

1BARNEGAT

BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT “FIVE-YEAR” LOOK BACK

2018 - 2023

IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF BACK IN ACTION FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR. I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE OF LEADING THIS DISTRICT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND I'M IMMENSELY PROUD OF ALL WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED. WHILE WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO, WE SHOULD CELEBRATE ALL THAT WE'VE DONE! I'M INCREDIBLY INSPIRED BY OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF EVERY SINGLE DAY. AS WE FOCUS ON NEW GOALS AND INITIATIVES FOR THIS YEAR, LET'S TAKE A LOOK BACK AT SOME MAJOR POINTS OF PRIDE ACCOMPLISHED IN JUST A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME FOR THE BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT. #BARNEGATINSPIRES

Dr. Brian Latwis

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ACADEMICS

HIGH SCORING DISTRICT

The BarneGAT Township School District rankings have improved dramatically over the past five years. In 2018/19, the Collins School had 1/3 of their students reading on grade level. At the end of the 2022/23 school year, 71% of their students were reading on grade level. During the Spring 2022 administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), the Donahue School students showed significant improvement in their test scores. Not only did they meet the state expectations in ELA and math, but they also exceeded the expectations and surpassed their annual growth target making them one of the top third schools in the state. In 2018/19, the Brackman Middle School was in the bottom 10% of the state and has since skyrocketed to the 50th percentile. At the Brackman School, 98% of Algebra I and 91% of Geometry students are meeting/exceeding expectations. Out of 25,000 high schools nationwide, BHS ranks 8,871 which is in the 36th percentile. BHS offers a wide variety of AP courses. We are proud to report that our AP scores frequently exceed the state average, which is impressive considering that New Jersey has one of the best state averages in the nation. In 2022-2023, 100% of students who took the AP Spanish exam passed. 56% of students who took an AP exam achieved the ranks of "Qualified", "Well Qualified", or "Extremely Well Qualified." The following subjects beat the NJ average: 3-D Art & Design, English Language, English Literature, Calculus BC and Computer Science Principles.

NJQSAC

For the first time since the 2011/12 school year, the BarneGAT Township School District passed the state-mandated New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) performance review in 2021. The NJQSAC was established in 2006 as a comprehensive review that all New Jersey public school districts must complete every three years. The self-assessment focuses on five areas: Instruction/Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. BarneGAT has been designated a "highperforming" district after scoring 100% in four areas and 81% in Instruction and Program.



ACADEMICS (CONTINUED)

ADDRESSING LEARNING LOSS

Barneget High School’s (BHS) Bengal Bootcamp is an after school and weekend tutoring program that offers a variety of support for students including personalized instruction, extra help, credit recovery and a quiet place to complete assignments.

While a major focus has been to improve test scores across the district, COVID delayed some of the progress. We know that students struggled during the pandemic and the majority of students across the nation experienced learning loss. However, thanks to the hard work of the Barneget staff, our district navigated these times twice as well as our peers around the State. Specifically, Barneget experienced 50% less learning loss as compared to similar types of districts around the state.

Bengal Bootcamp began in 2021 as a way to address learning loss and bridge some of the gaps created when schools were closed or on modified schedules due to the pandemic. While teachers, counselors and administrators can recommend students for the program, it’s open to all students and continues to grow in popularity. Teachers from all of the main academic subjects staff the program and help students with completing assignments, understanding basics, and recapturing skills. Having access to different educators who are helping with the same lessons has proven to be beneficial, understanding that everyone has different learning and communication styles, and sometimes a new approach is all it takes for something to “click” for a student.

In the first year of the program, from March (when it started) until June, 227 students checked into the program. This past school year, 436 students accounted for 3,115 check-ins; 197 in the first cycle, 722 in the second, 763 in the third and 1,433 in the fourth and final. Additionally, in terms of credit recovery for the 2022-2023 school year, there were 2,800 absences recovered; 54 in the first cycle, 586 in the second, 601 in the third and 1,559 in the fourth and final. For the 2022-2023 school year, BHS saw a 27% increase in students meeting/exceeding expectations in Algebra II. Also, after the fall benchmark, BHS focused their efforts on their most at-risk learners in English I. In the fall, 29% of students were either partially meeting expectations or not meeting expectations, and by the Spring, that decreased to 10%, the lowest it has been for the last three years.

PRE-K EXPANSION

The Pre-K program at BTSD has received a 4-star rating, the highest rank from the state. Barneget began offering free full-day Pre-K in January 2019 thanks to a \$4.3 million state grant obtained by the district as part of the state’s Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA). The program started with about 250 students and was expanded for the 2023-24 school year. Students are immersed in a fun and hands-on learning environment where literacy, math, music, art and science are taught on a level they can understand.

🐾 ACADEMICS (CONTINUED)

SEAL OF BILITERACY

Barnegat High School offers the opportunity for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy distinction. The Seal of Biliteracy, introduced in January 2016, provides recognition to high school seniors who are able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. Students must demonstrate proficiency in Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking for both languages. This Seal will include a certificate prepared by the NJ Department of Education and an appropriate insignia affixed to the student's high school transcript. This will provide evidence of linguistic skills that are attractive to future employers and college admission offices. In the past four years, almost 60 students have acquired the Seal of Biliteracy. We currently have an additional 14 seniors who have received the Seal of Biliteracy and anticipate there will be more at the end of this year.

EARLY COLLEGE

The PLAN program offers dual enrollment for BHS students at Ocean County College, giving them a head start in their pursuit of a college degree. Students who complete at least 24 college credits through the PLAN program will complete their freshman year of college as a high school student. The PLAN program is designed with a threefold purpose: (1) to help students complete their freshman year of college; (2) to access collegiate support services; (3) to provide students with additional insight into certain career fields not necessarily requiring a traditional four-year preparation, again providing an additional base upon which to arrive at decisions concerning future plans. Courses are offered at a reduced price so students can start earning credits at a fraction of what it would cost to attend after graduation.



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ACADEMICS (CONTINUED)



HONOR SOCIETIES

BHS has a total of six honor societies that are designed to recognize and celebrate academic accomplishments. National Honor Society members demonstrate the highest standards and achievements in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. They each boast a GPA of 3.5 or higher, are involved in many sports and clubs, volunteer at community service events, and serve as leaders and role models for their peers. Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society is an honor society that celebrates and promotes excellence in the field of social studies. Students demonstrate a passion for history, government, and social studies subjects. Spanish Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica) celebrates achievements in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. It promotes cultural understanding and language proficiency. French Honor Society (Société Honoraire de Français) recognizes students with a passion for French language and culture. It encourages linguistic skills and cultural appreciation. Tri M Music Honor Society celebrates students who excel in music and leadership. Students demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication to the performing arts. The International Thespian Honor Society recognizes and honors students who have excelled in theater arts and drama. Members demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication to the performing arts. These honor societies provide students with opportunities for personal and academic growth while fostering a sense of community and commitment to their respective fields of interest.



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ATHLETICS AND HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

- 🐾 Boys Soccer-Shore Soccer Officials Association Team Sportsmanship Award
- 🐾 State Cheerleading Champions, Placed 3rd at the National High School Cheerleading Championships in the Small Varsity NT division
- 🐾 Girls Bowling-Back-to-Back State Champions
- 🐾 Lucas Holland 1st Barnegat/Lacey Ice Hockey Co-Op player to sign a National Letter of Intent
- 🐾 Basketball Program receives Ocean County Mickey Hart Sportsmanship Award, which recognizes fans, players, and administration for exhibiting the best sportsmanship throughout the season
- 🐾 Girls Lacrosse-Won their third- straight B South Championship
- 🐾 ROBMS Dance-State Champions



MARCHING BENGALS MAKE HISTORY

The Barnegat High School Marching Bengals won their first ever Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championship in 2022. The Marching Bengals performed in TOB Group 2A Atlantic Coast Championships at Hershey Park Stadium in Hershey, Pa. McGrath said after a phenomenal performance of their 2022 Production "The Ninja Way," the band was awarded first place out of 15 Group 2A bands, and received a score of 96.690. At the same time, the Marching Bengals swept all captions, winning the Best Music, Best Visual, Best Percussion and Best Auxiliary Caption Awards. Their overall score of 96.690 was not only the highest earned score out of all the performing TOB Group 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A Class bands from that competition, but it was the highest score ever achieved by an A-Class marching band in the entire history of Tournament of Bands since the formation of the A-Class in 1997. It was also the highest score ever achieved in Barnegat High School history.

HIGH-TECH COMPUTER LAB

The new state of the art computer lab at BHS is equipped with 30 high-end gaming computers, gaming chairs and ViewSonic Interactive gaming boards. It boasts high-quality webcams, microphones, and streaming setup. The lab was designed with high-speed internet and the latest networking technology, ideal for competitive gaming. The lab is utilized by multiple groups including eSports, CyberPatriot, Girls who Code, and Video Game club.

ATHLETIC AND HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

SHIELD PROGRAM

The SHIELD Program is designed for students who have an interest in potentially pursuing a career in law or law enforcement. Topics are centered around an overview of the American criminal justice system: its history, how it currently operates, and what the future of law enforcement might look like. The overall goal of the program is to promote an understanding of the criminal justice system and the various careers in this field. More information on SHIELD can be found in our Program of Studies.

ROTC PROGRAM

The NJROTC accredited curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, as well as our maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation and meteorology. Classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year by extra-curricular activities of community service, academic, athletic, drill and orienteering competitions, field meets, flights, visits to naval or other activities, marksmanship sports training, and physical fitness training. More information on ROTC can be found in our Program of Studies.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

For the fourth consecutive year, BTSD was recognized as One of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Best Communities for Music Education designation has been recognizing districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students for over two decades.

BTSD FIRST IN STATE TO OFFER VARSITY LETTER FOR ESPORTS

Starting in 2020, BTSD's eSports program began with a single League of Legends team made up of eight students. A little over two years later, Barnegat High School Esports boasts a roster of over 50 students playing on one or more of the now six games offered by the team including League of Legends, Overwatch, Valorant, Knockout City, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros. Barnegat eSports is proud to be the first program in New Jersey approved to offer varsity letters. Most games are played at the varsity level, but opportunities are available for players of all skill levels. In the program's short run, they have amassed a number of playoff wins and are the 2021 Rocket League State Champions.

ONEBARNEGAT MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

The OneBarnegat Music and Art Festival is a celebration of the Visual & Performing Arts in the Barnegat Township School District. The beautiful artwork of students in grades K-12 is on display while musical and theatrical performances take place. Food trucks and concessions are also available.

OCEAN COUNTY TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

Over the past three years, BHS has had a total of 28 winners (groups and individuals) at the Ocean County Teen Arts Festival that is hosted by the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College. Categories for showcase include the visual arts, creative and poetic writing, dance, music, vocal performance, and theatre.

COST-SAVING MEASURES

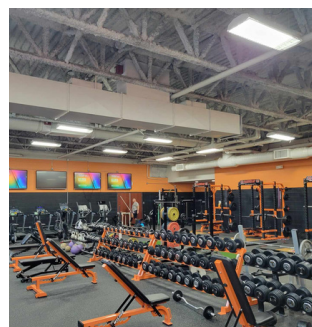
The Barnegat Township School District has approved major energy upgrades that will help reduce the carbon footprint of its six schools at no cost to taxpayers. The plan is expected to result in an estimated savings of \$7,728,933 over 20 years. By leveraging the state's Energy Savings Improvement Program, the district can use the value of future energy savings to pay for the project. The state initiative is available to school districts and government entities seeking to lower utility costs by installing energy-efficient systems.

All six schools now have solar canopy carports installed, which will save the district money while also creating a more sustainable future. In total, more than 4,756 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels were installed. The solar canopies are expected to offset more than 1948 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Over the next fifteen years, that's the equivalent of taking about 6,500 gas-powered cars off the road or preserving 34,800 acres of forest, according to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

FACILITIES

BTSD has made smart and fiscally responsible facilities upgrades over the course of the past five years. From a new turf athletic field to improved technology, we are always looking to make improvements in the district to benefit students, staff, and the community. In the past 4 years, the district made \$15 million in upgrades to our facilities without having to result in a tax increase.

- New turf athletic field
- New high-tech digital scoreboard and stadium sound system
- New weight room
- New eSports arena
- New Recording Arts Studio
- Upgraded security systems
- Upgraded interior and exterior lighting
- Upgraded HVAC
- Conversion from electric to gas hot water systems
- Replacements of boilers and chillers
- Updated HVAC controls
- Upgraded network and internet speed
- All students and staff equipped with devices
- New Wi-Fi access points in every classroom
- Addition of new interactive ViewSonic smart boards



PAW SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

THERAPY DOGS

BTSD's four-legged staff members are among some of the favorites in the six schools. The therapy dog program started in 2016 and continues to grow. The dogs routinely help students in each of the schools with things like anxiety relief to communications skills building and behavior issues. The therapy dogs were key in helping students adjust to transition of coming back into classrooms after COVID and continue to be a source of comfort, joy and familiarity for students. The district's six therapy dogs head into their designated school one day a week to visit classrooms and work one-on-one with students who need extra attention.



DYLAN'S WINGS OF CHANGE

Barnegat High School has embarked on a student-centered program to encourage empathy and connection, "Dylan's Wings of Change". The initiative is part of a nationwide movement organized by a father who lost his young son in the Sandy Hook mass shooting. The program is active in more than 50 schools in districts across New Jersey, Connecticut and New York and never looks exactly the same because it develops around each district's unique needs. Once trained, the youth leaders will run their own fun and engaging activities inside their schools and communities. The volunteers take ownership of the activities to provide for more-authentic human interaction in a safe space for people to connect.

CHALLENGE DAY

Barnegat High School students participated in Challenge Day, a transformative and impactful day of leadership and social and emotional skill building in the spring of 2023. Challenge Days are powerful, high-energy programs in which youth and adult participants are guided through a series of experiential learning processes. The overall goals of the program are to increase personal power and self-esteem, to shift dangerous peer pressure to positive peer support and to eliminate the acceptability of teasing, violence and all forms of oppression. The event was the first in a series of Challenge Days that will take place in school districts across Ocean County courtesy of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, which is sponsoring the events.

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SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (CONTINUED)

UPSTANDER PROGRAM

The Upstander Program is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate students district-wide who demonstrate a specific BENGAL PRIDE character trait. These traits continue to enhance the positive climate in our schools as well as the home-school-community partnership that plays an essential role in our students' success.



NO PLACE FOR HATE

Dunfee, Collins, and Donahue Schools are designated as No Place For Hate Schools by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The No Place for Hate initiative provides educators and students with the resources to ensure that anti-bias and diversity education are an integral part of a school curriculum. The program also helps to create a space where all students feel like they belong. Their four phase approach consists of having students form a committee, allowing them to be part of the foundation for creating sustainable positive change in the school's climate, signing a pledge in which students commit to doing their part in treating everyone fairly and with kindness, assessing the climate in the school to ensure that the whole community is heard and seen, and implementing discussion-based and active-learning activities that inspire students and staff to become more effective allies.

ANONYMOUS HIB REPORTING

The Barnegat Township School District is committed to creating a culture and climate that fosters empathy and respect for peers while addressing Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB). The district has adopted an immediate and anonymous way to report HIB incidents. Please scan the QR code here to report a HIB.

