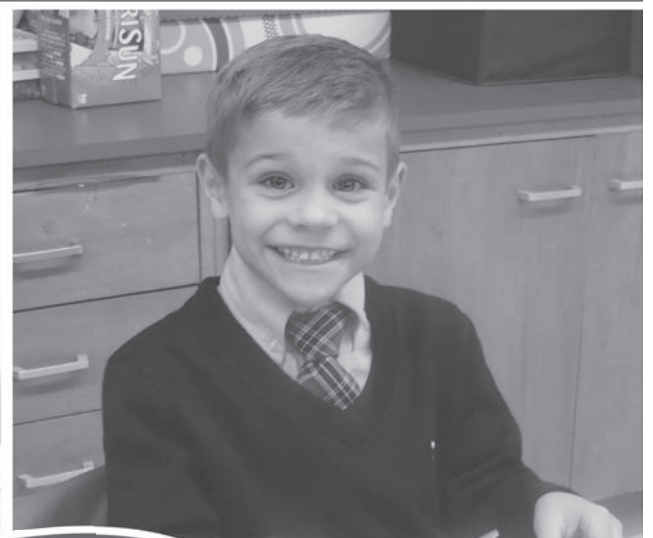
Superintendent Angelozzi said, "I would like to thank the board for their vote of confidence tonight, maybe a little premature to take a bow right now. This is step one of a three-step process. But if that three-step process works out, I promise to bring the same level of dedication and commitment that Steve Corso brought to the position."

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Manasquan outlines district goals for coming school years

STAR NEWS GROUP

Manasquan School District administration from the high school and elementary schools came before the board during the monthly Board of Education meeting on July 18, to present goals they would like to see implemented within the classroom.

“Because of the nature of our committee of a whole, we’re going to take a different approach,” said Manasquan Superintendent Frank Kasyan. “The administrators will come before us; they will present draft goals focused on different areas of curriculum, fiscal, technology, infrastructure and their draft goals will discuss each goal as it’s presented,

change it as you see fit or keep it the same.” “At the end of all five goals being presented, you have an opportunity to choose the goals you would like to utilize this year,” Mr. Kasyan said to the board.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Rick Coppola, director of curriculum and instruction at Manasquan School District, began by presenting the first goal for the coming school year as the International Baccalaureate [IB] Diploma Program.

The main purpose of this program is for students to take a higher ownership of their learning and also the importance of applying

knowledge as meaningful citizens, according to Mr. Coppola.

The application has been accepted and approved and the consultation phase of the implementation is underway. The district has appointed longtime high school English teacher Jamie Onorato as the program’s IB coordinator.

“Our next step in terms of administration of program leaders’ professional development plan, International Baccalaureate is very clear that they want to train all their administrators and teachers so they understand the purpose of the program and how to best serve students,” said Mr. Coppola.

Ms. Onorato attended a three-day conference in

Saint Petersburg, Florida to learn more about the program that is currently being implemented in other state school districts and how it would apply to Manasquan.

“We as administrators have a lot of discussions to plan with our coordinators, talk about our schedule, talk about our students, to talk about our goals, and they’re [IB coordinator] going to work with us to tailor the program in terms of course selections,” said Mr. Coppola.

The discussion of course selections for this program that will take place throughout August, will really drive the next step of the action plan, said Mr. Coppola.

“It’s giving a different perception, a different view of the world and the International Baccalaureate Program itself is going to create a different type of learning culture for those students who are actively engaged in it,” said Mr. Kasyan. “Because it gives them a global perception educationally and again, they go into subjects and areas of study they would have not naturally gone into either in the AP sections or the regular curriculum.”

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The district’s second goal was presented by Megan Manetta, the upper elementary school principal, and Jackie Puleio, the lower elementary school principal, with

a focus on increased student engagement.

“Our goal is to provide some really significant and targeted professional development and professional learning community [PLC] work in our communities to build a bank of resources and strategies to help our teachers best reflect upon the current best practices and really discuss how to improve student engagement in our classrooms all the way through Pre-K to eight,” said Ms. Manetta.

Ms. Manetta stressed the importance of looking at the school’s use of and limitation of technology throughout the curriculum to best serve

SEE **SQUAN** PAGE 19



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SQUAN

FROM PAGE 18

the students. Administration will encourage conversation with teachers about what student engagement and PLC looks and sounds like, and how to best practice it.

“What are the best tools, techniques, strategies that you can use in your classroom to make sure that you’re getting every child actively involved in that they’re engaged in their learning process,” said Ms. Manetta. “But also that they’re feeling connected to their teacher and connected to their peers and connected to the work that they’re doing.”

SCHOOL TRANSITIONS AND CAREER SEARCH

High School Principal Robert Goodall and Lesley Kenney, director of school counseling services, focused on a curriculum goal that smoothly transitions middle school students into high school and assists in career search outside of a traditional college path.

“[The transition] really is much more than just courses they’re picking and classes they want to take,” said Ms. Kenney. “It’s really about where their path leads them. We want to give more exposure to various trades and careers for students through different guest

speakers, site visits, counseling experts.”

The goal will encompass exposure throughout the lower grade levels towards the different options available after graduation, and introduce various different career paths at the annual in-house college fair to help make students aware of other options and paths towards success.

FINANCE AND CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Manasquan School District’s fourth goal regarding finance and campus infrastructure was introduced by Peter Crawley, the school business administrator.

Mr. Crawley’s goal regarded a \$13.77 million bond referendum that was passed at a January meeting allowing for planning and implementation of construction projects. The monies were received by the school on the day of the meeting, July 18.

“... Our building administration, teachers and staff to determine the best way to go about the construction, put together a construction timeline and in my mind, most importantly formalize what construction is going to look like to the classroom teacher and to the students,” said Mr. Crawley. “A lot of the projects are invasive and obviously going to wind up with a better prod-

uct, but they are going to require teachers to be swung out of the classroom for periods of time, so we have to coordinate with everyone who is going to be involved and affected.”

The reconstruction phase will take place starting sometime in November and running through mid-Spring or late winter. Significant construction will not begin until Summer of 2024.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE

Jesse Place, assistant superintendent of Manasquan schools, discussed the correlation between successful learning and the best way to ensure technology doesn’t affect the performance in the classroom.

Mr. Place’s goal is to look at how technology is being used, and then prepare a summary of those findings to decide where there is room for improvement and change among technology usage in the school building.

“But I think it is time, especially now, to take a step back and consider what are the strengths, what are the things we capitalize on, what are the weaknesses, what are the opportunities we can see some improvement,” said Mr. Place. “We need to talk about it with faculty and students particularly on the middle and high school levels.”



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Brick school chief's contract extended through 2028

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Brick Township Board of Education voted to extend Thomas G. Farrell's contract through June 2028, at the Thursday, July 13 board meeting.

Superintendent Farrell's contract was initially for four years with the 2023/2024 school year the last year of the contract, when he was on track to earn \$211,130 for the school year.

His new contract takes the final year of the initial contract and replaces it with a five-year contract that runs through the 2027/2028 school year.

The new contract will see Mr. Farrell receive a pay raise, to \$235,000, for the upcoming year and the contract provides a



FILE PHOTO STAR NEWS GROUP

Superintendent of Schools Thomas Farrell's contract was extended through the 2027 to 2028 school year at the recent Brick Township Board of Education meeting.

2.95 percent pay increase per year starting with the 2025 to 2026 school year. For the 2027/2028 school year, Mr. Farrell is set to make around \$257,000.

Superintendent Farrell first took his role in the district on March 1 of 2020, just before schools across the nation shut down due to COVID-19.

Brick Township Education Association [BTEA] President Kevin Bliem said, "There was no manual for COVID."

Mr. Farrell said, "When I came here, I said I was staying. I'm not going anywhere."

During the board of education meeting, members of the BTEA complimented Mr. Farrell on his transparency and visibility in the district.

Former president of the BTEA Ed Sarluca said, "We got it right four years ago, when we asked Dr. Farrell to join us."

Prior to Superintendent Farrell taking over his position in the school district, the district had 13 superintendents in 15 years, including interim-superintendents.

Tim Puglisi, who was the president of the BTEA prior to Mr. Bliem, said, "I worked with 13 different superintendents over the last 15 years. We need this continuity to keep things together."

Board of Education member Michael Blandina said, "I've seen a lot of superintendents come and go in the district, but I've never seen a superintendent so visible in the district."

WORK WITH STATE FUNDING

After the Brick district lost a combined \$7.24 million in the two most

recent allocations of state aid, Superintendent Farrell responded with a white paper criticizing the process and calling for solutions.

The paper, titled "The Paradox of the Current State of School Funding in New Jersey," follows the announcement of the most recent reduction of state school aid to Brick. That development was also decried by the township council on March 14 in a unanimously approved resolution described by Mayor Lisa Crate.

In his white paper, Superintendent Farrell states, "The state funding formula is not equitable and is flawed. The loss in state aid under S2, to certain districts has been further com-

pounded budgetarily by extreme inflation that has increased major budget categories such as health care, transportation, energy, etc. These fixed cost increases have far exceeded the two percent tax levy cap. This is the 'perfect storm' and we need the state's help. The state can change this."

The white paper focuses on the evolving results of the 2007 New Jersey's School Funding Reform Act [SFRA] and a 2018 adjustment known as Senate Bill 2 [S2].

SFRA was designed during the recession, when public school funding took a hit and New Jersey experienced

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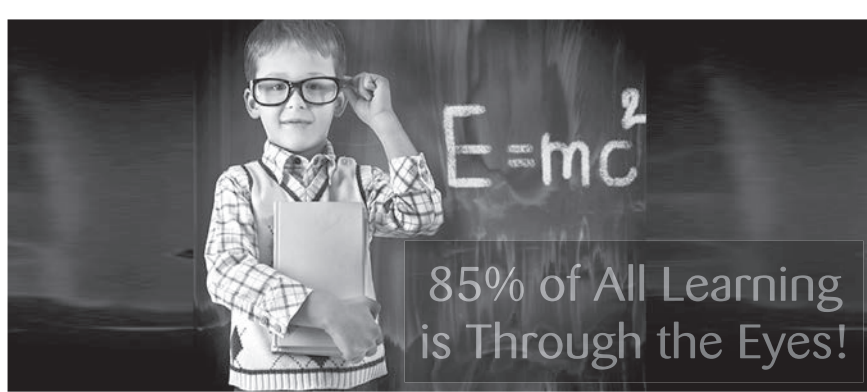


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**BRICK**

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a decline in property tax revenue, according to Mr. Farrell. It was designed to drive more funding to districts with lower tax capacity, but was only fully funded to do so in 2008.

S2, enacted in 2018, was designed to rebalance the state funding formula established by SFRA, which aimed to deal with the inequities caused by the formula, according to Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Farrell proposed a short-term solution that would have the state utilize some of the unspent billions in federal dollars received, for reallocation to those districts negatively affected by the S2 bill and thus below adequacy.

He said the state should also reexamine the way “adequacy aid”

is dispersed, repurposing such monies based on the last five years of school aid funding. It could also adjust the current tax cap levy for districts under adequacy, to provide further relief.

A long-term solution proposed in Mr. Farrell’s white paper would be a complete overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula, targeting it to provide a thorough and efficient education for all students by striving to bring all public school districts to adequacy — the base threshold established in the state constitution.

He argued that a larger federal role could help accomplish this without an overall disinvestment in public education in New Jersey. One element could be the provision of more Title III monies, which is New Jersey Department of Educa-

tion funding for districts that have experienced a substantial increase [two percent or more] in immigrant students and English Language Learning [ELL] students, both public and nonpublic, over the average of the last two years. Brick’s ELL student population has grown in the last three years, from 90 in 2020 to 450 at present.

The purpose of such “adequacy aid” is to provide subsidy to fill the gap for those school districts that are “under adequacy” and cannot exceed the two percent tax levy cap to raise further revenue for education.

The “complicating and confusing formulas” have created a paradoxical crisis that threatens to get worse if not untangled, according to Superintendent Farrell.

Guidance counselor coming to Mountz

STAR NEWS GROUP

The Spring Lake Board of Education [BOE] announced the approval of three new staff members to join the H.W. Mountz staff for the 2023-24 school year, at the June 30 board meeting.

The BOE unanimously approved the full-time positions of Julie Mayalt, Spanish teacher; Kara Deaver, school media specialist; and Michelle Mason, who will serve as a part-time guidance counselor funded through a district Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund [ESSER] grant.

ESSER grants were established as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

[CARES] Act in March 2020 to “provide direct funding to states and districts to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation,” according to the New Jersey Department of Education [NJDOE] In December 2020, ESSER II was created... [whose] core purpose ... is to provide direct money to states and districts to address the areas most impacted by the disruption and closure of schools caused by COVID-19,” states the NJDOE website.

This is the first school year the Spring Lake school district will implement a part-time guidance counselor role,

which, according to Superintendent LaValva, is a very exciting opportunity.

In the past, the district has relied on the school social worker, in addition to the help of teachers and other school administrators, to support the mental health of its students.

“Many in the school district feel an extra burden,” said Mr. LaValva in conversation with The Coast Star. “We all wear many hats.”

“Kids asked in our surveys [on school climate] for the opportunity to improve ‘interpersonal relationships’ and to navigate the difficulties associated with being in

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MOUNTZ

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a small school,” said Mr. LaValva.

Mr. LaValva further emphasized how the implementation of a brand-new guidance counselor role will allow for “further investigation and support,” as well as better communication between students and parents, now assured to remain confidential.

“Kids can go to the guidance counselor in confidence without concerns of consequences,” said Mr. LaValva, who referenced how teachers and administrators may be required by law to report certain information to the administration.

“We want parents to have an ally and advocate for their child...outside of the classroom,” he said.

“We want to make sure kids feel included ...

we are also calling from our nationwide Social and Emotional Learning [SEL] lessons within our schools.” The SEL-infused curriculum, according to Mr. LaValva, has been implemented in lesson plans over the last two years.

As the position is only for one-year and grant funded, Mr. LaValva said, “I am confident that it will be a great success – we want to work our way out of the grant and into our annual budget.”

Ms. Mason, who has experience serving as a school counselor with East Brunswick Schools, will join Mountz faculty and staff this fall.

On the administrative side, Mr. LaValva will officially transition out of his role as H.W. Mountz principal to become the full-time business administrator and superintendent of the district.

Mr. LaValva’s contract, approved by the board, stipulates his position as superintendent, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, and as business administrator for the 2023-24 school year. His salary will be \$155,000.

Mr. LaValva will replace Interim Business Administrator Joannette Femia. As announced at the June 30 meeting, Ms. Femia will continue to serve as a consultant resource for Mr. LaValva as he transitions into the business administrator role. Ms. Femia was approved by the board to receive an hourly consultant rate of \$95, in addition to serving as treasurer of school monies at the hourly rate of \$95, not to exceed six hours per month, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

The new H.W. Mountz Principal, Daniel Layton,

will start as principal and supervisor of curriculum and instruction on July 24 and will earn a salary of \$129,750.

Nataline Levine will transition to from her role as supervisor of curriculum and instruction to supervisor of student services and assistant principal for the 2023-24 school year.

The board also renewed their contract with BOE legal consultant Athena Cornell of Education Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC, as Board Attorney July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 at the hourly rate of \$170. Ms. Cornell currently presides as legal counsel at all board meetings.

NEW ‘BIG IDEAS’ MATH CURRICULUM

The board approved the following textbook/digital purchases in order

to implement Mountz’s new “Big Ideas” Math Curriculum for the 2023-24 school year: \$8,800 for the district’s Wit & Wisdom Great Minds PBC; \$882 for Grade 5 “Cengage Learning;” Big Ideas Math Virtual Training for grades Kindergarten through 12 for \$750; and Big Ideas Math for grades 6, 7 and 8 textbooks for \$11,905.95.

According to Mr. LaValva, the funding for the new Big Ideas math curriculum was included in the district’s annual budget.

The plan, which targets students in grades 5 through 8, provides 3 different academic paths for students to achieve a more advanced “progression of learning” based on academic ability, as reported by Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, Nataline Levine, at the May board meeting.

EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT

The BOE also approved a motion to submit an application for the IDEA 2023-2024 grant application for a total combined sum of \$111,396, with \$107,060 allocated for “IDEA Basic” and \$4,336 for IDEA Pre-K.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Office of Special Education Programs [OSEP] administers three formula grant programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]. The grants are awarded on an annual basis to “support early-intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, preschool children ages three through five, and special education for children and youth with disabilities.”

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EIGHTH GRADE MEETS FIRST AID

While their seventh-grade peers participated in their own youth council meeting Tuesday, June 13, the outgoing Spring Lake Heights eighth grade class took a tour around the borough, meeting all manner of public workers along the way. Here, they are all smiles as they finish up their day at the Spring Lake First Aid Squad.



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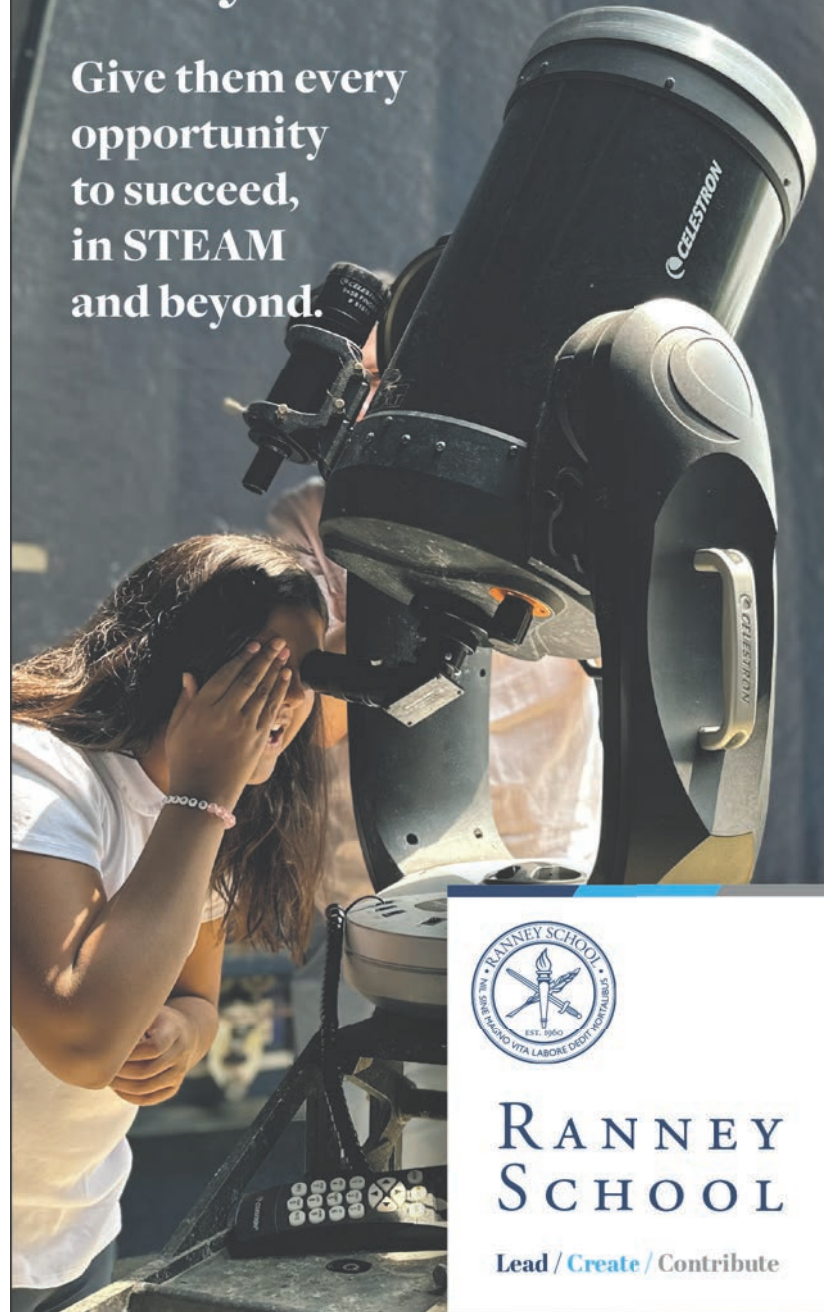
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