



Volume 2 | Issue 7

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~QUICK LINKS~

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



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District Twitter:
@SAPublicSchools
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District Strategic Planning Process Begins

The Superintendent, along with the Board of Education, will be developing a Strategic Plan for our school district. The first step in this process is to re-evaluate our Vision and Mission statements. We are asking all school community stakeholders to provide us with input, as we develop a Vision and Mission statement that exemplifies our values and beliefs for the students of South Amboy Public Schools.



A vision statement is a creative image of the ideal school for our community. Vision statements can be a series of words or short phrases that convey our community's hopes for the future. A compelling vision statement can:

- Draw people to common work
- Give hope for a better future
- Inspire community members to realize their dreams through positive, effective action

We do not currently have an official vision statement, however, the following statement has been used on our district website over the last year: "Governor's - Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders"

A mission statement is similar to vision statements, in that it looks at the big picture and inspires people to dream; However, it is more specific and more "action-oriented" than a vision statement.

A mission statement inspires action and describes what the organization is going to do and why it's going to do it. A clear and effective mission statement can:

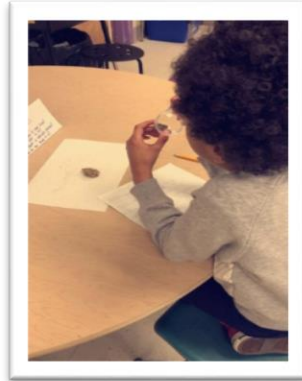
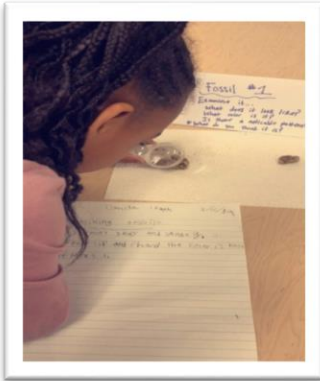
- Convert the broad dreams of the vision into more specific, action-oriented terms
- Explain the district goals in a clear and concise manner

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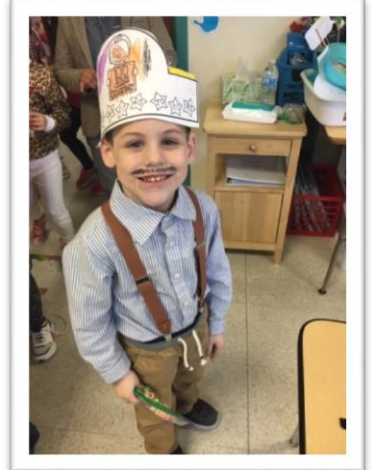
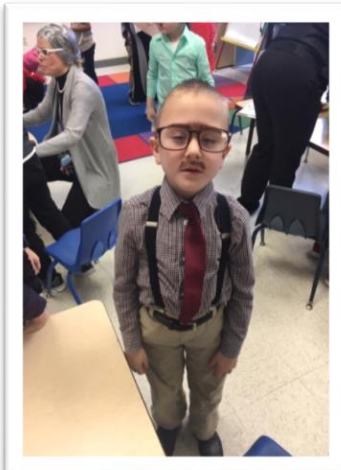
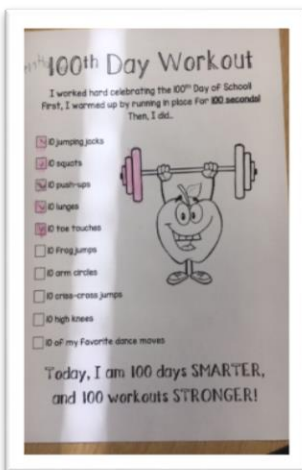
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Sean Dunphy, Principal

- Our Big Ten Reading Challenge winner of the week was third grader G. Romano (Pictured right).
- We had 437 parent teacher conferences last week over 2 days.
- Ms. Mitchell's class is the middle of a Dinosaur/Fossils unit in science. They looked at a few different fossils to identify the color, shape, size, and various patterns. The students then made predictions of what the fossils were. (pictured below)



- We had our 100th day of school. Annually, this 100th day benchmark is celebrated by many schools.



- Math Competition: Since our race to 100 lessons began with our iReady Math program, as a school (grades 1-5) we have completed over 1200 lessons in 9 days. Within the first 4 days, we had our first class winner, Mrs. Falvo's homeroom in Grade 4 (the green car at the finish line in the picture). The leader board is prominently displayed in the cafeteria for all students to monitor on a daily basis and to see how their homeroom is doing in the competition. Who said math can't be fun?



MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Patrick McCabe, Principal

The National Art Honor Society Goes to Frontline Arts Studio in Branchburg, NJ

- The students had a great day learning about the paper making process from military veteran, Walt Nygard. Walt showed them how to make paper from Iris pulp, as well as explained to them other ways they make paper that included using old U.S. Military uniforms. The students enjoyed his demonstration and had fun making their own paper as well as learning how to imprint on it using stencils and different pigments.
- The second part of their studio experience included Rachel Herberling, studio director. She showed our students how to screen print as well as how an old printing press functioned. The students got a chance to develop their own prints in each of the styles of printing.
- Finally, Walt brought the students up to the gallery and discussed the art created and displayed by local veterans. The veterans meet often to make paper and create art to express their thoughts about being in the military. The students were touched by the art that was on display and thanked the staff for a wonderful experience.

For more info about Frontline Arts, please see their website: <https://www.frontlinearts.org/>



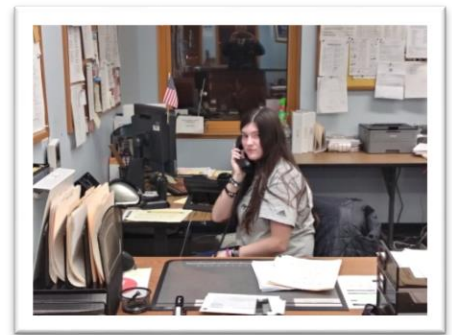
Mid-year Student Meetings!!!

- Administration met with all grade levels on Thursday to review expectations for grades, attendance and behavior. We celebrated many of the areas where our students shine and reviewed some of the important things all successful students need to stay focused on as the second half of the year begins. It was also an opportunity for our new VP/AD to officially meet all of our student body.



The MHS had a Successful Parent/Teacher conference evening

- The visiting of over 70 families on 2/13/19 went smoothly. These events are very important as we enjoy our working relationship with the parent community. When adults work together, students benefit. We could not have had such a smooth operation if it were not for our student volunteers. They greeted all of our guests and ensured each of our conferences started on time.



ATHLETICS:

By Frank Zalocki, Athletic Director

Boys Varsity Basketball		
Date	Wins	Losses
Record as of 02-06-19	10	11

Over the last week, we were able to go 2-1 and pick up 2 divisional wins on the road against Highland Park (46-43) and EB Vo Tech (50-47). We dropped a heartbreaker to divisional leader Dunellen 73-80 in overtime, Dunellen has only lost one divisional game all year. During that stretch, we were able to get a number of key performances from a number of different players. Joshua Jimenez continues to improve every day; he has an exceptional attitude and work ethic. In that 3 game stretch, he scored 15, 11, and 13 points. He totaled 12 rebounds in that stretch and 8 assists. Kyle Gasiewski continues to be an elite scorer in the county; he recorded games of 32, 11 and 14 in that stretch. Aiden Pelkey continues to improve every day and is another player with a great work ethic. He scored 5, 3, 8 points in that stretch including a clutch 3 pointer with 30 seconds left against EB Vo Tech when it was a tie game to take the lead. Aiden also collected 15 rebounds during that stretch as he has been looking to expand his game. John McCleery set a career high in rebounds against EB Vo Tech with 16 boards while also contributing 8 points. Stephen McLaughlin continues to rack up the charges taken this year while taking 3 more against EB Vo Tech to take his total to 40 for the year; he also had 7 points in the EB Vo Tech game. We are excited about how we are coming together for the state tournament.

Girls Varsity Basketball		
Date	Wins	Losses
Record as of 02-06-19	5	15

Faith Nemeth scored 20 points and had 9 rebounds; Julie Olivieri had 15 points 9 rebounds and 4 blocks while Alexis Calisti scored 15 points, 7 rebounds and 3 steals. Renee Piazzolla contributed with 5 assists and 5 rebounds to help South Amboy to a gold division win over EBVT. A terrific effort by all the girls.

Boys JV Basketball		
Date	Wins	Losses
Record as of 02-06-19	3	13

The JV Guvs had a tough 4 game stretch going 0-4 over the past week. Although we've struggled to add to the win column, the boys stay committed to growing as basketball players. Anthony Vella and Rob Rezac continue to show great leadership both on and off the court. Anthony excels as a rebounder and is continuing to improve in all aspects of the game. Rob has been relied heavily on all year to play big minutes and helps facilitate on the floor. Mike Ajilowura and Hunter Brown have been reliable all year when it comes to putting points on the board. We look to bounce back next week in the final game of the year and end the season on the right foot.

Boys MS Basketball		
Date	Wins	Losses
Record as of 02-06-19	4	8

Our shining moment from the Timothy Christian game was when we were able to milk the clock out during the fourth quarter. This was big because it showed that our players are mentally strong enough to resist the press and make the appropriate pass to continue milking the clock. This win is huge because this continues our win streak and gives us even more momentum for our last game.

Girls MS Basketball		
Date	Wins	Losses
Record as of 02-06-19	12	2

The girls bounced back from the loss to Timothy Christian, and have won 4 in a row since, knocking off Hoover, Immaculate Conception, Jamesburg and Timothy Christian. The team is contributing as a whole and has shown improvement on offense and defense. Mary Kate Brew hit a three to close out the first quarter and leading scorer Ashley Sofilkanich matched her going in to the half with a three of her own at the buzzer. Ashley led all scorers with a season high of 30 points.

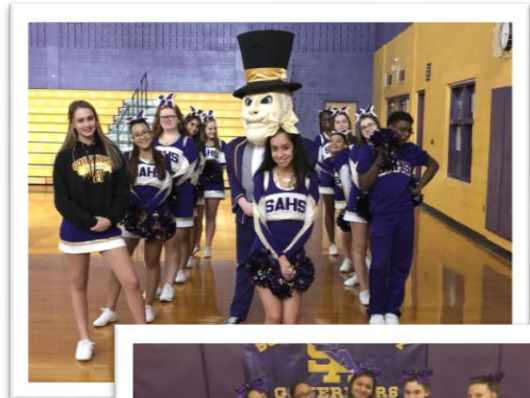
HS Cheer Season Summary

The HS cheer team had a great season. We started our practices in November, led by captain, Melissa Abbatiello and Co-captains Ava Grasso and Morgan Schuck. The team worked hard at all practices learning 46 cheers and a half time cheer. Some of the cheers were created by team members. The team cheered enthusiastically for all home varsity boys and girls game, showing their school spirit and support! Go Guvs!

MS Cheer Season Summary

By Coach Eardley

This was my first year coaching the South Amboy Middle School cheerleaders and what a great experience it has been! Watching these athletes grow both individually and as a team has been so rewarding. After our first meeting, I saw their excitement and how eager they were to jump right in. Over the past 3 months, with the girl's hard work and dedication to the team, they were able to learn new skills to perform in front of their families, teachers and peers. Midway through the season, I noticed a new found confidence in the way they practiced and performed to the crowd as they cheered on their peers during the games. I also watched them balance not only their school work, but they took on added practices, 2-3 game day performances a week all in addition to their extracurricular activities outside of school without a complaint. The 8th graders were encouraged to take a leadership role for the team to help guide the 6th and 7th graders through the season. In turn, they were able to form a bond of 15 middle school girls that believe in and encourage each other in a positive way. This is the foundation for any team sport. My hope by creating an atmosphere based not only on individual growth, but also placing a strong emphasis on trust and teamwork, will help feed into our High School cheer program and create a tradition of success. This group of young athletes were a pleasure to coach for my first season here at South Amboy Middle School. GO GUVS!



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
2/15, 2/18		School Closed – President's Day Weekend
2/25/19	6:00 p.m.	BOE Public Meeting
3/5/19		Short Session for Students Staff In-Service
3/8/19	----	PTO: Mother Son Dance (ES)
3/14/19	6:00pm-8:00pm	Middle School St. Patrick's Day Dance
3/16/19	2:00 p.m.	South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade

MHS = Middle High School
ES = Elementary School