

# South Amboy Elementary School Early Childhood Education Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2  
November 30, 2020

## Welcome to the SAES Family

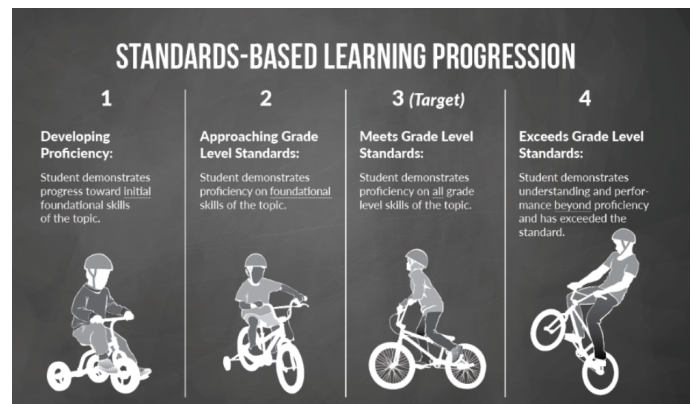


We are happy to introduce Valerie Mejia (Left) who is our Family Liaison and Lisa McAlonie (Right) who is our new school nurse. Both staff members have been a wonderful addition to the staff at South Amboy Elementary School and both will be contributing to the monthly newsletter in the future.

## Understanding Standards Based Reports

With Progress Reports being posted to Genesis, and the end of the 1st Trimester approaching, we wanted to share two images to better understand [Standards Based Grading](#). Similar to [learning to ride a bike](#), students will be making progress towards mastery for each of the standards throughout the year which appear on the Report Card. Our target for all students is to be a “3” in all of the Standard areas. For more information please review the [Standards Based Report Card FAQs](#). If your question is not there please email Dr. Gurczeski for clarity and the response will be added to the FAQ page.

### What is Standards Based Grading?



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## Curriculum Updates



Over the past three years we have implemented Ready Classroom Mathematics in our school and over the past two years we have rolled out the Fountas & Pinnell Classroom program for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. For information about the programs you can click either of the icons above. To increase our transparency with the new programs, our teachers have created grade level updates which will be included in each of the Early Childhood Education newsletters moving forward. These updates are located below.

[Pre-K](#)  
[Kindergarten](#)  
[First Grade](#)

[Second Grade](#)  
[Third Grade](#)

## South Amboy Early Childhood Advisory Council

We are proud to announce the creation of the South Amboy Early Childhood Advisory Council. This council will be made up of stakeholders within the community and will meet every other month to discuss priorities and goals. It is our belief that these grade levels are the cornerstone of our educational program and together we can further bridge the communication gap between families and the school. The responsibilities of the South Amboy Early Childhood Advisory Council (SAECAC) are to:

- Provide all stakeholders an opportunity to be active participants in the assessment of needs and resources, including facilities, as it pertains to the implementation of high-quality preschool to third-grade programs; and
- Develop priorities based on recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Director and Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS); and
- Review and comment on program reports at the request of the district's Director of Early Childhood Education; and
- Enlist, promote, and support collaboration between the Early Childhood Program and the community.

We will be holding our first meeting on December 2, 2020 where we will adopt our bylaws, hold an election for co-chairs, and identify goals and objectives for the rest of the school year. Following the meeting you can find more information on the Early Childhood Education page on the District website.

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## Social and Emotional Learning

Our Social and Emotional focus for our parents this month is on the topic of Self-Awareness. As adults we understand what we are feeling and why we feel that way. Our children though are still developing this important skill and need help to recognize and identify their emotions. If your child seems to be going through a situation ask them some of the following question:

- What are you feeling right now?
- Have you felt this way before?
- Can you explain what made you feel this way?
- How can you use your words to explain to someone else what you are feeling.



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## Character Corner

Our Character Education theme for the month December is Respect. Here are some topics for you to discuss with your child about Respect.

- Treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant and accepting of differences
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

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## Important School Resources

[Mr. Dunphy's Principal Page](#)

[Mrs. Masella's School Counselor Page](#)

[Nurse's Page](#)

[Early Childhood Education Page](#)

[Jorge E. Diaz](#)

Superintendent of Schools

[Martin Gurczeski Jr. Ed.D.](#)

Director of Early Childhood Education

The Mission of the South Amboy School District is to educate and empower today's learners to develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially as tomorrow's leaders within a diverse community of supportive and committed educators, parents, and citizens.

South Amboy Public Schools

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