



**Sayreville Public Schools**  
**Vision 2030**

P.O. Box 997  
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871  
Phone: 732-525-5200  
Fax: 732-727-5769



**Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools**  
**Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent**

**Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent**  
**Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

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September 1, 2018

Dear Parents:

Please excuse the interruption to what I hope has been a most relaxing and enjoyable summer. I am of course contacting you in order to officially wish you a **Happy New School Year** and welcome you back to what I know will be another challenging, productive, and memorable school year in Sayreville. Please remember that school will officially begin for all students in grades **1-12** on **Thursday, September 6, 2018**. Students in **preschool and kindergarten** will have their respective **orientations on Thursday**, but will **start school** the following day on **Friday, September 7, 2018**. As I have said many times, one of the many things that I love about being an educator and parent is that I have the opportunity to celebrate two kinds of "New Year." Naturally, like everyone, we celebrate the beginning of the new calendar year on January 1<sup>st</sup>, but it is the celebration of the new school year that will always be the most precious for me.

In preparation for the 2017-18 school year our amazing Facilities and Operations staff have been working tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare the buildings and grounds, and to provide our instructional staff with the essential resources, supplies, and materials that they will need to promote learning and the most positive student outcomes in their classrooms during the 2018-19 school year. In fact, not only were they hard at work cleaning and refurbishing our facilities, among other smaller projects, they also completed the renovation of the staff and student bathrooms at the Wilson School, installed dozens of smartboards throughout the district, and painted the SWMHS Stadium. Speaking of the stadium, this summer we also replaced the turf field and have budgeted funds to replace the track next spring or summer.

Likewise, our team of incredible administrators and teacher leaders have spent the greater part of the summer analyzing our 2017-18 student assessment data so that we can make the best educational decisions for our students this upcoming school year. That said, we would like to thank you for partnering with us during the 2017-18 school year to promote learning and the most positive outcomes for our students, as evidenced by our portfolio of assessment results. In fact, according to our Advanced Placement (AP) Test scores, our AP students at the high school continue to excel, particularly in Biology, Calculus, and English Language Arts, in which student performance once again significantly improved. In fact, the average student score in Biology increased from a 3.19 to nearly a 3.5, and in Calculus BC, the average score (4.57) was nearly a perfect 5. Furthermore, as per our 2017-18 PARCC student assessment results, in mathematics the percentage of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who met or exceeded expectations continued to increase, as nearly 59% of them did so, compared to the 55% they did during the 2016-17 school year.

In language arts, our average student score in AP English increased from a 2.90 to a 3.21 and in English Literature it increased from a 3 to a 3.19. Likewise, the elementary school continued to demonstrate significant progress in developing the skill of literacy in the primary grades, as demonstrated by Developmental Reading Assessment results. In fact, there was another significant increase in the number of 1<sup>st</sup> Graders who were reading on or above grade level at the end of last year compared to 2016-17. Moreover, according to our PARCC results, in nearly every tested grade level there was an increase in the

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number of students who met or exceeded expectations, especially in grades 4-5 and 7, in which 60% or more of those students met this standard of development. In fact, there was a nearly a 10% increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in grades 4 and 7 as compared to 2016-17.

Thus, we are ready once again to join you and our amazing staff and students in what we know will be another exciting, productive, and memorable school year in Sayreville. While, as mentioned above, we have made significant progress, there is still much more work to be done, particularly in mathematics at the upper elementary and secondary level, and in language arts in grades 2-3. Hence, this year the district will continue to make changes that we believe will improve learning and/or increase our business efficiency. For example, as you know, this year the district migrated its student data to the Oncourse student information system. We also purchased and implemented a new finance and budgeting software called Systems 3000. At the high school we will implement our first two career learning academies called the Foundations of Academic and Community Training in Education (FACT) and the SWMHS Business Academy. Furthermore, the district will implement its revised policy on the assessment of all students districtwide, in which a new approach to assigning and grading homework will be executed.

In addition, the district will extend the implementation of the Fountas and Pinnell Reading System into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in order to assist those teachers in promoting greater literacy development. Likewise, we will expand the use of the research proven effective supplemental literacy development software Achieve 3000 to all our students in grades 3-5. Furthermore, this year we have purchased enough student instructional devices, such as iPads and Chromebooks, to lower our student to device ratio to one device per student in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which will inevitably result in more of our students utilizing essential instructional software, like Achieve 3000, RAZ Kids, Math XL, and ST Math on a far greater frequency level. Similarly, the purchase of new devices at the secondary level will bring the ratio down to about one device per 1.5 students.

Finally, since the safety and well-being of our students and staff is by far Sayreville's highest priority, this school year we will spend approximately an additional one million dollars on school safety and security upgrades. About half of these funds will be used to construct secure retention vestibules equipped with metal detectors at the high school, middle school, and upper elementary school. In addition, we will enhance and expand interior and exterior video surveillance through the purchase of new cameras and a software system to manage the data from them. To support existing visitor procedures, the district will also be purchasing portable metal detectors and metal detecting wands for our staff of campus security monitors, which will once again be in every school, to use when screening visitors. Speaking of our campus security monitors, we will be using another large portion of these funds to hire additional monitors and to fund our portion of a very generous inter-local shared services agreement with the Borough of Sayreville that will enable us to once again staff an armed Sayreville Police Officer in each of our schools every day in which our students are present.

That said, in order to ensure the safety of our students and staff, we will ask all our parents to continue to **cooperate fully with our visitor procedures**, which will be **strictly enforced**. Thus, if you are planning to

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visit and enter your child(ren)'s school, please remember to **make an appointment or to send us advanced notice**, preferably in writing (letter or email). Also, please make sure that you have **photo identification**, preferably your driver's license. Unfortunately, visitors who do not have an appointment or do not provide advance notice of their visit, as well as those who do not show photo identification to our campus security monitors, will not be allowed to enter the school. Finally, please strongly consider leaving any bags at home or in your vehicle, as if you bring them into school, they will be scanned and potentially searched for harmful objects. Likewise, please note that all visitors will be screened by either portable metal detectors or metal detecting wands for harmful objects. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause you.

Prior to the beginning of the school year, if you have not already done so, please make sure that you have created your *Oncourse Connect* parent portal and have complete the mandatory enrollment update (**Only if your child(ren) was a student in Sayreville during the 2017-18 school year and is going into grades 1-12**). Please remember that some student schedules and bus information may change. Thus, **please take the time to periodically check your child(ren)'s schedule and bus information in *Oncourse Connect***. Furthermore If you have not yet created your parent portal, and have not updated your child(ren)'s enrollment information, please understand that you will not be able to view your child(ren)'s schedule and/or bus information in it until you do so.

To access *Oncourse Connect* in order to begin the process of creating your parent portal and/or to perform your child(ren)'s enrollment update, click [here](#). **If you are logging on for the first time, please remember to use the username and temporary password you received via a secure document email from the Sayreville School District.** If you did not receive the email or subsequently deleted it, please email [parent.portal@sayrevillek12.net](mailto:parent.portal@sayrevillek12.net). For more information on the *Oncourse Connect* parent portal, click on the following hyperlinked documents: [Oncourse Connect Introduction Letter](#), [Oncourse Connect Parent Portal First Time Use](#), and [Oncourse Connect FAQs](#). To find very specific directions on how to complete and submit the enrollment update, please click on the following hyperlinked documents: [Oncourse Connect Annual Enrollment Update Introduction Letter](#), [Oncourse Connect Annual Enrollment Update User Guide](#), and [Oncourse Connect Annual Enrollment Update FAQs](#).

If at any point in time you experience technical difficulty, please do not hesitate to seek our assistance by emailing [parent.portal@sayrevillek12.net](mailto:parent.portal@sayrevillek12.net). Furthermore, if you do not have access to a device to register your child, the district has set up a small computer lab for parents in the Selover School (150 Lincoln St., South Amboy). If you would like to use the lab, contact Carolyn Magielnicki by emailing her at [Carolyn.Magielnicki@sayrevillek12.net](mailto:Carolyn.Magielnicki@sayrevillek12.net).

**Moreover, please make sure that your child(ren), especially those who are in or will be entering the high school, have completed ALL summer reading and math assignments/packets.**

Lastly, please make sure that you visit the [Parent Page](#) of our website ([www.sayrevillek12.net](http://www.sayrevillek12.net)). It consists of an abundance of information that you will find very helpful, particularly the **2018-19 School District**

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**Calendar** (Click [here](#) to view) and the **2018-19 Our Schools Guide**, which will be sent out and posted early next week. In addition, please take the time to read my weekly **Talk Sup** messages and our Board of Education monthly newsletter entitled **Head of the Class**, which includes a very detailed calendar for each month. For instance, in the September issue you will see the evenings that your chil(ren)'s school will hold its **Back to School Night**. Finally, enjoy the **Bomber Blasts** and tweets that stream real time in the **What's Happening** section on the bottom half of the homepage and do not forget to follow us on Twitter ([@Sayreville12](#)) and to like us on Facebook ([sayrevillepublicschools](#))

On behalf of the Sayreville Board of Education and Administration, we wish you and your family a most enjoyable Labor Day weekend and a very memorable and highly successful school year.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Labbe, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools