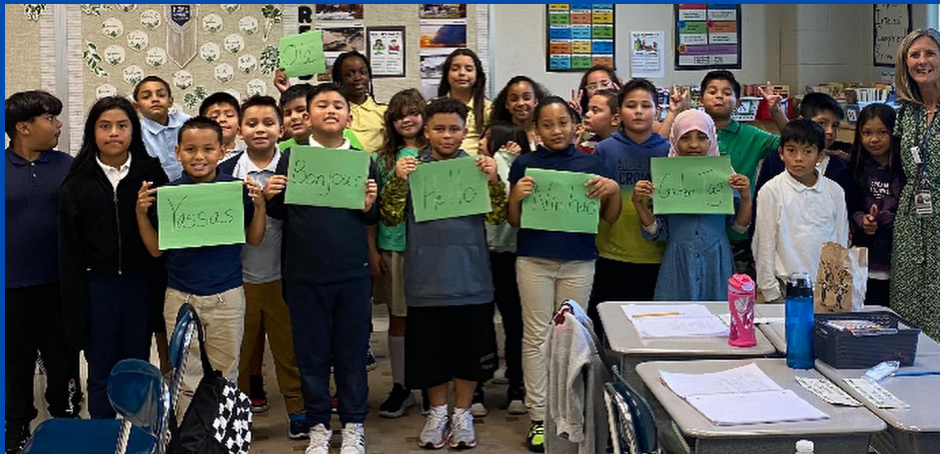


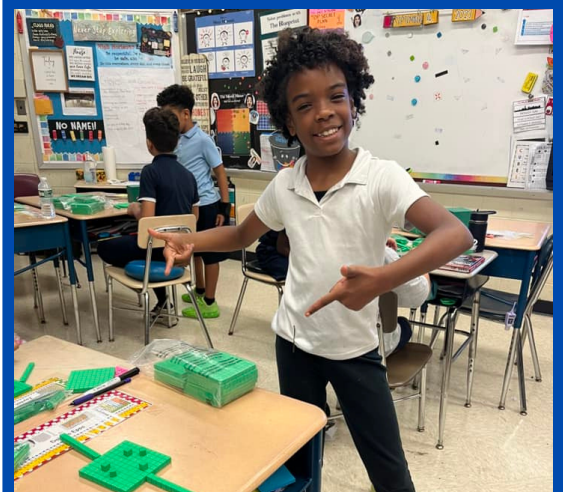
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

BOE WEEKLY

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Johnson School celebrating "Start With Hello" Week by saying hello in different languages and wearing green



High Horizons Creates place value monsters



Thomas Hooker School's 7th & 8th Graders took a Field Trip to Amistad



Winthrop School celebrated National Play-Doh Day

SEPTEMBER IS
**ATTENDANCE
AWARENESS MONTH**
#SchoolEveryDay



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Bridgeport Public School Community,

I am an immigrant. That seemingly innocuous, concise, and ordinary word precedes many assumptions, biases, and, in some cases, low expectations that carved valleys in the landscape of my early experiences as a newcomer. My parents were “typical” immigrants, dreamers with high, and

some might say, extraordinary expectations about what their children could and would accomplish with the opportunity to come to America.

I am also a Black Latina woman, and my heritage is a rich, if unlikely, medley of cultures, languages, races, and history. You will find many references if you search for a definition of what it means to be Hispanic. Webster’s dictionary defines it as “of, relating to, or being a person of Latin American descent.” The Oxford Dictionary “refers to a person of Latin American descent who speaks Spanish and lives in the US.” However, these definitions barely scratch the surface of the incredible complexity of this conversation and how those of us who call ourselves Latinos define and view ourselves in America.

Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to pause and reflect on this unique layer in the tapestry of our country and the people who call it home. Beyond the festivals is the desire to acknowledge and offer a greater understanding of distinctive identities and the cultural and language elements that give them life. Let’s use the season's opportunity to stir and blend our views beyond peripheral perceptions and toward greater inclusion. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all individuals and families that call Bridgeport home.

Regards,

Carmela M. Levy-David
Superintendent of Schools

PUERTO RICAN PARADE GALA



On the evening of September 16, 2023, the Superintendent and her family attended the lively 30th Anniversary Gala hosted by the Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County. The event was truly exceptional, featuring a captivating live band that filled the air with infectious energy, adding a touch of musical enchantment to the festivities. Beyond the music, the Superintendent had the privilege of engaging with a diverse array of community members, forging connections, and gaining insights into their perspectives and aspirations. This enriching experience served as a powerful reminder of the significance of cultural celebrations and community engagement in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the educational landscape of the region.



ALAN WALLACK STEM CENTERS



Superintendent attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, on September 20th to launch the Alan Wallack STEM Learning Centers at Hall Neighborhood House, signaling a significant step forward in STEM education for our community.

Valued at approximately \$45,000 each, these advanced STEM labs are the cornerstone of our initiative. We're starting with Hallen and High Horizon School, with plans to expand to all elementary schools. Our phased approach will introduce these labs to five schools annually until they are integrated district-wide. This gradual implementation ensures comprehensive training and staff support, crucial for the initiative's long-term success.

The Alan Wallack STEM Learning Centers are more than just spaces; they are hubs of innovation, designed to spark curiosity and creativity in our students.

During the ceremony, we had the privilege of witnessing the Winthrop Tag Students actively participate, demonstrate, and engage with the lab equipment, showcasing their ability to create various impressive projects. Their involvement vividly illustrated the practicality and efficiency of these STEM learning environments in nurturing talents, igniting enthusiasm, and facilitating hands-on learning experiences.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VISIT



The Superintendent took a tour of Central High School, visiting various classrooms and engaging with the school's staff. This visit was particularly special as it marked her first opportunity to explore Central High School with students present in the building. Her interactions during this visit left her genuinely amazed and inspired.

In a heartwarming gesture, the Superintendent made a special visit to a student who was new to the school, aiming to understand how she was adjusting to her new setting. This thoughtful act of reaching out to a newcomer demonstrated the Superintendent's commitment to ensuring a welcoming and supportive atmosphere within the school community.

The Superintendent's experience at Central High School was so positive that she eagerly anticipates her next visit. Her genuine interest in the students and staff, combined with her enthusiasm for the school, signifies a strong commitment to fostering a thriving educational environment and a deep connection with the Central High School community.





The Interdistrict Science Magnet Schools AT THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER CAMPUS

Fairchild Wheeler Campus Students Shine with Exceptional Achievements

- Lucas Cottrell, a senior at Fairchild Wheeler's Information Technology and Software Engineering Magnet High School, is a Semifinalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, a prestigious recognition shared with over 16,000 high school seniors. He is now in contention for one of the 7,140 National Merit Scholarships awarded next spring.
- Nalani Allah received the National African American Recognition Award from the College Board.
- Jennaya Nieves earned the National Hispanic Recognition Award from the College Board.
- Zachary Allen, a senior at Fairchild Wheeler's Aero/Hydrospace Engineering Magnet High School, is another Semifinalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, standing among over 16,000 high school seniors vying for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships next spring.
- Stephen Kaine, a senior at Fairchild Wheeler's Aero/Hydrospace Engineering Magnet High School, was honored with the National African American Recognition Award from the College Board.
- Biotechnology Research and Zoological Sciences Seniors Eliana Marin, Estefani Mones, Jason Velasc, Rachel Fuller, and Valerie Forero have each received the National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA) for their exceptional SAT performance and meeting rigorous College Board criteria.

CARDINAL SHEHAN CENTER



The Superintendent recently engaged in a highly productive meeting with Lorraine Gibbons, the Executive Director of the Cardinal Shehan Center. This institution holds a special place in Bridgeport and has been a cornerstone of the community for over 5 decades, offering crucial services to students after school, on Saturdays, and during school holidays.

The Superintendent's meeting with Lorraine Gibbons highlights the importance of educational institutions and community organizations joining forces to boost opportunities and support for students, benefiting the whole community. This partnership demonstrates a shared dedication to the well-being and progress of Bridgeport's youth and families.

WAKEMAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Wakeman Boys and Girls Club celebrated a momentous occasion on Thursday with a Ribbon Cutting and Open House ceremony for the Madison Ave Wakeman Boys & Girls Club. The clubhouse is a stunning revival to the city, and we are thrilled to provide our children with access to this wonderful space. The event was further highlighted by the presence of Central High School alum and actor Michael Jai White.



SCHOOL LUNCH



You can check your school's breakfast and lunch menus by visiting <https://lingconnect.com/public/menu/DDJ8EV?lang=English>.

This online resource provides up-to-date information on the meals available, helping students and parents plan their food choices conveniently.

COMMUNITY BOARD

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 | 4:30PM TO 7:30PM
LOCATION: HARTFORD HEALTHCARE AMPHITHEATER
500 BROAD ST, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604



Meet Admissions Counselors & Representatives
from over 200 Colleges, Universities, and Businesses
from across the country and abroad!

Attend the Southern Connecticut College & Career Fair 9/27/23.

Go to CTCollegeFair.com for more info

BOARD MEETINGS

9/26

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 6:30 PM
AQUACULTURE SCHOOL

FOR LIVE STREAMING OF THE MEETING GO
TO [BRIDGEPORTEDU.NET](https://bridgeportedu.net)