



# NBPS Newsflash

## September 2021

WELCOME BACK TEAM NBPS!

I hope everyone enjoyed the much-needed summer break as it is very important to remain attentive to self-care to help maintain our focus as we live in these unique times. Last school year was an extraordinary challenge, but we rose to meet that challenge as we addressed a myriad issues to provide high-quality teaching and learning. We focused on the “why and how” of what we do. We provided more hybrid and in-person learning than any other large district in the state.

KUDOS to all of you! NBPS is one of four districts to receive the Award of Excellence for being an Exemplar PBIS District. This speaks to the effectiveness of our tiered support strategies that we have been implementing to support students.

As COVID-19 remains a challenge, the DESE has issued a mask requirement for all districts until at least October 1, 2021. All students, staff, and visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, are required to wear a mask/face covering while inside any NBPS facility. Current mitigation strategies will continue, including using air exchange units and disinfecting, as they have all proved to work in keeping the virus from spreading in our schools.

Although mask wearing and distancing may be tedious at times, don't lose sight of your “why and how” this year. We know how to deal with this as last year taught us a lot.

We welcomed back our K-12 students this week. Mixed with the excitement was some anxiety as many had not physically attended school this past year. With that, I know that schools are working to provide support to help students transition back into the daily routine.

School has changed tremendously and there is no “normal” or even a “new normal”. We are taking the best of what we have learned over the past two years to enhance the educational process for every student.

As we begin SY2021-2022, let us be mindful of the reasons we chose to work in education – for that which matters most – to make a difference in the lives of our young people, and prepare them to be successful when they leave us for new horizons. This includes all staff to support this life-changing, future-forming work. Thank you for all you do. Here's to an excellent start to the school year.

Sincerely,

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent



**“And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”**

**–Meister Eckhart**

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# Employee Spotlight

## Cheryl Jesse

Social Studies Teacher  
Normandin Middle School



Cheryl Jesse has been a member of Normandin Middle School for over 20 years teaching grade 7 Social Studies. Ms. Jesse has always been committed to her students and their families; never missing a dance or PTO meeting. Ms. Jesse's classroom is an environment where all children feel safe with her calm voice and her eyes that speak kindness. She has been known to go above and beyond---staying late with students or showing up at their house to help with a project.

As we all struggled with remote learning, Ms. Jesse worked tirelessly to ensure her students had the best possible experience. She spent countless hours working with her team as they navigated new platforms and designed lessons with the remote setting in mind. Ms. Jesse's persistence over the last school year has allowed her and her colleagues to grow together while they provided the best instruction to students.

*-Submitted by Sean McNiff, Principal*

## Kevin Gomes

Custodian  
Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School

Mr. Gomes has worked for the district for twenty four years and has spent most of his career at Rodman. Given the age of Rodman's building, it is clear to see that he takes great pride in the aesthetics daily! The floors sparkle in our building and his day-to-day duties are immense. Our outside grounds are always maintained and checked daily.

Supervisor Paul Corbett said, "From the bricks to the pipes, Mr. Gomes is familiar with every square inch of Rodman Elementary School and can anticipate the building's needs before potential problems arise. He is not only a dedicated employee who is great at his job; he's an all-around great guy!"

Mr. Gomes never complains when the staff asks him to assist with projects outside of his daily duties. He has a great rapport with all of the Rodman staff and students. I am fortunate to work with him and he is not only a wonderful custodian, but just as great a man. Thank you for all you do!



*-Submitted by Kim Marshall, Principal*

**ENROLL**  
**Sept. 6th**  
Enrollment ends Sept. 19

# YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN OUR ANNUAL  
**FALL STEP CHALLENGE!**



Enrollment period for the Fall Step Challenge: September 6, 2021 to September 19, 2021.  
Challenge will begin September 13, 2021 and will end on October 25, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

**ONLY EMPLOYEES WHO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR BCBS HEALTH INSURANCE ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE**

Step Challenge instructions are available on the Benefits page [HERE!](#)

To successfully complete this challenge, you will need to log 294,000 steps within 6 weeks, an average of 7,000 steps a day, using a pedometer, **Fitbit®** or other device to keep track of steps. Steps must be entered into [ahealthyme](#), either on the website, through the [HealthyNow app](#), or through a connected **Fitbit®** device, to be counted toward the challenge goal.

# CHALLENGE

*Employees that join the challenge will be entitled to the Fitbit Inspire 2 if they didn't receive one on the previous challenge, while supplies last!*

Please contact Marcia Tome in the Benefits Office at 508-997-4511 Ext. 14355 or email [mtome@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:mtome@newbedfordschools.org) to claim your **Fitbit®**.

Employees who complete the challenge will be eligible to receive a \$25.00 gift certificate. **Gift certificates will be issued to employees only.**

# CONGRATULATIONS

## SUMMER STEP CHALLENGE WINNERS



New Bedford Public Schools would like to recognize and congratulate all employees that participated in the Summer Step Challenge!

The top ranking teams for this year are:

- 1st— PRAB**
- 2nd— Winslow Warriors**
- 3rd— Brooks Bobcats**

**Congratulations to Leslie Guertin** for being our top stepper for the summer challenge with 1,149,865 steps!

Gift Certificates and Prizes will be sent to all that completed the challenge at their respective schools.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING WELLNESS EVENTS!**



*ARE YOU A NEWLY HIRED STAFF MEMBER?*

**JOIN US FOR A BENEFITS INFO SESSION!**



**WHAT:** *Benefits Informational Session for Newly Hired Staff*

**WHEN:** 9/8/21 at 4:00PM

**WHERE:** Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING](#)

Meeting ID: 815 7690 2311

Passcode: Benefits

# Ready® Classroom Mathematics

*...A Message from the Math Department*

*-Submitted by Josh Almeida*

This year, we will be implementing *Ready Classroom Mathematics* as our core mathematics program across the district in all Grade K – 8 classrooms!

The *Ready Classroom Mathematics* program provides a wealth of resources to support instruction, practice, assessment, and differentiation that can be used for both in-person and virtual learning to help meet the needs of students. These resources will be particularly essential in the coming year as we support our student learning needs and the unique challenges to come.

The expectations for math instruction this year focus on creating a classroom culture in which students persevere through problems, celebrate mistakes as opportunities for new learning, and speak confidently about mathematics.



# Send Summer off with Savings



## End of Season Savings

Save Even More on Travel and Experiences with Promo Codes:

- Summer10 for \$10 off \$100
- Summer20 for \$20 off \$200
- Summer30 for \$30 off \$300

\*Promo codes valid through 9/30/21. Promo code may only be used for transactions completed on TicketsatWork and may not be used to purchase gift cards or combined with any other offer.



### School is Back

August means the start of back to school time. Give your student a head start this school year with savings on:

- iD Tech: Save \$120 on 12-week semesters
- KinderCare: Take 10% off tuition
- Homer: Free 60-day trial



### Last Chance for Summer Fun

August also means the end of summer is coming soon so take advantage of one last chance at summer fun with savings like:

- Hotels: Save up to 60%
- Theme Park Tickets: Save over 50% on tickets
- Rental Cars: Get up to 25% off



### High Tech for Higher Ed

Plug into savings for the school year. Save on the latest technology for the college bound student including:

- Dell: Get an additional 5% off sitewide
- Lenovo: Save up to 66%
- Acer: Shop weekly sales + get an extra 15% off



**Make the most of your TicketsatWork membership! Get instant access to exclusive deals, limited-time offers and members-only perks on the products, services and experiences you need and love. With something to excite every interest, it's time to spend less and enjoy more this season.**

## New to TicketsatWork? Getting Started is Easy.

- 1 Visit [TicketsAtWork.com](https://www.ticketsatwork.com)
- 2 Click *Become a Member*
- 3 Enter your company code or work email to create an account

### COMPANY CODE

CNBPERKS

NEED HELP? CALL US: 1-800-331-6483 • EMAIL US: CUSTOMERSERVICE@ TICKETSATWORK.COM

\*Prices and Offers are subject to availability and subject to change without notice. Please review the terms and conditions for offers.

This month, TicketsatWork has everything you need to celebrate the end of summer and getting ready for school. With deals on electronics, apparel, virtual learning, home deliveries of delectable meals, travel, and entertainment, you'll cap off this summer with a bang!

Don't miss out on end of summer savings on travel and entertainment with these promo codes\*:

- **Summer10** for \$10 off \$100
- **Summer20** for \$20 off \$200
- **Summer30** for \$30 off \$300

If you haven't signed up yet, click [become a member](#) and enter our company code: CNBPERKS

## Summer Fun

Squeezing in one more family trip before school begins? Save up to 50% on tickets to premier parks like Disney, Universal, Six Flags, and more.

[TAKE A RIDE](#)



## Child Care

Get your child the best care possible with offers on tuition, tutors, and other online learning resources.

[GET THEM THE BEST](#)



## Back to School

Take care of your back to school shopping and save on virtual learning, early education, apparel, supplies, and other online learning resources.

[BEST IN CLASS](#)



## Office Supplies

If you need to gear up your office for work or school, there are plenty of discounts available. Save on premium brands like Acer, Bizchair, Norton 360, and more.

[UPDATE YOUR TECH](#)



## Home Entertainment

Enjoy your time at home with specials on streaming services, audiobooks, magazine subscriptions, and more.

[LIVING MADE EASY](#)



\*Promo codes valid through 9/30/21. Promo code may only be used for transactions completed on TicketsatWork and may not be used to purchase gift cards or combined with any other offer.

As a valued client, you've received this information to share the opportunity of memorable experiences with your employees. If you no longer wish to receive this information, [unsubscribe](#).

\*Prices and Offers are subject to availability and subject to change without notice. Please review the terms and conditions for offers. Blackout dates may apply. Offers have no cash value and become void if qualifying booking is cancelled.

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5551 Vanguard Street Orlando, FL, 32819, United States

## NBPS Community Contribution Drive

I appreciate everyone's efforts in giving back and I THANK YOU for your generosity. Our community contribution went to a very deserving organization, *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Inc.*

*-Majorie Fernandes*

Sr. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent



## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES UPDATES

### FOODCORPS SERVICE MEMBERS WILL WORK IN SIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

This school year, Food and Nutrition Services will continue its partnership with the Marion Institute's Grow Education Program and FoodCorps of Massachusetts! Three full-time FoodCorps service members will be working directly with students at six elementary schools throughout the district: Jacobs, Hayden McFadden, Gomes, Pacheco, Rodman and Hathway.



They will collaborate with teachers to co-teach lessons using the schools' gardens as experiential outdoor classrooms, as well as encouraging students to try healthy foods that are being served in the cafeteria or classrooms through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Additionally, the FoodCorps service members will support teachers to connect science, math, health, and ELA standards to the district's Farm to School efforts, and the changes happening in the cafeteria.

### THE FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM CONTINUES IN ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Food and Nutrition Services department will again be offering the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at all elementary schools! Through this program, a fresh fruit or vegetable is offered to students twice a week between lunch and dismissal.

The program gives students additional opportunities to try different, healthy foods in their classrooms. Lessons can also be built around the fresh fruit or vegetable being offered to further encourage student curiosity and consumption!



# Lincoln Learners Meet & Greet

*-Shared by Lina DeJesus, Principal*



The Abraham Lincoln Elementary School was beyond excited to kick off the 2021-2022 school year by welcoming 409 Lincoln Families to a Meet and Greet Event! In conjunction with the amazing Lincoln PTO, TEAM Lincoln came together to provide a much needed opportunity for families and students to unite and connect in person. The event was full of food, fun, and laughs as students met with their new teachers and played games with new and old friends. In addition, TEAM Lincoln distributed 200 backpacks and "Lincoln Learner" t-shirts to all students.

TEAM Lincoln and the Lincoln Learners are ready to rock this school year as we continue on our road to excellence!



## 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...**

**We'll take it from there!**

**Thank You!**

