

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brian C. Gismondi, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for HR & CAO
Steven Jakubowski, Jr., Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Thomas N. Tucci, Director of Technology & Special Projects
Kimberly Seifring, Ed.D., Director of Special Education & Related Services



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WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Highlights - September 2023



The following information is intended to inform staff and community members of recent action taken by the Board. The information included in this brief is not intended to be complete and does not replace official Board minutes. Please see the Board agenda on the District Website for the complete action of the Board.

ENROLLMENT: 2,799 as of September 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT:

The Board of Education would like to welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year. To all the parents and guardians of new Pre-K and transfer students, we are excited to have you become part of our school community. The Board of Education is committed to providing the Administration, Staff, and Students with the resources necessary to ensure the highest possible student achievement.

The Board of Education would like to welcome Mrs. Michelle Spaventa as the new Principal at the High School, and Mr. Jason Morrell as the new Principal at the Middle School. We look forward to both of you beginning your tenures. The Board would also like to thank outgoing Middle School Principal, Mr. Jeff Podolski, for his leadership over the last 4 years, and wish him good luck in Woodstown.

The new school year is already off to a great start, and there are many things coming up to be excited about. The Board urges the community to come out and support all of our athletic teams and Band as they participate in their respective Fall seasons. Good luck to all!

Drew Ricchiuti

Board of Education President



BOARD RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to the two newly elected members of the West Deptford Board of Education, Mr. Brian Perticari (sworn in on 8/22) and Mrs. Jennifer Bailey (sworn in on 9/18). Thank you for stepping up to serve our community!



Brian Perticari
Term ending 12/31/24



Jennifer Bailey
Term ending 12/31/23

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOE:

We are pleased to announce our new High School Representatives to the Board of Education, Kathryn Pitts and Macey Harrold (alternate). These representatives shall attend BOE meetings, present to the Board on matters of student concern, and provide a monthly report to the student body. The student representatives will have no vote and will not be permitted in closed BOE sessions. Congratulations, and we look forward to you representing our District!



STAFF RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to WDHS Assistant Principal Tim Cammarota for being inducted into the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame!



Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame to induct 2023 class

The Hall will induct 12 new members.
www.nj.com

WDSD WELCOMES NEW CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBERS!

DISTRICT



Kimberly Regan
School Accountant



Carly Gundrum
School Psychologist

HIGH SCHOOL



Michelle Spaventa
Principal



Kathryn Dreger
School Nurse



Nicole Thayer
Special Education Teacher



Andrea Duarte
Teacher of Communications
TV Production



Miles Holland
Math Teacher



Valerie Palmer
Special Education Teacher

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Jason Morrell
Principal

GREEN-FIELDS



Bridgette Deacon
3rd Grade Teacher



Tiffany Vitale
Preschool Teacher

OAKVIEW



Savanah DiTullio
Kindergarten Teacher

RED BANK



Abigail Hicks
Preschool Teacher



Jamie Cesaro
Preschool Disabled Teacher

PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - School Bus Driver
 - Substitute School Bus Aide
 - Substitute Teachers
 - Supervisor of Early Childhood Education
 - WDHS Volunteer Assistant Girls Tennis and Field Hockey Coaches
 - WDMS Principal
 - WDMS Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction
 - WDMS LTR 7th Grade LAL Teacher
 - WDMS Volunteer Assistant Field Hockey Coach
 - GFES YEP Care Provider

- OVES Special Education Instructional Aide
- OVES Non-Instructional LPC Aides (2)
- RBES LTR 1st Grade ICR Teacher
- RBES Non-Instructional LPC Aide
- Change of Status:
 - Voluntary Transfers (5)
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Resignation WDMS Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal of C/I
 - Resignation WDMS Special Education Instructional Aide
 - Resignation GFES Special Education Aides (2)
 - Resignation OVES Non-Instructional LPC Aides

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- School Business Days
- Facilities Use
- Donations
- School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drills
- Public School Bus Routes
- 2024-2025 Budget Preparation Calendar
- Professional Services Contract
- 2023-2024 Substitute Rates
- Agreement with Optum Urgent Care
- Sundance Demographic Study
- Special Projects Architect
- Spiegle Architectural Group
- Trane Letter of Commitment
- Rutgers University Affiliation Agreement - Student Internships
- MSW Clinic Intern Field Placement
- Clinical Intern Placement - Rowan University
- WDHS and WDMS Field Trips
- OVES/RBES Family Fun Night
- Seminar in PIRS Practice through the Pyramid Model Partnership
- Numerous Policies and Regulations
- Job Description
- District and Superintendent Goals for 2023-2024
- WDHS Partial Overloads
- WDHS Evening Alternative Program Substitutes
- WDHS Morgan's Message Pilot Club
- WDMS Overloads
- WDMS Club Advisors
- WDMS STAMP Program Mentors

- Mentor Team
- Special Education and Preschool Instructional Aides Inservice
- Leaves of Absence

BUSINESS, FACILITIES, & FINANCE:

- The Board approved the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, Transfers, Payroll, and Bills Lists.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Numerous other requests for approval for workshop attendance, student activities, and education items were approved by the Board of Education. These approvals will be reflected in the formal minutes of the meeting, which are available in the office of the Board of Education Secretary, as well as posted online after Board approval. The next scheduled meeting of the Board is a Special Meeting (Board Retreat) at 6pm, followed by an Action Meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7pm in the West Deptford Middle School Library. The date and times are subject to change.

NOTES FROM THE NURSES



The district nurses would like to welcome you back to school and extend a warm welcome to all of our new West Deptford families this year. We will be working hard with your assistance to meet the health needs of your child. In doing so, we would like to share some important information with you.

We cannot stress enough how essential it is for us to have immediate, updated medical information for your child. As things change throughout the school year, please contact your child's Health Office with any updates. This is especially crucial if there is a change in phone numbers for you or other emergency contacts.

We would like to remind you of our district policies related to medications. Medications must be brought to the Health Office by a parent, guardian or other adult. Students are not allowed to bring in their own medication or have medication on them, unless we have orders from the physician designating self-administration for our older students. . A written doctor's order and medication form signed by a parent or guardian must accompany all medication and new prescriptions and forms for medications are required each new school year. Additionally, all medications, even over the counter, must be labeled and in an original, sealed pharmacy package. Please refer to your respective school nurse's page for printable medication forms for food allergies, asthma, seizures, daily and as needed medications, etc. ([Printable Forms - West Deptford School District](#)).

If your child is suffering from a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or any other contagious illness, please keep them home. It is the school district policy that a student should remain home for at least 24 hours after symptoms and fevers have cleared up. For an absence of 3 or more days, students should return with a doctor's note. *NOTE: We will continue to follow the New Jersey Department of Health/CDC COVID-19 illness guidelines, so please contact your school nurse for the latest COVID guidance if needed.

Student health screenings are performed every school year. Height, weight, blood pressure, vision and hearing will be checked as per the New Jersey required school mandates. Parents and guardians will be informed of concerns noted during the screening. Please follow up promptly should we issue any referrals. Academics can be impacted tremendously if your child is struggling with vision or hearing.

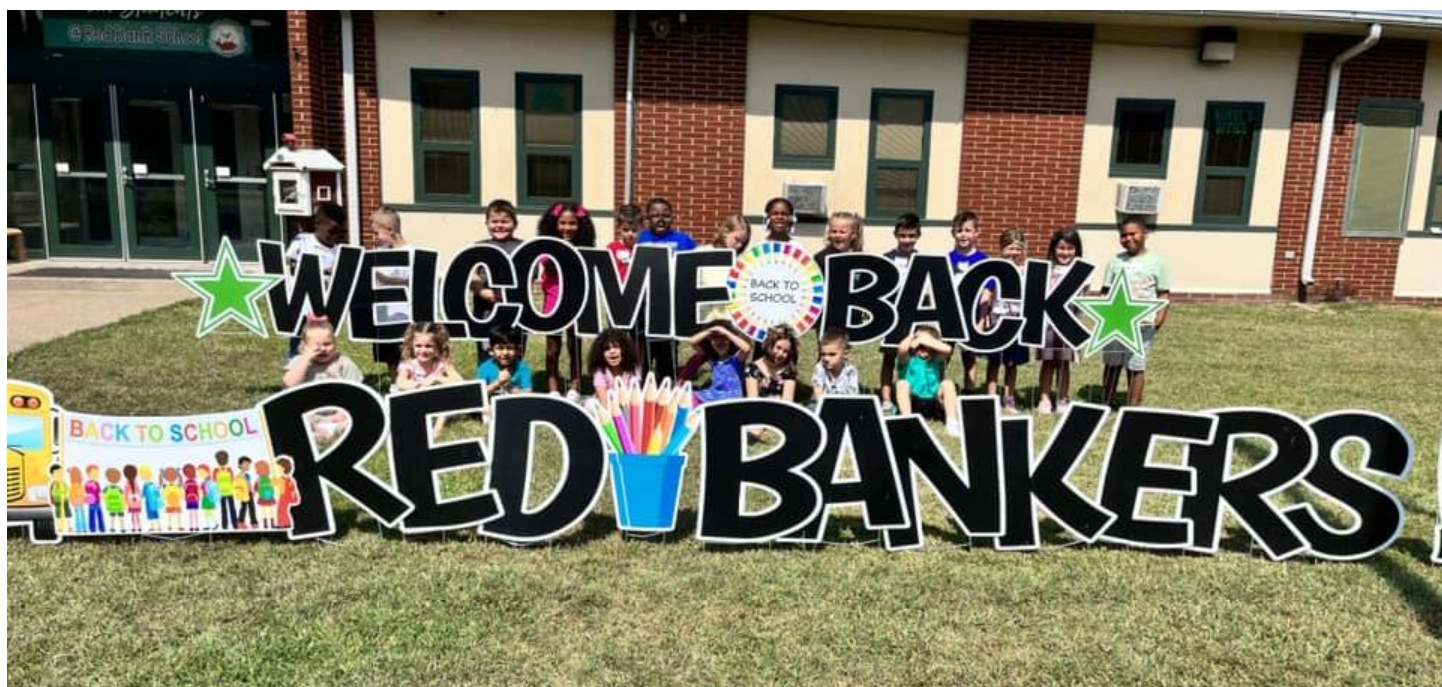
We are looking forward to a happy, healthy school year for all of our students! Please feel free to reach out to us at any time!

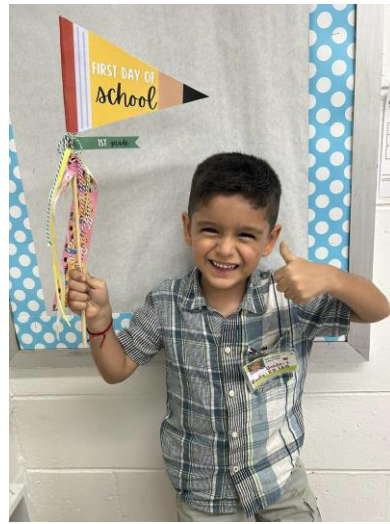
West Deptford School District Nurses Contact Information:

- **Oakview Elementary School**
Cindy Cobb: ccobb@wdeptford.k12.nj.us (856) 845-1856 x4215
- **Red Bank Elementary School**
Amy Wilson: awilson@wdeptford.k12.nj.us (856) 845-2727 x5228
- **Green-Fields Elementary School**
Maria Budd: mbudd@wdeptford.k12.nj.us (856) 845-7929 x6217
- **West Deptford Middle School**
Kim Lee: klee@wdeptford.k12.nj.us (856) 848-1200 x3206
- **West Deptford High School**
Kathy Dreger: kdreger@wdeptford.k12.nj.us (856) 848-6110 x2204

WELCOME BACK TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

We were excited to welcome our students back for the 2023-2024 school year on September 5. The halls were buzzing with palpable excitement and energy as staff and students returned to our buildings. We are thrilled to dive right into learning, building new friendships, and creating new memories!





SENIOR SUNRISE





COMMEMORATING 9/11

Our schools held different events to commemorate 9/11 this year. The Elementary Schools wore red, white, & blue to remember September 11th. Our children are never too young to honor those who were brave during this difficult time. We remembered our firefighters, police officers, military personnel, doctors, nurses, and even everyday people who helped others. Today, we celebrate America's ability to work together, help one another, and respect each other. Kindness makes the world a better place.





GF students on the WD Storm Team recognized Patriot Day by remembering Nick Brandemarti. Our hearts go out to all the families whose lives were changed forever. 💚

ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK - OV/RB

Oakview and Red Bank Elementary Schools are about to take part in a special, communitywide shared reading event. Every family has received a copy of the same book and will be asked to read it together at home over the next few weeks. At our assembly on September 20th, we announced that this year's book is "Charlotte's Web." We are personally asking you to make the time so that your family can participate in this special activity.

Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader, and it is also a fun, worthwhile family activity. With this program, we aim to build a Community of Readers at our schools. Everyone - students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff will be following along together. Your child has received a copy of the mystery book, along with a bookmark with the reading schedule so you can keep up at home. Generally, you will be asked to read about 15 minutes each night.

In school, your child will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive listening. You will soon find that your child will take pride in knowing and anticipating the details of the story. In class, students will explore the book through activities and discussion. You will want to make sure your family keeps up so that your child can be included. During the upcoming weeks, everyone will be talking about our mystery book! When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about. With your help, we can build a Community of Readers at our school.

WDMS EAGLE LAUNCH 2023

Thank you to all of the staff and students for a great day of team building and bonding - what a great way to kick off the new school year! Thank you to our WDPD for their continued collaboration with the event. We now have a new beautiful mural in the main hallway at WDMS to commemorate this new year! [VIDEO](#)





CAFETERIA INFORMATION

- Please click [here](#) to view your school's cafeteria menu.
- All parents are encouraged to fill out a Free/Reduced Lunch Application. For more info, click [here](#).

**○ PLEASE NOTE: A NEW FREE/REDUCED APPLICATION
NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT EVERY YEAR!!!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

District-Wide Events

- 9/15-10/15 Hispanic Heritage Month
- October Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October Bullying Prevention Month
- 10/2 National Custodian Appreciation Day
- 10/2-10/6 Elementary Schools - [Respect Week](#)
- 10/9 Inservice - WDHS ½ day AM (makeup for first day of school), no school for WDMS or Elementary
- 10/23-10/27 Elementary Schools - [Red Ribbon Week](#)

Red Bank Elementary

- 9/22 Fall Picture Day
- 10/17 [Preschool Trike-a-Thon](#)
- 10/18 [Unity Day](#) (wear orange)
- 10/19 OV/RB Family Fun Night @OVES 5-7pm

Oakview Elementary

- 9/28 Fall Picture Day
- 10/18 [Unity Day](#) (wear orange)
- 10/19 OV/RB Family Fun Night @OVES 5-7pm
- 10/20 [Preschool Trike-a-Thon](#)
- 10/26 PreK & K pumpkin pick at the OV Pumpkin Patch (shhhh.....this is a yearly surprise we do for our students)
- 10/27 Grades 1 & 2 pumpkin pick at the OV Pumpkin Patch (shhhh.....this is a yearly surprise we do for our students)
- 10/31 Halloween Parade

Green-Fields Elementary

- 9/25 Fall Picture Day
- 10/16-10/20 Book Fair
- 10/18 [Unity Day](#) (wear orange)
- 10/19 [Preschool Trike-a-Thon](#)

Middle School

- 9/26 Fall Picture Day
- 9/26 Session 1 Clubs Begin
- 10/7 [1st Annual Halloween Hustle 5K & 1-mile Fun Run](#)
- 10/11 Hispanic Heritage Night 6:30pm
- 10/16 6th Grade Trip to Camp Ockanickon
- 10/27 5th & 6th Grade Fall Festival Dance

High School

- 10/6 Homecoming Football Game
- 10/7 Homecoming Dance
- 10/14 Marching Band Home Show Competition
- 10/29 Girls Soccer Haunted House
- 11/4-11/5 Tournament of Bands - Hershey, PA