



NBPS Newsflash

April 2021

Greetings Team NBPS,

Spring is upon us and the season is symbolic of natural change and new growth. If we pause to take it in, this change can act to recharge and invigorate us. As we emerge from a long winter, it is fitting to acknowledge everyone's unselfishness and willingness to collaborate, which has helped us navigate this situation in an outstanding way. Thank you to the entire NBPS team for supporting one another and our students and families so that learning has been able to continue.

I believe that everything we do has to be done with an equity lens that ensures access and opportunity for all students. This holds true as we plan to increase in-person instruction for all students. We continue to execute effective mitigation strategies and we connect regularly with our local, state, and national health officials to stay abreast of current health information. The emphasis on being proactive is even more important now – mask wearing, hand sanitizing and appropriate distancing remains critical..

Safety remains our priority and these strategies in addition to the over 800 air exchange units, updated filters, and plexiglass partitions and borders added to many classrooms have positioned our schools to safely increase the number students who are in person each day.

Although the effort of wearing the masks, sanitizing our hands more frequently and being distanced from others has been a mindshift and different, but it is paying off. We cannot let our guard down as the contagiousness of the virus still exists. Thank you for doing your part!!

Remember, we are all in this together. It is a season of reflection, renewal and hope as we continue to address the challenges before us. Together.

Think of others, MASKUP and stay safe.

Thank you,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



*“Spring:
a lovely
reminder
of how
beautiful
change can
truly be.”*

–Anonymous

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Employee Spotlight



Matthew Hill

Elementary Health Education Teacher
Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School

It's clear to see that Matthew Hill is dedicated to his students at Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School, as well as to his players when he is coaching the NBHS boys basketball team. Within his Health Education class, Mr. Hill creates an environment that is productive, engaging and fun. Principal Ellyn Gallant stated, "Mr. Hill's number one priority is supporting and educating students through a Growth-Mindset approach; promoting success and ownership over their learning so that each child may reach their full potential."

Principal Gallant went on to say, "Mr. Hill is a highly valued member of our school community, his calm demeanor coupled with his patient and kind spirit are values that his students and colleagues alike look up to."

Athletic Director Tom Tarpey shared, "Coach Hill is someone who cares about every one of his players. He treats every player like his own and makes all decisions based on their best interests." Mr. Tarpey added, "I couldn't be prouder of Coach Hill and all he has done with the New Bedford Basketball Program."

Mr. Hill contributes greatly to our school community and the greater New Bedford community though his "Future of New Bedford" campaign. He is known as a great role model and an outstanding leader who leads by example, both inside and outside of his classroom!



Orlenda Jackson

Lead Family Engagement Specialist
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building

As Lead Family Engagement Specialist in Wraparound Services, Orlenda Jackson works tirelessly to support all families in the district, bringing them meaningful, relevant workshops and educational opportunities through our 9 Family Engagement Centers. With Mrs. Jackson's guidance, FECs are holding workshops (like basic computer class, math support groups, and mindfulness opportunities) in multiple languages at least monthly, and connecting with many families in the process.

Mrs. Jackson gracefully juggles countless projects at once while always keeping the best interests of families and students in mind. Undaunted by the challenges of the pandemic, she organized the Family Institute for Student Success (FISS) at 7 schools and held multiple Parent Info Sessions in different languages for students and families in transition grades. Hundreds of families joined these sessions and expressed their gratitude for the important information shared.

Wraparound Manager Jariel Vergne shared, "Orlenda always leads with her heart and with passion. She is always creatively thinking about new possibilities and opportunities for our families, always striving towards empowerment."

Mrs. Jackson has truly become such an integral part of the New Bedford community and we can't wait to see what projects and programs she comes up with next. We are so proud to have her on our team!

ENROLL
April 5th
Enrollment ends April 18

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN OUR ANNUAL
SPRING STEP CHALLENGE!



Enrollment period for the Spring Step Challenge: April 5, 2021 to April 18, 2021.
Challenge will begin April 12, 2021 and will end on May 24, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

ONLY EMPLOYEES WHO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR BCBS HEALTH INSURANCE ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE

Step Challenge instructions are available on the Benefits page [HERE!](#)

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](#), either on the website, through the [HealthyNow app](#), or through a connected **Fitbit®** device, to be counted toward the challenge goal.



All employees that join the challenge will be entitled to the Fitbit Inspire 2, even if you received a Fitbit in the past!

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.**

The graphic features the NBPS logo (New Bedford Public Schools) in a circular emblem. The main text reads 'VIRTUAL FAMILY GAME NIGHT' in large, bold letters. Below this, it states 'OPEN TO ALL NBPS FAMILIES WITH VIRTUAL GAMES FOR ELEMENTARY + MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.' At the bottom left, it says 'APRIL 8 6:00 PM' and 'CLICK HERE TO REGISTER'. On the right side, there are two photos: one of a woman in a blue shirt flexing her arms, and another of a woman with glasses waving.

NBPS will be hosting our second **Virtual Family Game Night** with Playworks New England on April 8!

Family Game Night is open to ALL NBPS families, but games will be geared toward Elementary and Middle School students. This event is also open to NBPS staff who would like to participate with their families!

Family Game Night will take place via Zoom, and the link will be sent via email the day of the event. If you have any questions, please contact [Emily Westgate](#).

NBPS Family Game Night Registration Forms:

English: <https://forms.gle/CAEAu4PiDtyeF9KW8>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/keggjeNfdMQTvSvn9>

Portuguese: <https://forms.gle/VHQ2DVXUve6cTZo68>

K'iche: <https://forms.gle/zw4YYrg8wTQBmiq39>



Master's Programs for Teachers

Affordable Tuition
\$196/mo
*if using financial aid

Online Information Sessions offered weekly!

Visit ExploreEndicott.org to register

To Register or for more Information Session options, please contact Kelly Foreman at (978) 867-0025 or kforeman@graduateprogram.org



Programs Offered

Initial License (M.Ed.)

- Early Childhood
- Elementary Education *
- Secondary Education *
- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities*
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities*
- Special Education & ABA: Moderate Disabilities
- Special Education & ABA: Severe Disabilities

Administrative Leadership (M.Ed.)

- Principal/Assistant Principal
- Special Education Administrator

Professional License (M.Ed.)

- Special Education: Moderate Disabilities *
- Special Education: Severe Disabilities *

Reading Literacy (M.Ed.) *

* License-Only Option Available



Accreditations & Quality

- Endicott College is a non-profit college that is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Ed. approved.
- 100% MTEL passing rate among program completers
- Ranked among the Best Colleges in Regional Universities (North) by U.S. News and World Report

Features

Convenient

- Fully online format — perfect for the working teacher
- Six week courses — accelerated completion time
- Personal advising, networking opportunities and job placement support
- No GRE required
- License-only options available for applicable programs

Affordable

- Affordable tuition rate
- Financial aid available
- Student loan payments may be deferred until program completion
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness of up to \$5,000 may apply

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

College policy strictly limits enrollment in each program and accepts reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find us online at:

ExploreEndicott.org

These programs were arranged and made possible by the K-12 Teachers Alliance in cooperation with Endicott College.

*The repayment example set forth above is for illustrative purposes only and was calculated based on a standard amortization Federal Direct Loan assuming a loan amount of \$19,080, a payment term of 10 years, and a fixed interest rate equal to 4.3%. Loan amount of \$19,080 is based on the total tuition price for the 2020-2021 academic year for the Masters of Education (M.Ed.) in Early Childhood program. Your total loan amount may vary based on program selection. The loan calculator used in this example is available at <http://studentloans.gov>. It is your responsibility to verify your eligibility by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. All loans are subject to federal student aid guidelines. The actual interest rate may change periodically based on federal regulations. The tuition rate varies depending on your semester start date, plus applicable fees. Endicott College reserves the right to raise tuition costs annually.



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Dual Language Education Program



NBPS is currently in its 3rd year of its Dual Language Education Program that was proudly launched at the AJ Gomes School in 2018. A committee made of various district stakeholders and AJ Gomes staff members researched and visited Dual Language Education Programs throughout MA and RI prior to bringing this program - the first of its kind in the city - to New Bedford. Since its inception, this district program has

seen a growth in interest throughout the city. Next school year, 2021-2022, we will begin a 3rd grade class for our Dual Language Learners.

Dual Language Education (DLE) is an educational program in which students learn academic content in 2 languages - English and Spanish - and as a result, they will become bilingual and biliterate, a valuable tool they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. The goals of the program (also referred to as the ABC's of DLE) are:

- Academic achievement
- Bilingualism and biliteracy
- Cultural competency



Students enrolled in the program develop a positive sense of self and gain an appreciation for other cultures. Additionally, they have the opportunity to develop and nurture relationships with peers and teachers and can form long-lasting bonds with cultures and communities outside of their own. Once a child enters the DLE Program, it is in the best interest of the student to remain in the program. All students in the DLE Program stay together from Kindergarten to grade 5 (for a total of 6 years.)



Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world today with over 414 million speakers globally and is the official language in 20 countries around the world.

Spanish is also the 2nd most spoken language in the United States as well as the second most spoken language in New Bedford Public Schools (27.5%). For this reason, fluency in Spanish and English opens the door for many career

opportunities in the U.S. and abroad.



In the DLE Program at NBPS, students learn in English and Spanish every day using the Two-Way model of instruction. This model of instruction is a 50/50 - 50% of instruction is in English and 50% of instruction is in Spanish. During the entire school year from Monday thru Friday, instruction is delivered one language at a time so the children can master the language without relying on a translation. In the DLE Program model, teachers share two classes and students switch classes to attend both classrooms for language instruction. English Learners receive ESL instruction and all DLE students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, Library and Computers.

GETTING OUR PICASSO ON BY HAY-MAC



On Thursday, March 11, Hayden McFadden students and families broke out their paint brushes and canvasses for Virtual Family Paint Night!

This fun night was lead by Hayden McFadden's Wrap Around Coordinator, Jasmine Vega, and Hayden McFadden's ESL Teacher, Domenique Latessa.

Students, families, and staff enjoyed a night of painting beautiful dragonflies and flowers; a fun night was had by all!



What's your story?

Do you have a story about your school that you'd like to share with the community? Send your idea or suggestion to the communications office:

communications@newbedfordschools.org

You know great things are happening in your school. Sharing them with the community will help raise the profile and reputation of NBPS and foster public confidence and pride (District Goal 5). Any aspect of school life is eligible: great staff, cultural focus, student achievements, collaborating with families, special events and more.



Tell us your school stories...

We'll take it from there!

Thank You!