



NBPS Newsflash

March 2021

Greetings NBPS Team,

First, thanks to each of you for what you have continued to do all year. Our staff has galvanized to make the educational process during this unique time the model for many to see – THANK YOU!

March arrived like a lion, with roaring winds and chilly temperatures, but they have not impeded our next phase of increasing in-person learning. Our Cohort A expansion will allow us to have more students participating in 5 days of in-person instruction, which began March 1st. I saw a lot of excitement as I visited schools and spoke with happy students and their grateful parents. It was great to see their smiles through the masks.

Principals and their teams have done an outstanding job in planning the expansion and by the end of March almost all elementary schools will have increased 5-day in-person instruction to include multiple grades. Please keep in mind that plan execution still depends on space and other logistics that are specific to each school building.

The launch of this latest phase continues to emphasize safety as the top priority, its health protocols shaped in consultation with the local and state Health Departments and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education state COVID-19 task force. We are excited that positive COVID-19 cases everywhere have declined. New Bedford has seen more than six consecutive weeks of lower positive cases – with a current 4.25 percent positivity rate, down from 5.4 percent last week and almost 14.0 percent a few weeks ago.

This phase of the expansion prioritizes elementary students with the highest needs and at the earliest grades. At this time Cohort D will remain the fully distance cohort until we can review these initial steps.


In education, time is always extremely important. This unforgettable year did not slow down and neither did our collective focus to ensure that students and staff are engaged in high quality teaching and learning. June 21st, our last scheduled day of school is right around the corner and we must continue with our sense of urgency to 1) Prevent, 2) Recover, and 3) Accelerate student learning. To *Recover* by assisting to remediate those students who need support – academically and socio-emotionally, AND *Accelerate* – that is, to push those students who are already proficient to maximize their strengths.

We look forward to supporting the shift to make K-12 employees a priority for the vaccination:

[Baker-polito-announces-k-12-educators](#)

Thank you for your continued full efforts in this most important work. Remember, we are all in this together. Think of others, MASKUP and stay safe.

Thank you,


Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”

– Seneca



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Employee Spotlight



Quinn Donovan

2nd Grade Teacher

Hayden McFadden Elementary School

Quinn Donovan is a 2nd grade teacher at Hayden McFadden School. In her 3rd year of teaching, she brings a love of teaching and learning to her classroom and students. Principal Tammy Morgan stated, “Despite the challenges of hybrid teaching, Ms. Donovan has used her knowledge of technology to teach both in-person and distant learning students at the same time thus transforming her classroom into a blended community of learners. Whether students are logging in from their homes or the desks of their classroom, the learning has not stopped.” Driven by high expectations for all students, Ms. Donovan makes learning fun

while building self-confidence in her students to try their best, take risks, and not give up even when the learning gets hard!

After school, Ms. Donovan can be found teaching and working with English Language Learners in the EL after-school program as well as pursuing her reading specialist certification at American International College. Hayden McFadden is fortunate to have Ms. Donovan as part of their amazing team!



Julie Regan

Paraprofessional

James B. Congdon Elementary School

Julie Regan is a proud graduate of New Bedford High School and Bridgewater University where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology with a concentration in Education. She has worked at Congdon for 4 years as a paraprofessional and has also taken on the role of PlayWorks Coach for the entire school. Principal Darcie Aungst shared, “Julie implements a junior coaching leadership program for 4th and 5th grade students and schedules and runs all of the Congdon recesses, making them safe, fun, and inclusive.”

When Julie is not running or organizing recess, she is in the classroom helping students academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. Principal Aungst went on to say, “Ms. Regan created a virtual stamp card to ensure our school could keep implementing PBIS during remote instruction. Julie’s positive, can-do attitude, willingness to help wherever needed, and love of New Bedford, make her an extremely valuable asset to the Congdon Community.”

SPREADING the LOVE

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Luvs and Huggies Valentine's Diaper Drive for the Parenting Teen Program!



Community Contributions

Our office invites you to help spread some love to the students in the Parenting Teens Program by sharing some...



for the little ones on Valentine's Day.

It gets harder each day to meet the simple needs. If you are interested in donating, drop off your favorite diapers and/or baby wipes at the Superintendent's Office, Room 143.

Donations will be collected:
February 1st through February 12th

Questions or comments can be directed to mfernandes@newbedfordschools.org or x14552

Spearheaded by Marjorie Fernandes, the Superintendent's Office collected diapers, wipes, and other goodies to be donated to our littlest future Whalers. Your generosity means a lot. Thank you so much for giving back to our young moms and our future students!



ENROLL
April 5th
Enrollment ends April 18

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN OUR ANNUAL
SPRING STEP CHALLENGE!



Enrollment period for the Spring Step Challenge: April 5, 2021 to April 18, 2021.
Challenge will begin April 12, 2021 and will end on May 24, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

ONLY EMPLOYEES WHO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR BCBS HEALTH INSURANCE ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE

Step Challenge instructions are available on the Benefits page [HERE!](#)

To successfully complete this challenge, you will need to log 294,000 steps within 6 weeks, an average of 7,000 steps a day, using a pedometer, **Fitbit**® or other device to keep track of steps. Steps must be entered into [ahealthyme](#), either on the website, through the [HealthyNow app](#), or through a connected **Fitbit**® device, to be counted toward the challenge goal.

CHALLENGE

All employees that join the challenge will be entitled to the Fitbit Inspire 2, even if you received a Fitbit in the past!

Please contact Marcia Tome in the Benefits Office at 508-997-4511 Ext. 14355 or email mtome@newbedfordschools.org to claim your **Fitbit**®.

Employees who complete the challenge will be eligible to receive a \$25.00 gift certificate. **Gift certificates will be issued to employees only.**



Master's Programs for Teachers

Affordable Tuition
\$196/mo
*if using financial aid

Online Information Sessions offered weekly!

Visit ExploreEndicott.org to register

To Register or for more Information Session options, please contact Kelly Foreman at (978) 867-0025 or kforeman@graduateprogram.org



Programs Offered

Initial License (M.Ed.)

- Early Childhood
- Elementary Education *
- Secondary Education *
- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities*
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities*
- Special Education & ABA: Moderate Disabilities
- Special Education & ABA: Severe Disabilities

Administrative Leadership (M.Ed.)

- Principal/Assistant Principal
- Special Education Administrator

Professional License (M.Ed.)

- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities *
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities *

Reading Literacy (M.Ed.) *

* License-Only Option Available



Accreditations & Quality

- Endicott College is a non-profit college that is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Ed. approved.
- 100% MTEL passing rate among program completers
- Ranked among the Best Colleges in Regional Universities (North) by U.S. News and World Report

Features

Convenient

- Fully online format — perfect for the working teacher
- Six week courses — accelerated completion time
- Personal advising, networking opportunities and job placement support
- No GRE required
- License-only options available for applicable programs

Affordable

- Affordable tuition rate
- Financial aid available
- Student loan payments may be deferred until program completion
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness of up to \$5,000 may apply

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

College policy strictly limits enrollment in each program and accepts reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find us online at:

ExploreEndicott.org

These programs were arranged and made possible by the K-12 Teachers Alliance in cooperation with Endicott College.

*The repayment example set forth above is for illustrative purposes only and was calculated based on a standard amortization Federal Direct Loan assuming a loan amount of \$19,080, a payment term of 10 years, and a fixed interest rate equal to 4.3%. Loan amount of \$19,080 is based on the total tuition price for the 2020-2021 academic year for the Masters of Education (M.Ed.) in Early Childhood program. Your total loan amount may vary based on program selection. The loan calculator used in this example is available at <http://studentloans.gov>. It is your responsibility to verify your eligibility by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. All loans are subject to federal student aid guidelines. The actual interest rate may change periodically based on federal regulations. The tuition rate varies depending on your semester start date, plus applicable fees. Endicott College reserves the right to raise tuition costs annually.



JET 2021-2022 Recruitment

www.jetintoteaching.org

Are you a Massachusetts public school paraprofessional without a Bachelor's degree who wants to become a licensed teacher?

If so, the JET Program is for you!

"Without the JET Program this would have remained a secret dream in my heart. The grant made it possible to pay for school, but the Jet Program helped me finish the path." JET Participant

JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Massachusetts teacher licensure.

JET supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of students.

What JET can do for you

- Mentor and support you through your bachelor's degree completion and teacher licensure
- Advise you on teacher pathway programs in Massachusetts colleges/universities
- Help you access financial aid available to Massachusetts paraprofessionals
- Connect you with a cohort of paraprofessionals on this journey to become a teacher
- Provide professional and career development learning opportunities

How JET works

1. Apply online to the JET Program now through March 15, 2021 - two step process
 - a. Fill out [2021-2022 JET Interest Form](#) or visit www.jetintoteaching.org
 - b. **If eligible**, You will be sent a JET application form.
2. Advisement April - June 2021
 3. College Admissions
 4. Financial Aid
 - a. **FAFSA** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> - Must be completed prior to applying for the state grant application below
 - b. **MA Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant**
<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/teacherprep.asp>
5. Once admitted to college and approved for financial aid, enroll in classes for 2021 Fall Semester
6. Attend **JET** Orientations in June and August 2021
7. Participate in **JET** Mentoring and Support Program from September 2021 - June 2022

Eligibility for JET

- Career goal of becoming a Massachusetts licensed teacher
- Seeking a Bachelor's degree
- Permanent resident of Massachusetts for at least 1 year prior to upcoming academic year
- Employed for 2+ years as a paraprofessional in a Massachusetts public school by June 30, 2021
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA in prior college coursework
- U.S. Citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations
- Not in default of federal or state student education loans

QUESTIONS - Please email jetintoteaching@gmail.com



**MARCH IS
MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH™**



NBPS proudly kicked off both *Music in our Schools Month*, and *Theatre in Our Schools Month* on Monday, March 1st!

The National Association for Music Education has designated March as Music in our Schools Month (**MIOSM**) since 1985.

The Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society have partnered with the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE) to sponsor Theatre in Our Schools Month (**TIOSM**).

The goal is to raise awareness of the importance and impact of music and theatre education in our schools. Visit our social media pages each day throughout the month of March as we share facts, photos, & videos that showcase the great work and experiences our students have every day in New Bedford Public Schools.

Theatre IN OUR Schools

#TheatreInOurSchools

Audience-based participation in the arts and personal participation in creating art are both linked to higher levels of civic engagement and social tolerance.

Theatre in Our Schools
Journal of Civil Society, Leroux and Bernadski, 2019

Students with high levels of arts involvement are less likely to drop out of school.

Theatre in Our Schools
The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies, 2012

Students attending live performances of theater (i.e., field trips and school performances) demonstrated higher levels of social emotional skills, and stronger command of the plot and vocabulary of the play they attended, versus viewing movie adaptations of the same plays.

Theatre in Our Schools
Educational Researcher, 2018

“Arts integration leads to deeper learning, including making connections between new learning and previously learned concepts, stronger analytical skills, and enhanced ability to synthesize information into global conceptual thinking.”

Theatre in Our Schools
Mobile Brain-Body Imaging and the Neuroscience of Art, Innovation and Creativity, MM Hardiman, 2019



For more information and to learn how you can get involved, visit schooltheatre.org/TIOS

RMS 'Winter Camp' focuses on remediation in core content areas

Roosevelt Middle School created a "Winter Camp" over the February Break to provide at-risk students additional help in their core classes, says Principal Dan Bossolt. "We have a strong system of tiered support for our students, but we knew we needed to develop new creative ways to help our students. Our school improvement leadership team (SILT), which is comprised of teacher leaders and administrators, identified those students most in need and created a unique and strong intervention geared specifically to them. We collectively decided to hold a Winter Camp during the February vacation where some of our most skilled teachers would implement a cross-curricular program that would engage selected students in a rigorous and meaningful project that incorporates all four core content areas."

ITEM	CREDITS PER ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	TOTAL	ITEM	CREDITS PER ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	TOTAL
paper plates	1	2	2	first aid kit	2	4	8
table umbrellas	1			ice cream parlor	23	1	23
water fountain	5	1	5	hot dog stand	0		
water heaters	1			lemonade stand	8		
carbon copy machine	3	2	6	snow cone maker	5		
sound system	8	2	16	pizzeria	26		
wifi	5	1	5	port rug (light sign)	0		
walkie talkies	2			garbage/recycle cans	2		
bench	2	2	4	automated ticket taker	20		
sunscreen	1	1	1	barricades	3		
lockers	6	4	24	hologram machine	38		
lawnmower	1			spotlights	8		

Graphic Organizer: Coronavirus Reflection

Paragraph 1: Introduction: Start with an interesting first sentence that helps the reader want to read your reflection. Introduce us to the problem or conflict that you've faced during Covid-19. (3-7 sentences)

I wasn't too happy when the schools were closing because we weren't able to do much things that we would normally do at the end of the year. Like to fun last day with all your teachers and friends and at the end of last year my class was doing a project and we really count finish it because nobody had a lot of school supplies at home. When we left school for remote learning it was hard because home is like your comfort space for things you don't do in a classroom. But in school you're more focused and relaxed about the work because you have teachers to help with any question. While I was in my room working on the several packets of hard work half it we barely know, I sat there for like 3 hours struggling flipping back and forth between pages.

Paragraph 2: Who/What: How has the pandemic affected your life? Who has it affected? Do you wish this family? Did someone you know have Covid? Do you do online school? What have you learned?

Student Work Samples

COVID-19
Prevent the spread of covid-19!

Here are 6 ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19!

- Where is a mask!
- Wash your hands!
- STAY HOME!
- Check your temperature!
- Stay home if you don't feel well!
- Stay 6 Feet Apart!

We have 56,936 cases of covid-19 in Massachusetts!

My favorite difference!

Student Work Samples

"Students have been challenged more than ever in many areas this year due to the pandemic," Principal Bossolt said. Through a lot of planning, communicating and recruiting, the RMS team engaged over 70 students to commit to this learning opportunity. Using funds from a grant that RMS earned last year, 11 RMS teachers worked each day of the February break. Noting that teachers "ran a section of this project while supporting each child individually and in small groups," Principal Bossolt said, "The result was a wonderful experience for these students and a boost to their core class grades. This remediation improved their overall averages in these classes and provided them with additional skills and knowledge. We are proud of all our students and staff that contributed to this work and we plan to run another camp this spring during April vacation as another strong intervention to support learning."

What's your story?

Do you have a story about your school that you'd like to share with the community? Send your idea or suggestion to the communications office:

You know great things are happening in your school. Sharing them with the community will help raise the profile and reputation of NBPS and foster public confidence and pride (District Goal 5). Any aspect of school life is eligible: great staff, cultural focus, student achievements, collaborating with families, special events and more.



Tell us your school stories...
We'll take it from there!

Thank You!