



NBPS Newsflash December 2021

Greetings Team NBPS,

Happy Holidays! With the end of 2021 looming, and the excitement of the holiday season here and winter break just weeks away let's do our best to stay focused on the work at hand as we enjoy festivities. I appreciate the effort of our collective team and the sense of urgency and presence-of-mind, we have had in working to support our students, colleagues and families.

In the spirit of the season, I'm pleased to report that our districtwide Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Luncheon was very well received. I've heard from many of you just how much students and staff enjoyed this special lunch, which added to the excitement and cheer leading up to the Thanksgiving recess. It was a highlight for central administration staff who joined in the festivities and assisted our dedicated Food Services staff in serving 8,298 turkey dinners to our students! This team event bears repeating, and I think it is the start of a new NBPS holiday tradition.

The challenges of the pandemic continue to test our efforts to ensure that our teaching and learning process remains strong. I've noted previously that new tools like Test and Stay have helped to greatly minimize lost school days due to quarantining. With the Omicron variant of the virus now arriving, it is critical that we strengthen our collective resolve for the sake of each other. I urge everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccination and the FLU shot if you have not already done so. We continue to collaborate with city and state health offices to coordinate vaccination clinics for all who are eligible..

Finally, in these times it is important to remember that all of us are feeling the stress. How we interact with everyone we meet can make their day just a little brighter.

We welcome our 3rd Annual NBPS Kindness Day on Monday, December 13. Although we try our best to be kind every day, I look forward to seeing our schools participation in a variety of ways including small activities, projects, conversations or some other special way. Remember, change starts with US – Be Kind!

Thank you again for all that you do! Please think of the health of others this holiday season as we keep practicing safe strategies. Mask up when needed and please get vaccinated.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Thomas Anderson,
Superintendent



“Self-Assurance is similar to self-confidence. In the deepest part of you, you have faith in your strength.”

— Tom Rath,
Strengthfinder 2.0,
p.157

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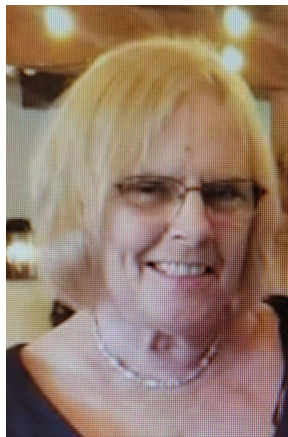
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Employee Spotlight



Carol Rouluonis

Crossing Guard
Abraham Lincoln School



“Carol Rouluonis is a well-regarded Crossing Guard at the Abraham Lincoln School. She truly cares about kids and it shows! Parent of a Lincoln student, Ms. Roulunois approached the Lincoln School administration to see how she could assist with keeping kids and families safe when arriving and leaving the school. She eagerly applied to be a crossing guard, willing to give up her personal time to ensure students’ safety. After the first two weeks, she realized this was a paid position and shared with us that she uses her paycheck to donate back to kids in the community. She is a vital part of the Lincoln School community.”

Crystal Burt, Assistant Principal, Abraham Lincoln School



Danna Cabral

Adjustment Counselor
Keith Middle School



“Student adjustment counselor Danna Cabral has gone above and beyond her job here at Keith Middle School. For the past three years, Ms. Cabral has spearheaded our Thanksgiving Food Drive. She handled all aspects of the drive including collecting and counting all the food donated by staff. She even turned the food donations into a fun competition amongst the staff. She didn’t stop there. Ms. Cabral purchased and stored all the turkeys and decorated and packaged all the baskets. She contacted families in need and personally delivered the baskets. On average, she provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for 80 to 100 families. Ms. Cabral is an incredibly caring and giving staff member and is greatly appreciated by all here at Keith Middle School.”

David Mather, Principal, Keith Middle School

Congratulations

Fall Step Challenge Winners



New Bedford Public Schools would like to recognize and congratulate all employees that participated in the Fall Step Challenge. We would also like to take this time to announce top ranking teams for this year.

1st PLACE Brooks Bobcats

2nd PLACE PRAB

3rd PLACE Get Started and Reach Your Goal

Congratulations to Lori Silvia for being our top stepper for the Fall challenge with 2,335,686 steps!

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

**We look forward to your participation in our
upcoming wellness events.**

The New Bedford High School Drama Club presents

The Skin of Our Teeth

by Thornton Wilder

December 3 & 4 at 8pm

December 5 at 2pm

NBHS Philip Bronspiegel Auditorium

Tickets & Info: our.show/skinofourteethnbhs

Use code NBPSSTAFF for \$2 off!



NBHS PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS
A WINTER CONCERT



DEC 9TH

TUESDAY 7PM

NBHS BRONSPIEGEL

AUDITORIUM

ONLINE TICKETED EVENT

\$5 ADMISSION

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES



Central Kitchen Culinary Center

We appreciate the flexibility and understanding of all staff as we work through the challenges presented with the ongoing supply chain issues that have trickled down to our school food service operation.

As we navigate through them, we continue to explore options and await approvals to establish a new Central Kitchen Culinary Center. Once outfitted, this operation will include a large commercial kitchen, freezer, refrigerator and dry storage spaces to house and prepare food for the district.

In the meantime, we have begun leasing additional food storage space in the city to provide flexibility in ordering and alleviate the impact of the supply chain issues on our district-wide food service model.

Carney Academy and Hayden McFadden Equipment Upgrades

As the food service equipment throughout the district ages and becomes irreparable, we are working on upgrading the kitchens. Currently, we are working on plans to replace the refrigeration and freezer equipment at Carney and Hay Mac and plan to renovate the rest of the kitchen, storage and serving areas

Robert Shaheen, Director x14257 rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org





JET 2022-2023 Recruitment

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.

What JET can do for you

- Mentor and support you through your bachelor's degree completion and teacher licensure
- Advise you on teacher pathway programs in Massachusetts colleges/universities
- Help you access financial aid available to Massachusetts paraprofessionals
- Connect you with a cohort of paraprofessionals on this journey to become a teacher
- Provide professional and career development learning opportunities

How JET works

1. Apply online to the JET Program now through March 15, 2022 - two step process
 - a. Fill out the [Interest Form](#) or visit www.jetintoteaching.org.
 - b. **If eligible**, You will be sent a JET application form.
2. Advisement April - June 2022
3. College Admissions
4. Financial Aid
 - a. **FAFSA** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> - Must be completed prior to applying for the state grant application below
 - b. **MA Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant**
<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/teacherprep.asp>
5. Once admitted to college and approved for financial aid, enroll in classes for 2022 Fall Semester
6. Attend **JET** Orientations in June and August 2022
7. Participate in **JET** Mentoring and Support Program from September 2022 - June 2023

Eligibility for JET

- Career goal of becoming a Massachusetts licensed teacher
- Seeking a Bachelor's degree
- Permanent resident of Massachusetts for at least 1 year prior to upcoming academic year
- Employed for 2+ years as a paraprofessional in a Massachusetts public school by June 30, 2022
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA in prior college coursework
- U.S. Citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations
- Not in default of federal or state student education loans

QUESTIONS - Please email jetintoteaching@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER AT



ZEITERION PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**FROM GREETING TO SEATING, TICKET-TAKING
AND FUN-MAKING, OUR VOLUNTEER USHERS
PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE Z'S SUCCESS.**

**ZEITERION VOLUNTEER USHERS ARE THE WARM
AND WELCOMING AMBASSADORS WHO HELP TO
MAKE ENJOYABLE, MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES
FOR ALL WHO PASS THROUGH THE Z DOORS.**

**SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR
MORE INFO**



**DORI RUBBICCO
DIRECTOR OF PATRON &
BUSINESS RELATIONS
DRUBBICCO@ZEITERION.ORG
(508) 997-5664 EXT. 123**



OPTIONAL IN-SCHOOL COVID RAPID TESTING

Students and staff who are deemed close contacts due to exposure to a COVID positive individual while in school will have the opportunity to be tested using a rapid antigen test and remain in school with a negative result. The close contact will be tested for the next 5 to 7 days to ensure they remain negative. During this time, students will come to school via their normal mode of transportation (bus, walk, drop-off, drive, etc.). A parent will not need to remain at the school until the test result; they will be called to pick up their child in the event of a positive result.

“It is a quick, nasal swab collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, it is not uncomfortable and easy for students to do themselves.”

— Wanda Nunes, NBPS Supervisor of School Nurses



Adult Volunteers Needed!

What would I do as a volunteer? Volunteers do everything from unloading donations from cars and trucks to assembling individual gift package requests for children in-need, sent by distribution partners.

Where are they located? Gifts to Give is located right in Acushnet, MA.

To learn more about this organization and how to volunteer please visit:

giftstogive.org/online-volunteer-request or

call 508-717-8715

Thank you!



Winter Weather Notifications

Cancellations & Early Dismissals will be Posted on www.newbedfordschools.org and sent to the following media:

- NBPS Facebook/Twitter
- NB Cable Ed Channel 9
- New Bedford Guide
- NB Standard-Times
- TV4 WBZ Boston
- TV5 WCVB-TV Boston
- TV6 WLNE Providence
- TV7 WHDH-TV Boston
- TV10 WJAR Providence
- TV12 WPRI Providence
- TV25 WFXT Boston
- WBZ 1030AM Boston
- WRKO-680AM Boston
- WSAR-1480AM Fall River
- WBSM-1420AM
- WFHN FUN107-FM Fairhaven