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## Barnegat Township School District

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# OneBarnegat Bulletin



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January 2023

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### Board of Education Goals for the 2022-2023 School Year

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At the conclusion of each school year, the Board of Education reviews the district's overall state in partnership with Administration, assessing priorities and setting goals for the upcoming school year. For the 2022-2023 school year, the Board of Education is focusing its efforts on academics, facilities, and culture & climate.

In Preschool through Grade 2, the goal is to maintain an emphasis on a strong foundation for literacy and mathematics. Indicators of success would be seen in data from the ESGI and STAR Reading Early Literacy programs. For students in grades 3-11, the goal is to improve student learning outcomes by increasing the number of students meeting/exceeding grade level expectations in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. This will be measured by comparing students' LinkIt! Fall benchmark (Form A) proficiency data with LinkIt! Spring benchmark (Form C).

The Board of Education will continue to explore fiscally responsible ways to improve the educational facilities in the district to provide the best learning environment for our students and staff. Tangible examples include, but may not be limited to:

- Demolition of the Edwards School building which posed a safety risk.
- Upgrades of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) in multiple buildings.
- Complete the installation of security cameras and door access.
- Complete the final phase of the Dunfee school toilet project.

This will be measured by substantial completion certificates for construction projects.

There were five common themes that emerged from cross referencing the results of the climate and culture survey and the focus group feedback. Five independent action plans were created to address each of the following:

- New Staff Transitions
- Perception of Workload
- Student Behavior
- Communication
- Relationships and Growth

Success will be identified by creating standard operating procedures for improving the welcoming of new employees, fostering collaboration to promote an environment of shared work, and improving methods of communication to teachers and staff. The Code of Conduct and Behavior Support manual have been revised and professional development and/or faculty meeting days will be utilized to train teachers on behavior management and de-escalation techniques. Administration will foster relationships and connection with members of the staff by listening, empowering, and engaging with them by implementing the 9 Minutes on Monday initiative district-wide and inviting staff members to various meetings and to sit on various committees. A Superintendent's Advisory Council has also been created to provide feedback and ideas for improvement in the climate and culture of the district.

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## District Testing Data

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It is no surprise that students across the country struggled significantly with learning loss during the pandemic. Teachers and students had to adapt to remote learning, hybrid schedules, and synchronous and asynchronous classroom instruction. During this time, the Barnegat Township School District prioritized in-person learning operating with strict safety protocols in place to protect our staff and students. Due to the tireless job of our teachers, the implementation of programs to support our students' social and emotional, mental health, and academic needs, and the reconfiguration of our schools, we were able to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic.

We know that nationwide scores in reading and math went down significantly as a result of the pandemic. The district has been busy gathering, analyzing, and discussing data across grade levels regarding academic achievement pre- and post-pandemic. This has been done by comparing New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) scores from the Spring of 2019 with the scores from the Spring of 2022. We have found that we prevented about half of the learning loss that similar districts faced. Whereas other districts fell by an average of about 12% in their ELA and Math proficiency, we only saw about half of that decline. This put us above average for overall ELA and Math % meeting / exceeding expectations versus those in our District Factor Group (DFG).

How is Barnegat doing compared to our peers? When looking at the data, we are doing great! Our Spring 2022 NJSLA scores have surpassed our expectations and we are proud of the work our staff and students accomplished to get to where we are today. The % meeting expectations in the 2022 Spring NJSLA are as follows for ELA and Math:

**ELA:**

- Grade 3 outperformed the state average by 8%
- Grade 5 outperformed the state average by 5%
- Grade 7 outperformed the state average by 5%
- Grade 8 outperformed the state average by 5%

Overall, students in grades 3-9 beat the New Jersey average for ELA proficiency.

**Math:**

- Grade 3 outperformed the state average by 3%
- Grade 5 outperformed the state average by 3%
- Grade 8 students in the advanced Geometry class at ROBMS outperformed the state average by nearly 20%

To date, the reconfiguration has had the biggest impact in the elementary grades, where teachers benefit from increased collaboration in their professional learning communities. These results are visible in a comparison of 3rd grade ELA and Math scores from state assessments, which have grown by +6% in ELA and +8% in Math from 2015 to 2022. The reconfiguration helped to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic. Teacher efficacy improved as a result of increased collaboration and implementation of best practices through the Instructional Coaches. Looking at NJSLA data for ELA and Math grades 3-5 provides a clear picture. In this data set, there are 6 indicators (2 subjects X 3 grades = 6 data points). Barnegat tied or beat the NJ average in 5/6 indicators and saw a smaller decline in student achievement than most students statewide.

For the past two years, the Board goals in the area of academics have been "exemplary." The average increase of ELA benchmark scores in grades 3-11 was 4.50% and math saw a 10.96% increase. Academics in the primary grades (Preschool through Grade 2) maintain an emphasis on a strong foundation for literacy. Indicators of success would be seen in the data from the ESGI and STAR Reading Early Literacy programs. The district met the targets on the following six out of eight metrics:

- Preschool ELA
- Preschool Math
- Kindergarten ELA
- Kindergarten Math
- Grade 2 ELA
- Grade 2 Math

Despite facing unprecedented challenges, the amazing teachers, staff, Instructional Coaches, and Administrative team have risen to the occasion and demonstrated their dedication to providing our students with the best possible education. Through their hard work and determination, they have ensured that our students received a quality education in the midst of a global pandemic. Their efforts are a testament to the importance of education and the crucial role that our staff play in shaping the future of our students.

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## Fall Sports Recap

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- The Marching Band and Color Guard took 1st place in the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships recording the highest score in school history! They were also the 2022 TOB Group 2A New Jersey State Champions taking 1st place out of 16 with a score of 95.290. They also received the Best Music, Best Visual, and Best Auxiliary Awards!
- Cheerleading took 1st place at Regionals and qualified for Nationals with their spirited game day routine.
- Boys Soccer was named the Shore Conference Soccer Officials Ocean County Sportsmanship recipients for the second year in a row.
- Field Hockey qualified for the Shore Conference Tournament and cracked the top 10 in the shore conference rankings.
- Barnegat was NJSIAA ejection-free for the fall. Sportsmanship was tremendous school-wide.
- Sean Haggerty finished 12th overall at the NJSIAA South Jersey State Sectional Tournament for Boys Cross Country with a time of 16:24. He also finished 33rd at the Shore Conference Championships at Ocean County Park.
- Football ended their season with a record of 4-6 (4 of our 6 losses came against teams that qualified for state playoffs ).
- Girls Volleyball ended their season with a record of 14-7.
- Girls Soccer ended their season with a record of 7-9-1.
- Girls Tennis ended their season with a record of 8-11.
- Field Hockey ended their season with a record of 12-4-1.
- Barnegat hosted the Shore Field Hockey Coaches Association Ocean County Senior All-Star Game on our turf.
- The Varsity Esports team continues to grow and we are so proud of their achievements.





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## UPstander Program

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The Upstander Program is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate students district-wide who demonstrate a specific BENGAL PRIDE trait. These traits continue to enhance the positive climate in our schools as well as the home-school-community partnership that plays an essential role in our students' success.

### November Nurturing

Josh Wood, BHS, Grade 10  
Angelina Marone, ROBMS, Grade 8  
Madison George, RLHS, Grade 6  
Brady Shaw, JTDS, Grade 3  
Aliyah Martinez, CSCS, Kindergarten  
Holly Amundson, LMDS, Preschool

### December Generosity

Elliot Gutierrez-Luengas, BHS, Grade 11  
Carleigh Len, ROBMS, Grade 7  
Vincent Lorenzo, RLHS, Grade 5  
Grayson Jastrzebski, JTDS, Grade 4  
Mia Shah, CSCS, Kindergarten  
Emmanuel Panayiotou, LMDS, Preschool



### January Acceptance

Leonidas Violanzis, BHS, 9th Grade  
Thomas Darcy-Sillari, ROBMS, 8th Grade  
Kayla Baccigalupi, RLHS, 6th Grade  
Dylan Kawka, JTDS, 3rd Grade  
Mia Green, CSCS, 1st Grade  
Tommie Durazzo, LMDS, Preschool





# District Happenings

