



NBPS Newsflash September 2023

Welcome back Team NBPS!

I hope that all of you had a rejuvenating summer enjoying time with family and friends. Over the past few weeks leading up to First Day, there has been an unmistakable buzz, vibe and feeling of excitement and optimism throughout our district— Convocation being a stirring example of this for all to see. We have an amazing school staff who balanced the busiest summer school schedule with the immense task of getting ready for school year 23/24.

The enthusiasm was certainly palpable on the first day of classes as I witnessed returning students embrace teachers and school leaders warmly greet families, a genuine reunion. We are off to a great start!

A special welcome to our many new staff who are starting their careers in public education and will guide our students and families throughout the school year. The role of the educator is more important than ever, and I am inspired when I think of how you can contribute to our city in the years ahead.

School attendance is a cornerstone of our students’ academic and social development. Each day is a step forward, so consistent and punctual attendance is key. Indeed, it is the first part of building relationships. The researchers will tell us they can prove what we already know: The success of our children in a school setting is very much linked to the relationships within those classrooms. Most important of all is our relationships with our students. These bonds are what makes schools work for all, fostering a nurturing and secure environment for learning.

All our planning and preparation has one goal, one purpose: to secure for our students the greatest possible educational experience in the years ahead.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to seeing you as I visit classrooms throughout the district.

As someone lucky enough to work in this district for almost 20 years, the educational philosophy I have acquired is simple: The purpose of education is to “open the minds of all who look to beautiful thoughts.” For students to realize their value and worth, their “environment has to mirror it back to them.”

I am ever grateful for your support in this mission.

Sincerely,

Andrew O’Leary
Interim Superintendent

**A new
school year
means new
beginnings,
new
adventures
and new
challenges.**

- Denise Witmer

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Employee Spotlight



Laura Pelletier

ESL Teacher
Jacobs Elementary School



Laura Pelletier has been an outstanding educator since the fall of 2014, at both the Hannigan and Jacobs Schools. She holds herself to the highest of standards, and pushes her students to do the same. Laura has taken on the role of ESL co-teacher in the last year, and she and her teaching partner have built the most amazing, inclusive, classroom of love and high expectations. A co-worker remarked “Laura builds a great rapport with her newcomers, making them feel welcomed and safe. She is thoughtful in her lesson plans to include visuals and supports for ALL learners. She is knowledgeable in her craft and is willing to share anything. She rocks!” While not serving in a ESL role, Laura mentors and advises those around her to work to bring the entire school up. Our school is the better for having her here!

— Timothy Mclaughlin, Principal, Jacobs Elementary School



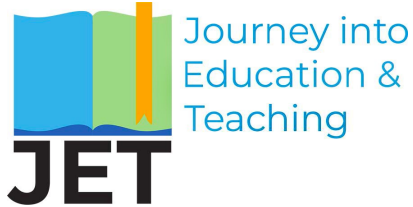
Ian Langlois

Senior Custodian
Betsey B. Winslow School



Ian is a true Super Star! Recently promoted to Senior Custodian, he has easily proven that he is well deserving of this title. He works diligently throughout the day ensuring that the building is clean inside and out. His manor with the students is engaging and comforting. He speaks with them often and provides them with laughter when they are having a tough moment. This summer, Ian did not have another custodian with him. He worked by himself every day to make sure that the Winslow staff and students entered into a sparkling and welcoming environment. Ian is a legend with all the Winslow students and staff. He wrote the song, "I just want to be a Bee" for the school and sang it at the end of year pep rally both this year and last. The students loved it and sang along clapping. His dedication to the building, students, and staff at Winslow is very much appreciated by all. Winslow is fortunate to have a custodian with a fun personality that works tirelessly each day to make sure everyone is safe and smiling!

— Carolyn Pontes, Principal, Betsey B. Winslow School

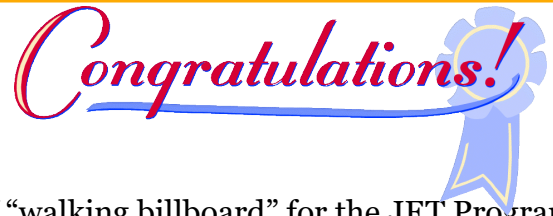


JET Graduate Success Stories

Massachusetts public school para-educators can become licensed teachers and do it through the JET Program, as these successful JET graduates have done. JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Mass. teacher licensure. JET supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects

Alex Roman-Arce

Kindergarten Teacher
Hayden–McFadden Elementary School

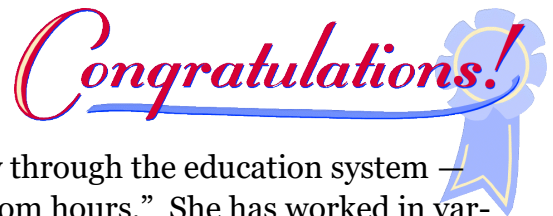


Alex Roman-Arce considers himself “walking billboard” for the JET Program and all its services. “They do make an impact not only in the community but in whoever participates.” It was after he joined Mrs. Mastroianni’s internship program while at Whaling City, Alex decided he wanted to teach. Students would go to Carney Academy, help the teacher and work with the students. Since then, he wanted to go into the education field. With the support of mentors along the way, Alex completed the program and is now a Kindergarten Teacher at Hayden-McFadden School.

Down the line, after he has developed his teaching skills, he would like to be a mentor to other aspiring educators. Helping teachers and students who are exploring different fields. Although challenging at first, the JET program had a significant impact on his career choice. Teaching became a passion. “I can’t picture myself doing any other career.”

Paula Correia

Grade 5 Teacher
Carney Academy



Paula Correia has made her way through the education system — working what she refers to as “mom hours.” She has worked in various positions throughout the District — most recently as a para-educator at Winslow School. While there, she learned about the JET Program. She was excited “because the timing was perfect!” Her dream is to be a teacher working with older students — Grades 5 or 6 — and make a positive impact on their lives . She attributes this to a 6th Grade teacher who played an important role in her life and helped her come out of her shell. One of her goals is to have a

similar impact on students.

She credits the JET Program with offering a great support system. With lots of mentors who were always available to help. She is looking forward to the school year and has turned her classroom into a welcoming and safe place in which to learn.

“Life doesn’t always work out the way we plan, but determination and hard can get you where you want to be. Never give up on your dreams!”

Massachusetts public school paraprofessionals can become licensed teachers and do it through the JET Program, as these successful JET graduates have done. JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Mass. 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.

Annemarie Edwards

Kindergarten Teacher
Pulaski Elementary School

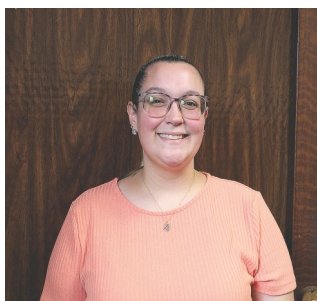


Annemarie Edwards always wanted to be a teacher. Despite several obstacles, Annmarie was determined nothing was going to get in the way of her goal. She has held several different jobs within the education system but she especially enjoys working with kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other special needs. She credits her patience and passion for working with Special Education students and her ability to figure how a student learns and to adjust her teaching methods. She appreciates the JET Program because it allowed her to go back and forth while she experienced many setbacks. It supplied the guidance and support to help her achieve her ultimate goal. She enjoyed working with the JET teachers who made her feel like she belonged in education. Her advice to anyone thinking about participating in the program is: "It doesn't matter how old you are or what you've been through, never give up your dream." She is "over the moon" to be a teacher and grateful to the JET Program for its help enabling her to fulfill her passion.

Congratulations!

Samantha Guillotte

PreK Teacher
Hayden -McFadden Elementary School



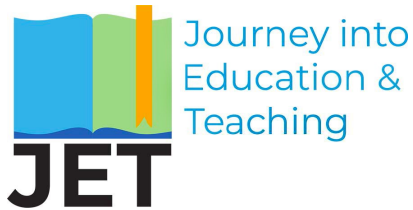
Samanth Guillotte's path to becoming a teacher began when she was in high school. Growing up her teachers were always very supportive and encouraging. Several recognized her potential to become an excellent teacher. She is still in touch with some of them.

She would love to have the same impact on current and future students that these teachers had on her. She sees this first year as the beginning of many years of teaching.

Samantha found the JET Program to be very helpful and supportive. Participating in the program with colleagues she already knew was a definite plus and greatly added to the experience. She recommends future teachers take part in the JET Program as a great beginning for their career as an educator.

Looking forward to being a Pre K teacher because they "are lots of fun and have lots of love to give."

Congratulations!

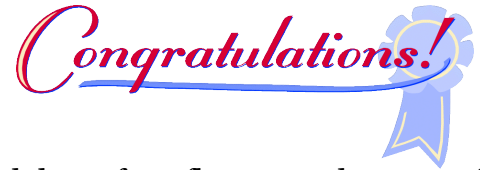


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Alicia Lucas

Special Education Preschool Teacher
Hayden-McFadden Elementary School



Alicia Lucas decorated her new classroom with lots of sunflowers — her way of sharing a part of herself with her students. She is looking forward to her first year as a Special Education Preschool Teacher at Hayden-McFadden Elementary School. After 6 years there as a para-educator, Alicia feels right at home. It was the teacher she was working with who suggested she become a teacher. Working multiple jobs, Alicia wasn't sure she could get the necessary education to achieve this goal. It was then she discovered the JET Program. She credits the program with providing the support and mentoring she needed to complete the program and fulfill her dream.

“When I felt discouraged, they propped me up and encouraged me to continue,” Alicia said about the program. According to Alicia, her mentor was awesome and persistence. “She is appreciative of the ongoing support the program provides. The JET Program taught her, “you can do anything if you don't give up. “



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.

Congratulations!
From Para-Educator to Teacher!



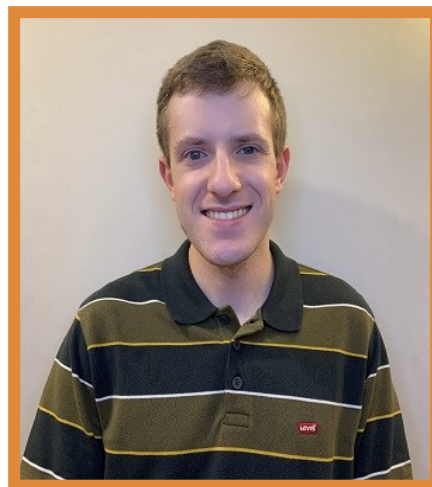
Lauren Allain
Kindergarten Teacher
Lincoln Elementary School



Kayla Britte
Grade 1 Teacher
Hayden-McFadden
Elementary School



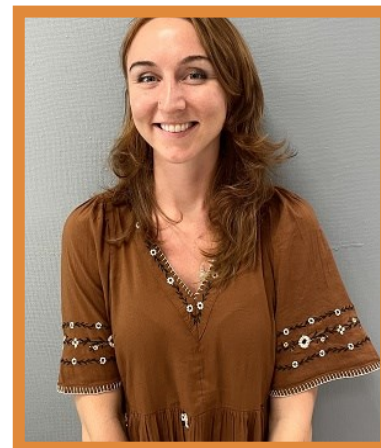
Jessica Duclos
Special Education Teacher
Carney Academy



Douglas Gifford
Special Education Teacher—
Substantially Separate
Ashley Elementary School



Claudia Figuereo
ESL Teacher
Hayden-McFadden
Elementary School



Cheney Hagerup
Grade 1 Dual Language
Teacher
Gomes Elementary School

Congratulations!

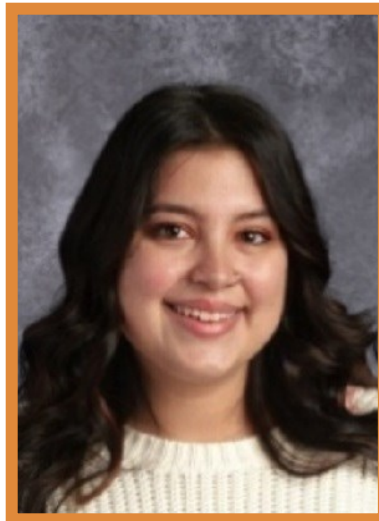
From Para-Educator to Teacher!



Jennifer Mendonca
Grade 1 Teacher—Newcomer
Hathaway Elementary School



Amanda Ormseth
School Adjustment Counselor
Pulaski Elementary School



Cassidy Nunes
Grade 1 Teacher
Pulaski Elementary School



Christine Pacheco
ESL Teacher
Swift Elementary School



Liza Sousa
Grade 1 Teacher
Hayden-McFadden
Elementary School

Para-Educator News



A Para-Educator agreement was ratified at the August 14 meeting of the New Bedford School Committee. L-R: Darcie Aungst, Interim Deputy Superintendent; Christopher A. Cotter, NBSC vice chair; Elaine Safioleas, Bruce J. Oliveira, NBSC; Ross M. Grace, NBSC; Coleen Dawicki, NBSC; Melissa Costa, NBSC; Joaquim "Jack" Livramento, NBSC; Priscilla Antonelli, Para-Educator; Andrew O'Leary, Interim Superintendent.



L-R: Heather Emsley, Executive Director, Human Capital Services; Jillian Zangao, NB Para President, Local 2378; Darcie Aungst, Interim Deputy Superintendent; Andrew O'Leary, Interim Superintendent.



FoodCorps Service Members to Return to NBPS Elementary Schools

This school year, Food and Nutrition Services will continue its partnership with the Marion Institute’s Grow Education Programs and FoodCorps of Massachusetts! Currently two full-time FoodCorps service members work directly with students at several elementary schools throughout the district.

They will collaborate with teachers to co-teach lessons using the schools’ gardening experiential outdoor classrooms, as well as encouraging students to try healthy foods 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.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to Continue in all NBPS Elementary Schools

The Food and Nutrition Services Department will again offer 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 food in their classrooms. Lessons can also be built around the fresh fruit or vegetable being offered to further encourage student curiosity and consumption!





YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR
FALL STEP CHALLENGE!

Only employees who subscribe to our BCBS health insurance can participate.

Enrollment period for the Fall Step Challenge is now open and will close on **September 17, 2023**
Challenge begins September 11, 2023
and ends October 23, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

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.com, either on the website, through the **HealthyNow app**, or through a connected Fitbit® device, to be counted toward the challenge goal.

Step challenge instructions are available on the district website click on this link: [BENEFITS](#)

All employees and dependents that join the challenge will be entitled to the Fitbit Inspire 2 if they did not 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 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.

Around Our Schools



First Day of School was a success! Lots of smiling faces in anticipation of a great academic year!



Say Goodbye to Summer



Community Corner

Volunteers are needed throughout our community*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

SIGN UP ONLINE AT [HTTPS://PACEINFO.ORG/VOLUNTEER/](https://paceinfo.org/volunteer/)

The PACE Community Food Center Needs
FOOD DONATIONS

We are in need of your generous donations for the following essentials: juices, milk, water, pasta, canned goods, and cereal.



Donations may be dropped off at: **477 Park Street, New Bedford**



Community Food Center
477 Park Street, 508-999-9920

SMEC SEI ENDORSEMENT ONLINE COURSE



The purpose of this course is to prepare the Commonwealth's teachers with the knowledge and skills to effectively shelter their content instruction so that our growing population of English language learners (ELLs) can access curriculum, achieve academic success, and contribute their multilingual and multicultural resources as participants and future leaders in the 21st century global economy

\$350

REGISTER NOW



508-9985599 ex130



<https://app.smartedu.net/smec/pd/>

Starts 9/14/23



MASSACHUSETTS

THE CARE YOU NEED. WHENEVER AND WHEREVER.



You have more ways than ever to get expert medical opinions and advice. Right when you need them.

BECAUSE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE SHOULD HAPPEN ROUND THE CLOCK.



24/7 NURSE LINE



VIDEO DOCTOR VISIT



DOCTOR'S OFFICE



URGENT CARE

Go to the nearest emergency room when you're facing a life-threatening situation or think you could put your health in danger by delaying care. The information in this document doesn't replace the advice of a health care provider. You should speak to your provider about any specific health concerns.

Sign In

Download the MyBlue App today from the App Store® or Google Play™, or visit bluecrossma.org.

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MOS-0 (09/21)



MASSACHUSETTS

A WHOLE NEW WAY TO DO PRIMARY CARE

Your Virtual Care Team is here

An innovative way to do primary care that's convenient and comprehensive is here. You can now choose a virtual primary care provider (PCP) to lead your new Virtual Care Team.*



PRIMARY CARE THAT'S A PRIME EXPERIENCE

It's a new kind of primary care — one that comes with a team of experts committed to getting you the care you need.



CONVENIENT

With virtual visits, there's no need to travel to the doctor's office and no waiting room.



COMPREHENSIVE

Your team is here to make sure your physical and mental health needs are met.



COORDINATED

If you need in-person care, a care coordinator will help find in-network specialists who work for you.

LEARN MORE

For more information, sign in to your MyBlue account at bluecrossma.com.

*Coverage details may vary. Please check your 2023 plan benefits for more information.

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HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

START BY PICKING
YOUR VIRTUAL PCP



ENJOY MORE
CONVENIENT CARE



GET THE BEST
OF BOTH WORLDS



To get started with your Virtual Care Team, the first step is selecting a virtual PCP. You'll also get access to a care coordinator, and your team may include other experts, such as a mental health specialist, picked based on your health needs. It's the care you need most, in the most convenient way.

Scheduling visits is as easy as hopping online, with appointments available in days, not weeks. Plus, you can reach out to your team with questions via talk, text, email, and chat. It's care that works on your terms, on your schedule, wherever you are, with a level of communication, technology, and access that will surprise you.

After your first visit, you'll receive a welcome kit which may include connected medical devices, like a blood pressure monitor, that make your virtual care as thorough as in-person visits. When you do need in-person care, your team will help find a specialist who works for you and follow up with you after the appointment.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

ATTENTION: If you don't speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call Member Service at the number on your ID card (TTY: 711).

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia con el idioma. Llame al número de Servicio al Cliente que figura en su tarjeta de identificación (TTY: 711).

ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, são-lhe disponibilizados gratuitamente serviços de assistência de idiomas. Telefone para os Serviços aos Membros, através do número no seu cartão ID (TTY: 711).

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32-6765 (2/23)

BJ's Wholesale Club Educators & Staff Discounts



BJ's Wholesale Club has extended a **special membership** offer for **educators, administrative and support staff**, that entitles them to **over 50% off a BJ's membership**. Staff can join BJ's for only \$25 and receive a \$10 welcome bonus to spend in the club (regular membership fee is \$55 with no welcome bonus).

It is extremely simple for any educators, administrative and support staff to take advantage of this offer:

To enroll as a member simply call BJ's dedicated call center phone # 1-800-313-8887 and use code 750008 to join for \$25 that includes a \$10 award towards an in-club purchase!

NEXT STEP IS EASY JUST GO INTO YOUR LOCAL BJ'S AND SHOW YOUR ID AT THE MEMBER SERVICE DESK TO GET YOUR NEW CARDS 😊

CALL CENTER: Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 9:00am-6:00pm EST

This offer is not valid in store or online.

Help us Promote these Events! Great Family Resource!

NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar
September 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28 	29 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE! 	30 Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA (508) 997-4511 ext. 14154	31 BACK TO SCHOOL GRADES 1-12	1 
4 LABOR DAY!	5 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR PREK & KINDERGARTEN!	6 KEITH- TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL 5PM-6:30PM ZOOM WORKSHOP- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING 4PM-6PM	7 ROOSEVELT- "YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CENTER" 4PM-6PM	8
11	12 KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL IMMIGRANTS ASSISTANCE NIGHT- 5PM-6PM	13 ZOOM- WELCOME TO NBPS 4:30-5:30PM	14 SNAP & HOUSING WORKSHOP AT GOMES 1:30-4PM	15
18 "I SEE YOU" AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP 6PM-7PM ON ZOOM	19 HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE AT KEITH 5PM-6:30PM	20 KEITH OPEN HOUSE 5:30PM-7PM HAYMAC TACOS WITH 4:30PM-6:30PM "YOU ARE NOT ALONE" ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM WELCOME TO NBHS ON ZOOM 5:30PM-6:30PM	21	22 GOMES ICE CREAM SOCIAL 4PM-6PM
25 NORMANDIN-HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION! 4PM-6PM	26 FISS ELEMENTARY BEGINS! ZOOM 5PM-6PM	27 BREAKFAST WITH PARENTS AT PACHECO- 10AM-11AM EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS	28	29

Help us Promote these events!




NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar
September 2023

FISS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 26TH!

For families of children in Elementary School!

REGISTER TODAY!



SNAP & HOUSING

In Person Referrals & Questions!

GOMES SCHOOL

September 14th
1:30-4pm

"I SEE YOU"

Monthly support group for parents with children of Autism- Join us on zoom! Register today!



COMPUTER CLASSES

Normandin Middle-Every Tuesday
12-1pm

Gomes School- September 29th
9am-10am & 1pm-2pm

PARENT CAFÉ!

COME AND LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY!

Roosevelt Middle School- 9/6
(Lionsbridge)

Gomes School- 9/20 (PACE)
9am-10am & 1pm-2pm

Normandin- 9/14 (PACE Food Pantry)
9/28 (PACE Utilities)

HayMac PACE Parent Café- 9/7 & 9/21
10am-11am *Registration Required*



Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA
(508) 997-4511 ext. 14154

