



NBPS Newsflash

December 2020

Dear New Bedford Schools Team, First, Happy Holidays!

I hope everyone enjoyed some much-deserved time off last week, as we reflected on what we were thankful for. Although 2020 has been full of challenges, Team NBPS has stepped up and adapted to face them head on. Thank you for your extra efforts in navigating this year that has been like none before it!

As we enter the winter months, please know that some things will not change – like snow days, which will be called on a case-by-case basis. DESE will allow distance-learning days to count in lieu of calling a snow day, if districts choose. Several factors effect deciding on a snow day, including hazardous travel conditions, duration, and the intensity of a forecasted weather event. A key consideration will always be the possible impact on the safety of our staff.

COVID-19 management continues to be front and center and dictates a lot of what we do daily with our time. Thanks to your efforts, understanding and overall compassion, we have been able to make necessary modifications to our systems so we can stay on top of all aspects of this process. Even with all the supports in place in our schools and the clear messaging around precautions to the community, the numbers locally and nationally continue to increase. It is important I highlight that to date there is still no evidence of cases originating in schools which is a testament to the work being done. Personal responsibility is critical which includes implementing and following through on the precautions.

Our Second Annual **NBPS Kindness Day** is Monday, December 14. It will be great to build on what we started last year even in this virtual world. Although we try our best to be kind every day, we hope to see all our schools participating- whether it's with an activity, project, conversation or some other special way. Remember, change starts with US – Be Kind!

Thank you again for all that you do! Think of others this holiday season – keep your distance and mask up.

With much appreciation,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



“Remember there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”

– **Scott Adams**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- November Spotlight: 2
- December Spotlight 3
- Shout Outs: 4
- Music Showcase: 5
- NB Eats: 6
- PD Opportunity: 7
- November Clinics: 8
- Notices: 9-10

Employee Spotlight

NOVEMBER 2020

Debra Surprenant

5th Grade Teacher
Betsy B. Winslow Elementary School

Debra Surprenant has been an employee and an asset to the New Bedford School District for 33 years! Principal Carolyn Pontes said, “Mrs. Surprenant is well known for her calm demeanor, welcoming classroom, and toolbox of instructional skills.”

Last year Mrs. Surprenant created a mindfulness script in collaboration with the Mindfulness Institute curriculum for her students to use with their kindergarten buddies. She also took on the initiative to pilot the Second Step program at Winslow through the DESE Social Emotional Tiered Academy. Each morning begins with a classroom meeting using mindfulness cards and exercises.

Principal Pontes also stated, “Mrs. Surprenant is an innovative teacher that has taken the current hybrid situation and used it to her students' advantage. She has mastered the skill of synchronous teaching providing her students with engaging and effective lessons while remaining as a full classroom, half virtually and half in person.” This has prompted high attendance and a solid work completion rate from her students. Mrs. Surprenant's positive attitude has made the hybrid/virtual learning experience much easier for both her students and peers.



Mary R. Gomes

Administrative Assistant
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building



The HCS department nominated Mary Gomes for Spotlight! Mary joined NBPS in June of 2015 after working in Human Resources for the RI Department of Children and Family Services. Mary manages several HCS functions for staff including licensure, salary adjustments, manages the tuition reimbursement process and much more.

This year, due to COVID-19, her role has changed and expanded to best meet the needs of all employees. Heather Emsley, Executive Director shared “Mary is a valuable member of our team and our District. This year she has embraced new challenges as the HCS office has worked to respond to employee needs in light of COVID-19. Mary has managed the conversion of staff information in an electronic format, assisted employees through new licensure and waiver pathways, and has worked to ensure staff requests are responded to quickly. Mary is truly a pleasure to work with and we are incredibly lucky to have her on our team.”

Mary’s approach is kind, patient, and she always works with a solutions focused mindset. Angela Fari-as, HCS Representative shares “Mary is very thoughtful and puts effort into the smallest details to help employees. She is also pivotal to the success of the HCS team – none of us would be able to do what we do without her.” Perhaps Ms. Oliveira summarizes Mary’s impact best; “Mary is an awesome coworker who always has the employee’s best interests at heart. She’s a team player, reliable, hard worker, approachable and overall an amazing person.”

Employee Spotlight

DECEMBER 2020



Deirdre Murphy
Special Education Teacher
Roosevelt Middle School



We want to take a moment to recognize Special Education Teacher Deirdre Murphy! Deirdre is a wonderful educator and colleague at Roosevelt Middle School. Principal Daniel Bossolt shared “She works tirelessly to meet the various needs of her students with special needs. Deirdre is also one of the most supportive teammates to staff and students, and she has stepped up and accepted additional responsibilities to ensure that all of our kids get the help that they need every day.”



Deidre has a calming presence and the ability to reduce anxiety and connect with even the most challenging students with significant needs. She has the same impact with parents and is also a consistent communicator. Principal Bossolt recalls

“Even when we suddenly went distant last spring because of the pandemic, Deirdre did not skip a beat and maintained high levels of outreach and connection with her students and parents. She developed high quality distant learning plans and interventions and kept her students engaged throughout the remaining school year enabling all of her kids to be successful.” Deidre is a true educator who cares deeply about her kids, and because of this, she is an invaluable member of the Roosevelt community.



Tara Rodrigues & Alexis Medeiros

Paraprofessional & Building Based Substitute
Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School



Every day, NBPS teachers come prepared to make it the best day of learning for their students. Support staff help this happen in countless ways, and these two young ladies have gone above and beyond! They are very tech savvy and have stepped in to cover long-term staff absences at any given time.



Noting “Ms. Rodrigues joined us this year as a small group paraprofessional in a Kindergarten Classroom,” Principal Kim Marshall said “Her connection with students as well as the classroom teacher has been instrumental. Her ability to



find resources, navigate the virtual learning process, upload integral online programs, and troubleshoot for the classroom teacher and parents is commendable.”

Ms. Medeiros has been Rodman’s Building-Based Substitute for the past two years and is a Bridgewater State College student. She recently spent two months preparing lessons and teaching a grade 1 classroom. Principal Marshall noted “Her knowledge of content and online expertise ensured the students came out of the gate learning crucial grade level content.” Although a long-term replacement has been found for that classroom, Miss Medeiros continues to support the teachers with online tools and resources to post on distance learning days as well as every day.

Principal Marshall added, “The Rodman staff cannot thank them enough for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to the students and staff! We are so lucky to have them and cannot wait until they become NBPS teachers themselves in the near future!”

SHOUT OUT to NBHS Whaler Marching Band!

**Way to go NBHS
Whaler Marching
Band for their
DonateABag.org of
over 240 lbs of Soup
to Sister Rose's House
in New Bedford!**



NBHS Athletic Department

It was great to be able to have a season for our athletes! Every team displayed great sportsmanship and because they abided by the COVID modifications, every team was able to finish the season. It was a total team effort by everyone involved to ensure our athletes were able to experience a season. Thank you to all!

- New Bedford High School Field Hockey Team won the SEC Tournament beating Dartmouth 2-0, they end the season with a record of 9-2-1
- Boys Soccer were the regular Season Champs with a record of 6-1-3 and lost in the Championship to Brockton finishing the season at 7-2-3
- Volleyball second place in the league with a record of 5-4
- Golf team finished at 5-5
- Girls Soccer and Cross Country saw considerable improvement and were competitive in the league tournament





NBHS WINTER MUSIC SHOWCASE

LIVE STREAM



TUESDAY
12/22 | 7:00PM

FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM
EVENT!

CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS



New Bedford EATS

News from Food & Nutrition Services



FREE MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS!



Grab 'n Go BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

AVAILABLE AM & PM MON-FRI AT:*

Hayden McFadden	6:30-7:30 AM	3-4:30 PM
Jacobs	6:30-7:30 AM	3-4:30 PM
Keith Middle	6:30-7:30 AM	3-4:30 PM
Campbell		3-4:30 PM
Carney Academy		3-4:30 PM
Gomes		3:45-4:30 PM
Lincoln		3-4:30 PM
Normandin		3-4:30 PM
Pulaski		3-4:30 PM
Roosevelt		3-4:30 PM

Effective Nov 30, 2020

*Times are subject to change. Any changes will be posted at NewBedfordSchools.org Food and Nutrition Services page

Grab 'n Go Meals – Schedule Change

NBPS continues to offer free grab and go meals to kids and teens. As of November 30, 2020, the “Grab ‘n Go” meal distribution sites and times have changed.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Calendar

The NBPS Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) continues in December. All elementary students will be offered a fresh fruit or vegetable twice a week to take home and try with their families. Follow the NBPS Food and Nutrition Services department on Instagram or Twitter @NewBedfordEATS to see quick and fun 1-minute FFVP TV videos about each featured fruit or vegetable.

What is the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program?

The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children. The FFVP also encourages healthier school environments by promoting nutrition education. [Click here](#) to learn more about the NBPS FFVP.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM						
DECEMBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Banana		Carrots		
		Papaya		Microgreens		
		Mango		Salad greens		
		Oranges	Broccoli			
	Red cabbage w/ grab 'n go		Cantaloupe w/ grab 'n go			

As part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, all elementary students will be offered a fresh fruit or vegetable twice a week to take home and try with their families!

FOLLOW US:



@NewBedfordEATS

NEW WEBSITE!

What's for lunch? [Check out our new online menus!](#)

Rob Shaheen, Director x14257 rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org
 Alice Johnson, Assistant Director x14260 ajohnson@newbedfordschools.org
 Samantha Therrien, MS, RDN, LDN, Assistant Director x14202 stherrien@newbedfordschools.org



EDUCATORS: JOIN A FREE COACHING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COHORT



Starting in December and lasting through the spring of 2021, WriteBoston's coaches are offering a free professional development cohort for middle and high school educators in Massachusetts Gateway Cities. You'll gain access to learning opportunities focused on remote and hybrid instruction including 6 workshops, several professional learning small group sessions, and one-on-one coaching.

CORE WORKSHOPS

TOOLS TO FACILITATE LEARNING ON OR OFFLINE

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 3:00 to 5:00 PM

It's challenging to engage students in remote or hybrid formats. This workshop will cover: strategies to translate in person to remote and hybrid contexts; how to combine synchronous and asynchronous activities effectively; and high and low tech tools to improve students' experience.

PLANNING IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY

Thursday, January 14, 2021 | 3:00 to 5:00 PM

You'll need to come up with efficient and effective ways to plan series of lessons that work toward your goals. We'll discuss: flexible mini-units or weekly structures; anticipating and addressing challenges unique to these contexts; and ensuring that students are progressing academically during these challenging times.

BALANCING COMPASSION & CONTENT

Thursday, February 4, 2021 | 3:00 to 5:00 PM

You and your students have dealt with a lot over the last several months. This workshop will discuss: trauma and its impacts on your students' emotional well-being; integrating socio-emotional learning into your content area; and balancing empathy with high expectations.

OTHER SUPPORTS

FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOPS

Thursdays in March and April
3/11, 4/1 and 4/29 | 3:00 to 5:00

These follow-up sessions will be customized to address other specific needs and areas of interest from the group.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GROUP SESSIONS

Thursdays in March and April
3/4, 3/18, 4/15 | 3:00 to 4:30

As part of this cohort, you'll join a community of educators from across Massachusetts school districts in a series of sessions. You'll have the opportunity to share challenges, strategies, and advice with like-minded teachers.

ONE-ON-ONE COACHING

Scheduled flexibly throughout the week to fit your schedule

In between workshops and PLGs, you'll have access to one-on-one sessions with a WriteBoston instructional coach where you can get personalized support and feedback.



SIGN UP AT bit.ly/wbworkshop2

BE A New Bedford Public Schools FLU FIGHTER!



FLU CLINICS

THU. DEC. 3
Pulaski ES
1097 Braley Rd.
2:00-6:00 p.m.

FRI. DEC. 18
Keith MS
225 Hathaway Blvd.
2:45-6:00 p.m.

THU. DEC. 10
Hayden-McFadden
361 Cedar Grove St.
2:00-6:00 p.m.



**plus, free
ice cream!**



Parents: Please bring your insurance card to the Flu Clinic if you have one. Has your child already been vaccinated? Please provide documentation of vaccination to your school by Jan. 4, 2021 per Massachusetts 105 CMR 220.000 .

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... **Thank You!**



NOW
Thru 12/31

A Message from...

NBPS Benefits Office

Open Enrollment for New Bedford Public Schools ends on **December 31st!**

This is the opportunity to enroll or make changes to your:

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health insurance
- Flexible Spending accounts
- Life insurance
- Disability insurance

Any BC/BS Health Insurance rate or plan changes will be shared with all staff when those details are available.

[NBPS Benefits Webpage](#)

Please contact Marcia Tome in the benefits office 508-997-4511 ext. 14355 or mtome@newbedfordschools.org with any questions you may have.

COVID SYMPTOMS

As a reminder staff should not report when they or anyone in their household is experiencing COVID symptoms. Please report your absence in AESOP and immediately contact the office of Human Capital Services.

ANY ONE SYMPTOM

- Cough (new)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste and/or smell



ANY TWO SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestions or runny nose (new)
- Nausea or vomiting (new)
- Diarrhea (new)

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 Boston
- TV6 WLNE Providence
- TV7 WHDH Boston
- TV10 WJAR Providence
- TV12 WPRI Providence
- TV25 WFXT Boston
- WBZ-1030AM Boston
- WRKO-680AM Boston
- WSAR-1480AM Fall River
- WBSM-1420AM New Bedford
- WFHN-FUN107FM Fairhaven

Thank You!!

happy, merry, joyous



CHRISTMAS

HANUKKAH



KWANZAA



RAMADAN