



SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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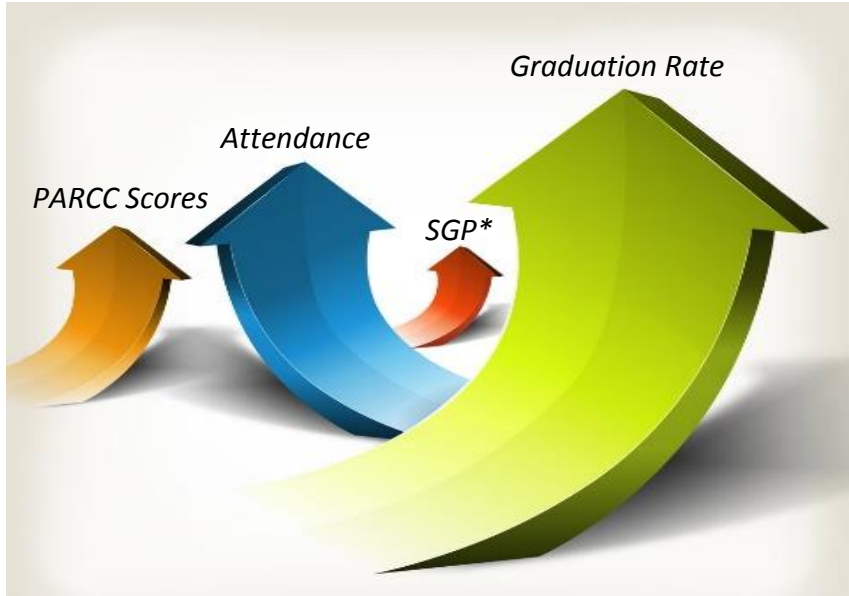
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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ON THE RISE!



*SGP (Student Growth Percentile)


The 2017-18 ESSA School Accountability Profile will soon be released to the public. Annually, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) issues Accountability Profiles, which enable schools and districts to review their progress toward achieving the intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). School and district data for specific indicators are compared to annual targets and standards and reported by student group to identify gaps. The South Amboy Board of Education is pleased to announce significant increases in student achievement. While we still have a great deal of work to do, the programs and systems we've implemented have yielded great success. Here's a preview:

PARCC Participation 82.4% in 2014-15 97.8% in 2017-18	PARCC ELA Proficiency 40% in 2014-15 46.9% in 2017-18	PARCC Math Proficiency 29% in 2014-15 35.3% in 2017-18
Student Growth SGP* 38 in 2015-16 43 in 2017-18	Graduation Rate 82.6 Class of 2015 96.3 Class of 2018	Chronic Absenteeism 11.7% in 2015-16 7.6% in 2017-18

South Amboy Assessment Plan 2018-19

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve students' learning and teachers' teaching 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.

Classroom, district, and state assessments are all conducted in order to provide a process to verify student proficiency of the academic standards set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). South Amboy Public Schools utilize a variety of assessment techniques to measure student progress towards state standards. The Assessment Plan includes the various assessments administered to students throughout the school year. ([Click here to view plan.](#))



2018-19 Assessment Calendar
Includes: NJ Mandated Assessments and Special Populations, South Amboy Common, & Other Standardized Assessments
*Dates may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. inclement weather)

New Jersey Mandated Assessments								
Assessment	Grade Levels	Subject Area	Dates / Testing Window	Max. Testing Absences per Session	Results Available (Date to come)	Accommodations	State/Federal Required	Available Practice Tests
PARCC*	3- High School	ELA & Math 3 ELA Units All Levels 4 Math Units Elem 3 Math Units MS & HS	April 8 - May 26, 2019	60-90 mins *	August	Per IEP/504	State & Federal	PARCC Practice Tests
No Science NJSLA - 5	5, 8, 11	Science 4 Units - All Levels	Elem: May 20 & 21 MS: May 20 & 21 HS: May 30 & 31	Elem: 90 mins MS: 60 mins HS: 60 mins	TBD by NJDOE	Per IEP/504	State	NJSLA Practice Tests

*PARCC guidelines & test specifications are currently being reviewed by the NJDOE and the state legislature. Any changes to the activities will be made upon official notification from the NJDOE, and all stakeholders will be notified accordingly.

[Link to the New Jersey Statewide Assessments Testing Schedule](#)

[Link to the latest NJDOE proposal for PARCC changes](#)

Revised Homework Policy approved by the Board of Education

The Board of Education defines homework as student learning activities conducted outside of school hours not under the direct supervision of the professional educator. The Board of Education believes that homework is an essential part of an effective and well-planned instructional program. Homework serves as an extension of learning beyond the classroom and the school day that supports the development of students' life-long skills and attitudes toward learning from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

The Board of education acknowledges that students have many opportunities to engage in personal learning activities and that sufficient time must be allowed for these and other family activities. Excessive homework could have negative consequences on some children, which may lead to undue stress and fatigue and deny access to leisure time. Such consequences depend in large part on the child's age, ability and other personal factors. ([Click here to review revised Homework Policy.](#))



Community Events: (click on flyer to enlarge)



Country Fall Fest



PTO Holiday Lights Spectacular

MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Patrick McCabe, Principal

- Media center activities
 - Students in Mrs. Shay's class did a "Leaf Prepositional Phrases Project" to enhance the "Tree of Life Skills" displayed in the Media Center.
 - Students in Mrs. Davidson's class constructed a Ziggurat out of Legos, relating to eighth grade World History, in particular, Ancient Civilizations. Projects are displayed in the Media Center.
- On Saturday, October 20th, the National Junior Honor Society volunteered for the Clean Ocean Action Organization. The 8th and 9th graders joined other students around the state to clean up the Raritan Bay Waterfront in South Amboy. They picked up old tires, 157 bottle caps, and lots of lumber, while documenting all their findings on a data card. They cannot wait to participate again for Earth Day!



The Girls Summit:

Our Middle School girls experienced the Girls Summit brought to us by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, The Middlesex County Office of Human Services and the Middlesex County Commission on Child Abuse and Missing Children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these organizations in our county for making this presentation possible.

The theme of the event today was "Making Healthy Choices for Healthy Living: A Program for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Girls."

There were many important topics covered, such as:

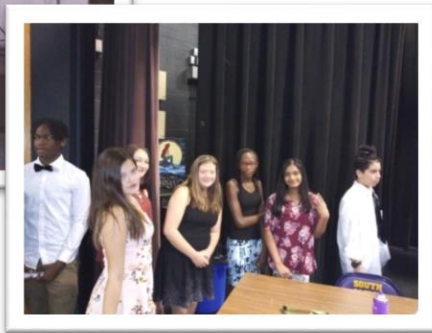
- Building healthy relationships

- Making good decisions
- Avoiding alcohol and drugs
- Anti-bullying
- Safe dates and peer relations
- Family and self-esteem issues
- Staying safe/preventing suicide
- Teen pregnancy

Our students were also addressed by our guidance counselors. They encouraged students to ask questions of trusted adults and to reach out to parents/guardians, teachers and counselors, as needed. Our goal was to help them learn about making good decisions and to understand the resources at their disposal if the need arises.

We have inquired about a presentation for our male students. At present, there is no Boys Summit available. They are working on one, possibly for next year.

8th Grade Photos – Caps and Gowns



- MHS and ES staff work and learn together during a professional development day on Collins Writing strategies.

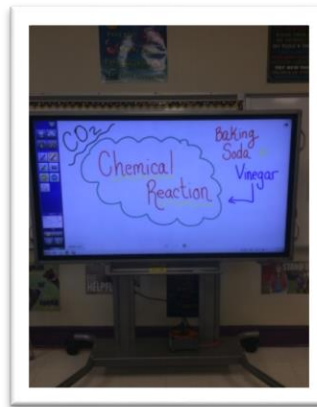


ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Sean Dunphy, Principal

- The culminating activity of our volcano project in fourth grade: Click on the link below to watch the video.

[Mrs. DeSouza's class volcano eruptions](#)



- The ES had jackets donated by the Knights of Columbus and Mr. Mike Dejoy. Special thanks for the donation of boy and girls coats, which will go to students in need.
- Our PK Classes had a pumpkin patch on October 30th. They were assisted by the life skills class from the MHS. They had stations where they played with slime, put jack-o-lantern stickers on pumpkins, and had fake tattoos put on them. It was a great success. Thank you to Dr. Robbins for providing the pumpkins!



- Teachers of grades 1-3 dressed as word walls for Halloween. Fun and educational!
- Halloween Parades/Parties went well; Thank you to all parents that helped out. You can see the parades at the following links: [Halloween Parade 2018 grades K-5](#) [PK Parade 1](#) [PK Parade 2](#)
- Intramural basketball began with Mr. Harduby last week for grades 4-5
- Many of our lessons focused on Veterans due to Veterans Day celebrated on 11/11.

- We had our Bus evacuation drill last week. The entire school participated by having each class report to a district bus parked outside the school. Mr. Dunphy went over the rules/procedures during a bus evacuation, and then the students participated by exiting out the back door of the bus following the proper procedures.



- The Book Fair has been successful for our PTO and our students.
- We had an “Elephant Toothpaste” science experiment in grade four last week which was a chemical reaction, you can see it on Youtube: [Mrs. DeSouza's chemical reaction for Halloween](#)

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.



For more information on our PTO, please email us at SAPTO08879@gmail.com