



Superintendent's Message: November, 2018

November marks two major holidays in the United States: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. In the United States, Veterans Day falls on November 11th. This date was selected for a very specific reason. Fighting in World War I came to an end following the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany that called for a ceasefire effective at 11 a.m.- it was on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In Bayonne, we are proud of our military history. As a matter of fact, Nicholas Oresko Community School is named after a Bayonne native and World War II hero. Master Sgt. Oresko was awarded the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor, in October 1945. Activities recognizing our veterans will take place throughout the month in all our schools. One event that promotes our commitment to our local champions of freedom is the annual Field of Heroes program. If you walk or drive past Bayonne High School, you will see a multitude of American Flags sprawling across the front lawn. In addition, the district honors distinguished servicemen and servicewomen with the Field of Heroes award.

Most stories of Thanksgiving history begin with the harvest celebration of the pilgrims and the Native Americans that took place in the autumn of 1621. As part of the Social Studies curriculum students will learn about and respect other cultures within the classroom and

community, explain how key events led to the creation of the United States, and explain the role of historical symbols, monuments, and holidays and how they affect the American identity. Keep in mind, November is American Indian Heritage Month.

As a reminder, our report card distribution dates are as follows: November 26th for Nicholas Oresko School and November 27th for all other elementary schools. As in the past, afternoon session will be available, please see your school's schedule for details. Bayonne High School's Open House will take place on the evening of November 28th.

Open House is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss academic progress. It also shows you are invested in your child's education and wish to establish a collaborative relationship with their teacher reaping great results for your child. During Open House you will also have the opportunity to tour your school and see the quality work taking place at all levels; early childhood, elementary, middle grades, and high school. This also is the time to meet with and support members of your parent/teacher organizations.

Next week our district is closed for the New Jersey Teachers' Convention and Veterans Day Observance. Please have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable break with your family and friends and come back recharged and ready to shine and succeed in marking period two!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wanko". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Michael Wanko