



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear BBOED Family,

Last week we honored our Veterans. Activities took place throughout the district beginning on Monday, Veterans Day, with our 4th annual Field of Heroes ceremony at Bayonne High School. Again this year, we selected four veterans, Theodore Garelick, Jon Christopher Jacobson, Neil J. Carroll, Sr., and Barry David Jones, who now have their names engraved on the stone at the base of the flagpole in front of the high school. Also on the front lawn, there is a multitude of U.S. flags which were purchased by the community to honor and memorialize veterans, both past and present. If possible, take the time to pass the building to view this proud monument to our heroes.

The week culminated with the renaming of Midtown Community School on Friday. It is now called the William Shemin Midtown Community School. Sergeant William Shemin, a Bayonne native, was awarded the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor, for his actions during an offensive in World War I. It was a dignified and memorable ceremony with many family members of Sergeant Shemin present, as well as, dignitaries, board trustees, administrators, students, staff and faculty.

Last month, I met with the student council at BHS to begin developing a new theme for our district. These students spoke with their peers and teachers to flesh out ideas, proposed their top three, and posted an online survey which was available to the entire community. Now, the results are in – *"The Youth of Today, The Leaders of Tomorrow."* I couldn't be more pleased with their results.

Some Exciting News - Bayonne High School juniors and seniors will now be able to get a jumpstart on their college career! I am pleased to share that the BBOED and Hudson County Community College are partnering and instituting dual enrollment and early college credits. *Early College* allows eligible high school students to earn credit for both high school graduation and for a college degree at the same time. For more information, have your child speak with their School Counselor.

I am still traveling through the district meeting as many people as possible. With almost 10,000 students, it takes some time, but there is nothing else I find more enjoyable. After all, the most important thing at the BBOED is our students!

As a reminder, Open House for elementary schools is November 20th, Parent's Night at BHS is November 21st, Thanksgiving is November 28th and the entire month of November is Native American Heritage Month.

Regards,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent