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## Superintendent's Message

### Dear Bound Brook Community,

Our schools were filled last week with the spirit of Thanksgiving! From a Friendsgiving feast at the High School to a family-style celebration at LaMonte Annex, our students, parents, and teachers joined together to express gratitude for each other.

We have so much to be thankful for here in Bound Brook School District. So, as we approach the December break and the start of a new year, let's indulge in even more gratitude?

I'll start by expressing my appreciation. I value our students and staff who show up each day with enthusiasm and excitement for learning and growing. Additionally, I am grateful for our parents and



community, collaborating with us to ensure that our students have the services they need. I extend my appreciation to our Board of Education for their commitment to providing outstanding educational opportunities for our future leaders. All of these stakeholders make up the driving force behind Bound Brook Brilliance, and it has been my privilege to witness them shine.

Please join me in expressing your gratitude to those around you!

Sincerely,  
Alvin L. Freeman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



## As Pre-Kindergarten Program Expands, One Alum Returns Home to Teach

When Jordan Todaro graduated with a master's degree from The College of New Jersey in 2023, she was ready to apply for her first teaching job. Each interview, however, was missing something – a spark she had felt only during her time as a student in the Bound Brook School District



"I was feeling connected to other school districts, but not in the same way as I felt at home in Bound Brook," Todaro explained. "Here, I felt supported and wanted to give back to the community that raised me."



Todaro then saw a pre-kindergarten teacher opening at LaMonte Annex Elementary School – and the rest is history!

"We have 35 students currently enrolled in three classes, and it's been amazing to see how much progress our students have made since September," said LaMonte Annex Principal Hipolita Hernandez-Sicignano.

Research has shown that public preschool programs can be highly beneficial for students. [One long-term study](#) found that students had higher achievement in language/literacy, math, and science if they participated in a preschool program, and that those effects were even more pronounced if the children had two years of preschool.

Todaro agreed that starting preschool earlier can make a big difference in a child's life and future academic success. She is excited to help shape and grow a new program for the district.

"It's a wonderful thing to be able to start the foundation process for these new students," she said.

Todaro recalls going to LaMonte Annex as a first grader and then progressing through all Bound Brook schools. In high school, she excelled in athletics – cheerleading, basketball, tennis, and

softball. Both her parents attended Bound Brook School District, as well as her brother and sister.

## More about Miss. Todaro's Journey from Student to Teacher

# CMS Knights Soccer Championships: Ending Inaugural Seasons on Top

New this fall, Community Middle School welcomed girls and boys soccer to its extracurricular lineup for students. The Knights made an impressive impact, winning two league championships in the program's first year. A total of 45 student-athletes participated this season on the boys and girls teams.

Coach Anthony Melesurgo, Bound Brook High School special education teacher and coach of the varsity basketball team, took on his first-year coaching soccer. He was impressed by the players' commitment during the program's kickoff.

"They worked hard this season, practicing almost every day we didn't have a game. I'm excited to watch this program develop and see the team progress even up through high school," Coach Melesurgo said. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls."



Last November, a question rolled in during Dr. Freeman Friday – a social media series where Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvin Freeman answers community questions. It was a request for more athletic programs at the middle school level, specifically for a soccer program.

Coincidentally, conversations surrounding bolstering athletics at the high school were circulating among the administration. One solution was to create more programs at the middle school level.

Seventh grader Megan Jannuzzi is proud of what the team accomplished in its first season and hopes to inspire younger students to get involved in the soccer program.



"We had a fun season learning and playing together. Winning a championship was awesome especially in our first year," Megan said. "We hope that kids in the younger grades see all that we did this season, and we want to keep working hard so they can be a part of future middle school girls soccer teams."

The boys team finished the season strong and won the middle school championship for their conference. Coach Ralph DeSordi, Smalley Elementary School physical education teacher and basketball coach, is excited to see what the team will achieve moving forward.

"These boys bought into the meaning of team from day one. Everyone wants to be a striker; everyone wants to be the one to score goals. On this team, everyone bought into their role," said Coach DeSordi. "They did what would be best for the team and that mentality is what made us so successful."

## More about the Boys and Girls Teams First Season

### Did You Know?



Over 20 middle school Robotics teams competed at **Bound Brook Bash** - a Lego robotics tournament hosted by Bound Brook High School's Robotics Team this month.

Bound Brook School District offers robotics beginning in grade 5 at Smalley Elementary School. There students work closely with the high school team while learning collaboration, critical thinking and exploring the world of STEM.

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