

# Updates Abound

December - Bound Brook School District



## Para traducir a otro idioma...

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## To translate into another language...

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## Superintendent's Message

### Dear Bound Brook School Community,

January is School Board Recognition Month – a time to recognize and celebrate the important role the Board of Education plays in the lives of Bound Brook students, teachers, staff, and their families.

As superintendent, I'm privileged to work alongside the 10 members of the Board of Education: Richard Jannuzzi, Michael Bal, Roger Zupko, Lisa Guzzino, Joanna Musson, Gagandeep Minhas, Sidney Dawson, Therese Sue High, Donald Vollmer, and Edith Lima. They each bring a unique perspective that contributes to the success of the district.



One key role of the Board of Education is to set goals and direction for our schools. This will be especially important as we begin to hold Strategic Planning community sessions to discuss the district's future. Please plan to join us at one of the sessions on Feb. 1, Feb. 21, or March 11 (see details in the story below).

I'm excited about how this process will engage our community to chart a purposeful path forward. Together, let's create a shared vision for the successful future of Bound Brook School District.

Sincerely,

**Alvin L. Freeman, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent of Schools**

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## Meet Mr. Earnest C. Wiggins - BBHS Alum Turned Math Teacher at CMS

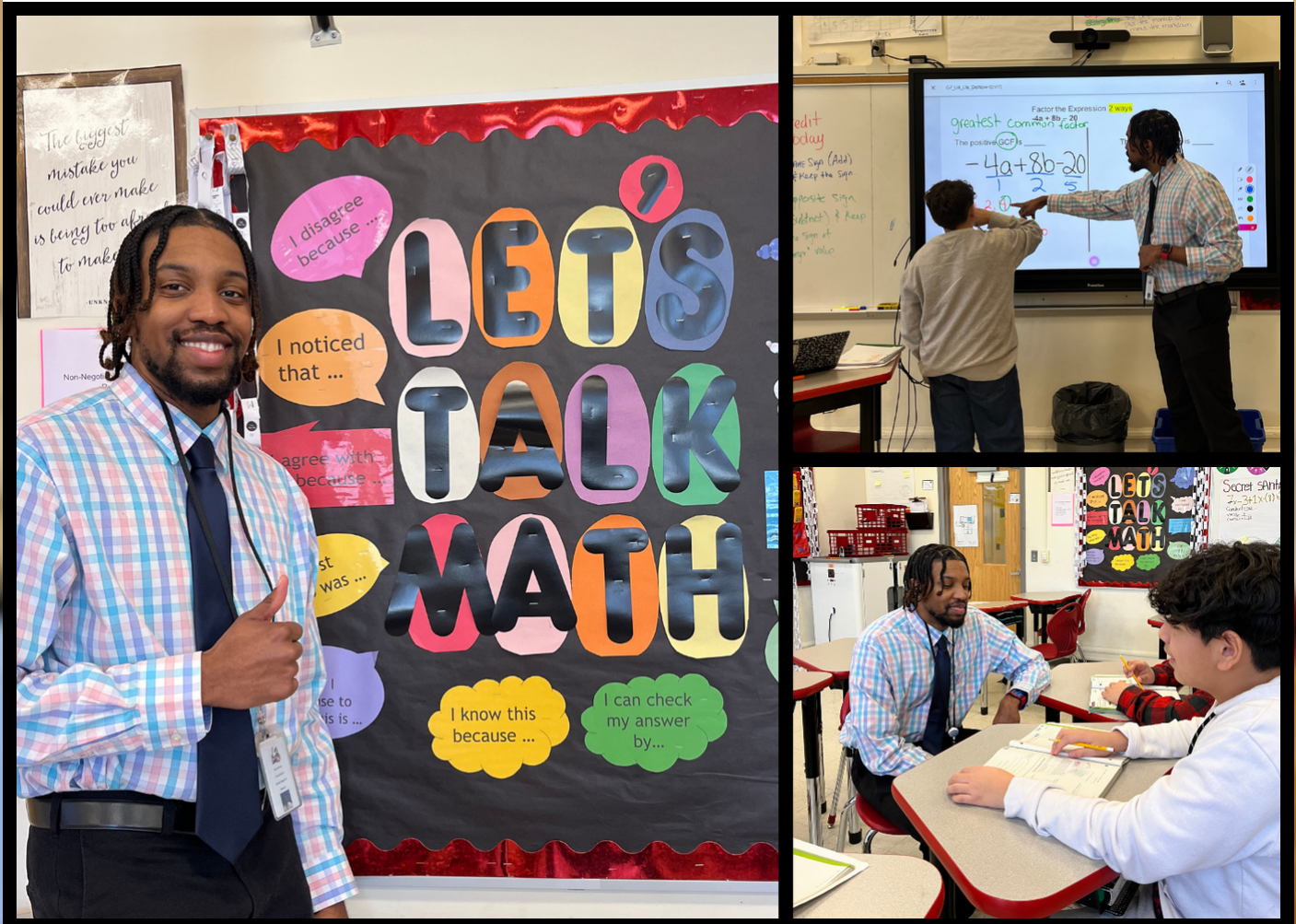
Bound Brook School District alum Earnest C. Wiggins III has always been passionate about teaching and math. The latter always came easy to him, yet it wasn't his first love. He thought he'd be a scientist. But then, a few things happened.

"When I was in 7th grade, I wanted to be in the math honors class, and I felt I deserved to be there, but the teacher said my (state) scores did not qualify me," Wiggins said. "That made me just push myself to get better."

By 8th grade, Wiggins made it into that honors class. The following year he enrolled in the Bound Brook School District's Biomedical Science Program at the high school. The classes were challenging. But, with the patience and encouragement of his math teachers, the former Bound



Brook High School Crusader succeeded. By his senior year, he knew he wanted to be a math teacher.



Now with a total of two years of instruction under his belt, Wiggins is eager to be a part of the "Bound to Astound" team that helped develop him into the person he is today. Indeed, that spirit motivates Wiggins to make learning positive, fun, and adventurous, using everything from scavenger hunts to real-life scenarios to bring his lessons to life.

"Math is being taught differently right now, even from when I was a kid," the 25-year-old Rutgers University graduate said. "Seeing students come up with their own way of doing it, within the parameters of the rules, is exciting. I like seeing how each student works it out, expressing it in their own way."

Like many educators, Wiggins basks in seeing that "ah-ha" moment students experience when they understand a lesson. It's likely why he can't yet see himself doing anything else for years to come. After all, it is, as he said, "kind of why I do this."

**Read more about Mr. Wiggins' approach to teaching!**

# Bound Brook Community Invited to Strategic Planning Sessions

The Bound Brook School District invites the community to discuss the district's future through three Strategic Planning sessions. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, February 1.

The district's Strategic Plan is used to communicate and outline our goals, mission, vision, values, and strategic initiatives over five years. Students, staff, parents, board members, and the broader community will work together to provide input on future direction for the district as well as current strengths and needs of the district.

The first strategic planning session will take place on Thursday, Feb. 1. The following meetings will take place Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Monday, March 11. All three meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in the Bound Brook High School cafeteria.

Please RSVP using this [registration link](#). The [full invitation handout](#) is also available.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING 2024**

01 FEB	PLANNING SESSION #1
21 FEB	PLANNING SESSION #2
11 MAR	PLANNING SESSION #3

All meetings will begin at 6 P.M. in the Bound Brook High School cafeteria.

**Learn about this exciting process to shape our path forward!**

## More #BoundToAstound Stories...



### Students and Educators Swap Spots at Community Middle School

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a teacher or school administrator? Students at CMS swapped places with educators to find out.



### Update: New Cafeteria at Lafayette Benefits Students

One year after construction began at Lafayette Elementary School, the new cafeteria is open and proudly serving students.



From trivia to a DIY math-themed ornament, spelling bees, and holiday movie screenings, the students-turned-teachers used the day before winter break to create lesson plans that would satisfy their students' need for creativity.

"It was a unique opportunity for students to be in charge of their own education," said Ms. Gonda. "Instead of being told what to do, they made the plans. Plus, the proceeds directly benefited student experiences."

For the first time in recent memory, CMS held the fan-favorite event to raise funds for student activities like the trip to Washington, D.C., and Medieval Times. Students who entered had the chance to assume the role of an admired teacher, security officer, and even the principal.

[See what the students learned from their time as a teacher](#)

The district broke ground on the 4,200-square-foot expansion in January 2023 and surpassed its goal by opening to staff and students on December 13 - **one month earlier than planned!**

The new space comfortably fits 256 students – and serves as a true multi-purpose space. All School Meetings – a monthly school-wide gathering – are easier in the space.

Jonathan Bal, a second grader at Lafayette, has watched the construction firsthand and noticed the impact of the cafeteria. "It's a good place to hang out with my friends and take a break from work," he said about the new space. Pizza Fridays in the space always bring a smile to the faces of him and his friends.

[Read how the addition has increased the functionality of Lafayette and plans for future events in the cafeteria](#)

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## In case you missed it...

Bound Brook High School hosted its **Academic League** home match on January 4! Nine other schools (Bridgewater, Montgomery, Rutgers Prep, Gill St. Bernards, Watchung, Ridge, Franklin and Somerville) came to participate in the Somerset County Academic League competition.

BBHS has two teams (Junior Varsity and Varsity) with 18 students. Please help us continue to cheer on Bound Brook's Academic League as the season continues!



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## Season begins for Team 56 - FIRST Robotics

Team 56 hosted its annual Kickoff event in the team's building space in the Bridgewater Commons Mall on January 6. FIRST Robotics Competition is a yearly event where high school teams across the globe participate in a six-week challenge. **BBHS's Team 56 is one of about 3,500 teams participating this year.**

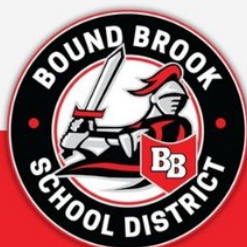
More than robots, FIRST fosters student creativity through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) initiatives while encouraging teamwork, communication, and other interpersonal skills.

[Read one student's perspective of Kickoff](#)



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## Let's Connect - Follow us on social media!



# #BoundToAstound

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Have a #BoundToAstound day!