



NBPS Newsflash

February 2021

Greetings Team NBPS,

It's hard to believe that we are already in February, and Winter break is little more than a week away!

Our new District Learning Walk format has allowed us to visit, in-person and virtually, almost 400 classrooms in the past few days. This opportunity to view instruction allows for different perspectives and provides more insight into the current teaching and learning process. I was excited to see students engaging in discussions in kindergarten on identifying site words; 4th graders working on fractions; and AP Chemistry students discussing DNA.

Urgent Planning to Prevent, Recover, and Accelerate student learning is my priority and the main focus for the next several weeks as we plan for spring. We are working with schools to identify learning gaps and proactively working to keep them from growing.

- **Preventing** (minimize learning loss for those students in most need)
- **Recovering** (assist to remediate those students who were already identified as needing support – academically and socio-emotionally)
- **Accelerating** (support and push those students who are already proficient to maximize their strengths)

It is encouraging that the positive COVID cases in the city are declining and the percent positivity rate has decreased over the last two weeks from over 13% to about 9%. Mask wearing, adding more than 800 air exchange units – air scrubbers to classrooms and overall mitigation strategies have kept the virus from spreading in our schools. We continue to be strict with contact tracing and follow the CDC guidelines explicitly.

We know that this has not been easy, and sometimes has not been a smooth process, but we have stuck with it and focused on always doing the right thing. It is still a challenge on all sides – BUT because of your diligence we have been able to serve over 9,000 students in person – more than almost any other district in Massachusetts.

We are all getting tired - but the benefits of keeping the masks on and being temporarily separated from others for a little while longer will help us all in the coming months and years. Thank you for doing your part! Remember, WE are ALL in this together. Think of others, MASKUP, and stay safe.

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



“I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.”

– Maya Angelou

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Employee Spotlight



Chelsie LaPointe

2nd Grade Teacher

E.C. Brooks Elementary School



This year has certainly been unlike any other for all of us! This is particularly true for a first year teacher like Chelsie LaPointe. E.C. Brooks Principal, Jennifer Medeiros said “Chelsie has taken on this hybrid model without hesitation. Her calm, kind demeanor allows her students to feel successful during this stressful time.”

Chelsie thoughtfully plans lessons to engage all students and meets the varying needs of students in her classroom. She frequently reaches out to families, keeping them informed and involved to instill a true home-to-school partnership.

“She has a true growth mindset---reflecting on her practice, asking the right questions, and applying new knowledge almost immediately.” Principal Medeiros went on to say “It is a pleasure that I recognize her for a Staff Spotlight, as she's been a phenomenal addition to the E.C. Brooks Elementary Team.”



Kim Daniels

School Adjustment Counselor

A.J. Gomes Elementary School



We just learned that this is the final year for our next Spotlight! A.J. Gomes Principal, Ellyn Gallant shared “I have had the pleasure of working side by side with Kim for the past 19 years. She has always been someone I and the entire staff can rely on.”

Kim has been an inspiration and a role model to so many of the staff at Gomes and throughout the district. She has been able to mentor countless new staff providing them with her wisdom, knowledge and insights to make our school and school system a better place for the students and community in which we serve.

Principal Gallant went on to say “Kim has been the heart and soul of our school community, and she frequently goes well above and beyond to assist the students and families that she serves. I cannot fully express you how grateful our families are for her endless service.”

“Having the opportunity to work closely with Kim is truly an honor. It's not every day that you encounter a person whose career is also their passion. How lucky am I, and everyone else who has had the pleasure of working with her, to have been a part of that?”

AROUND HAY-MAC

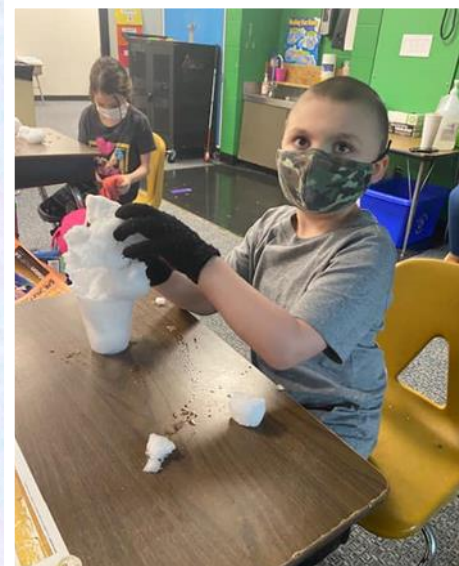


STAYING WARM — During December and January, Hayden McFadden School sponsored a winter coat drive. With many generous donations from the New Bedford community and school and district staff, the school collected over 250 coats that have been distributed to students and families across New Bedford. Thank you to all that donated in an effort to keep our students and families warm during the winter months! There are still a few coats available free of charge to families. If you know a child in need of a winter coat, please call Hayden McFadden School and ask for Parent Support specialist, Eliany Grace or Hayden McFadden Wrap Around Manager, Jasmine Vega. It takes a village!

BUILDING OUR COMPUTER MUSCLE— On December 17, The Hayden McFadden Family Engagement Center hosted a Basic Computer Skills class for NBPS families. Led by Parent Support specialist, Eliany Grace, several families from Pacheco, Hathaway, and Hayden McFadden Schools completed the computer class where they learned how to navigate Zoom, set up emails, navigate the internet, and much more.



SNOW DAY RECESS FUN — January's snow may have stopped outdoor recess plans, but that didn't stop Hayden McFadden's teacher, Ms. Case, from bringing the snow to her students during indoor recess. Students, Jace and Aisha, stay toasty warm during indoor recess while building icy cold snow creations!



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PBIS SWIS USER TRAINING

This informative training will give great tips and tricks for using SWIS in your school. This training is for new SWIS users and returning SWIS users who would like a more in depth training.

**FEBRUARY 8TH, 12:30-3:30PM
VIRTUAL**



[TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)



JET 2021-2022 Recruitment

www.jetintoteaching.org

Are you a Massachusetts public school paraprofessional without a Bachelor's degree who wants to become a licensed teacher?

If so, the JET Program is for you!

"Without the JET Program this would have remained a secret dream in my heart. The grant made it possible to pay for school, but the Jet Program helped me finish the path." JET Participant

JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Massachusetts teacher licensure.

JET supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of students.

What JET can do for you

- Mentor and support you through your bachelor's degree completion and teacher licensure
- Advise you on teacher pathway programs in Massachusetts colleges/universities
- Help you access financial aid available to Massachusetts paraprofessionals
- Connect you with a cohort of paraprofessionals on this journey to become a teacher
- Provide professional and career development learning opportunities

How JET works

1. Apply online to the JET Program now through March 15, 2021 - two step process
 - a. Fill out [2021-2022 JET Interest Form](#) or visit www.jetintoteaching.org
 - b. **If eligible**, You will be sent a JET application form.
2. Advisement April - June 2021
 3. College Admissions
 4. Financial Aid
 - a. **FAFSA** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> - Must be completed prior to applying for the state grant application below
 - b. **MA Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant**
<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/teacherprep.asp>
5. Once admitted to college and approved for financial aid, enroll in classes for 2021 Fall Semester
6. Attend **JET** Orientations in June and August 2021
7. Participate in **JET** Mentoring and Support Program from September 2021 - June 2022

Eligibility for JET

- Career goal of becoming a Massachusetts licensed teacher
- Seeking a Bachelor's degree
- Permanent resident of Massachusetts for at least 1 year prior to upcoming academic year
- Employed for 2+ years as a paraprofessional in a Massachusetts public school by June 30, 2021
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA in prior college coursework
- U.S. Citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations
- Not in default of federal or state student education loans

QUESTIONS - Please email jetintoteaching@gmail.com



Live Webinar Schedule



WELL-BEING. DONE WELL.

*Webinars listed in blue are hosted by mylifeexpert.com

Webinars listed in blue require company code: *newbedford*

DATE/TIME	TOPIC	CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
Wednesday, Jan 13th 1:30pm-2:30pm EST	<i>Leading During Uncertainty</i>	
Thursday, Jan 21st 12pm-12:30pm EST	<i>Grace over Goals; Resolutions in the Pandemic</i>	
Tuesday, Feb 9th 1:30pm-2:30pm EST	<i>Helping College Students Thrive in the New Normal</i>	
Thursday, Feb 25th 12pm-12:30pm EST	<i>Navigating Loneliness and Isolation</i>	
Tuesday, Mar 9th 1:30pm-2:30pm EST	<i>BIAS is a Four-Letter Word</i>	
Thursday, Mar 25th 12pm-12:30pm EST	<i>Fostering Inclusivity in the Remote World</i>	



Can't attend a desired webinar? No problem!

Simply visit www.allonehealth.com/blog or mylifeexpert.com to view all recorded sessions and download accompanying materials.

What's your story?

Do you have a story about your school that you'd like to share with the community? Send your idea or suggestion to the communications office:

You know great things are happening in your school. Sharing them with the community will help raise the profile and reputation of NBPS and foster public confidence and pride (District Goal 5). Any aspect of school life is eligible: great staff, cultural focus, student achievements, collaborating with families, special events and more.



Tell us your school stories...

Thank You!

We'll take it from there!

Winter Weather Notifications



Cancellations & Early Dismissals will be posted on:

www.newbedfordschools.org

and sent to the following media:

- NBPS Facebook/Twitter
- NB Cable Ed Channel 9
- New Bedford Guide
- NB Standard-Times
- TV4 WBZ Boston
- TV5 WCVB Boston
- TV6 WLNE Providence
- TV7 WHDH Boston
- TV10 WJAR Providence
- TV12 WPRI Providence
- TV25 WFXT Boston
- WBZ-1030AM Boston
- WRKO-680AM Boston
- WSAR-1480AM Fall River
- WBSM-1420AM New Bedford
- WFHN-FUN107FM Fairhaven