



Superintendent's Message

August 2018



Last month I shared with everyone our excitement of receiving designation from the New Jersey State Department of Education as a "High Performing" district. A distinction we have not received since 2012. As you know, last year we also were awarded almost \$800,000 through the Preschool Education Aid (PEEA) grant enabling us to provide tuition free full day preschool to 75 children. We are currently in the process of applying for an additional grant and if successful we will be able to provide this program for an additional 60 students. Keep your fingers crossed.

The Bayonne Board of Education believes learning never stops. That belief is especially true for the nearly 30 summer scholars who have spent the better part of last month becoming immersed in the worlds of Sub-Saharan Africa in our first ever interdisciplinary Summer Enrichment Program. Funded by the Bayonne Education Foundation, the program began on July 9th, and has enabled interested and curious incoming Grade 7 students from throughout the district to spend a morning or an afternoon working with teachers from the Art, English and Social Studies Department, respectively. To date, students have studied African dance, made masks, read poetry, performed skits, analyzed artifacts and even visited the Newark Museum's exhibit, *Arts of Global Africa*. In the upcoming weeks, students will apply their mathematics skills and will be gearing up for exploration of animal conservation efforts in Africa with Bayonne High School Science teacher, Ms. Amy Lavender. Our students are, of course, excitedly awaiting their trip to the Bronx Zoo where they will see many exotic animals up close.

During this month I encourage all our students to read and write every day, as well as use mathematics and participate in outdoor physical activity. Our expectations are that when everyone returns on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, they will be fully ready to become engaged in the teaching and learning process.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer break, and be ready to continue to move the Bayonne Public School Family from Good to Great."

Regards,

Michael A. Wanko, Ph.D.
Superintendent