



SOUTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Volume 2 | Issue 9

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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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SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORTS RELEASED

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide you information about the 2017-18 New Jersey School Performance Reports, which were recently released and are available on the NJ School Performance Reports webpage at www.njschooldata.org and our district website.

Use, Share and Improve the New Jersey School Performance Summary Reports

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) extensive efforts to engage with parents, students and school communities, and share the information that is most valuable in providing a picture of overall school performance. We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about your school and district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify what schools are doing well and where they can improve

Report Category	Value Score	% of Schools	Score	% of Schools	Score	% of Schools	Score	% of Schools	Score	% of Schools
Overall	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
English Language Arts	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Mathematics	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Science	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Student Growth	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Attendance	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Equity	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Community Engagement	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Professional Learning	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Leadership	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Communication	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Facilities	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Transportation	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Food Services	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%
Special Services	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%	100	100%

Enhancements to the 2017-18 School Performance Reports

The 2017-18 reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback collected through a feedback survey, at parent round tables and workshops, and from stakeholder engagement throughout the year.

These changes include:

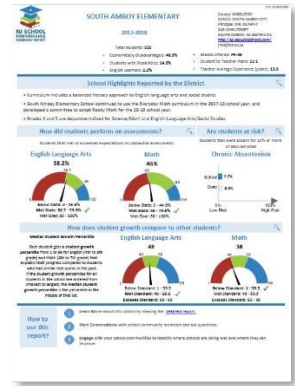
- **More informative, easier to understand** one-page Summary Reports
- **Additional navigation tools and an improved search page** within the reports
- **Emphasis on student growth** with the growth section of the reports newly featured before the academic achievement section in the reports
- **More information** about dual enrollment, graduation pathways, progress toward English language proficiency, staff demographics, and discipline

Continued on page 2...

One-Page Summary Reports

Along with the full reports, one-page Summary Reports for each school are also available. The Summary Reports provide a high-level summary of how well a school or district is performing with data that address questions such as:

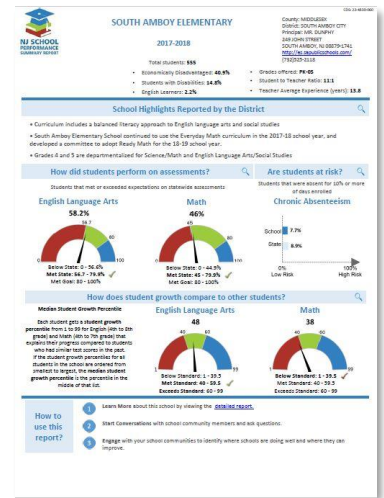
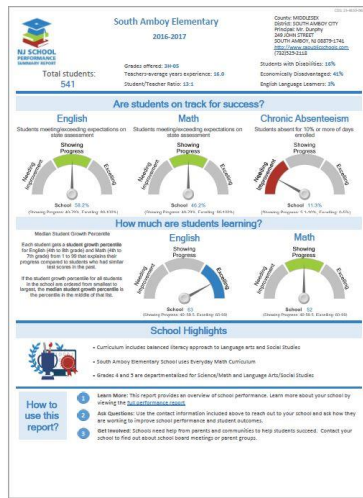
- How does our students' growth compare to students' growth in other districts?
- Are students at risk?
- Are students graduating?
- How did students perform on assessments?
- Are students college and career ready?
- Do they have access to high-level coursework



A [Summary Report Guide](#) is also available on the School Performance Reports webpage to explain the different data points on the Summary Reports.

While the district has met or exceeded most of our annual targets, there's still more work to be done. We continue to work together as a school community to address the needs of our students and teachers to ensure we continue this upward trend in performance.

Thank you,
Jorge E. Diaz
 Superintendent



Performance Analysis:

The links on the right provide a comparison of our schools' performance over the last two years.

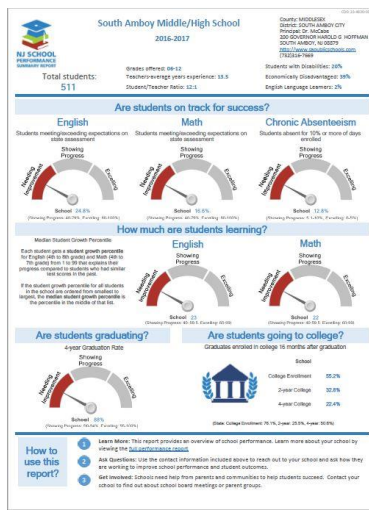
Highlights: Elementary School

- Maintained proficiency rates in both English Language Arts (ELA) & Math
- Significant reduction in Chronic Absenteeism

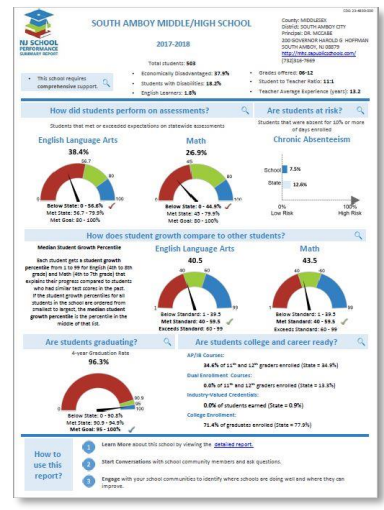
Middle High School

- Increased proficiency in both ELA & Math
- Increased Student Growth Percentile in both ELA & Math
- Significant reduction in Chronic Absenteeism
- Increased Graduation rate to 96.3%

ES 2016-17 Performance



ES 2017-18 Performance



MHS 2016-17 Performance

MHS 2017-18 Performance

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 and parents. 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/guardian's responsibility to determine the appropriateness of the event. We send this message as nothing more than a public service. Links to our Partner websites can be found on the District website under About Us – [Our Partners](#)

Music at Saint Mary's presents an Irish Music afternoon!

Come and enjoy an afternoon of Irish music with singer **Sara McCabe** and renowned harpist **Merynda Adams**. Sara and Merynda will be performing traditional Irish songs in both Irish and English, as well as some original and contemporary selections! We hope you will join us this St. Patrick's Day for a celebration of authentic Irish culture in story and song.

Sunday, March 17, 2019, 3:00pm
at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street
South Amboy NJ, 08879.

Free admission (\$15 donation suggested).
A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert.

For questions call MASM @ 732-857-0202

Irish Music Afternoon at St. Mary's

Celebrating 105 years of service...

Don't miss Dowdell Library's Birthday Celebration

You're invited to a **CAKE DECORATING** program presented by **Cake on Heels** and **FACE PAINTING** for kids < 12 years presented by **Jazzy J Face & Body Art**

Thursday, March 28th
6-8 pm

732.721.6060 comments@dowdell.org

Dowdell Library Celebrates 105 years of service

Celebrate!

The Year of the Pig

Presented by the Dowdell Library of South Amboy and the Edison Chinese School

Sunday, April 7
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Fun activities for the whole family. Refreshments!

Directions to the Dowdell Library: www.dowdell.org
For more information: 732.721.6060 comments@dowdell.org

The Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School off John T. O'Leary Blvd.

新年快樂

Dowdell Library Event

FREE TRAINING

NJ Health Public Preparedness Program

Location: Middlesex County Fire Academy
1001 Fire Academy Dr
Sayreville, NJ 08872

March 12, 2019 Modules 1&2 (6:30PM-10:30PM)
March 20, 2019 Modules 3,4,8,5 (6:30PM-10:30PM)
April 6, 2019 Module 6 (9:00AM-1:00PM) **FREE CPR+FA**

You must attend all 5 modules to qualify for FREE CPR

The goal of the public preparedness program is to educate the general public, CERT and MRC volunteers in regard to personally preparedness measures that can be taken to reduce the impact of a disaster emergency. Training in this program is meant to give the participants basic skills in preparedness. At the end of the series, participants will be better prepared for everyday emergencies as well as natural and man-made disasters.

Until Help Arrives Run Hide Fight Disaster Planning
Bleeding Control Fire Safety CPR and First Aid

(312) <https://nhjg.enrollware.com/enroll?id=2664348>
(320) <https://nhjg.enrollware.com/enroll?id=2664350>
(418) <https://nhjg.enrollware.com/enroll?id=2664353>

To register and for more info:
973-972-6444

NJ Health Public Preparedness Program

City of South Amboy

2019 Calendar of Recreation Events

May
Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony - TBD

June
City Wide Yard Sale: June 29th & June 30th
Summer Recreation (Arts and Crafts) Registration: June 30th - June 30th

July
4th of July Firework Celebration - TBD
Recreation: Arts & Crafts Program - July 1st - August 2nd

August
National Night Out: August 6th

October
Fall City Wide Yard Sale: October 5th & October 6th
Trunk-or-Treat: October 26th (Rain date: Oct. 27th)

December
Annual Tree Lighting: December 6th (Rain date: Dec. 7th)
Trolley Ride: December 13th

** All events are subject to change of location, time, date or cancellation **
Please check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofsouthamboy> and our website: www.cityofsouthamboy.org
For more information on events, contact us at 732-721-6060.

City Calendar of Recreation Events

FOUNDER'S DAY

Tricky Tray 2019

Dinner, Dancing, and Door Prizes

May 17, 2019
VFW, Sayreville
7-11pm
Doors open at 6pm

Pre-Sale/Previous Honoree Offer
\$30 per ticket

To receive this early bird rate, we must receive your order by ptofounder@ptofounder.org
Ticket includes dinner, drinks, and one street of Luck's 1 ticket.
If you have any questions please email support@ptofounder.org, or call Nicole Navarra at 732-521-4883.

Name: _____
Child's Teacher: _____
Number of Guests: _____
Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to South Amboy PTO.
To reserve a table of 10, please use reverse side.

PTO Founder's Day Tricky Tray



SOUTH AMBOY HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS
present the musical production of
ALICE IN WONDERLAND, JR.

Buy your tickets online!
Show Times: April 5th and 6th at 7:00 p.m.

[TICKET PURCHASE](#)



RANDOM ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG TESTING POLICY (PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION)

The South Amboy Board of Education recognizes that the problem of illegal drug and alcohol use presents a continuing challenge to the schools and a clear danger to the student population as a whole. The district is committed to maintaining athletics, extra-curricular programs, and parking in a safe, healthy, and secure educational environment. The purposes of the school alcohol and other drug testing policy is to deter alcohol and other drug use and to provide a means for the early detection of students with alcohol or other drug problems so that referral for evaluation or referral for treatment may be expedited.

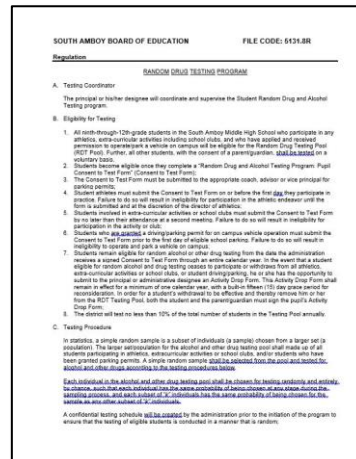
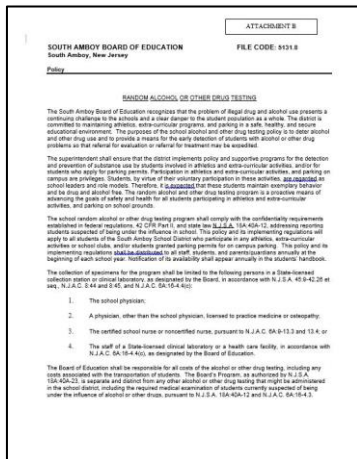
The superintendent shall ensure that the district implements policy and supportive programs for the detection and prevention of substance use by students involved in athletics and extra-curricular activities, and/or for students who apply for parking permits. Participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities, and parking on campus are privileges. Students, by virtue of their voluntary participation in these activities, are regarded as school leaders and role models. Therefore, it is expected that these students maintain exemplary behavior and be drug and alcohol free. The random alcohol and other drug testing program is a proactive means of advancing the goals of safety and health for all students participating in athletics and extra-curricular activities, and parking on school grounds.

The school random alcohol or other drug testing program shall comply with the confidentiality requirements established in federal regulations, 42 CFR Part II, and state law N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12, addressing reporting students suspected of being under the influence in school. This policy and its implementing regulations will apply to all students of the South Amboy School District who participate in any athletics, extra-curricular activities or school clubs, and/or students granted parking permits for on campus parking. This policy and its implementing regulations shall be distributed to all staff, students, and parents/guardians annually at the beginning of each school year. Notification of its availability shall appear annually in the students' handbook.

The Board of Education will be holding a public hearing on Monday, March 18th, after the regular business agenda meeting. We invite any parent, who may have questions or concerns with the implementation of the proposed policy, to attend the Board of Education meeting. In addition, we are including links below for your review and reference. If you are unable to attend the meeting, feel free to contact the Middle High School administration or the Superintendent's office with any inquiries.

Policy (General)

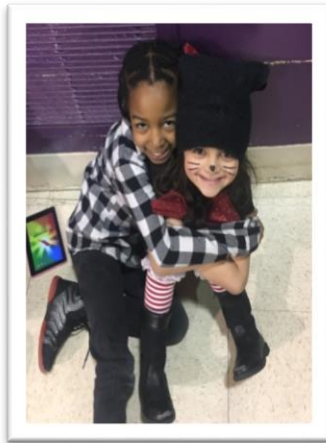
Regulation
(Procedures for implementation)



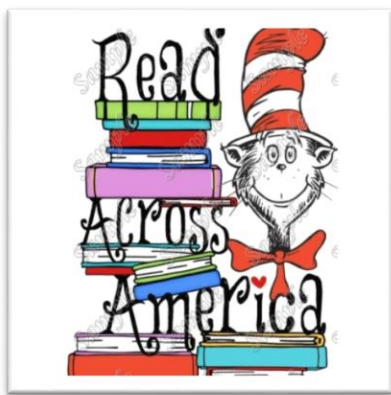
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Sean Dunphy, Principal

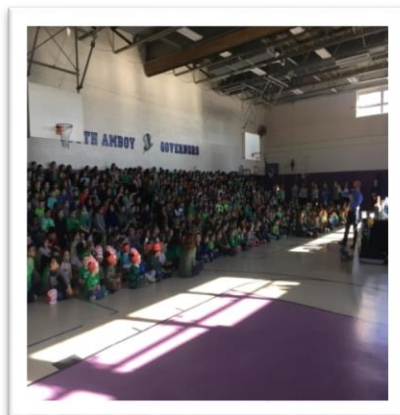
The Elementary School celebrated Read Across America last week.



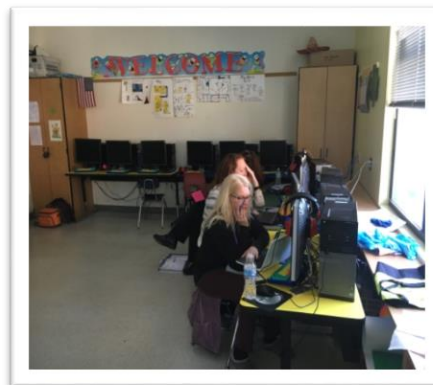
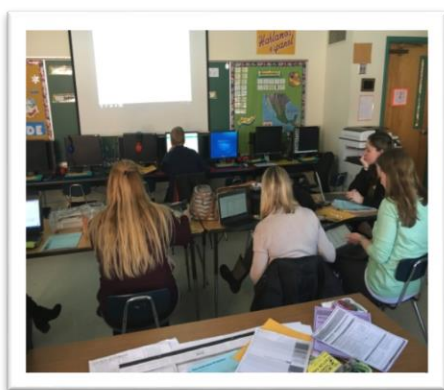
Wacky Wednesday



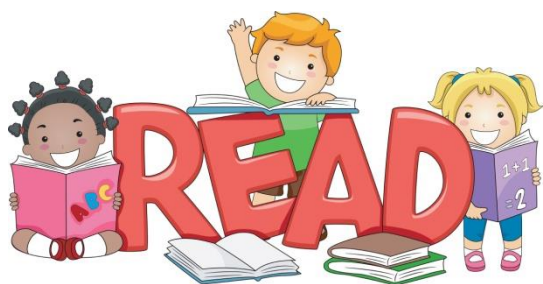
- We had our PTO Fundraiser kick off. The fundraiser ends on 3/20/19. If we sell 600 items or more, the top 15 sellers will get to "Silly String the Principal."




- On Tuesday we had our PD day, teachers gained insight in many different areas. Pictured below, teachers are researching their student data from our i-Ready Math program:



- We had our second two time reader of the week from our reading plus program, G. Friedman grade 4:





200 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza
South Amboy, NJ 08879

Mrs. Quinn
Certified Educational Media Specialist
@LMCReaders
@LMCReaders
bquinn@sapublicschools.com
March 2019

MHS Library Media Center

The Mission of the South Amboy Middle/High School Library Media Center is to support students and staff as effective and ethical users of information, to promote reading for personal and curricular interest and to provide equitable access to information technologies for our school community.

The Library Media Center's book collection is being reorganized by genre. This bookstore style organization is user friendly and ideal for curriculum connections. The first section, Classroom Collections, is for titles that we have multiple copies of for classroom instruction. These books have barcodes for circulation and can be assigned to students through Destiny Library Manager. Now we are able to account for all copies and maintain these materials from year to year as well as the rest of the library resources.

Library Collection Analyses


MHS - Average age 1993 Median age 1990 Titles per Student 8	SAES - Average age 1986 Median age 1980 Titles per Student 9	The recommended age of a school library collection is 10 to 15 years with 12 to 17 titles per student. The full analyses are available upon request.
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Whole class instruction - 34 Class periods	Independent check-ins - 644 Students
Co-teaching - 16 Class periods	Point-of-need service - 426 Students
Small group instruction - 4 Class periods	Co-planning/Training - 18 Class periods
PD room use - 57 Class periods	All in 14.5 Instructional days

Library Program Highlights

- Read Across America Field Trip to SAES
- Reading Equation for Self-Selected Reading Grade 6
- Middle School Media Center Curriculum - Co-teaching Database vs. Internet - Organization of Resources (ELA)
- High School Media Center Curriculum - Co-teaching Presentation Tools - Information Literacy (ELA)


NJSLSA Standards: Tech 8, R1, R7, R8, R9; W8; L4, L6
AASL Standards: Explore A, 1; Engage A, 1; B, 2; C, 1; D, 1



Weekly visits from the Library Media Specialist have been scheduled for the SAES Library. Mrs. Quinn will be working with Mrs. Dittmar, the Library Clerk for development of the library collection and training with the library software. Thanks to donations and the PTO's generosity, SAES will have new titles in circulation soon! Be on the look out for the new SAES Library web pages. You will be able to learn more about the elementary library program, reading suggestions and research resources just right for our young and emerging readers.

*Read 2 Grow
Grow 2 Read*

<p>1 Communication Quick face-to-face question Email Newsletter Staff meeting presentation PTO Presentation</p>	<p>2 Coordination Provide building or district PD Provide research guide Provide book carts Collection development Point of need service</p>	<p>3 Collaboration Classroom connected content in LMC lesson Schedule co-teaching Attend CPP subject meeting</p>	<p>4 Integration Develop shared vision Curriculum writing across content Library resources are included in classroom assigned research</p>
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MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Patrick McCabe, Principal

- **Read Across America!**

Our high school students had a BLAST reading to our Elementary Students to celebrate Read Across America. Our older students did an excellent job being role models as they showed their love for reading and shared this passion with the younger ones.



- **Our educators are also great students!**

On Tuesday, 3/5/19, all staff had in-service training. These professional development opportunities help us become better at helping our students. Below, our senior teachers/mentors are working with their mentees and learn more about the process from our consultant Vicky Duff. Teachers mentoring teachers is not only a necessary part of entering the profession, but it also benefits both the mentor and the mentee.



- **Trends in Substance Abuse/Vaping**

Below, members of our staff learn more about drug awareness and vaping. Issues that are impacting schools all over the country. We were grateful for the training provided by Wellspring with Nicki Francis instructing our staff on the latest trends.



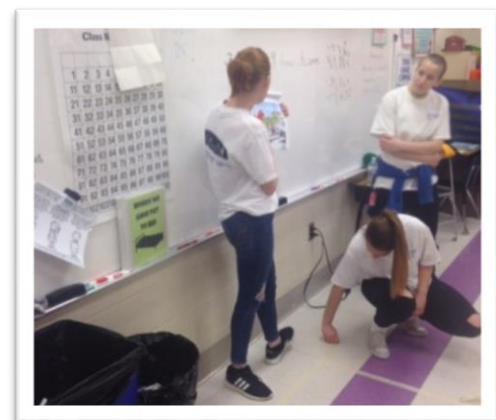
- **Social Media Internet Safety**

Our own “Tech Guy” Mike Elson provided training on social media. Topics covered included: Facebook privacy, common social media accounts teens use and Twitter as a personal learning network PLN.



- **The Safety Ambassadors Keeping it Safe!**

The Safety Ambassadors visited the elementary school to present a lesson to the second grade classes about pedestrian safety. The students were shown how to cross in a crosswalk, given safety tips to use when walking in town, read a book starring "Clifford the Big Red Dog," and colored worksheets illustrating safe crossing practices.



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
3/14	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Middle School St. Patrick's Day Dance
3/16	2:00 pm	South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade – Our band will be marching in the parade.
3/18	6:00 p.m.	BOE Meeting followed by a Public Hearing on the proposed Random Alcohol or Other Drug Testing Policy
3/20	6:30 p.m.	Junior Night @ MHS (SAT info, graduation requirements, College Fairs, etc)
4/5, 4/6	7:00 p.m.	Musical Production: Alice in Wonderland, Jr. Purchase tickets
4/30	6:00 p.m.	BOE Meeting

MHS = Middle High School

ES = Elementary School

*Occasionally, some activity dates may change or get cancelled. For the most up to date calendar information, please check the school's website and/or the Principal's Page for updates.