



# NBPS Newsflash

## May 2020

Greetings Team NBPS,

With seven weeks left in the school year, we are all compelled in everything we do to rise above these extraordinary circumstances to creatively support our students and colleagues each day. I continue to be excited to see the inventive and imaginative ways so many teachers and staff have connected to their students and families to keep learning alive. It is very encouraging to see the sensitivity being used as you lend social/emotional support during this stressful time.

I recently shared that I continue to be encouraged by the strength of our community and by the ability of our teachers and staff to keep the educational process moving forward. Like you, I am saddened we will miss the personal interactions and special end of year events as schools will not be reopening.

The safety and wellbeing of our staff is paramount, and helping our families to prioritize academics through our remote learning structure as we work to cultivate remote connections is key. Although the situation challenges all of us; using this situation as fuel to spark a new outlook on the educational process. Throughout this current reality I thank you for keeping a focus on ALL students being:

- Engaged in remote learning for at least 3 – 4 hours each day
- Supported to reinforce the skills
- Helped to apply and deepen their skills
- Motivated to extend their learning
- Provided the opportunity to connect with educators and content, multiple hours per day/week
- Supported to reduce the risk of learning loss. All students are expected to do some self-guided work combined with the support they will receive from their teachers.

Planning is under way for an online platform for summer enrichment and remediation. It will be a challenge to replicate the hands-on activities, but we are investigating some creative ways. It is my hope that we will be all together again soon. As I shared previously regarding graduations and promotional ceremonies, our plan is to conduct these momentous end-of-year events virtually, or perhaps in specially coordinated assemblies later in the year.

Finally, on this National Principals Appreciation Day, please know that your leadership is valued every day. THANK YOU for what you are doing today, for what you did yesterday, and what you will do tomorrow. To all our principals, teachers and staff, together we will all continue to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent

*The flower  
that blooms  
in adversity,  
is the most  
rare and  
beautiful  
of all.*

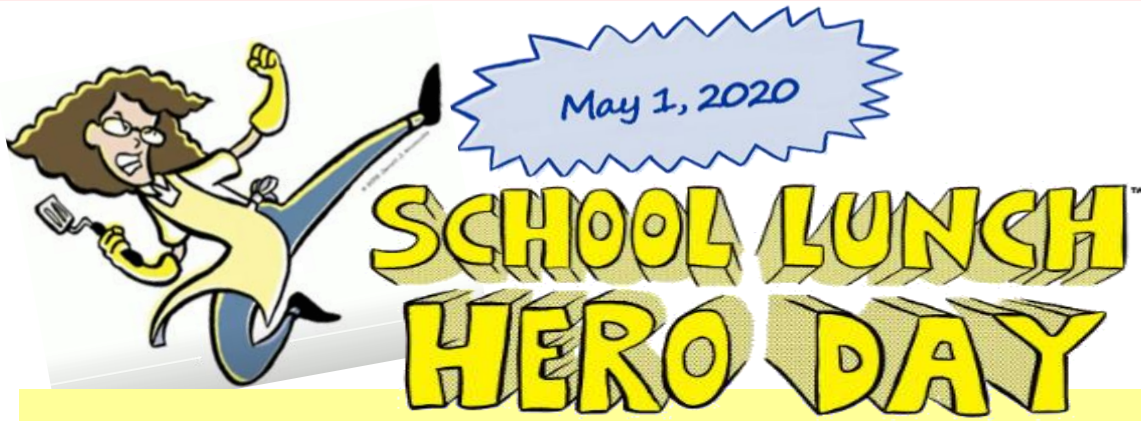
Ancient Proverb

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**National  
Principals  
Appreciation  
Day!**

**May 1  
Thank  
you for  
all you  
do!**



***We're kicking off the month of May with SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY!***



Join us in celebrating our school nutrition professionals by encouraging your students to do a creative project about school lunch, or by answering these questions:



What does school lunch mean to you?



What is your favorite school meal?

Some fun & easy ways students could honor the men & women that make our school days brighter:



- ★ *Make a card*
- ★ *Create a drawing*
- ★ *Do a coloring*
- ★ *Make up a story*
- ★ *Create a comic*
- ★ *Write a Letter*

***Be sure to take a photo of your work and tag:***

***@NewBedfordEATS  
on Instagram or Twitter!***



Check out this 5-minute Ted Talk:

### ***Why Lunch Ladies are Heroes***

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka to see examples of student creations for School Lunch Hero Day!

FOLLOW US:



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Around Our Schools

# NBPS SALUTES ALL OUR SCHOOL LUNCH HEROES



Gov. Charlie Baker has proclaimed May 1 **School Lunch Hero Day!** Superintendent Anderson lauded NBPS Food Service Teams as “our frontline heroes, exemplifying the essence of New Bedford Public Schools – to foster the wellbeing of every student — physically, intellectually, and creatively. I thank our NBPS team for their continued dedication.” Pictured (upper right): Superintendent Anderson visited a Grab n’ Go station at Jacobs Elementary School to present Rob Shaheen, Director of Food Services, with coupons for a free Domino’s pizza. Coupons will be distributed to the 40 Food Services staff members across the district. Great work, Team!

## New Bedford High School Finance Academy nationally recognized

**NEW BEDFORD** — New Bedford High School's Academy of Finance, affiliated with the National Academy Foundation, has been officially designated as a distinguished national high school program.

The announcement was made in a press release issued by the organization, which stated in part that 'Distinguished' status denotes the program is at "Model Level for Delivering High-Quality Educational Experiences for High School Students." The designation was determined based on a visit to NBHS by NAF officials during which they interviewed school stakeholders, reviewed documentation, and observed classes.

Mayor Jon Mitchell noted, "New Bedford High's recognition as a distinguished finance program is a testament to the hard work of the school's staff and students, and validates New Bedford High's status as the best choice for students to prepare for college and the workforce. Programs such as the Finance Academy will prepare graduates by equipping them with the skills they need for the future in an ever-changing world."

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated "This recognition underscores the high quality work being done at New Bedford High School; it's more evidence of the increased learning opportunities and upward trajectory of the school. We are living through very challenging times and this demonstrates how critically important these learning environments have become."

"I am pleased that our Academy of Finance has been recognized as distinguished, a milestone that was made possible through the work of our outstanding teachers, students and finance industry partners", said Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School. "This distinction underscores why we consider New Bedford High School a flagship high school for the National Academy Foundation, and we appreciate their recognition of the work that we are doing on behalf of our students and community."

The distinguished level represents the highest level of achievement for a NAF academy.

"Our recent NAF site visit provided the opportunity for the Finance Academy to showcase their outstanding work and best practices", said Chris Cummings,



**New Bedford High School's Academy of Finance, affiliated with the National Academy Foundation, has been officially designated as a distinguished national high school program.** [SUBMITTED PHOTO]

manager of CVTE programs, noting that teachers from all areas met with NAF officials to discuss how they collaborate with the finance academy staff to develop and implement projects across multiple disciplines. "The evaluators were impressed with how financial instruction is integrated throughout the curriculum", he added.

One of the criteria in determination of a distinguished NAF program is an active advisory committee comprised of industry representatives and post-secondary faculty. During the visit, members representing multiple South Coast financial institutions shared how they engaged with staff and students, providing curriculum guidance and internship opportunities.

New Bedford High School's Finance Academy, affiliated with the National Academy Foundation, is part of the school's offerings of Career Vocational Technical Education programming. In addition to Finance, the school offers career pathway programs in Business, Hospitality, Instructional Technology, Health Sciences, Engineering, Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE at 508 997 4511, ext. 20799.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Domino's Team New Bedford VP of Flawless Execution Debra Gula, local Domino's owner Nelson Hockert-Lotz, NBPS Superintendent Thomas Anderson, and local Domino's owner Tony Squizzero.** [SUBMITTED PHOTO]

## Domino's owners donate gift certificates to honor New Bedford teachers

**NEW BEDFORD** — New Bedford Public School classrooms may be closed, but virtual classes are still meeting in students' living rooms, dining rooms, and kitchens across the city. After hearing of the exceptional efforts of city teachers to convert their existing classroom curriculum to deliver especially memorable instruction in a virtual space, local Domino's sent a big cheesy thank you to NBPS teachers, according to a press release.

With a careful social distancing strategy in place, of course.

New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Anderson's office reached out to Domino's last week to inquire as to a price on purchasing Domino's gift certificates for teachers doing "transformative work" in their virtual classrooms. The additional time and effort spent to make virtual classrooms engaging was both a burden, and an opportunity to "rethink what our teachers do" to make a difference in students' lives, Anderson said.

But after hearing of the efforts of individual teachers to provide exceptional virtual classes to city students sidelined by COVID-19 school closures, Domino's franchises Nelson Hockert-Lotz and Tony Squizzero wouldn't hear of taking money.

"Teachers are our heroes," said Hockert-Lotz, owner of Domino's pizzerias at 109 Rockdale Ave., and 821 Rockdale Ave.

"Our hats are off to them for their passion and creativity in taking classroom education to a virtual space in a challenging

time," added 836 Ashley Boulevard Domino's owner Squizzero.

Domino's donation came in gift certificate form, to maintain social distancing among educators. Teachers can order any large pizza of their choice for carry-out at any New Bedford Domino's.

"Domino's is a staple in the community and has for so many years offered their help and support for our students and staff," Anderson stated. "I can't express enough my appreciation of their partnership and generosity. On behalf of New Bedford Public Schools, I sincerely thank Nelson Hockert-Lotz, Tony Squizzero and Debra Gula for this big-hearted donation in recognition of the transformative work our teachers do every day, in the classroom and remotely, too."

"It is both a challenge and a blessing to have a business model that has been recognized as an 'essential service' to the community," said Hockert-Lotz. Domino's has pioneered "contactless carry-out" and "contactless delivery" to ensure the safety of store teams and customers.

"Now is a time to give back to our teachers, as well as our nurses, doctors, and first responders," Hockert-Lotz said. "We live in a community of everyday heroes, inspiring us in the most challenging times."

The pizza donation is part of a national Domino's program to "Feed the Need," giving away 10,000,000 slices of pizza to local heroes making a difference in their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

# The Standard-Times

Monday, April 27, 2020

Serving The SouthCoast Community | @SouthCoastToday

## 'Keep that creativity flowing'



Mateo Junier, a second grader at Pulaski Elementary, is part of the color wheel he created using different colored Legos. The color wheel was the first weekly art challenge posted by New Bedford Public Schools. (CONTRIBUTED)

### New Bedford teachers keep art, music alive in remote learning

By Aimee Chiavaroli  
aichiavaroli@s-t.com

**N**EW BEDFORD — New Bedford Public School teachers in the art department are finding ways to keep the arts alive and encourage students to get creative while they teach from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

Teachers came up with art and music challenges which are mostly geared toward elementary students, but any student can participate.

This week, students are asked to use recyclable materials to make a sculpture and dress up as their favorite performing artist. Last week, challenges involved re-creating a famous piece of artwork, such as using laundry or by dressing up, and making a musical instrument with recyclable materials.

Students and their families can post completed challenges on social media using #NBartchallenge and #NBmusicchallenge or send them to a teacher.

"It ties into what we do within



Kendall Purpura, a first grader at Pulaski Elementary, shows off her color wheel which she created with objects she found around her home. (CONTRIBUTED)

the arts anyway and it is a way for them to get creative while they're home and connect to their school and community from afar," said Lynn Souza, district director of fine arts.

Teachers within the department collaborated to create challenges for each week that schools are closed. Gov. Charlie



Nathan DeAlmeida, a second grader at Pulaski Elementary, sits next to the Batman logo he created using rocks and sticks. The second weekly art challenge asked students to create art outdoors using objects found in nature like artist Andy Goldsworthy. (CONTRIBUTED)

Baker extended closures Tuesday, announcing schools will remain closed for the rest of this school year.

The challenges are a way to engage students in a similar task no matter where they go to school across the district that

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## CREATIVITY

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can be adapted for any age level, Souza said. "Some of the teachers are even taking it one step further and aligning it to what they are doing," Souza said.

Jennifer Cosentino, who teaches art at Carney Academy, uses the weekly challenge as a lesson for her students, including a video of herself and sometimes her son demonstrating the challenge. She tries to relate it back to what she taught students earlier in the year. It's certainly different to talk to a camera than a room full of

30 students, she said, and she misses them.

"It's just something to keep that creativity flowing," Cosentino said. And it's benefited teachers, too.

"This is the closest I have felt to my coworkers in a long time," she said, adding that they often have Zoom meetings and text more than they normally would. Her colleagues who are newer to the teaching profession help with technology, she said, and teachers like her with more experience help with lesson ideas.

Lacey Fournier, the art teacher at Lincoln Elementary, makes YouTube video lessons for students, such as focusing on a watercolor artist and demonstrating how to

use food coloring and shaving cream to paint a picture. Teachers understand that students have limited supplies and don't want them to go out to buy anything when they should be staying home because of the pandemic.

At her school, some families consistently complete challenges. She's pleased with what students have been able to pull together and how quickly they're sending them in.

Teacher Jennifer Murphy said she started the water glass challenge where she uses spoons to tap glasses filled with an amount of water to play a song that's familiar to students and encourages them to play the same song or another song they know.

She posts a new video to her music class Facebook page each week on "water glass Wednesday." That's a way to give her students a small sense of normalcy and something they can count on each week, she said. She teaches music, chorus and band at Taylor Elementary and teaches band at both Winslow and Jacobs Elementary.

Since she got so much positive feedback, her class water glass activity also became a district challenge.

For the musical instrument challenge, Murphy made a demo video of how to make maracas out of a peanut butter jar, a drum out of a water jug, use the water glasses and a cheese grater to make music. She showed students how

they could use technology to their advantage by using an app to record themselves playing the different instruments and combine them to create a song and a band within themselves, she said.

The Facebook page has been an easy way for students and families to get in touch with her and she can give students who completed the tasks a special shout-out on her page.

"Music is so hands on and it's so personal," Murphy said. "So I think just trying to find that connection and share it out has been one of the most challenging parts about [virtual learning]."

Follow Aimee Chiavaroli  
@AimeeC\_SCT

**Reminder!**

*From Human Capital Services...*

## COVID-19 Precautions & Reporting Procedures

**As a reminder...** It is expected that all staff maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others at work at all times. This includes break time. Staff should not have break time at the same time in the same space while social/physical distancing is being recommended by the CDC.

If you or someone in your home is sick with COVID-19 symptoms you are not permitted to report to work and must immediately contact:

Heather Emsley at [hemsley@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:hemsley@newbedfordschools.org)  
or call (508) 997-4511 ext. 14300.

*We appreciate your cooperation in following all CDC guidelines  
to keep ourselves and each other safe.*



#NBTLc  
**NEW BEDFORD  
STILL**

**TEACHING. LEARNING. CONNECTING.**

New Bedford Public Schools has partnered with STEAM the Streets to create a content campaign to showcase how our community is stepping up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Submit your videos to be included in a district-wide music video that will show the creativity and strength of our community — Teaching. Learning. Connecting.

**UPLOAD HOW YOU #NBTLc**

## *Voices* from the *History of Education*



“The influence of Massachusetts on other Commonwealths in school matters can be inferred by the frequency with which one finds the words of the law of 1789 quoted in State school laws and in codes of school regulations adopted for the government of city schools. “Instructors of youth” it said, “should exert their best endeavors to impress on the minds of children and youth the principles of piety and justice and a sacred regard to truth.”

— William T. Harris (1835-1909)  
US Commissioner of Education



**B**loom where you are. Bloom despite the weeds and grow tall and beautiful anyways. Bloom where you are even if you wish you were elsewhere. Take in all of the light when the sun is shining and know that the rain is necessary when it's not. Know that everything you need to bloom is right inside you — you already have the strength and capability to grow. Nourish your body and take care of your mind. Keep learning and growing. Let your true colors shine. Bloom.

— Nikki Banas / Walk the Earth