



NBPS Newsflash

January 2020

Happy New Year Team NBPS,

I hope everyone has gotten off to an awesome start in 2020 and this note finds you recharged and ready to continue changing lives and positively impacting the future.

Consistency, Collaboration and Communication are the basic tenets that help keep me centered as I humbly work on behalf of all students and staff. This includes a focus on clarity, measurement, and accountability. Our work impacts lives on many levels and it is essential that we *'Leave Nothing to Chance'*. It is critically important that we provide access and equity to increase opportunities. We must maintain a parallel focus on academics, social and emotional development and support, operations (finance and facilities), and climate/culture. Creativity and ingenuity while being attentive to the "little" things is essential to strengthening our organization and improving the NBPS brand.

Improving the transmission of information at all levels is part of our district goals. Our NBPS APP we unveiled last year is being upgraded to be more informative and interactive for everyone, but especially for our parents. Our district website is being revamped as well to increase its functionality. It is vitally important that we consider our school webpages to be virtual billboards telling our story, in our words, to the world. With this function in mind, we must effectively utilize our website as our primary communication tool. We will seek more opportunities to connect with parents regarding their children's progress and community members to keep them abreast of overall district information.

Last month I mentioned the importance of being open and receptive to feedback. Over the last 18 months we hosted multiple 3-hour sessions led by a facilitator to collect feedback on our district goals, benchmarks, action items and priorities. This process brought more than 40 individuals together, including students, parents, teachers/staff, administrators, and community members. Almost 50 organizations representing a wide range of perspectives joined me to share their collective feedback as well. I am excited and encouraged by the willingness and support during this process. Later this month we will be unveiling our District Strategic Plan to the public. This document incorporates that feedback and highlights the district's goals and priorities going forward. The action plan has been in place and has been guiding our processes as we work to enhance the teaching and learning process.

I look forward to working with you in making this a productive spring semester.

Thank you,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Employee Spotlight



Kelly Connors

Paraprofessional

Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School



Kelly Connors is one of the amazing Paraprofessionals that we have at Brooks Elementary School. Mrs. Connors goes above and beyond the job description of a paraprofessional every day. Her motivation is limitless in assisting the students of Brooks School.



Principal Jennifer Medeiros says “Mrs. Connors voluntarily attends all administrative periods, trainings, and meetings in order to stay up-to-date on best practices to help teach the students that she services. She is a strategic thinker and problem solver when it comes to brainstorming ideas of how to best meet the needs of all learners. Mrs. Connors independently plans remediation lessons for students who are having trouble understanding a specific skill/topic and will create and design hands-on activities to help students reach their goal/objective.”

In addition, Mrs. Connors is always putting her “finishing” touches around the building to beautify the school environment. “She adds just the right amount of “flair” to brighten up our school. She is such a thoughtful and genuine person and will always go the extra mile to lend a helping hand.

We are so lucky to have Mrs. Connors part of the Brooks Team!”



Eunice Sirianos

Senior Physical Education Teacher
A. J. Gomes Elementary School



Eunice Sirianos has had an amazing career at NBPS, spanning 35 years! She is a District Mentor who takes education, and the importance of Physical Education, very seriously. Her students can all express why it is important. Both she and the students were in tears when she informed them of her impending retirement.

Principal Ellyn Gallant says, “She reads all the CPT (Common Planning Time) notes from all grade levels and integrates the grade level vocabulary and concepts into her lessons.”

Principal Gallant goes on to mention that even in her last years before retirement, Eunice did the “extras” for the students, such as coming and taking free family photos in their “photo booth” at Fall into Learning, choreographing the fifth grade dance-off performances, and coaching the student team for the students vs. staff volleyball game.

“We are so sad to see her go” states Gallant. “She is an EXCEPTIONAL educator and will be truly missed by all!”

Eunice, your NBPS family would like to wish you good health, good luck, and great success in your retirement! May all of the years ahead bring you joy and much deserved relaxation. Congratulations!



Around Our Schools



Change starts with US! Be Kind!

Around



Our



Schools



Around Our Schools

New Bedford High School launches its high tech Financial Services Lab



New Bedford High School recently launched its state-of-the-art Financial Services Laboratory with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the facility.

The lab is a major capital project supported by the school's award of a \$125,000 Massachusetts Workforce Skills Capital Grant earlier in 2019. The lab occupies newly renovated and conjoined classroom space situated in the heart of the school's central core, adjacent to the school store. The lab will serve as the hub

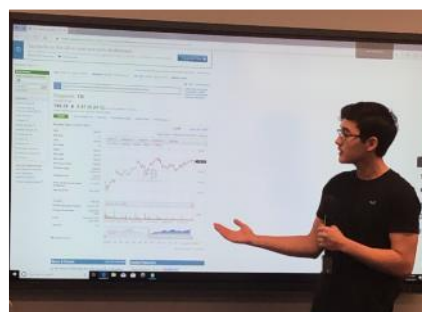
for financial services education connected to the school's Academy of Finance.

The Finance Lab's equipment includes stock tickers, 4k touchscreen monitors, advanced computer systems, and two banks of soft seating to serve as collaboration stations.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson noted "this facility adds enormous capability to New Bedford High's Academy of Finance programs. Through it students will be introduced to the principles of finance, investment and international trade in a real world context."

"We are excited to officially open our finance lab today, and look forward to our students engaging in rich financial services projects", said Bernadette Coelho, NBHS Headmaster. "We are grateful for Governor Baker's support of our Workforce Skills Capital grant award that made this advanced technical learning environment possible."

"Our grant award was driven toward developing a laboratory that prepares students for success within the high priority labor growth area of financial services", said Christopher Cummings Manager of CVTE. "Our new finance lab, which we intend to be the flagship training center for this industry, will help us maximize these career opportunities", he added.



Charlie the Tiger earns his stripes

Chas. S. Ashley School mascot accentuates school spirit at events



What exactly is a mascot? Merriam-Webster defines it as “a person, animal, or object adopted as the symbol of a group (as a school or sports team) and believed to bring good luck.” Others note it as “a representative symbol adopted by an organization to exemplify some aspect of its spirit, culture or athletic pursuits.” At Charles S. Ashley School, it’s a tiger; Charlie the Tiger. Why a tiger? As Ashley Principal Christine Pugliese explains of the school’s teams, “it has been the Tigers since before I became principal, but it does tie into our PBIS R.O.A.R. — Respect, Ownership, Actions, Responsibility.” Why Charlie? Perhaps it is because Mayor Charles S. Ashley (1858-1941) – the school’s namesake, and longest running mayor in the city’s history – was called Charlie by his many friends.

Charlie the Tiger never misses a school day and is present at special school events, notes Principal Pugliese. “Charlie is part of PBIS monthly assemblies. He is usually dressed to match important events and holidays. Students like to hug him and love to see what he is wearing. He’s usually lounging up on a shelf outside the main office and he has even travelled on occasion.” Go Charlie! Go Ashley Tigers!

Does your school have a mascot? If not, why not? Email us a fun photo of your school mascot and relate any activities (or antics) it gets itself into. Send to: kagarcia@newbedfordschools.org



New Bedford EATS

News from Food & Nutrition Services

New this year, the NBPS Food and Nutrition Services department is piloting the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) at two schools in the district. The FFVP is a grant-funded, USDA program that aims to provide students the opportunity to sample fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. This midday snack promotes healthy habits and food literacy and encourages nutrition education in school. Twice a week the students are offered diverse options including snow peas, pepper strips, tri-color carrots, jicama, honey dew melon, broccoli and fruit salad! Based on the positive feedback received from the two participating schools, Jacobs and Hayden-McFadden, the department plans to expand the FFVP grant to all New Bedford elementary schools next school year.

View our menus and nutritional information on www.NBPSmeals.com or through the smartphone app, “Web Menus by ISite Software.”

FOLLOW US: [@NewBedfordEATS](https://www.instagram.com/NewBedfordEATS)



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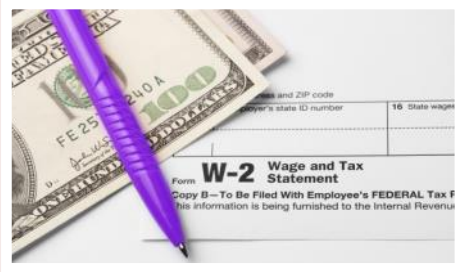
THE FRESH
FRUIT AND
VEGETABLE
PROGRAM



Employee Self Service (ESS)

Have you accessed Employee Self Service (ESS) lately?

ESS is a wonderful tool available to all staff of New Bedford Public Schools! With ESS you can:



- ⇒ **Print paystubs**
- ⇒ **View year to date payroll information**
- ⇒ **Check available sick/personal time balances**
- ⇒ **Receive W2 before hardcopies are distributed at schools**

City Hall is running the process of creating W2s. As soon as they are run in MUNIS, your 2019 W2 will be available through the ESS! Payroll will send out a notification email to all staff in the next few weeks when your W2 is available on ESS. At the same time we will provide the exact date when printed W2s will be distributed to schools for those wishing to wait. Need a MUNIS refresher? See below:

New Bedford School Department MUNIS Self Service

Below is the link you will need to access the MUNIS Self Service Portal

<http://mss.newbedford-ma.gov>

New Bedford School Department employees will first need to click **Log In** to access the MUNIS Self Service Portal



Login screen will appear

Employee User name is the employee's **Employee Number**

You can obtain your employee number from a paper copy of one your past pay advices. It is located on the top left portion under your name and address information. School secretaries at each location will also be able to provide this information to you.

The first time you login into the portal, your password will be the last four digits of your SSN.

Now click **Log in**



Once the username and password are entered for the first time, you will be forced to change your password. You will need to enter your current password, which at this time will be the last four digits of your SSN. You will now create your new password and type in a password hint.

Click **Change**

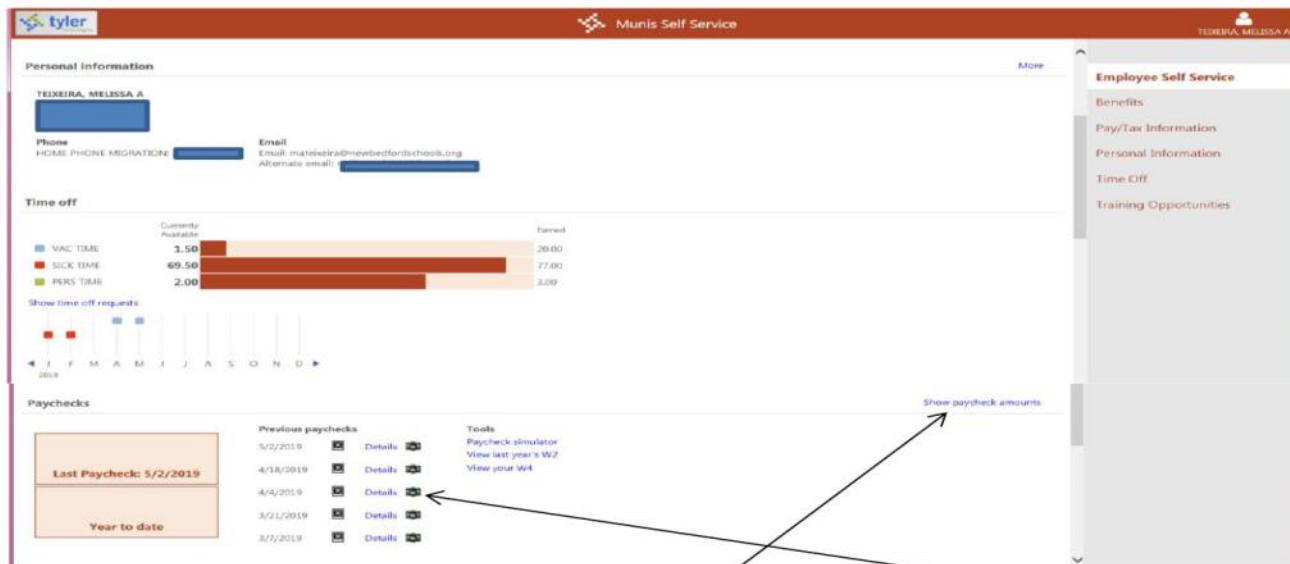


Once you are logged into the MUNIS Employee Self Service Portal

Click on **Employee Self Service** on the right hand side



Once you are in Employee Self Service, you will be able to view your personal information, paycheck information, W2's, paid time off available, and more.



To view check amounts and pay check, first click on **Show paycheck amounts** and then click on the image of the camera to view the specific check for date listed.

If you forget your password:

You will need to go to the Login page and click on **Forgot your password?**



You will have to enter in your Username and click on **Retrieve hint**



You will be emailed instructions on how to change your password.

For employees that do not have an email account on file, please contact Tech Services at 508-997-4511 ext: 14752 for assistance.

Any employee that does not have access to a computer to print out pay advices, all public libraries are equipped with public access to computers as well as printers. In each school location there is also access to these amenities.

The Human Capital Services Office at PRAB will also have a computer available for use Monday through Friday from 7:30am – 4:30pm.



SEI Endorsement

Courses in New Bedford Public Schools

Register Now!



WHO: Any NBPS Educator or Administrator

WHAT: SEI Endorsement Course (45 hours)

WHEN: Spring Course (2/4/20 – 6/9/20)

WHERE: Keith Middle School, Library Conference Room

HOW: Registration through SmartPD or if you do not have an account, email bfgundes@newbedfordschools.org from:

December 9, 2019 – February 3, 2020

PAYMENT: Cost \$450

Checks made out to: New Bedford Public Schools, must be received by first day or bring 1st day to class)

(You can also submit checks to the Business Office, PRAB room 119)



For more information and questions:
Contact Betty Fagundes @ ext 14650
Evelyn Mota @ ext 14278

Priority placement will be granted to Core Subject Matter Educators

Winter Weather Notifications



Cancellations & Early Dismissals will be posted on www.newbedfordschools.org and sent to the following media:

- NBPS Facebook/Twitter
- NB Cable Ed Channel 9
- New Bedford Guide
- NB Standard-Times
- TV4 WBZ Boston
- TV5 WCVB Boston
- TV6 WLNE Providence
- TV7 WHDH Boston
- TV10 WJAR Providence
- TV12 WPRI Providence
- TV25 WFXT Boston
- WBZ-1030AM Boston
- WRKO-680AM Boston
- WSAR-1480AM Fall River
- WBSM-1420AM New Bedford
- WFHN-FUN107FM Fairhaven