



Updates Abound

December 2024 - Bound Brook School District



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Superintendent's Message

Dear Bound Brook Community,

In the spirit of the holiday season, I want to thank you – the staff, teachers, students, families and community members for making Bound Brook School District a truly special place. This community radiates positivity and resilience that inspires me as Superintendent.

The holiday season is a time to rest and connect with family and friends. Please take full advantage of winter break and indulge in time with your loved ones. Enjoy the well-deserved time for festive traditions or just to take a break.

While this is a joyful time of year, I also recognize it can be stressful and bring challenges. Remember to be kind to yourself, prioritize your mental health and recognize that you are not alone. The Crusader Community is here for you! Please see the resources available [on the district's website](#) if you or anyone you know needs help.

As we approach the end of 2024, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the unique privilege we have as educators and students: the opportunity to experience two beginnings each year. We have the start of the school year and the start of the new calendar year. I encourage the Crusader Community to embrace that opportunity, challenge yourself, and get involved as we begin 2025.



Have a safe, restful and joyous holiday season. I can't wait to reconnect with each of you when we return from winter break refreshed and ready to learn!

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

LaMonte community marks end of pre-k recycling unit with coral reef display

The halls of LaMonte and LaMonte Annex were turned into a majestic under-the-sea world as part of a special collaboration between school staff, students and families. The underwater coral reef display capped off the pre-kindergarten recycling unit and was an opportunity for the community to immerse themselves in the walk-through display at both buildings.



Families were invited to see the efforts of students and staff who used recycled materials to make sea creatures, plants and other underwater organisms. Blue streamers hung from the ceiling, while a bubble machine blew bubbles into the hallway as guests strolled through the event and took photos of the artistic wall displays on December 3.

The project marked the end of the students' academic unit about recycling and the environment, according to Pre-kindergarten Instructional Coach Kristin Redziniak.

Pre-kindergarten teacher Jessie Kilgore emphasized the importance of collaborating with families to collect recyclable materials. "All of the recycled materials came from the homes, creating a strong connection between the schools and families that allowed students to share what they were learning."



[Read more about how the project reinforced curriculum](#)

Bound Brook partners with Rutgers on New Jersey Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Bound Brook School District is partnering with Rutgers University to support full-time classroom aides and paraprofessionals who want to become certified teachers in the district. The collaboration is funded through a \$800,000 NJ Department of Education (DOE) grant to launch the New Jersey Teacher Apprenticeship Program in eight school districts across the state.

“We are incredibly honored to continue growing our relationship with Rutgers University and to streamline the path for classroom aides and paraprofessionals in Bound Brook to earn their teaching certificates,” said Superintendent Dr. Alvin Freeman. “Bound Brook’s educational support professionals already contribute so much to our schools and students, and this grant provides them with the financial support and mentorship to advance their careers as educators.”

The state DOE awarded Ramapo College and Rutgers University in New Brunswick \$400,000 each to partner with eight school districts. Funding will be used to offset the costs associated with tuition, books and materials, mentorships, and structured on-the-job training.

Chief Academic Officer Robyn Griffin said this opportunity is important to BBSD as schools across the state and country look for ways to recruit and retain K-12 teachers amid shortages. The program came from recommendations of the Task Force on Public School Staff Shortages in New Jersey.



[Find out more about this innovative program](#)

Bound Brook recognizes 10 Governor's Educator of the Year recipients

We are proud to recognize 10 exceptional teachers and educational services professionals nominated for the 2024-25 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program.

Each year, school districts nominate their educators for the prestigious award through the New Jersey Department of Education. The program seeks to create a culture that recognizes excellence and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.

The Governor's Educator of the Year recipients are:

Teachers:



Samantha Melesurgo
LaMonte/LaMonte Annex Pre-Kindergarten Teacher



Renee Jacobs-Grauer
Lafayette Elementary Speech Therapist



Gina Petrusky
Smalley Elementary Gifted and Talented Program Instructor



Kim Kredatus
Community Middle School Science Teacher



Joelle Smith
Bound Brook High School Mathematics Teacher

Educators:



Alma Pena



Stephanie Ackley



Lee Eaton

LaMonte/LaMonte Annex
Teacher Assistant

Lafayette Elementary Art
Teacher

Smalley Elementary School
Counselor



Genesis Picado
Community Middle School
Teacher Assistant



Deborah Paulsen
Bound Brook High School
Student Assistance Counselor

ICYMI: BBHS students make a big impact with Blood Drive

The annual blood drive at Bound Brook High School showcased the collective generosity and compassion of our school community. Students, staff and local volunteers came together to make a difference in local lives.

Organized in collaboration with the New Jersey/New York Blood Center, the event exceeded expectations, collecting 106 units of blood – enough to potentially save 318 lives in the community.

According to the [New York Blood Center](#), close to 2,000 blood and/or platelet transfusion donations are needed each day in New York and New Jersey community. Those in need of lifesaving donations include cancer patients, accident, burn or trauma victims, transplant recipients, surgery patients, and many more.

The Blood Drive Committee, Mrs. Boardman and Mrs. Belli, ensured the event ran smoothly, managing registration, providing refreshments, and offering encouragement to donors. Students on the committee learn skills like project management, teamwork, and communication that will be valued in their future.



#BoundToAstound Stories

NJHS Induction at Community Middle School

Congratulations to the Community Middle School students who were inducted into the National Junior Honors Society. NJHS is a great opportunity to develop skills that will help you succeed in high school and your future.



Spreading Holiday Cheer

Students at Lamonte/LaMonte Annex and Lafayette took a #BoundToAstound trip to the Brook Arts Center for a holiday movie screening.



Submit a story to Updates Abound

We're always looking for opportunities to share #BoundToAstound stories! Do you have good news about a student, staff member, team or club? Share it using [this Google Form](#). We may feature it in some way on the district's newsletter or social media!

Let's Connect - Follow us on social media!



#BoundToAstound

bbrook.org (732) 356-2500

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Have a #BoundToAstound day!