



Dr Michael A. Wanko
Superintendent
Bayonne Public Schools

Superintendent's Message

Happy and Healthy New Year!



January 1st on the Gregorian calendar marks the beginning of a new year. It is the most celebrated holiday around the world. Tradition holds that at this time of the year, we make New Year's Resolutions. Most people use this occasion to improve themselves. They resolve to exercise or workout daily, eat right, quit smoking, or begin a new hobby. I would like to challenge our students to develop resolutions designed to not only make themselves physically and emotionally healthy, but scholarly as well. Benjamin Franklin said, "*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*"

I ask our students to set high expectations and to work hard to reach those goals. A simple resolution is to study hard to get good grades. Another could be to complete all assignments one day before they are due. The greater investment you make in your education, the greater the rewards in your life.

Januaries of past: On January 1, 1892, Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed through Ellis Island until its closing in 1954. Our country continued to grow and on January 3, 1959, Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together. On January 20, 1986 we observed for the first time Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement.

January Present:

Students of the Bayonne Public Schools will be participating in the InView assessment in grades three and seven only on January 8, 2019, and makeup assessments will be administrated on January 9, and January 10, 2019.

The InView Test is a cognitive abilities test. It measures a student's ability to use information and apply it in new and different ways, evaluating how a student analyzes and employs higher-order thinking skills (including verbal reasoning, sequences, analogies, and quantitative reasoning), and measuring a student's cognitive abilities that are needed to learn and succeed in school. The results are used to help our teachers determine the strengths of each student in order to provide more effective differentiated instruction in classrooms. Parents will be provided with individual assessment results.

Remember, staff training will take place on Wednesday, January 2nd, and students will return to school on Thursday, January 3, 2019. I hope you all had an enjoyable recess, and are ready to excel at your school. I wish you the best of health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

Michael A. Wanko, Ph.D.
Superintendent