



NBPS Newsflash

March 2024

Greetings, New Bedford Community,

As I entered a classroom today, one of our second graders, upon being told the superintendent was “the boss,” inquired, “Who is your boss?” “You,” I responded. “All of you are my boss.” A wonderful morning of reading ensued as we kicked off Read Across America week. I met approximately 45 second and third graders and repeatedly asked, “What is so great about school?” The majority highlighted two aspects: the fun of learning and having teachers who care. As we leap into March, I am ever grateful for the enthusiasm, energy, and sense of community I find within our school buildings. Thank you for making learning enjoyable and for the care you bring to our young people.

This week, my time spent with students at New Bedford High School left me more than impressed by their spirit, passion, and authenticity. I engaged our seniors, curious about what they wished to share as they approach the end of their final year. Initially, our conversation revolved around high school food, but as we grew more comfortable, discussions broadened to concerns regarding facilities, bathrooms, the need for study spaces, high school scheduling, guidance counseling, course selection, and the desire for later school start times. They acknowledged some improvements we've made, and humorously noted my promises of further improvements were only coming as they're preparing to graduate.

The direct feedback from our students complements discussions from my recent meeting with the State Attorney General's Office of Community Outreach, which subsequently met with the Mayor's Youth Council. The Council, while focusing on broader youth issues, addressed the in-school topics raised at NBHS, along with concerns over youth worker exploitation, youth mental health, and the scarcity of spaces for young people indoors and outdoors throughout their city. This month, I'll reconvene with New Bedford High School student representatives to discuss next year's budget, curriculum, and fine arts offerings. It's often said by educators that our students can articulate their needs if we're prepared to listen. I see this every time I have these meetings with our Whalers.

At Normandin Middle School this week, the school community gathered to honor the memory of Jason Cornaglia, an extraordinary educator who consistently prioritized his school and students. The loss of Coach C is hard to grasp, given his significant presence and impact. Colleagues reminisced about the myriad ways Jason always supported his community. A plaque was dedicated to Jason, ensuring that the joy and passion he embodied firmly remain embedded in the culture of his home building. My heartfelt thanks go to the Normandin Middle School community for this meaningful tribute.

Looking forward, I am eager to discover how we, as a district, can better support you throughout this school year. If you're open to having me visit, please contact me at superintendent@newbedfordschools.org with potential times and topics you'd like to discuss during a visit.

Thank you,

Andrew O'Leary
Superintendent

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world.”

- Harriet Tubman

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Employee Spotlight



Anders Viera-Dones

*ESL Teacher
New Bedford High School*



“Mr. Viera-Dones actively engages in collaborative class activities and employs effective teaching strategies. He generously invites others to observe his teaching methods, fostering a culture of shared learning. Demonstrating exceptional dedication, he consistently goes above and beyond to provide unwavering support to his ESL students. Notably, this year, Mr. Viera-Dones took the proactive step of initiating a weekly reading buddy period. During these sessions, his level 2 ESL students captivantly read stories to a group of newcomer students. When speaking with his students, they express that Mr. Viera-Dones is not merely a proficient teacher but also someone who truly comprehends them, exhibits patience, and in their words, is ‘very chill.’ We take great pride in having Mr. Viera-Dones as an invaluable member of the NBHS ESL team.”

— *Joyce Cardoza, Principal, New Bedford High School*



Nicholas Gifford

*NBPS Electrician
New Bedford Public Schools*



“I want to take a moment to recognize and commend Mr. Nicholas Gifford for his exceptional work as an electrician, serving New Bedford Public Schools since August of 2021. Mr. Gifford’s dedication, skill, and hard work have not gone unnoticed and have truly made a difference for New Bedford Public Schools, our students, staff and the entire Facilities Department. Mr. Gifford’s attention to detail, expertise in his field and ability to troubleshoot and solve complex electrical issues have been invaluable to our team. His commitment to ensuring that our electrical systems are functioning properly for our students and staff safety is commendable. I want to express my gratitude for Mr. Gifford’s hard work, dedication, and professionalism and his contribution to New Bedford Public Schools and the Facilities Operations team.”

— *Douglas Brites, MCPPO, Director of Facilities, NBPS*

Student Spotlight

NBHS Senior Reflects on National Academy of Finance Experience



Senior Eduardo Camilo has truly embraced the opportunities that New Bedford High School offers. He has been active in a variety of school organizations including Key Club, Great Outdoors, Book Club, Track, and Cross Country. He is also a member of Reach Higher, the newly formed club that supports all students in considering college after graduation by providing education and support about the college application process. In addition, Eduardo is a student in the Academy of Finance, one of the multiple National Academy Foundation programs available to students at NBHS.

Although he has been curious about business since an early age, Eduardo took his first finance course during his sophomore year – Principles of Finance, with Mrs. Alves. He credits Mrs. Alves with helping him develop his passion for finance. Since that course in sophomore year, he has taken five additional courses in the Academy of Finance, solidifying his desire to study finance in college.

Eduardo recognizes that the opportunity to focus on a career pathway during high school benefited him. “Thanks to the Academy of Finance, I will have a much easier time understanding business-oriented college coursework than my peers as I have had the opportunity to be introduced to it earlier.” He also met two alumni of the college he plans to attend through the Entrepreneurship course in the Academy. He advises younger NBHS students to try out the different academies while at New Bedford High School.

“It can help you narrow down on what you could be interested in, as well as what you are not keen about pursuing post-graduate.”

Eduardo was accepted Early Decision to his first-choice, Babson College. He is a first-generation college student and was drawn to Babson’s entrepreneurial business focus and diversity. He is confident to cross paths with like-minded individuals from all over the globe, all driven by a passion for business and entrepreneurship. Although Eduardo is leaning towards computational finance and economics, he plans to try out different courses at Babson and decide on a focus from there.

While he may be trading in his New Bedford red for Babson green, we know Eduardo will always be a Whaler at heart. We are so proud of him and look forward to hearing of his continued successes!

– Jennifer McGuire, College & Career Information Coordinator



MERRIMACK COLLEGE
WINSTON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY

SEI ENDORSEMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

Spring II: March 11-May 3, 2024
Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 6:30pm-9:30pm

The SEI endorsement workshop requires synchronous meetings that are held via Zoom.



[Register Here!](#)



SCAN ME

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must have completed an undergraduate program and hold a bachelor's degree (any discipline).
- Students must not be currently enrolled in a teacher-education graduate program at Merrimack College.



Merrimack College is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to offer Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) for endorsement only. This is a 0-credit, pass/fail course. Students will be enrolled as non-matriculated graduate students, and will receive an official transcript from the college upon request. Once the course is successfully completed, Merrimack provides the necessary endorsement to DESE.

ROOSEVELT PRESENTS:

ROALD DAHL'S
**CHARLIE
AND THE
CHOCOLATE
FACTORY**

**MARCH
14 & 15**

6 PM

**RMS
Cafetorium**



Tickets are Free
Donations Accepted

Presented by Special Arrangement with the
Dramatic Publishing Company, Woodstock, Illinois

THE NORMANDIN MIDDLE
SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB
PROUDLY PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS JR.

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Original Broadway Production by

Heidi Landesman Rocco Landesman Rick Steiner

M. Anthony Fisher Frederic H. Mayerson Jujamycn Theatres

Originally Produced by the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, CA

\$

Admission
by Donation

April 10th & April 11th

7pm

Normandin Middle School

Director
Olivia Marques

Music Director
Stefanie LaFontaine

Choreographer
Elizabeth Fournier

Technical Director
Shea Lowney

Into the Woods JR. is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

Betsey B. Winslow

1836-1925



Betsey Baldwin Winslow was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1836. Her father, a shoe manufacturer, died while she was still a child. Her mother, Ann Saulter Baldwin, remarried a former New Bedford whaling master, Captain William Winslow, who adopted Betsey.

The family moved to New Bedford and Betsey was educated in New Bedford Public Schools. One of her classmates, William W. Crapo, became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Crapo recalled, “As a schoolgirl, she was bright, intelligent and diligent, and during a long life of usefulness, she enjoyed the confidence and high regard of the people of New Bedford.”

Betsey never married and lived in her childhood home at 315 County Street her entire life.

A teacher for more than 25 years, she thereafter was elected to the New Bedford School Committee, serving education in that capacity for nearly 39 years. The first woman to be elected to the school committee, hers was the longest serving term on record until 2015. Miss Winslow championed education for girls and made classes in the industrial arts part of the curriculum. She was a board member of the Industrial School, precursor of GNB Voc-Tech. In addition to her school committee duties, over the decades she tutored hundreds of students in her home, preparing them

for advanced studies and in preparation for college. She also tutored Portuguese priests at the nearby St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in both spoken and written English, and she helped NBHS graduates who aspired to be teachers themselves to prepare for Normal School entrance exams.

Her work extended to all women, for she was active in the Ladies City Mission, the Reform and Relief Association, and the New Bedford Women’s Club. After she retired, the regular rules of the school committee for naming buildings were suspended in order to acknowledge her service by naming a school in her honor in 1915 – the newly constructed school building on Allen Street in the city’s West End. Miss Winslow was the first living person for which a city school was named. After a brief illness she died at home in 1925.

Gardening was a lifelong love of Miss Winslow. She would be pleased to see the six large elevated garden beds that today line the walk to the Winslow School, where students learn interactively about gardening and the cycles of sustainable local agriculture.



NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

March 2024

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

26

Equality For Women

27 Wraparound Department-
455 County Street,
New Bedford, MA
(508) 997-4511
ext. 14154

28 **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!**



29



1 SNOW RESCHEDULE DATE!
NB GRANTS WORKSHOP
5PM-7PM

4

FISS MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINS!

6 PACHECO PARENT CAFÉ 8:15AM-9:15AM
"CURLS AND COMBS"
TAYLOR SCHOOL MULTICULTURAL NIGHT 5PM-6PM

7

8 **SNAP & HOUSING WORKSHOP AT HAYMAC! 1:30-4PM**

11

12 "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP SERIES ON ZOOM! 6PM-7PM

JRI BACKPACK SERIES ON ZOOM! 6PM-7PM

13 **CPPI- THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT HAYMAC 5PM-6PM**

14

15

18

19

20 FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT ROOSEVELT 5:30PM-7:30PM
NBHS COLLEGE BOUND SERIES BEGINS! 5PM-6PM 4/20 & 4/27

21

22

25 GOMES ELPAC MEETING 8:30AM-9:30AM

"I SEE YOU" SUPPORT GROUP ON ZOOM 6PM-7PM

26

27 **NORMANDIN-EMPOWERING WOMEN CULTURAL NIGHT 4PM-6PM**
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOP ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM

28

WINSLOW MULTICULTURAL NIGHT 4PM-5:30PM

29

HAPPY EASTER WEEKEND!



WRAPAROUND SERVICES
Family Engagement = Student Success