



# NBPS Newsflash

## October 2021

Greetings Team NBPS,

Like the waning October sun, the first half of our “new” school year is quickly nearing its midpoint. As the days get shorter and the holiday season is excitedly not far away, we must keep our shared sense of urgency ever-present in all we do to positively impact the teaching and learning process every day. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for sticking with or joining New Bedford Public Schools. I repeatedly say that we have so much in which to be proud – because we do. As a whole we have a strong, quality staff who serve as models for our students. We have parents who want the best for their children and entrust us with the awesome responsibility each day – thank you!

So far this year I have seen almost 100 classrooms and my team has collectively visited well over 300, highlighting some excellent displays of learning. The excitement and positive engagement between students and staff has been encouraging. Despite the continued challenges, it has been a strong start and we continue building momentum through our positive energy.

To help keep students and staff in school we have implemented a new tool: the Test and Stay Program. With parental permission rapid tests will be administered to students and staff who volunteer, to determine results while they wait. This will help keep students and staff, deemed close contacts, in school by having them tested onsite. Last year, we had many students and staff who were deemed close contacts and missed classes and work. Test and Stay will help keep everyone safe and balance their ability to remain in school. Please see the NBPS website for more information.

On Monday, the DESE extended the mask requirement through at least November 1. While COVID continues to be with us, we are all savvier than a year ago. We know how to proactively deal with the challenge with new tools like Test and Stay to help limit the spread. First among the tools is the vaccine. Eligible students, families and staff are encouraged to participate in one of the many vaccination clinics in the city. See page 6 for this month’s upcoming clinics.

We must stay proactive - keep washing and sanitizing our hands, distance when necessary, and wear our masks when appropriate. We will get through this. Raise student learning. Every day. I leave you with Sheryl Sanberg, “We can each define ambition and progress for ourselves. The goal is to work toward a world where expectations are not set by the stereotypes that hold us back, but by our personal passion, talents and interests.”

Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent



“Courage may be the most important of all virtues, because without it one cannot practice any other virtue with consistency.”

–Maya Angelou

*Excellence Through Equity, p.23*

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# *Employee Spotlight*



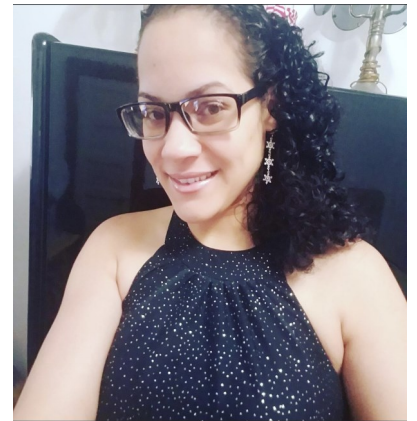
## **Yaitza Mojica-Rodriguez**

Junior Clerk Typist

James B. Congdon Elementary School



When it comes to being a goodwill ambassador for their school, few people come as readily to mind as **Yaitza Mojica-Rodriguez**, who as Junior Clerk Typist at Congdon does so much more. Like the Merriam-Webster definition of “goodwill,” Yaitza — with all whom she interacts — leaves “a kindly feeling of approval and support, and a sense of benevolent interest and concern.” It’s why Congdon’s new principal (and longstanding member of the Congdon Team), Justine Santos, has nominated Yaitza for an Employee Spotlight.



“Mrs. Yaitza Mojica-Rodriguez joined the Congdon team in 2017. Since that time, she has gone above and beyond for Congdon students, families, and staff. Mrs. Rodriguez also supports the FISS program by making calls and translating for families. She is willing to help New Bedford families in any way she can.

“Mrs. Rodriguez is the heart and soul of Congdon School. Whether on the phone or in person, she makes everyone feel heard, valued, and welcomed. Her contagious smile makes every day special. The Congdon family is so fortunate to work with her! Thank you!”

— *Justine Santos, Congdon Principal*



## **Zelia Reis**

School Nurse

E. C. Brooks Elementary School



In recognizing School Nurse **Zelia Reis** for an Employee Spotlight, Brooks Principal Jenn Medeiros notes her outstanding work. “The staff relies on her professional judgement when a situation comes about or when they need advice on how to handle particular situations. Nurse Reis consistently follows up with families to ensure the appropriate documentation and communication takes place between home, school, and the pediatrician’s office. Nurse

Reis makes herself available around the clock to conduct phone calls, screen symptoms, or check for clearance to return to school. For example, last semester each and every morning there was a line around the building awaiting her “re-checks” and she conducted each one with a smile, greeting students and families at the door.

Making a decision to keep a child out of school, or send a student home early due to cold-like symptoms is not always a simple decision; however, knowing that Nurse Reis handles each situation with care and uses informed judgement, makes the situation a little easier. She always has a positive outlook and remains calm when handling situations. Nurse Reis is a valued member of our school community and one that we appreciate more than she will ever know! Thank you, Nurse Reis, for keeping us all safe!

— *Jenn Medeiros, Brooks Principal*



Our confidential resource and referrals are available at no cost to you. Services with referral sources are optional and fees may exist.

**GET HELP WITH:**

-  Family Conflict
-  Couples/Relationships
-  Substance Abuse
-  Work/Life Balance
-  Stress
-  Depression/Anxiety
-  Grief
-  Parenting

YOU HAVE ACCESS TO  
**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**

Short-term counseling by licensed, Master's-level counselors via phone, mobile app, chat, and video. Available to you and your household members 24/7.



**EVERYDAY ASSISTANCE:**

Overwhelmed and scared about her teen's active substance misuse, Gina called in looking for assistance. She received an appointment with a counselor, and during their sessions, she learned parenting strategies and boundary-setting to help manage the situation. Gina also received information about local treatment programs for her son and family support groups.

ACCESS VIA:  [allonehealth.com](http://allonehealth.com)  
 508-990-0777



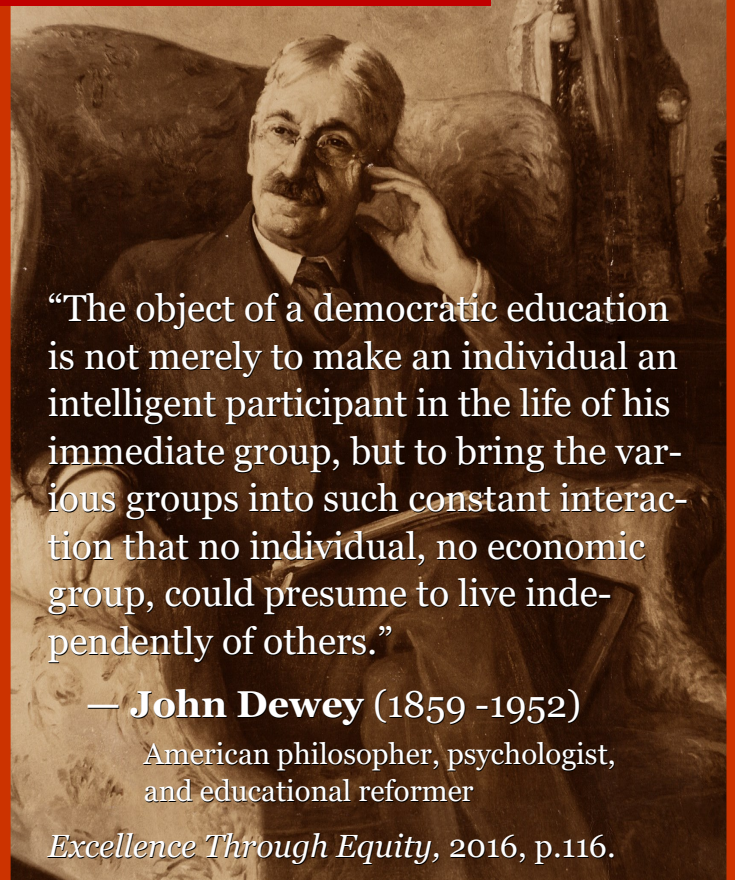
**OPTIONAL IN-SCHOOL COVID RAPID TESTING**

Students and staff who are deemed close contacts due to exposure to a COVID positive individual while in school will have the opportunity to be tested using a rapid antigen test and remain in school with a negative result. The close contact will be tested for the next 5 to 7 days to ensure they remain negative. During this time, students will come to school via their normal mode of transportation (bus, walk, drop-off, drive, etc.). A parent will not need to remain at the school until the test result; they will be called to pick up their child in the event of a positive result.

*"It is a quick, nasal swab collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, it is not uncomfortable and easy for students to do themselves."*

— Wanda Nunes, NBPS Supervisor of School Nurses

*Voices*  
from the history of Education



*"The object of a democratic education is not merely to make an individual an intelligent participant in the life of his immediate group, but to bring the various groups into such constant interaction that no individual, no economic group, could presume to live independently of others."*

— **John Dewey (1859 -1952)**

American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer

*Excellence Through Equity, 2016, p.116.*





**“We recognize the essential role of interpreters and translators in our schools and celebrate the incredible assets that they bring to our community.** We seek to build bridges of understanding. We encourage everyone to spread ideas and information in the language their heart speaks with the support of our interpreters and translators.”

AMHERST PELHAM REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“We ensure families have meaningful access to all aspects — programs, opportunities, and services —** pertaining to their children’s education. What’s your superpower?”

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION UNIT  
OFFICE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
ADVANCEMENTS  
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Our interpreters not only make words accessible to families and communities, they make the school culture, the world of education accessible to them.** Interpreters are not only language brokers; they are culture brokers.”

KELLIE JONES  
DIRECTOR OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION  
BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“The work of translators and interpreters helps to provide equity and access to our students and families.** Their work is of the utmost importance.”

ADAM DELEIDI  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Translators and interpreters are artists transforming words into understanding and connection.** They are essential in building and maintaining relationships between families and school communities.”

JEANETTE VELEZ  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
ESTHELA BORGHESE  
PORTUGUESE FAMILY LIAISON  
EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Translators and interpreters do more than just speak another language. They create a comfortable, safe environment for parents to express any concerns or questions.** They offer support and bridge the gap between our schools and our families.”

JENN GOMEZ & MONICA FERNANDES  
MLL DEPARTMENT  
FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Translators and interpreters are an essential part of creating a sense of belonging and community for second language parents.** They engage parents in the educational process of their children. They build bridges to support student social, emotional, and academic success.”

EVA KELLY  
ESL DIRECTOR  
FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“School translators and interpreters play a crucial role in promoting family-school partnership.** By facilitating communication and bridging cultural gaps, they help families access resources and participate in all aspects of their child’s education.”

BERNARDO LLORENTE  
MANAGER OF TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING SERVICES  
FRAMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“More than 70% of our students are Multilingual Learners; as such, interpreters are critical to the relationships we build!** Their steadfast commitment to quality interpretation makes all the difference for families, who feel valued and respected by the ways in which we engage in two-way communication.”

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“In Lowell Public Schools, our multilingual staff build bridges everyday between our families and our schools.** With language services in each school, we see LPS students from all of our communities reaching and achieving success.”

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Educational translators and interpreters are the bridge that connects home and school.** You are not alone, we are here to help with the success of each student and each family’s communication. Everybody working together for the benefit of all our kids!”

EDUCATIONAL TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES  
NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Translators and interpreters are the conduits for communications between LEP students, families, and educators.** Their work ensures every family’s right to fully access information about their child’s learning. They are valuable cultural brokers and bridges to the beautiful, diverse families we serve.”

LAUREN-LEE BARRY, M.ED.  
FAMILY-STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION COORDINATOR  
NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Interpreters ensure that reliable and meaningful communication permeates the cultural fabric of schools to close opportunity gaps for multicultural students and families.** They help dismantle systems that have historically perpetuated unjust practices and inequities for immigrant children and their families in order to build a more sustainable and inclusive world.”

LOURENÇO GARCIA, ED.D.  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
REVERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Staff members who provide language access are indispensable, offering essential services to families who have a right to be fully informed about their child’s school experience.** Translators and interpreters ensure that all families have a strong voice in their child’s educational journey.”

DR. STEPHEN ZRIKE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**“Interpretation and Translation are necessary for student success** because quality multilingual resources facilitate mutual understanding for educators and families. Meaningful family engagement cannot exist without it.”

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES  
SOMERVILLE FAMILY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE  
SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NBPS Educational Translation and Interpretation Services Team (L-R): Limary Rojas, Jenifer Garcia and Fanny Nieves.

# Celebrate

## our translators, our interpreters.

In celebration of International Translation Day, September 30, 2021, the Translation Center of the University of Massachusetts Amherst asked select school districts, **“what do you want your school community to know about translators and interpreters, or their work in Massachusetts schools?”** We are pleased to share the responses we received. We thank everyone for their participation and especially the translators and interpreters who make a difference every single day!

Regina Galasso, PhD  
Director, Translation Center  
Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese Studies  
[umass.edu/translation](http://umass.edu/translation)

**UMassAmherst**  
College of Humanities & Fine Arts  
Translation Center

**NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL'S  
35th Annual  
NESBA  
Marching Band  
Competition**



*\$10 adults*

*\$8 students/seniors*

**Sunday, October 17, 2021**

**1:00PM**

**McCoy Field, New Bedford**



*E. Sirianos Photography*

***See and hear some of  
New England's Top  
High School Bands!***

***Andover  
BMC Durfee  
Bridgewater-Raynham  
Dartmouth  
Dighton-Rehoboth  
Falmouth  
Joseph Case  
Shepherd Hill  
New Bedford HS***

**New England Scholastic Band Association**

For more information contact Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts, NBPS 508-997-4511 x14104

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# Adult Volunteers Needed

*We are happy to announce a great opportunity to get involved with our community and assist a local organization.*

**What is Gifts to Give?** Gifts to Give's mission is to remain focused on building a new currency for philanthropy by building a more caring community that's focused on child poverty, literacy, service to others and giving. By sharing our gifts, we can ensure that children are connected with what they need both physically and mentally.

**What would I do as a volunteer?** Volunteers do everything from unloading donations from cars and trucks to assembling individual gift package requests for children in-need, sent by distribution partners.

**Where are they located?** Gifts to Give is located right in Acushnet, MA.

**How can I sign up or learn more?** To learn more about this organization and how to volunteer please visit: [giftstogive.org/online-volunteer-request](http://giftstogive.org/online-volunteer-request) or

**call 508-717-8715.**

*Thank you!*



# NBPS Vaccination Clinics Schedule

The City of New Bedford Health Department and New Bedford Public Schools are hosting weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics through early November at Keith, Normandin, and Roosevelt middle schools, and NBHS. Students, parents, faculty and staff members all are welcome at the free, walk-up clinics.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEP 26	<b>SEP 27</b> McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>SEP 28</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM	<b>SEP 29</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>SEP 30</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 1</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 2</b>
<b>OCT 3</b>	<b>OCT 4</b> McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>OCT 5</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 6</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 7</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 8</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 9</b>
<b>OCT 10</b>	<b>OCT 11</b> Columbus Day [Holiday]	<b>OCT 12</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>OCT 13</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 14</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 15</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 16</b>
<b>OCT 17</b>	<b>OCT 18</b> McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>OCT 19</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 20</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 21</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 22</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 23</b>
<b>OCT 24</b>	<b>OCT 25</b> McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>OCT 26</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 27</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 28</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 29</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>OCT 30</b>
<b>OCT 31</b>	<b>NOV 1</b> McCoy 2PM - 7PM For Trinity	<b>NOV 2</b> Normandin 2PM - 5PM	<b>NOV 3</b> Keith 2PM - 5PM	<b>NOV 4</b> Roosevelt 2PM - 5PM	<b>NOV 5</b> NBHS 2PM - 5PM	<b>NOV 6</b>

**EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS:**

**AIC WANTS TO MEET YOU!**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
INFORMATION SESSIONS**

**OCT.**

**14**

**4:00-6:00  
PM EST**

**4:00-5:00  
PM EST**

**5:00-6:00  
PM EST**

## **COMMUNITY ROOM AT MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1135 N Main St, Fall River, MA 02720

Meet with admissions staff to learn more about AIC's educator prep programs, the application process, **initial and professional license opportunities**, and our convenient format. Application fee waiver provided to all attendees.

**90%**

**OF GRADUATES EMPLOYED  
AT MA PUBLIC SCHOOLS\***

**97%**

**OF GRADUATES REMAIN  
EMPLOYED FOR 2 YEARS\***

\*According to the Massachusetts  
Department of Education

The School of Education at **American International College** has moved to a **virtual learning format** for all Master's and CAGS programs.

**Programs will be offered in a combination of:**

- **REMOTE** courses with live interactions taught by AIC faculty in a virtual "face-to-face" classroom.
- **ONLINE** courses with flexible scheduling to enable independent and meaningful learning.



TO REGISTER, SCAN  
THE CODE HERE OR VISIT  
**[AIC.EDU/GRTRAVEL](https://aic.edu/grtravel)**

**AIC** | **SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION**

**INITIAL LICENSE**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

**MIDDLE & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

**MODERATE DISABILITIES**

**READING SPECIALIST**

**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP**

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSE**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

**MODERATE DISABILITIES**