



SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



240 John Street, South Amboy, NJ | 732.525.2100 | www.sapublicschools.com

Volume 2 | Issue 4

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~QUICK LINKS~

- [District Website](#)
- [Genesis Parent Access](#)
- [ES Principal's Page](#)
- [MHS Principal's Page](#)
- [Athletic Schedules](#)
- [South Amboy PTO](#)

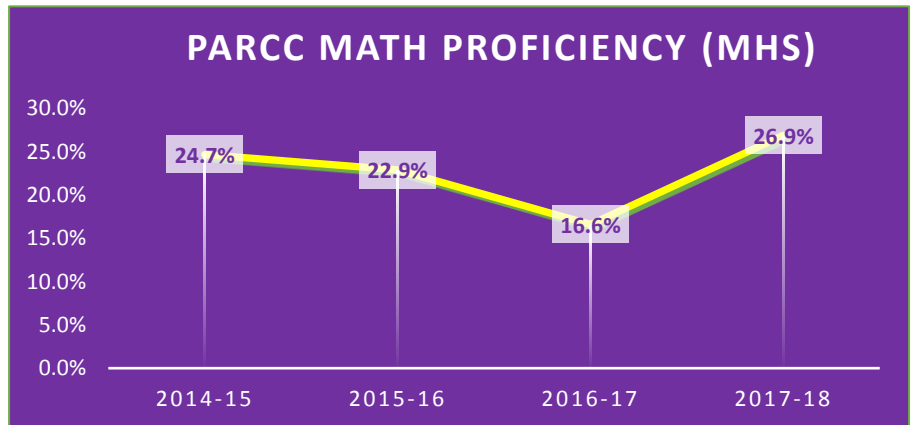
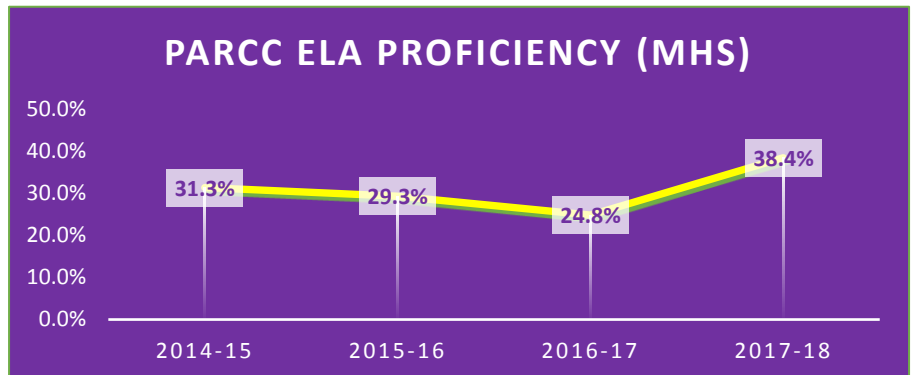


Social Media:

District Twitter:
@SAPublicSchools
Superintendent Twitter:
@SASuptJdiaz

Elementary Twitter: @SAES08879
Athletics Twitter: @SAHSAthletics
Instagram: @SAPublicSchools
Facebook: SAPublicSchools

PARCC Scores Increase at MHS in 2017-18



One year after the Middle High School was designated as a Comprehensive School, the school community rallied behind school improvement efforts to address PARCC participation, student chronic absenteeism, and student academic performance.

The District implemented Benchmark testing to assess, monitor, and drive instruction. Teacher professional development has been enhanced and tailored to meet the needs of staff. Master schedule changes facilitated increased time for math instruction, and this year, a new Math program has been implemented to align to the NJ Student Learning Standards. All of these efforts have set the foundation for increasing academic achievement.

Our administrators and teachers have been working diligently to address the needs of students, and we are proud of the work they have done to increase our school performance. The Middle High School has also launched an after-school intervention program for middle school students. Please contact the school for more information.

SCHOOLMESSENGER
The District Platform for School Community Engagement

Parents and Guardians
You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile phone now!

Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587

* Information on 2018 text messaging and Short Codes: 2018 updates for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, TextSolutions, uses a free 2018 personal database for the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is already regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. Please refer to our text tool for a 17p slide on a number 67587. You need valid short code texting. ©2018 West Corporation (11/2017) All rights reserved. May not be reproduced without expressed or implied permission.

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) *Disclaimer:* The following files are submitted to the South Amboy School District for publication and distribution as most of them benefit our community's children. HOWEVER, the South Amboy School District does not endorse any of the external activities related to the files. Prior to signing your child up for any of these activities, clubs, or events, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to determine the appropriateness of the event. We send this message as nothing more than a public service. Please select the link below to view further information on community activities.

ALOHA
JOIN THE S.A.Y.O FOR A
WINTER LUAU PARTY
JAN. 11TH | 7-10PM
GRADES 5TH, 6TH, 7TH
108 SOUTH STEVENS AVENUE
FOOD, BEVERAGE, MUSIC & DANCING!
AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN OF SOUTH AMBOY RESIDENTS AND SOUTH AMBOY EMPLOYEES

S.A.Y.O Winter Luau Party

Come Join the Celebration
1st Exhibition for 2019
South Amboy Arts Gallery
At 141 Broadway

Faces of Our City
Become a part of our 1st Exhibition

Whether you are an amateur or a professional photographer, you must be a resident of South Amboy to submit "Faces of Our City" Black and white or color photograph that meets the following criteria:

- printed on most standard photographic paper
- displayed on the theme "Faces of Our City"
- submitted by January 3, 2019 with your submission form (found on the City of South Amboy website or ask our Senior Citizen Liaison)
- drop off at the Senior Citizen Center 108 Stevens Avenue
- drop box date, Monday to Friday

Contact southamboyarts@sbata.com for further information

Celebration of our City at the South Amboy Arts Gallery
Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 2 pm to 4 pm
141 Broadway, South Amboy

Faces of Our City Exhibition
[Submission Form](#)

Mother Daughter Pajama Party

Friday, January 18th, 2019
6PM to 9PM
Middle High School Cafeteria
Please register by January 9, 2019
(space is limited please register ASAP - Only one adult per family)
Tickets: \$25 per couple \$5 each additional princess
Food, DJ, Dancing, Photos, Crafts

Student's Name: _____

PTO Mother Daughter Party

South Amboy Arts Musical Series

South Amboy Arts recognizing goal to be the best for our City's people not to enjoy the arts on their own but to enjoy the arts with others. Coming into the arts gallery for performances or other artistic endeavors from different groups will inspire our city's population and within time inspire the city's surrounding areas.

The following show the next six months of South Amboy Arts musical series:

Friday, February 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. will be with performer, Mark Wilson, a folk guitarist, who will perform at the Broadway Gallery. This venue is small and intimate for a comfortable atmosphere.

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. A featured folk performance by our own, Susana Kennedy, will coincide with the town's St. Patrick's Day Parade Celebration for all to enjoy. The performance will take place at the HUNTS Performing Arts Center. The venue has a 500 seating capacity a good venue for families and friends.

Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2 p.m. will be a performance by The City Whisk Trio. This opportunity is designed for families or individuals who want to learn more about the instruments in their entry their schools. You will have submit contemporary songs that you may recognize. The trio will be performing at the SA Arts Gallery.

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. will be with performer, Jeff Levine. This will be a Jazz Concert for our jazz lovers at the Broadway Gallery.

Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 2 p.m. This event will be the "Little Animal Band" which will be a fun concert. The performance is for the families of South Amboy and the venue is the South Amboy Train Station Plaza which can accommodate a large group.

SA Arts Musical Series

ALL TOGETHER. BETTER.

2019 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAM GUIDE
SOUTH AMBOY YMCA

YMCA of METUCHEN, EDISON, WOODBRIDGE & SOUTH AMBOY

Winter 2019 January 2 - February 24
Spring 2019 February 25 - April 21

Online registration available ymcasfnewsa.org

YMCA Winter Program Guide

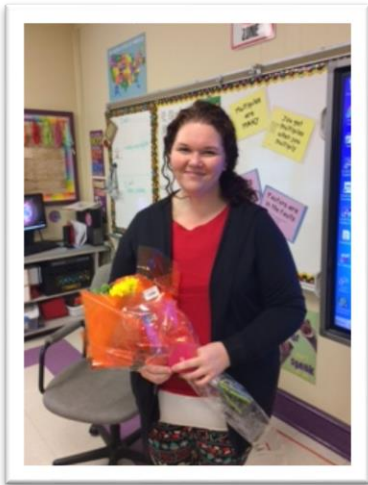
Links to our Partner websites can be found on the District website under About Us – [Our Partners](#)

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM:

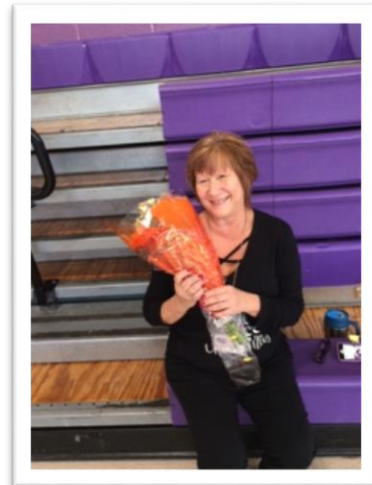
The New Jersey Teacher of the Year Program and the Governor's Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program have been integrated into the Governor's Educator of the Year Program. This updated program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, the rewards of teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. Further, it seeks to attract public attention to the positive aspects of our educational system. The nomination and selection process begins at the local level with each school selecting the school's Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year recipients. Our recipients are then entered into the statewide nomination and selection process for state recognition. It is our honor to announce the South Amboy 2018-19 Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year:

~ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~

**Teacher of the Year
Eileen DeSouza, Grade 4**



**Educational Services Professional of the Year
Judy Cyriax, Paraprofessional**



~ MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL ~

**Teacher of the Year
Shane Hughes, Social Studies Teacher**



(Pictured left to right: Principal Dr. Patrick McCabe, Shane Hughes, and SAEA Co-President Maureen Stryzalski)

**Educational Services Professional of the Year
Jared Gonsalves, Guidance Counselor**

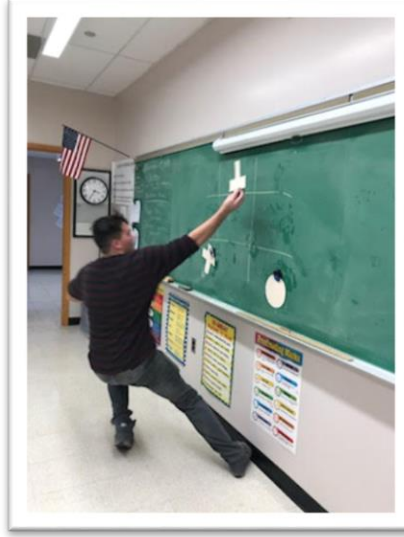


(Pictured left to right: Principal Dr. Patrick McCabe, Jared Gonsalves, and SAEA Co-President Maureen Stryzalski)

MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Patrick McCabe, Principal

- The MHS began the Spirit Week festivities on 12/13. The activities included themed dress-up days and various competitions in a friendly “class battles” format with classes earning points for completing certain tasks and demonstrating class/school pride. The Scavenger Hunts were a BLAST!!!



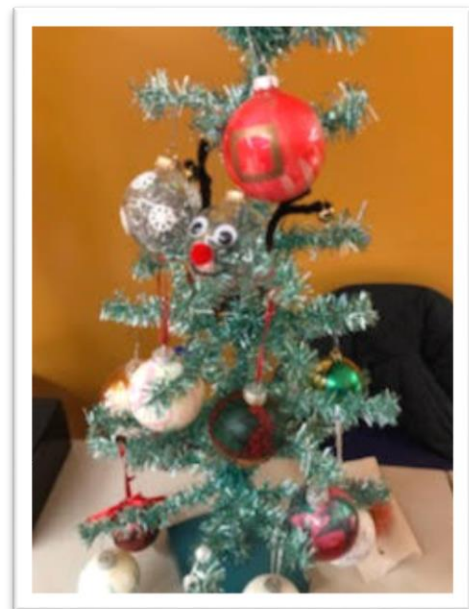
Class Banners! They were all winners!





National Art Honor Society:

- Our National Art Honor Society sold hand-painted tree ornaments as part of their annual holiday fundraising.



WINTER CONCERT:



The performers take the stage...



Please stand for the National Anthem - banjo style



The Guitars take the stage



The Chorus enchants us.



Let There be Rock!!!

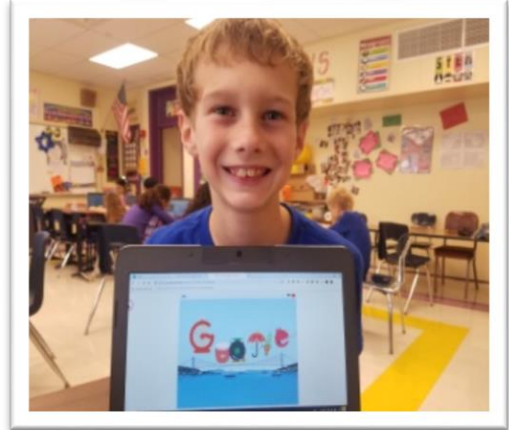
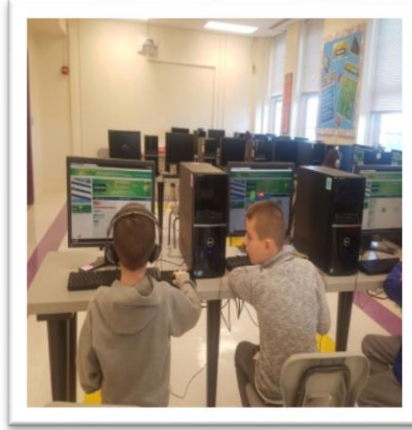
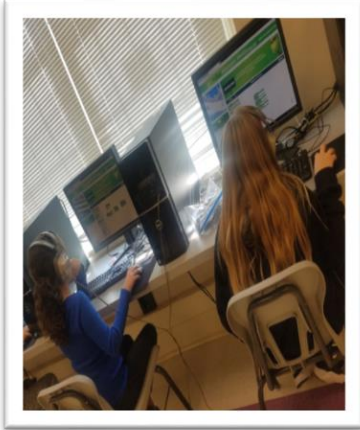


Happy Holidays from the Middle High School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Sean Dunphy, Principal

- The Elementary School participated in the Hour of Code last week. We completed over 1000 Hours in classes (some pictures below). First set of pictures shows students using Google Scratch to create their own Google sign. The second set is using the Hour of Code website. We collectively coded for 1022 hours last week as a school.



- We received a thank you note from the NJ Department of Veteran Affairs for the donations the Student Government and Mrs. Falvo collected and delivered.



From the Elementary School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERT



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEOS OF THE CONCERT](#)

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES & TIPS

SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Governors - Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders

Home Schools About Us Calendar Board of Education Departments For Parents For Staff Directors Contact Us

LET'S GO GUYS!
Located in South Amboy, New Jersey, our school system serves about 1200 students in pre-K-Kindergarten through 12th grade. We invite you to learn more about our school district and its many programs.

The mission of the South Amboy School District, a diverse community of supportive and committed educators, parents, and citizens, is to empower each child to develop intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially. To that end, the school district will ensure that each child will become a responsible, self-directed, and ethical citizen. It will accomplish this by providing a varied and challenging educational program within an environment which fosters excellence, initiative, and mutual respect.

RECENT NEWS
District Newsletters
We are pleased to announce we will be publishing the newsletter twice per month. While the newsletter may be shorter in length, it will provide more timely information regarding our schools and operations of the Board of Education.

Thursday December 20, 2018	All Day
20 th	
Thursday December 20, 2018	All Day
20 th Sports Week - HS Class Color Day - HS Sports Day	
Thursday December 20, 2018	All Day
20 th Elementary School Open House (No Parent)	
Thursday December 20, 2018	9:00AM - 10:30AM
20 th Quiz Bowl	

Popular District webpages:

- The For Parents and Recent News pages are the most popular pages on the district website
- The Calendar Page and Mr. Dunphy's Principal's page are the most popular pages on the Elementary School site.
- The Athletics and Dr. McCabe's Principal's page are the most popular pages on the Middle High School site.

Tech Tip: Hackers are becoming more savvy each day. Here's a resource to protect your personal and sensitive information when creating passwords for online accounts. Click on the flyer to the right.

CREATING STRONG PASSWORDS
Kevin Mitnick Security Awareness Training

It's important to have robust, resilient passwords for all your accounts. It's important to use the 10 rules to help you create stronger passwords.

1. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
2. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
3. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
4. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
5. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
6. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
7. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
8. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
9. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
10. Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

KnowBe4
The World's Most Effective Security Training

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.

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

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

District Events/Activities

Date	Time	Description
12/21		Short Session – early dismissal, all schools
12/24 – 1/1		Holiday Recess – Schools Closed
1/2/19		School Reopens
1/2/19	6:00 p.m.	BOE Reorganization Meeting
1/16/19	6:30 p.m.	PTO Meeting @ MHS Cafe
1/18/19	----	Mother Daughter Dance (Grades P-5)
1/21/19		Schools Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/28/19	6:00/6:30 p.m.	BOE Regular Public Meeting
1/30/19		Consumer Bowl Competition @ MHS
2/8/19	----	Me and My Guy Dance
3/8/19	----	Mother Son Dance
3/14/19	6:00pm-8:00pm	Middle School St. Patrick's Day Dance

MHS = Middle High School

ES = Elementary School