



# NBPS Newsflash

## November 2020

Greetings NBPS Team,

Although this year has been one like no other, the multi-colors of the season can be seen everywhere. The beauty and the excitement of fall is here along with the cooler temperatures welcoming the holiday season. Thanksgiving is very special as we take the time to express gratitude to those around us. Every year this season reminds me to pause and reflect on all I have to be thankful for in my life as I am sure it does for each of you. We can with grateful hearts express appreciation for family, friends and colleagues who have helped us during this stressful time.

We may choose to celebrate Thanksgiving in many ways, but I believe that we all can agree that it is about being kind. We can make a positive impact on those around us every day by letting our kindness shine and overshadowing negativity. I want to express my most sincere gratitude to each of you for your support of our children and for your compassion and commitment to their success as learners and as people. Your individual set of skills and experience uniquely impacts young lives in very positive ways every day.

We continue to work collaboratively as we combat the virus. The NBPS COVID-19 Tracker, on the district website, is the tool being used to update the community. Individual school communities are informed with the appropriate information including close contacts if there are any in their schools. We must continue to be proactive and follow precautions inside and outside of school. Please continue to keep the appropriate distance and properly wear our masks – covering the mouth and nose – when required. We must focus on prevention and think of others. Again, thank you for all that you do! Think of others – keep your distance and mask up.

Over the past few weeks, I have had some enjoyable visits to several schools, and it was exciting to see excellent teachers and motivated students engaging in person and virtually. In speaking of excellent staff, CONGRATULATIONS to Congdon Elementary School for being named a 2021 National Blue-Ribbon School. And to New Bedford High School English Teacher Takeru Nagayoshi for being named as 1 of 5 teachers in America to receive the 2021 NEA Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. Kudos to Mr. Nagayoshi, NBHS principal Bernadette Coelho and to the entire NBHS staff. We have an awesome staff, and I am honored to be a part of the work that is being done, especially during this time. Each of YOU is making a difference as the work in NBPS is something to be commended.

With much appreciation,

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent

*Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.*

— **Voltaire**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Communications: 2

SRO Next Steps: 3

Ed Access & Pathways: 4

Benefits: 5

NB Eats: 6-7

Endicott College: 8

November Clinics: 9



# Congratulations, James B. Congdon Elementary School!



Principal Darcie Aungst

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized James B. Congdon Elementary School as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School, citing it as an “Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing National Blue Ribbon School! The U.S. Department of Education acknowledges your students’ success as an inspiring example of how teachers, parents, and community leaders can work together to help students prepare for what comes next.” The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

## 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:

[communications@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:communications@newbedfordschools.org)

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!**





NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHARES

# Next Steps

REGARDING THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM AND UPCOMING WORKING GROUPS



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH  
5:30-7:00PM**

Join us virtually to learn about the next series of steps in the SRO conversation. We will be creating two working groups to look at existing data and current SRO models. These groups will meet from December 2020 to June 2021 to gather and share valuable information that will provide voice and substance towards the Superintendent's decision about the program's future.

*To register for this event, please click the bubble below:*

**REGISTER HERE**

## COVID SYMPTOMS

As a reminder staff should not report when they or anyone in their household is experiencing COVID symptoms. Please report your absence in AESOP and immediately contact the office of Human Capital Services.



- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste and/or smell



- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestions or runny nose (new)
- Nausea or vomiting (new)
- Diarrhea (new)

# EDUCATIONAL ACCESS & PATHWAYS



*Did you know...*



Sample— Staff flyer

NBPS now has an interpretation line to facilitate two-way communication between our schools and parents! This interpretation line, a high-quality telephone interpretation service provided by Lionbridge, is used for parents to connect with Teachers/School. Interpreters are fast and professional over the phone, and make interacting simple.

All schools have received flyers with this information. The flyers are customized for your school with your school's extension. Every school was sent both hard copies of these flyers, as well as jpg format, making it easier for staff to send through text messages, Bloomz, Class Dojo, etc.

This interpretation line can be used for parent-teacher conferences, emergency calls, nurse questions, attendance follow-ups, etc. The blue colored flyer is for staff use and the orange color flyer which is translated in English, Spanish, Portuguese and K'iche is for parents.

We encourage school secretaries (School Liaison) to get acquainted with this service and practice the staff steps listed. Once Staff has familiarized themselves with this interpretation line, they can then connect our families with these services.

It is also very simple for our families to use these services! They simply dial the NBPS phone number 508- 997-4511 and when prompted, they dial the extension of the child's school. When they are welcomed by the school secretary, they simply say the language that they are comfortable speaking and that an interpreter is needed.

The parent/guardian will be put on a brief hold while the secretary connects to our interpreter line. When the secretary returns, they will be in a conference call with the school and the interpreter and may now explain the reason for the call in the language they have asked for.

## How our NBPS Families Feel When Someone Speaks their Language?

Comfortable

Relatable

Relieved

Confident

Understood

Grateful



Sample— Parent flyer





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR *FALL STEP CHALLENGE!*



***New Bedford Public Schools would like to recognize and congratulate all employees that participated in the Fall Step Challenge! The top ranking teams for this year are:***

**1st Place: PRAB**

**2nd Place: NBHS Phys. Ed.**

**3rd Place: NBPS Facilities/Operations**

*Gift certificates will be sent to those who completed the challenge at their respective schools.*



***We look forward to your participation in upcoming wellness events!***

**ENROLL NOW!**  
Enrollment: 11/1-12/31

*A Message from...*

***NBPS Benefits Office***

Open Enrollment for New Bedford Public Schools has begun, and will run through **December 31st!**

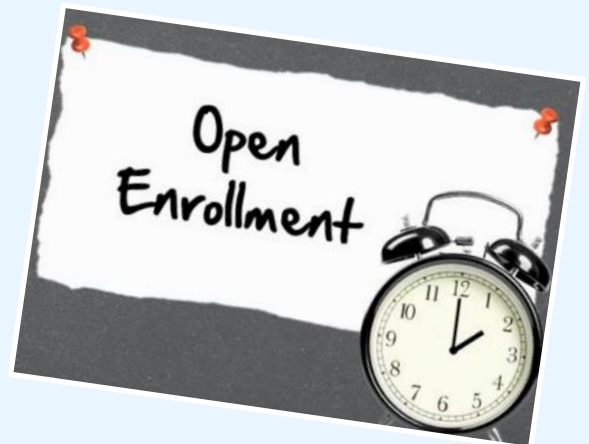
This is the opportunity to enroll or make changes to your:

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health insurance
- Flexible Spending accounts
- Life insurance
- Disability insurance

Any BC/BS Health Insurance rate or plan changes will be shared with all staff when those details are available.

**[NBPS Benefits Webpage](#)**

Please contact Marcia Tome in the benefits office 508-997-4511 ext. 14355 or [mtome@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:mtome@newbedfordschools.org) with any questions you may have.





## Announcing the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program!



Dear Elementary School Teachers of New Bedford,

Since its recent establishment in 2019, New Bedford's Farm to School Program has worked to ensure that all students in the district have access to food that supports the entirety of their needs, both mentally and physically. In doing so, the program hopes to connect students to foods that are culturally appropriate, locally sourced, and nutritious.

This year, New Bedford's Farm to School Program is excited to implement the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in all elementary schools across the district. The FFVP is a federally funded program that provides fruit and vegetable snacks to students during the school day. By introducing students to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, the FFVP aims to improve students' attitudes towards healthy foods and to increase their consumption of them.

In the development of children's food preferences, it is immensely important that they are exposed early to as many fresh fruits and vegetables as possible. Getting used to trying new things at a young age can help a student's vitamin intake, lifelong habits, and overall health. While we can start to facilitate the connection between NBPS students and healthy foods by providing the FFVP, we are hoping for your help as teachers to encourage your students to participate throughout the year.

As the program gets rolled out, we will include the FFVP snack with students' take-home meals, whether from in-person school or from one of our Grab 'n Go locations. Students will soon start to see the FFVP snack included with their meals twice a week. They are welcome to eat their snack at school if they are there, or they can take it home and enjoy it there. Either way, we hope that you can help us to create a district-wide culture of food positivity and to foster excitement among your students about trying new things!

If you have any questions about the program, please let us know.

Thank you,

Robert Shaheen  
Director of Food Services  
New Bedford Public Schools  
rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org

Adam Davenport  
Grow Education Program Director  
Marion Institute  
adavenport@marioninstitute.org



# New Bedford EATS

*News from Food & Nutrition Services*



## ***Food and Nutrition Services Dept Awarded Grant to Improve Food Security***

In October, the NBPS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) department was awarded three grants totaling 1.4 million dollars from the Baker-Polito Administration to improve food security in New Bedford. The funds will be used to improve FNS infrastructure allowing for greater ability to conduct emergency meal service.

Specific plans entail a renovation and redesign project of the High School FNS operation. The NBHS kitchen and four serving pods will be completely redesigned, allowing the NBHS kitchen to serve as a second Central Kitchen in the district. This project will include increased capacity for storage including dry goods, frozen and refrigerated items, as well as state-of-the-art packing equipment that will allow for on-site packing of fresh meals.

Read more on Mass.gov [HERE](#).

## ***NBPS Farm to School Program Launches Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at all Elementary Schools***

Last school year the department ran a pilot of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at two elementary schools in the district. The goal of the program is to connect students to foods that are culturally appropriate, locally sourced, and nutritious.

This school year, after being awarded an additional \$485,000 federal grant, the program has been expanded to all elementary schools in the district. This funding allows the department to provide an additional serving of a fresh fruit or vegetable twice a week to all elementary school students. The grant has also supported the addition of two [Food Corps](#) service members in the district.

The Food Corps service members, Keri Cusson and Mikaela Thiboutot, work to support the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Jacobs, Gomes, Hayden McFadden and Pacheco Elementary Schools, where they plan to work directly with students in their classrooms, gardens, cafeterias, or remotely to connect them with healthy food.



### **FOLLOW US:**



@NewBedfordEATS

### **NEW WEBSITE!**

*What's for lunch? [Check out our new online menus!](#)*

Rob Shaheen, Director x14257 [rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org)

Alice Johnson, Assistant Director x14260 [ajohnson@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:ajohnson@newbedfordschools.org)

Samantha Therrien, MS, RDN, LDN, Assistant Director x14202 [stherrien@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:stherrien@newbedfordschools.org)





# Master's Programs for Teachers

Affordable Tuition  
**\$196/mo**  
\*if using financial aid

## Online Information Sessions offered weekly!

Visit [ExploreEndicott.com/Teachers](http://ExploreEndicott.com/Teachers) to register

To Register or for more Information Session options, please contact Kelly Foreman at (978) 867-0025 or [kforeman@graduateprogram.org](mailto:kforeman@graduateprogram.org)



### Programs Offered

#### Mostly Online Format Available

##### Initial License (M.Ed.)

- Early Childhood
- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities
- Special Education & ABA: Moderate Disabilities
- Special Education & ABA: Severe Disabilities

##### Administrative Leadership (M.Ed.)

- Principal/Assistant Principal
- Special Education Administrator

#### Fully Online Format Available

##### Professional License (M.Ed.)

- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities

##### Reading Literacy (M.Ed.)



### Accreditations & Quality

- Endicott College is a non-profit college that is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Ed. approved.

## Features

### Convenient

- Programs mostly online — perfect for the working teacher
- Six week courses — accelerated completion time
- Personal advising, networking opportunities and job placement support
- No GRE required

### Affordable

- Affordable tuition rate
- Financial aid available
- Student loan payments may be deferred until program completion
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness of up to \$5,000 may apply

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

College policy strictly limits enrollment in each program and accepts reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find us online at:

**[ExploreEndicott.com/Teachers](http://ExploreEndicott.com/Teachers)**

*These programs were arranged and made possible by the K-12 Teachers Alliance in cooperation with Endicott College.*

\*The repayment example set forth above is for illustrative purposes only and was calculated based on a standard amortization Federal Direct Loan assuming a loan amount of \$19,080, a payment term of 10 years, and a fixed interest rate equal to 4.3%. Loan amount of \$19,080 is based on the total tuition price for the 2020-2021 academic year for the Masters of Education (M.Ed.) in Early Childhood program. Your total loan amount may vary based on program selection. The loan calculator used in this example is available at <http://studentloans.gov>. It is your responsibility to verify your eligibility by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). All loans are subject to federal student aid guidelines. The actual interest rate may change periodically based on federal regulations. The tuition rate varies depending on your semester start date, plus applicable fees. Endicott College reserves the right to raise tuition costs annually.



# BE A New Bedford Public Schools FLU FIGHTER!



## FLU CLINICS

**THU. NOV. 5**

**Keith MS**

225 Hathaway Blvd.  
2:45- 6:00 p.m.

**FRI. NOV. 20**

**Roosevelt MS**

119 Frederick Street  
2:00-6:00 p.m.

**FRI. NOV. 13**

**Normandin MS**

81 Felton Street  
2:00-6:00 p.m.

**MON. NOV. 23**

**Hayden-McFadden**

361 Cedar Grove Street  
2:00-6:00 p.m.



**plus, free  
ice cream!**

Parents: Please bring your insurance card to the Flu Clinic if you have one. Has your child already been vaccinated? Please provide documentation of vaccination to your school by Jan. 4, 2021 per Massachusetts 105 CMR 220.000 .