

The Curriculum Corner

North Brunswick Township Schools Monthly Curricular Update



Volume 1; Issue 1

September 2015

New Staff Training

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, North Brunswick Township welcomed 45 new certified staff members at opening day of New Staff Training. The morning's theme was centered around getting to know North Brunswick. The entire administrative group was there to support the "Know the Team" segment and offered their welcome and words of wisdom to the eager new staff. Other segments included, "Know the Community" and "Know the System". During these segments, staff engaged in active learning regarding the cultural differences, instructional practices, and student services that make up North Brunswick Township Schools.

The following four days of staff training were differentiated based on the new hire's grade level and position. Each building principal and administrative team developed workshops to help new staff learn their school, building culture, and content expectations. In addition to time spent at the building level, all staff came together to receive technology training, including acclimation to our district staff portal, information systems like OnCourse and Genesis, as well as training in both Google Drive and Google Classroom. Finally, our newest class of educators received full training on the Marshall Rubrics and the expectation of the state evaluation model under AchieveNJ. We are proud of the efforts of this new group and look forward to all they will bring to North Brunswick!



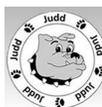
Meet NBT's Newest Principals

Judd Elementary School

Mr. Joseph Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt is a veteran educator with 27 years of elementary school experience and a strong background in primary literacy, assessment and school community building. Mr. Schmidt's elementary education experience includes six years as a third grade classroom teacher, eleven years as a reading recovery teacher, nine years as a K-5 building principal and one year as a central office administrator.

Mr. Schmidt is looking forward to working with the incredible students, staff and parents within the school community. Mr. Schmidt is a dynamic educational leader whose background will enable him to meet the needs of all of the Judd School stakeholders, and keep the students and staff on the "cutting" edge of effective education practices. Mr. Schmidt runs a school on the philosophy that "every child can succeed" and his decision making is guided by the mantra of doing "what is best for the kids!"



Parsons Elementary School

Mr. Luis Ramirez

Mr. Ramirez has been an educator for over 20 years, spending the first nine years of his career teaching in Pennsylvania and the last 14 years working in New Jersey. During Mr. Ramirez's career, he has helped develop curricula, modeled differentiated instruction, and written and presented professional development sessions in numerous subject areas. His educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree from West Chester University, a Master's Degree from Holy Family University, and a Certificate of Educational Leadership from Cabrini College.

Mr. Ramirez's leadership philosophy centers around his belief that all children can learn. He shares passionately that it



is his responsibility to work with the teachers and the community to find ways to foster academic, social, and cognitive growth in each learner.

Linwood Middle School

Dr. Roy T. Wilson

Dr. Wilson has been involved in education for nearly 25 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Grambling State University. He later pursued further studies in Education Leadership at The College of New Jersey where he received his Principal and School Administrator certification. Dr. Wilson earned his Master of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership from the College of New Jersey. Additionally, he holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the College of St. Elizabeth.



Dr. Wilson believes that all children can reach their highest potential, but each learns in different ways and at different rates. He believes that with dedication, commitment and high expectations, we can motivate each child in special ways. The belief and practice of servant leadership has been his key to success as well as engaging in constructive communication with staff, students, and parents. Dr. Wilson's motto is, "Stay encouraged, communicate expectations, and accomplish your goals."

Assessment Updates

In late Spring 2015, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that there will be one testing window for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for the 2015-16 school year. As of this past June, the NJDOE released the testing window for grades 3-8 to be held from April 4, 2016 - May 13, 2016 with grades 9-11 to be held from April 11, 2016 - May 20, 2016. NBTSchools will administer the 2016 PARCC as per the schedule linked [here](#).

In the Schools...

Elementary

Updates to Everyday Math Program...

Everyday Mathematics is a comprehensive K through Grade 6 mathematics program engineered for the Common Core State Standards. Developed by The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, Everyday Mathematics helps our students achieve true mastery of the CCSS by continually reinforcing math concepts through concrete real-world applications and carefully constructed learning progressions.



NBT schools have been a part of the Everyday Math program since its inception and are now using the most current edition, EM4 (2014), which has been reviewed and redesigned to align directly with the CCSS. EM4 was adopted into the K, 1 and 2 curricula in 2014-15 and integration for grades 3, 4 and 5 took place this year. This is a technology rich program with many online resources for students and parents.

A complete program overview brochure is available [here](#) and an explanatory video is available [here](#).

“EM4 was adopted into the K, 1 and 2 curricula in 2014-15 and integration for grades 3, 4 and 5 took place this year.”

Middle

Achievement Network at Linwood...

This year, LMS has entered into a partnership with Achievement Network (ANet), a non-profit organization that works with schools to enhance student learning. All Linwood stakeholders will



work alongside the ANet team to help maximize great teaching. Four times a year, students will participate in ELA and math interim assessments that will give our staff timely, actionable, and student-specific data. The ANet educators chosen to work with our staff will engage in continual on-site visits to provide strong professional development to administrators and teachers in the use of standards and data. We are excited to build a collaborative learning community with Achievement Network to continue the great teaching and learning practices already in place at LMS!



High

Learner-Active, Technology-Infused Classrooms...

NBTHS is home to a diverse collection of learners. Each student brings a unique combination of learning styles. And as the new school year begins, NBTHS is committed to raising academic rigor, actively engaging students in learning, and building greater student responsibility for learning. We are set to accomplish these goals through the *Learner-Active, Technology-Infused Classroom* also known as *LATI*. As we launch the LATI model across our school's disciplines, it is our mission to

LEARNER-ACTIVE,
TECHNOLOGY-
INFUSED
CLASSROOM

create an environment where students are learning independently and collaboratively with classroom colleagues. Students in our LATI classrooms will embrace the opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning by selecting learning activities that fit their goals, and accessing resources that fit their needs. In so doing students will participate in the creation of their own individual learning path by setting goals, scheduling time, utilizing resources and making decisions. This type of engagement will create a classroom climate that promotes high academic rigor and prepares students for college and careers.

At NBTHS we are excited to take on this paradigm shift in our approach to student learning.

Technology Tidbit

This summer the following technology updates were completed:



- ▶ Promethean Boards- all K and Elementary Art rooms
- ▶ 200 Chromebooks distributed
- ▶ 2 Physical Servers were installed to increase Virtual Server environment capacity.
- ▶ NB Early Childhood Center retrofitted
- ▶ 12 Nexus 7 devices for NBTHS
- ▶ Over 100 desktops upgraded
- ▶ Upgraded remaining desktops with laptops in all elementary schools' classrooms

