



OneBarnegat Bulletin

What is “SEL”?

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines *social and emotional learning* (SEL) as the process through which all children and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. Research has consistently shown that students in SEL programs are more likely to attend school and earn better grades, and are less likely to have conduct issues. Successful incorporation of SEL can result in positive behaviors, increased academic success, and caring communities.

The Barnegat Township School District is committed to promoting social and emotional learning to establish positive school climate and to promote the healthy development of our students. Our staff is integrating SEL practices and skills into their daily routines throughout the district. Morning meetings, journal writing, mindfulness, reflection, growth mindset, SMART goals, active listening, and teaching general social skills are just a few examples of how staff across the district are infusing SEL practices into their day. In addition, the counseling team frequently utilizes solution-focused counseling techniques, in addition to infusing tools for emotional intelligence throughout their student sessions.

*EDUCATION
is the
MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON
which you can use to
CHANGE THE
WORLD.
-Nelson Mandela*

SEL at Home

Please visit <https://www.edutopia.org/SEL-parents-resources> for tips for families. See below list for SEL activities to do at home:

Use conversation starters to share ideas.

Practice coping skills like mindful breathing.

Talk about characters' feelings in a movie.

Write a self-compliment list; keep a gratitude journal.

Play games like "I Spy" or "Simon Says."

Write thank you notes.

BTSD FEATURED DEPARTMENT OF THE QUARTER: *Counseling*

School	Counselor Name	Email
Cecil S. Collins School	Mrs. Sarah Brier Mrs. Susan Stashkevetch	sbrier@barnegatschools.com sstashkevetch@barnegatschools.com
Joseph T. Donahue School	Ms. Jennifer Blanchard	jblanchard@barnegatschools.com
Robert L. Horbelt Intermediate School	Mrs. Kimberly Germano Ms. Dana Hermanni	kgermano@barnegatschools.com dhermanni@barnegatschools.com
Russell O. Brackman Middle School	Mrs. Alison Greco Mrs. Angela Wykcoff	agreco@barnegatschools.com awykcoff@barnegatschools.com
Barnegat High School	Mrs. Christine Ayers Mrs. Katie Bonelli (SAC) Mr. Jeffrey Fonseca Mrs. Kathryn Gehrke Mr. Thomas Lang	cayers@barnegatschools.com kbonelli@barnegatschools.com jfonseca@barnegatschools.com kgehrke@barnegatschools.com tlang@barnegatschools.com
District: Drug-Free Community Cdr.	Mrs. Michele Cucinotta	mcucinotta@barnegatschools.com
District: School Counselor	Mrs. Kimberly Burke	kburke@barnegatschools.com
District: Supervisor of Guidance	Dr. Leah Purpuri	lpurpuri@barnegatschools.com



A Note From The Superintendent

I encourage you to read each of our new quarterly newsletters, as they will highlight important information.

Follow us on social media:

Instagram: @onebarnegat

Facebook: Barnegat Township School District (Bengal Face-1Barnegat)

Twitter: @BarnegatSchools

My name is Dr. Brian Latwis and I am the Superintendent of the Barnegat Township School District. This is my 20th year in education and my 4th year as the Superintendent of Schools in Barnegat. Let me start by saying that we are so thankful for your investment in the success of our school district and your continued support will help us further shape and guide empathetic and responsible young members of our community. When it comes to raising and educating children, you often hear the phrase "it takes a village." It's said so often because it's true and we are thankful for our Barnegat "village."

In just a short period of time, we are already seeing the positive changes and a measurable difference in student and district achievement. After struggling for years, Barnegat has passed the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for only the second time since it was mandated by the state in 2006. The NJQSAC is 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. Even more impressive, the district has been designated a "high performing" district after scoring 100% in four areas and 81% in Instruction and Program. The only other time the district passed the NJQSAC was the 2011/12 school year.

Students at Barnegat High School excelled on the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Our students outperformed the state average in nine of the 17 AP programs offered. Those nine high-performing AP classes are: Computer Science Principles, Physics 1, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, European History, Spanish Language & Culture, English Literature & Composition, English Language & Composition, and Studio Art Drawing. Furthermore, the NJ state average for each of those exams is higher than the national average, which means that Barnegat High School students performed, on average, among the best in the country.

In Barnegat, we also believe educating our students goes beyond academics. We are proud to have been recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for our outstanding commitment to music education for two years in a row. We offer students countless opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular activities like clubs and athletics. We also offer opportunities for students to help serve the community. Our Adopt-a-Street program was developed by students in 2019 who wanted to help clean up the streets and keep trash out of Barnegat Bay, protecting the environment and ocean wildlife. Our Interact Club provides an opportunity for students to make a difference here in the community by working together with the local Rotary Club.

Being able to offer our students the very best education also means investing in our schools and programs, while of course, being fiscally responsible. Last year, we approved a major energy update that will help reduce the carbon footprint of our six schools at no cost to taxpayers. The plan is expected to result in an estimated savings of \$7,728,933 over 20 years through different upgrades to interior and exterior lighting, HVAC upgrades, boiler and chiller replacements, and other cost-and-energy saving measures.

We are so lucky to have passionate and highly-skilled professionals working in our schools. Our supportive teachers and staff have a genuine commitment to each student's success, as well as our district's success. Although academic growth will always remain a priority, we are committed to teaching our students beyond the core subjects. Our goals for the district revolve around student growth and learning and we want to provide them with the tools they need to build a successful future. To help our children maximize their potential, we aim to promote their entire well-being. This includes developing character, nurturing social-emotional learning, and building engaged members of the community.

We value being part of this wonderful community and will always strive to do our best, not just for our students and staff, but for all of our stakeholders. We know that good schools create a positive ripple effect that extends far beyond the clear benefit of higher property values for all who live in Barnegat. By working together, we can all take an active role in our children's promising future. If you have any questions or feedback please do not hesitate to reach out to me at onebarnegat@barnegatschools.com.



The Scoop on Graduation Testing

Standardized testing can be a confusing topic, especially with recent waivers in testing graduation requirements. It is crucial to remain updated regarding which tests do meet graduation requirements—and exactly what their target scores are. This is especially true for the Class of 2022 and beyond, as at this time, they will indeed have to meet testing graduation requirements. As you may know, BHS students in grades 10-12 had PSAT and/or SAT opportunities in mid-October. And their score reports, typically released in Winter, will clarify their individual reading and mathematics sub-scores. Many seniors have taken the ASVAB, and opportunities for Accuplacer assessments are available as well. For your convenience, please see the below chart, indicating a sampling of pathways to meet testing graduation requirements for the Class of 2022. (Classes of 2023-2025 will have an additional test option, called the NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment*; see details about this in the bottom portion of this article!).

English	Mathematics
NJSLA ELA Grade 9 ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	NJSLA Algebra I ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>
NJSLA ELA Grade 10 ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	NJSLA Geometry ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
NJSLA ELA Grade 11 ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>	NJSLA Algebra II ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
SAT Critical Reading* ≥ 400 <i>or</i>	SAT Math* ≥ 400 <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ≥ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN Math ≥ 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer ≥ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra ≥ 76 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer for ESL ≥ 4 <i>or</i>	Next-Gen Accuplacer Quant. Reasoning, Alg. & Statistics ≥ 255
PSAT Reading (Sub-score) ≥ 22 <i>or</i>	PSAT Math (Sub-score) ≥ 22 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading ≥ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire Math ≥ 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

Becoming Familiar with the Assessments

- Accuplacer** Created by CollegeBoard, the Accuplacer is an entrance test historically used by community colleges. There is an English and a mathematics section, and meeting their target scores indicates that a student is able to perform at the college-level in the respective subjects. This can be taken year-round at community college testing centers.
- ACT** The American College Test is the most popular national entrance test for four year schools. Created by its own corporation in lieu of College Board, the ACT is longer in length, more analytical in nature and includes a science portion. Typically, students who are strongest in math and science will test more competitively on the ACT. This test is taken on Saturdays; registration occurs online via www.actstudent.org.
- ASVAB** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is most commonly known as a prerequisite to serve in the military. This test is free and can be taken during the school day 2 times per year at BHS, or privately with a recruiter. This is the only assessment with a composite score that does not differentiate English and mathematics scores.
- *NJGPA** The purpose of New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment is to evaluate student's knowledge in English 10, Algebra 1 and Geometry. For students in the Class of 2023-2025 (current juniors, sophomores and freshmen), this will be an additional pathway to meet testing graduation requirements. It's inaugural administration will be in the Spring of 2022 for the current junior class.
- NJSLA** The purpose of NJSLA is to measure student's progress—locally, and statewide—in mathematics, English and science according to New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This is for students in grades 3-high school. NJSLA assessments are delivered online through Pearson.
- PSAT** Created by College Board, the Preliminary SAT assesses student's general abilities in reading, writing and mathematics. BHS sophomores and juniors may take this assessment in October without cost to the student during the school day. Using the access code provided on PSAT score report, College Board provides free personally-tailored review to strengthen weaknesses demonstrated in testing.
- SAT** Created by College Board, the SAT assesses student's general abilities in reading and mathematics. This test is taken on Saturdays, OR in October during SAT school day for juniors/seniors; registration occurs online via www.collegeboard.org for Saturday testing. Students enrolled in reduced lunch may have fees waived.
- Start Strong** The Start Strong Assessment was administered online in October; it does not meet a testing graduation cut score. Rather, it indicates students' grasps of past-year concepts and is taken in grades 4-12 to evaluate the content learned in grades 3-11.



Celebrating UPstanders!

The UPstander program is one that highlights community unity, supporting the local economy, family togetherness and a positive district climate—all at once! See below for details about our UPstanding students that were celebrated this Fall.

	Student Name	School	Grade
September-Benevolence	Henry Zuniga	BHS	11
	Winter Delaney	ROBMS	8
	Andrew Rosa	RLHIS	6
	Kolton Speer	JTDS	4
	Penelope Kozal	CSCS	K
	Callie Bowles	LMDS	Pre-K
	Student Name	School	Grade
October-Esteem	Joseph Bivins	BHS	11
	Emily Doscher	ROBMS	8
	Ryan DiCaro	RLHIS	6
	Morgan Sagaas	JTDS	4
	Victoria Bergero	CSCS	2
	Nathan Croft	LMDS	Pre-K
	Student Name	School	Grade
November-Nurturing	Az'Mar Pearson	BHS	10
	Ava Linton	ROBMS	8
	Angelina Colavita	RLHIS	6
	Dani Esposito	JTDS	3
	Haley Krug	CSCS	1
	Lyonna Davis	LMDS	Pre-K

Highlights of the Quarter

- LMDS** This fall, the preschool students in LMDS participated in a school-wide playdate with their parents/guardians to connect with one another and promote a positive school climate. During the Week of Respect, books about kindness were read to students.
- CSCS** The CSCS counselors have been facilitating a Breakfast Club for Kindergarten students. The groups focus on basic social skills, including following rules, cooperating, whole body listening, stating needs, respecting personal space, making friends, and using manners.
- JTDS** Last year, JTDS became a designated No Place for Hate school and the program will continue this year. All students have signed the No Place for Hate pledge and student leaders have been selected. Throughout the school year, the group will participate in a bully prevention workshop, an UPstander presentation, and student-led activities.
- RLHIS** The RLHIS teachers have integrated the Second Step curriculum during homeroom. Second Step is an evidence-based SEL program that helps children gain confidence, set goals, make better decisions, collaborate with others, and navigate the world more effectively.
- ROBMS** The ROBMS students participated in activities and assemblies to support The Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week.
- BHS** The BHS counselors hosted a successful senior college night in November, during which the application process was reviewed. This was followed by a FAJITAS AND FAFSA event, through which several of our families received expert, personally-tailored advice on their financial aid application.

Words of Gratitude from our own Barnegat Students

- I am thankful for my family, school, and my home. [Grade 1]
- I am thankful for love and food. [Grade 1]
- I am thankful for God. [Grade 2]
- I am thankful for my family because I love them
and they care about me. [Grade 3]
- I am thankful for friends, family, nature, oxygen, & my house. [Grade 4]
- I am thankful for my best friends, family, and food. [Grade 4]
- I am thankful for my family. [Grade 5]
- I am thankful for my pet. [Grade 5]
- I am thankful for my family and friends. I am also thankful
that we are all healthy. [Grade 5]
- I am thankful for my friends. [Grade 6]
- I am thankful for my education. [Grade 6]
- I am thankful for my life. [Grade 6]
- I am thankful for my parents. [Grade 7]
- I am thankful for my family. [Grade 9]
- I am thankful for fruit rollups. [Grade 11]
- I am thankful for life. [Grade 11]
- I am thankful for soccer. [Grade 12]
- I am thankful to have the opportunity to live my dream
starting with the acceptance & scholarship to Rider. [Grade 12]

What are you thankful for?