



NBPS Newsflash

February 2020

Greetings Team NBPS,

We just wrapped up the first month of 2020 with a very successful unveiling of the district's new Strategic Plan last week. This plan is a blueprint of our work, now and in the future. It is available on www.newbedfordschools.org.

In our next steps, we will be hosting several forums to gather feedback from our staff, parents, and community members. In addition, we will hold daytime feedback sessions at various community organizations to engage a wide range of people. These meetings will add to the information I receive from the parent coffees and student lunch meetings I routinely have at schools across the district.

I invite you to participate in this ongoing process of building the future of New Bedford Public Schools by providing feedback on the Strategic Plan. It is a 'living document' and we will update it every year so we can incorporate information and insight from you to make improvements. Your feedback is critical. It is essential to provide you with the opportunity and space to share your thoughts and recommendations on what resources you believe we need or programs we should implement – to make NBPS an excellent school system. Staff Forums are planned for:

- **Tuesday Feb. 11 – Keith MS 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM – Staff**
- **Monday Feb. 24 – Roosevelt MS 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM – Staff**
- **Wednesday Feb. 26 – Normandin MS 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM – Staff**
- **Thursday Feb. 27 – Keith MS 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM – Parents/Community/Staff**

These sessions will also serve to solicit feedback regarding the increased funding from the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). As you may know, after more than 20 years, last November state legislatures passed an historic bill, the SOA, to increase funding to schools and change the formula in which funding is allocated. The process of how the Massachusetts provides funding to school districts has been drastically improved and like some other districts, New Bedford Public Schools is expected to receive a financial increase over the next 7 years.

Although I plan to seek feedback each year as we refine our strategic plan, this year – aligned with the SOA and the DESE requirements based on the new law – I must submit a plan to the Department of Education by April 1 for approval. I am confident that we will have informative feedback from each of you. As always, thank you for your support of New Bedford Public Schools and I look forward to hearing your voice.

Thank you,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent

*If there is
no struggle,
there is no
progress.*

Frederick Douglass



Nathan & Polly Johnson House
21 Seventh St., New Bedford
Frederick Douglass' first home in freedom

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Employee Spotlight



Diana Barboza

Clerk

Casimir Pulaski Elementary School



Diana Barboza has worked with New Bedford Public Schools since 2008! She is one of our irreplaceable secretaries at Casimir Pulaski Elementary School, where she has worked for the past eight years. Some of the words that her associates use to describe Mrs. Barboza include: organized, hardworking, diligent, dependable, trustworthy and kind. There isn't any problem that she will not tackle and no amount of effort that she will not spare to help a student or assist a family member. Melissa Rego, Principal of Pulaski School said, "She works daily to help create a safe and welcoming environment for Pulaski students, staff and families. Her dedication and commitment are worth noting as she ALWAYS goes above and beyond. Diana Barboza is a valued member of the Pulaski team and we are lucky to have her!"



Doug Motta

Teacher, Academy of Information of Technology,
New Bedford High School



Spotlight heard about Doug Motta's work from CVTE Manager Chris Cummings: "Doug is special because that is precisely the way he views New Bedford High School, his colleagues and his students. He is driven; prepping his students to produce compelling video programming about the Whaler Community. As teacher of NBHS' digital media elective and the NFA-based Information Technology Academy, it is not uncommon for his students to be recording events, classroom sessions and learning lab experiences, or interviewing stakeholders in preparation for NBHS' weekly newscast, *The Whaler Show*. In addition to providing meaningful instruction, Doug helps to raise the profile of NBHS and showcases what makes it exceptional learning community. Recently, he directed students' video production Finance Lab's grand opening ceremony. He is currently facilitating the video production for the *Mr. Whaler* event, a long-standing and fun-filled tradition that exemplifies school spirit. Passion, care for students and staff, and a dedication to share the good news of NBHS are what make Doug Motta *especially* special."



Around Our Schools



Hayden-McFadden writing and book publishing

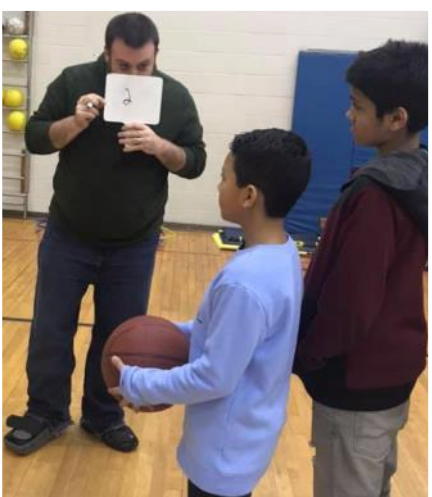


Pulaski students



Sea Lab Class

NBHS musicians at the S.E. Mass. Senior District Festival



“Number Detective Academy”



National School Counselor Week, Feb. 3-7



Lunch With Learners with Superintendent Anderson



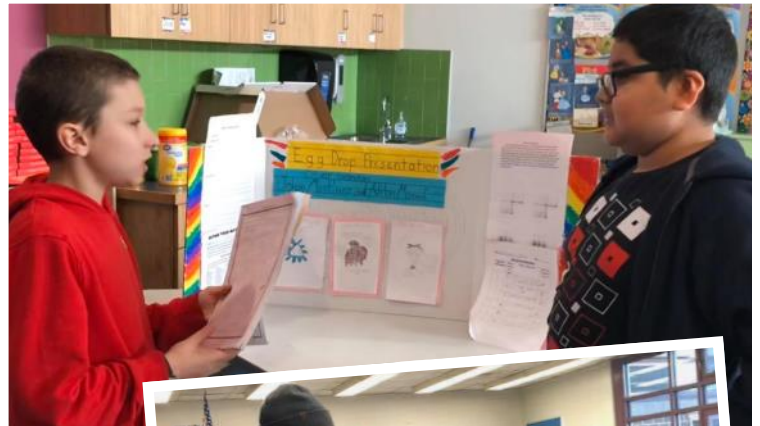
NBHS Financial Services Lab

Around our schools



Working on their Egg-Drop presentation

Learning about the phases of the moon



Parents watch their students' PowerPoints

Dr. Jason Falk, 8-year volunteer at NBPS



Gomes Students honor city resident Jibreel Khazan, one of the Greensboro 4



Carney on the court



Students "into" their books during independent reading time



Pulaski 's Display of Learning: Topic: Portugal



Around Our Schools

Thank you to the NBEA for your donations! Your contributions provide many essential items to our school nurses for NBPS students.



Parents and guardians:

You can protect the health of your children by teaching them to practice healthy habits during the school year. When children get sick with flu, they may be able to spread it to others for a longer period of time than adults. Plan to keep your children home if they're sick. By practicing healthy habits, you and your family will be doing your part to help prevent the spread of flu.

Take these actions to help keep your family well:



Get your family vaccinated. Plan to keep them home if they're sick.

- If your children get sick at school, make plans to pick them up as soon as possible.
- Keep your children home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using medicine that lowers fever.



Make sure they cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze.

- Throw away dirty tissues.
- Use their sleeve or elbow if they don't have a tissue.
- Wash or sanitize their hands.



Teach them to wash their hands often at home and at school.

- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice).
- Provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol in case they don't have soap and water.



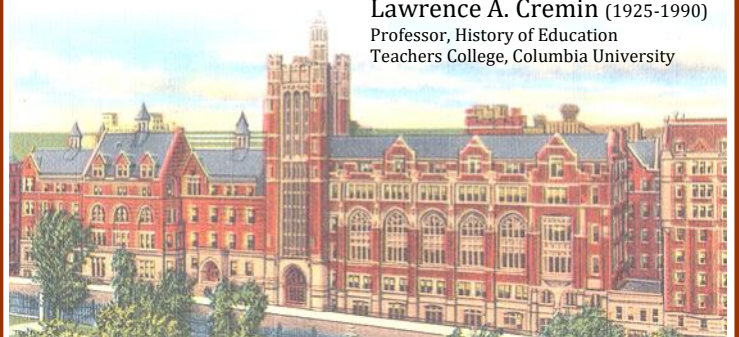
Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.

- Use soap and water, a bleach and water solution, or products with a label that says "EPA-approved" to clean items, such as toys and TV remotes.
- Always follow the directions on product labels.

Voices from the History of Education

"There is inevitably a gap between aspiration and achievement in education, and between ideal and reality. And there is frequently a gap between stated intentions and revealed preferences. Moreover, ideals are themselves commonly modified by circumstance. Nonetheless, they have a life and validity of their own and they influence education profoundly, however flawed their substance or imperfect their realization. They are well worth examining, debating, and improving, for there is much more to *paideia* than mere ideology."

Lawrence A. Cremin (1925-1990)
Professor, History of Education
Teachers College, Columbia University



New Bedford Public Schools unveils new District Strategic Plan

Superintendent Thomas Anderson unveiled New Bedford Public Schools District Strategic Plan 2020 at a media event on January 20 at Keith Middle School. Speakers included Mayor Jon Mitchell, school committee, students, teachers and community members.

The plan is the result of input from more than 80 individuals, including students, parents, teachers/staff, administrators, and community members over the course of a year. Also informing the Strategic Plan is the collective feedback from nearly 50 partner organizations representing a wide range of perspectives from across the community.

Mayor Jon Mitchell said, “The schools’ strategic plan has the depth and clarity that New Bedford Public Schools families, and the city as a whole, can appreciate and support. It’s up to all of us to ensure the district’s continued success for our students, but it is clear that meaningful, measurable progress is already happening. New Bedford’s schools have turned the page and are focused on the future; this document collects the community’s shared vision and charts a detailed course for further progress.”

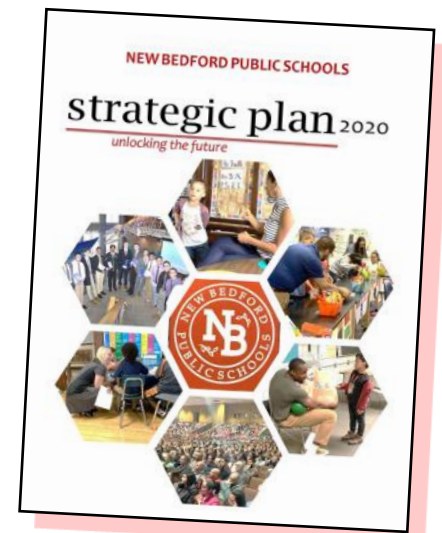
Strategic Plan 2020 – Unlocking the Future, is a comprehensive roadmap for reaching district goals, benchmarks, action items and priorities. Divided into three sections, the plan provides an outline on “Lessons Learned” and spells out an action plan with “Strategic Enhancements” which include “New Data Collection, Analysis Systems and New Strategic Monitoring.” The 26-page document identifies district benchmarks and measurable outcomes through 2022.

Introducing the plan, Superintendent Thomas Anderson related how in 2019, NBPS transitioned to a District Strategic Action Plan utilizing the “Planning for Success” model, which does not require the oversight of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). “However, our new goals – building from the initial AIP objectives – use continuous acts of planning, training, measuring, analyzing progress and implementing strategies,” he said, adding “the action plan has been in place and has been guiding our processes as we work to enhance the teaching and learning process.”

Caitlyn Sentes, a 14-year educator and 6th grade ELA teacher at Keith participated in the year-long process of creating the plan. “Our main focus as a committee was to review the current district goals and build a new plan that would help us to improve different aspects of our schools to ensure that our students receive a high quality, balanced education in order to prepare them to compete on the global level,” she said, noting “the opportunity to collaborate with people from so many facets of our city was invaluable.”

The new Strategic Plan lays out agreed-upon strategies to realize the district’s five goals: 1) High Quality Instruction – Increase student achievement by strengthening teaching and learning; 2) Effective Student Support Systems – Create an inclusive, culturally responsive learning environment; 3) Strong Family/Community Relationships – Empower families and the community through collaboration; 4) Organizational Team Excellence – Cultivate and recruit a highly skilled workforce; and 5) Public Confidence and Pride – Implement effective strategies to raise the profile and reputation of NBPS.

Additional speakers included Raquel Reis, New Bedford High School junior; Joaquim “Jack” Livramento, School Committee; Maria A. Rosario, Executive Director, North Star Learning Centers; Richard Leeman, Principal, Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School; Christopher Garcia, President, New Bedford Educators Association; and Jennifer Ferland, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships NBPS.



**Read the
Strategic Plan
newbedfordschools.org
on the NBPS
Homepage**



Superintendent Anderson discusses the Strategic Plan at a Jan.29 media event at Keith MS.



REMINDER: STRATEGIC PLAN & STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT INPUT FORUMS

NBPS wants your feedback on the next updates to the new Strategic Plan and your thoughts and suggestions on the recently passed Massachusetts Student Opportunity Act funding. Staff and community forums are planned for:

- 1 Tue, Feb. 11 Keith 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Staff
- 2 Mon, Feb. 24 Roosevelt 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Staff
- 3 Wed, Feb. 26 Normandin 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Staff
- 4 Thu, Feb. 27 Keith 6:15-7:30 p.m. – Open to Parents/Community



Healthy, Non-Food Rewards in Schools

Samantha Therrien, MS, RDN, LDN, Assistant Director Food and Nutrition Services



While sugar-sweetened treats like ice cream, cookies and hot cocoa can motivate children, such rewards for good behavior or academic performance can lead to negative, long-term consequences. As stated by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, “When food is given as a reward, children start to connect it with something good or bad, rather than to see food as fuel for their body. In the long run, this could lead to emotional eating as adults and generate an unhealthy relationship with food. Food rewards also teach kids to expect food when they've done something well, which can lead to poor nutrient intakes,



eating when not hungry and excess calories. And it teaches them that the food rewarded is more desirable than other foods.”¹

Non-food rewards can keep students engaged while supporting a safe and healthy opportunity for them to learn and practice healthy habits that can last a lifetime!

Action for Healthy Kids reports that *verbal recognition is often the best reward.*² Other options such as classroom awards, eating lunch in a special place, outdoor activities, stickers, or fun physical activity breaks can also be effective.

Download Healthy Kids Tip Sheets here:



[Healthy Non-food Rewards Tip Sheet \(English\)](#)

[Healthy Non-food Rewards Tip Sheet \(Spanish\)](#)

View our menus and nutritional information on www.NBPSmeals.com or through the smartphone app, **Web Menus by ISite Software**. Stay tuned for more exciting changes!

FOLLOW US:   @NewBedfordEATS

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Samantha Therrien, MS, RDN, LDN, Asst. Dir. X14202 stherrien@newbedfordschools.org

*References: 1) Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. *Say “Yes!” to Non-Food Rewards*. Accessed January 31, 2020. <https://www.eatright.org/health/wellness/healthy-aging/say-yes-to-nonfood-rewards> 2) Action for Healthy Kids. *Healthy & Active Non-Food Rewards*. Accessed January 31, 2020. <https://www.actionforhealthykids.org/activity/healthy-active-non-food-rewards/>



The NBHS Performing Arts
Department Presents

*A Night at
the Pops*

CONCERT

Gonsalves / Beardsworth

**Gymnasium @ NBHS
Friday, March 13th**

Limited Premium Cabaret-style seating - \$15

sold here: <https://tinyurl.com/nbhspops20>

General Admission - \$10

All proceeds benefit Performing Arts Scholarships

7PM



CHANNEL 95 PUBLIC ACCESS



What is Public Access Channel 95?



NBTV95 is a non-commercial television channel that airs original programming *created by* the residents and organizations of New Bedford. Community members produce a wide variety of cable television programs about their experiences, concerns, and interests.

Free training is provided to New Bedford residents and organizations to help them produce quality television programs. This hands-on training covers studio production, field cameras and video editing.

New Bedford Cable Network believes that Public Access Television is a powerful vehicle for promoting greater awareness of New Bedford's issues

and the diversity of its people. We strive to provide outreach to all segments of our multi-cultural and multi-lingual community, ascertaining areas of programming needs, and assessing community response to public access programming. We share our Public studios with New Bedford Government Access Channel 18 and Educational Access Channel 9.

Training classes are held periodically throughout the year, and are free to NB residents and non-profit organizations. To get started, call 508-979-1775 or 508-979-1463 to reach the Public Access Director.



NOW HIRING

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Crossing Guards

New Bedford Public Schools
is seeking Crossing Guards
for multiple Elementary Schools

Part-time:

2-hours per day when school is in session:

(1 hr. Mornings and 1 hr. Afternoons)

Compensation: \$15 per hour

Apply online:

www.schoolspring.com

Job ID: 3222790

New Bedford Free Public Library
Lawler Branch Library

Winter Story & Craft Time

January 10th - March 13th

Fridays at 4 PM

ALL AGES WELCOME!



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www.newbedfordlibrary.org
www.facebook.com/newbedfordlibrary



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FIRST CITIZENS'
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*Valid February 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020. Open a new Statement, Hero, Champion or Club Savings Account with autotransfer from a First Citizens' Checking Account and complete 15 point of sale Debit Card transactions within the first 60 days of opening account and you could earn a \$100 bonus. Once confirmed, \$100 bonus will be deposited into your First Citizens' Savings Account. Cash bonus may be subject to IRS reporting. This offer cannot be combined with any other current or ongoing offers, promotions, & discounts. This is a limited time offer and may be withdrawn at any time. Rates subject to change at any time. Promo code SAV100.