



# SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## ~QUICK LINKS~

[District Website](#)

[Genesis Parent Access](#)

[ES Principal's Page](#)

[MHS Principal's Page](#)

[Athletic Schedules](#)

[South Amboy PTO](#)



## Social Media:

District Twitter:

@SApublicSchools

Superintendent Twitter:

@SASuptJdiaz

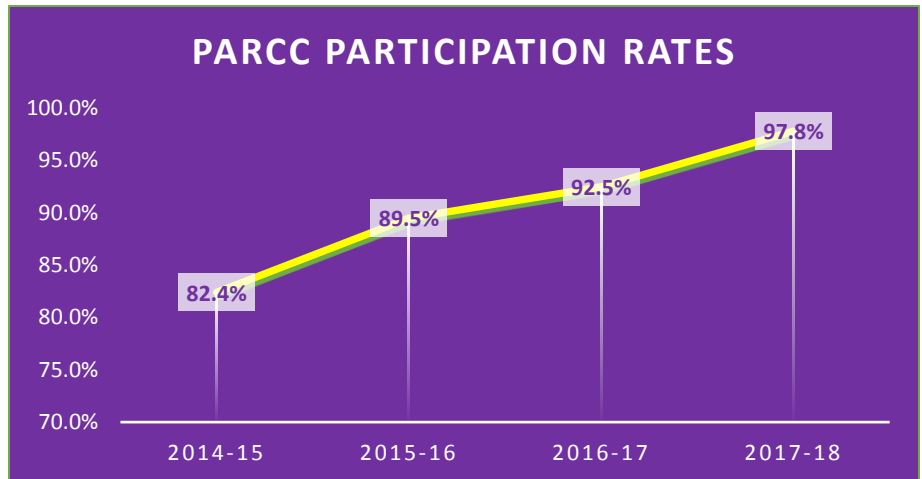
Elementary Twitter: @SAES08879

Athletics Twitter: @SAHSAthletics

Instagram: @SApublicSchools

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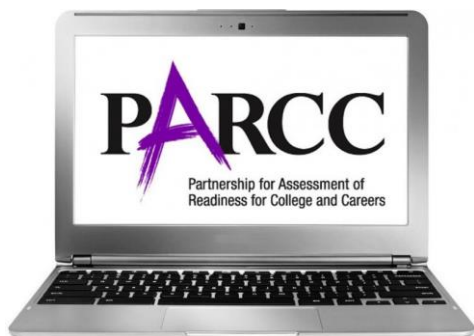
## District PARCC Participation Rates Increase



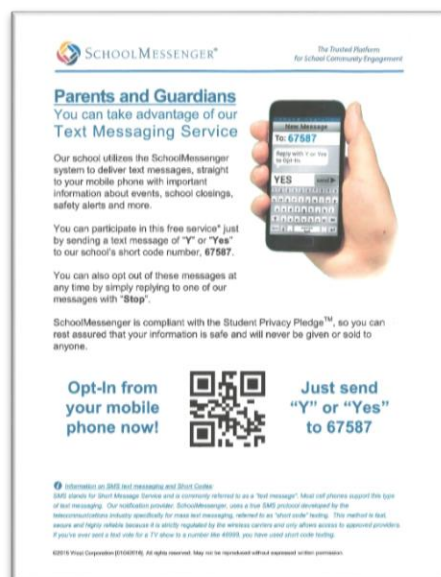
**All public school students are required to take the statewide assessments as prescribed by the New Jersey Department of Education. The target benchmark for district and school participation is 95% of students.**

Our district's participation on the PARCC assessment has been increasing since the inception of the state assessment, however, until last year, the district has not met the 95% participation target. This has had negative consequences on the district's accountability reporting. In addition, the district has been penalized for the percent of students who refuse to take the assessment below the 95% target. Rather than our proficiency rate being based on the total number of students taking the assessment, it is based on 95% of the enrolled students if the participation rate is lower than 95%\*. For example, suppose 100 students are required to take the PARCC and only 80 take the test. Of those 80 students, 40 pass the PARCC assessment. Most would think our proficiency rate would be 50% proficiency ( $40/80 = 50\%$  proficiency). However, since less than 95% of the students took the test, the state uses 95% of the enrolled students as the denominator. Therefore, 40 out of 95 or 42% would be our proficiency rate. Essentially, refusals to take the test count against the school/district. During the 2017-18 school year, we met the target for the first time since the inception of the PARCC assessment. It's important to continue this trend to ensure we are not negatively affected by test refusals.

Continued from page 1...



The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning and teacher instruction as both respond to the information it provides. Assessment for learning is an ongoing process that arises out of the interaction between teaching and learning, and is a critical piece of the learning process. Our administrators and teachers need as many data points to target student deficiencies to improve learning. The biggest concern for some parents has been the time PARCC testing takes away from instructional time. The New Jersey Department of Education has proposed reducing the number of tests/sections and the overall testing time. This should alleviate many of the concerns. While we understand state testing, in general, has had a negative cloud over it, it is required by law, and it is an essential component of measuring instruction and learning. For more information regarding PARCC participation, please contact your child's principal or the office of the Superintendent. (\*Implemented by the NJDOE in 2016-17)



## Get Text Notifications!

The district uses the School Messenger notification service to send important information to families through phone calls. We have recently setup the capability to send text notifications as well. To comply with wireless carrier requirements and protect against unsolicited text messages, you may receive a text message on the wireless cell phone number that the district has on file, requesting that you "opt-in" to receive important information from the district via our SMS text messaging service.

For more information, click on the flyer on the left. You may sign-up immediately by texting Yes to 67587.

## Community Events: (click on flyer to enlarge)



City Tree Lighting

SAYAA Indoor Soccer

PTO Holiday Lights Spectacular

## MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Patrick McCabe, Principal

- All students participated in our first Olweus class meeting for this year. Middle School students answered discussion questions about the differences between bullying and teasing and what to do if they are experiencing bullying at school.

The students then participated in an exercise to illustrate how people are labeled. In small groups, students tried to guess a label (like popular student) by describing that label using only words. The students could not act out actions or use proper names. The exercise is similar to the "Headbanz" game or "Heads Up." High School students also answered discussion questions related to the difference between bullying and teasing. They then were given the lyrics to two songs about bullying by popular music artists and asked to compare and contrast the songs. Students also explored the meaning or message of each song.



### THE CONSUMER BOWL IS COMING TO THE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL!!!

- The New Jersey High School Consumer Bowl is an educational competition for high school students across the state. It was established in 1997 to educate young adults on a variety of consumer issues and is approved under the New Jersey Department of Education Professional Development Guidelines, thus enabling teachers who coach the students to obtain professional development credits.



- Schools participate free of charge and study materials and additional study links are provided through our website. All participating students receive Certificates of Achievement. Winners at the county and regional level receive trophies. First, second and third-place winners at the state level, the final level of competition, receive individual medals and prizes.

*Here are the four members of our team:*

Seniors: J. Lukie, A. Haran, M. Gemian, N. Mihalecko, and Alternate - S. Switzer (Not pictured)

**WE ARE HOSTING THE COMPETITION ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30TH**

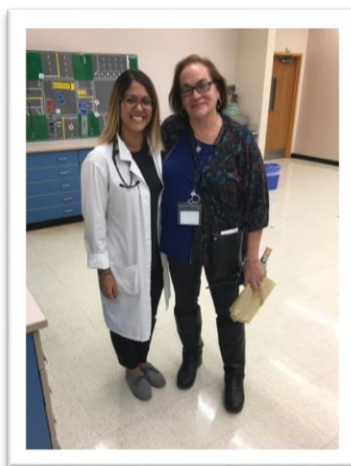


*Middle High School continued...*

- Students in Mrs. Partenope's class enter a life-size coordinate plane as they plot points and images on a large classroom grid. This was more than just hands on, it was whole body involvement.



- Brianne Gonsalves, a Nurse Practitioner, came in to speak with about 25-30 of our Juniors/Seniors about the college application process, importance of deadlines, balancing work and play, and what it's like to follow the Nursing path. It was well received by everyone in attendance. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Housman spoke briefly as well. Brianne was the first ever recipient of the Joanne Donnelly Nursing scholarship.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

*By Sean Dunphy, Principal*

- We had another successful Book Fair for our PTO and our students. Thank you to all who purchased books!
- Mrs. Tice ran a Jeans for Troops fundraiser, and we raised \$240 for the GI Go Fund.
- During this year, we are awarding perfect attendance quarterly. For the first quarter of the year, we had 156 students who achieved perfect attendance. Each student received a small note attached to a blow pop as a small reward.
- Mr. Poll from the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club, delivered dictionaries to the Third Grade students, as they have done each year. Throughout the year, students utilize their dictionaries during language arts classes.



- This year, the SAES will be participating in a Make-A-Wish Foundation writing assignment. Last year, we were able to collect over 300 letters. The format is easy, and the program is run by a freshman student in Old Bridge. For each letter collected, Macy's will donate \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This activity will run until Monday, December 3. You can see a short snippet on this short video: [Make A Wish Foundation Video](#).
- Last week, we had over 480 conferences between teachers and parents.

**Parent**  
**Teacher**  
**Conferences**  
**Communication**  
**Homework**

**Behavior**  
**Teamwork**  
**Grades**

**Progress**  
**Goals**  
**Achieve**

## ATHLETICS:

For athletics schedules, please visit:

<https://www.greatermiddlesexconference.org/public/genie/343/school/27/>

# PTO

The purpose of the South Amboy PTO is to strengthen the relationship between home and school, so that parents and teachers may work together for the success in the education of children at our schools. Our group helps the staff and students of our district by raising funds to provide technology and supplies needed, and has events to promote family unity.



If you're interested in helping with various activities such as a Fun Day committee, box top counters, and monthly birthday ice cream coverage. Please email a letter of interest to [sapto08879@gmail.com](mailto:sapto08879@gmail.com).

For upcoming Events, please visit our [website](#).

For more information on our PTO, please email us at [SAPTO08879@gmail.com](mailto:SAPTO08879@gmail.com)

## District Events/Activities

Date	Time	Description
12/3 – 12/7	School day	PTO Holiday Bazaar @ ES
12/4	6:30 p.m.	MHS Class of 2023 Holiday Free Throw Competition
12/6	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Dance
12/7	6:00 p.m.	PTO Holiday Light Show @ MHS auditorium
12/10, 12/11	School day	PTO Holiday Bazaar @ MHS
12/11, 12/12	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	MS and HS Scavenger Hunts
12/13	7:00 p.m.	MHS Winter Concert
12/14	7:00 p.m.	MHS Homecoming Dance
12/15		Friends of South Amboy Charity Event @ MHS Gym
12/17	6:00 p.m.	BOE Meeting
12/18	6:30 p.m.	ES Winter Concert
12/20		MHS Class of 2023 Gift Wrapping Fundraiser
12/21		Short Session – early dismissal, all schools
12/24 – 1/1		Holiday Recess – Schools Closed
1/2/19		School Reopens

MHS = Middle High School  
ES = Elementary School