



# NBPS Newsflash

## June 2021

Greetings Team NBPS,

As we excitedly prepare to wrap-up this extraordinary year, we should stop and take stock of how much we have accomplished together. It is amazing how many unsung heroes we have who continue to work behind the scenes to help keep the teaching and learning process moving forward. Navigating through this unique time would not have been possible without our building services/custodial team, our food services team, our health department staff, teaching and learning team, administrators and support teams including everyone in between – THANK YOU!

Throughout the year, we have continued to visit classrooms, both virtually and in-person, to support the teaching and learning process. The learning walk process continues to highlight the excellent work occurring in our schools. We get to see the effective strategies around analysis and inquiry, student engagement, and instructional dialogue. These continue to be the drivers of the teaching and learning process with a renewed focus on equity.

My priorities remain in parallel, as our student support focus requires the same attention as our academic programming. Over the last several months we have increased our work to address small and mid-range facility work. We have increased and will continue to strengthen our capacity to enhance our educational spaces – inside and outside.

It is easier said than done, but we all must take time for a well-earned break to rest and rejuvenate. Summer programming is also planned to help students gain academic ground before our return to full in-person learning in the fall. As a reminder – only for another couple of weeks - even with the relaxed protocols outside – we are still wearing masks in NBPS facilities. Please keep washing and sanitizing your hands. Thank you for doing your part, get vaccinated and stay safe.

Thank you,

Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent



**“Don’t  
count  
the days,  
Make  
the days  
count.”**

*–Muhammad Ali*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Employee Spotlight: 2

Endicott College: 3

Step Challenge: 4

What’s Your Story: 4-5

# Employee Spotlight



## Sarah White

Special Education Teacher

John B. DeValles Elementary School



Sarah White serves students on IEPs in all of the inclusion classrooms in grades 3 through 5 at DeValles Elementary School. Principal Aungst shared, “Sarah’s ability to collaborate with teachers, counselors, administration, and families ensures all students get the accommodations they need to learn and reach their fullest potential.”

Mrs. White also uses her advanced technology skills to help her colleagues at DeValles. This includes problem-solving for all staff in the building, putting in tickets for repairs, and tutoring fellow teachers on all things technology. As you can imagine, during hybrid and distance learning, her skills have been in high demand!

Principal Aungst went on to say, “Sarah’s laugh is infectious to both students and staff, and her positive and generous work ethic has helped turn

DeValles Elementary School into a positive, safe, and supportive climate. She often volunteers for afterschool events, mentors new teachers, and takes on student-teachers from surrounding colleges and universities.”

Pictured is Mrs. White receiving letters during the pandemic. In the period of time when schools were closed and not all students had technology, she still found ways to connect with them by writing & mailing letters!



## Jasmine Vega

Wraparound Coordinator

Hayden McFadden Elementary School



One of Jasmine Vega’s roles is case management, with a focus on connecting families to resources in Greater New Bedford. She also serves as the school’s McKinney-Vento Liaison and sits on multiple school-based committees and groups. Principal Morgan said, “She has helped build a positive school culture through building strong and meaningful relationships with all our families. On any given day, Mrs. Vega’s major goal is to help our families in any way she can.”

Mrs. Vega works as part of a team that works with students and families to address underlying attendance issues throughout the school. As a member of the school’s attendance team, she reaches out to families to offer resources and assist with systems that will improve student attendance at Hayden McFadden.

Mrs. Vega works closely with homeless and doubled up families to connect them with community agencies that can provide housing assistance. She also works directly with families to locate stable housing situations.

Mrs. Vega has taken the lead on helping families that have been victims of house fires, and also leads our work with immigrant families, getting them in contact with the Immigrant Assistance Center & the CDC to help resolve any immigration/medical issues they may have. She works with any family in an emergency!

Principal Morgan remarked, “After working closely with Mrs. Vega over the past three years, I have watched her help build strong relationships with each family and student she works with. People come to the school seeking to meet with her to get advice and guidance on many issues. We are lucky to have such a dedicated employee that works hard each day to help our families feel as welcome as she does.”





# Master's Programs for Teachers

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

## Online Information Sessions offered weekly!

Visit [ExploreEndicott.org](http://ExploreEndicott.org) to register

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

# CONGRATULATIONS

## SPRING STEP CHALLENGE WINNERS



New Bedford Public Schools would like to recognize and congratulate all employees that participated in the Spring Step Challenge!

The top ranking teams for this year are:

**1st— HayMac**

**2nd— Katie**

**3rd— I Can Do This**

**Congratulations to Lori Silvia** for being our top stepper for the spring challenge with 2,568,017 steps!

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



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN  
UPCOMING WELLNESS EVENTS!**

# 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](mailto: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!**

# Girls on the Run

Shared by Jen Medeiros

The E.C. Brooks School's "Girls on the Run" Program completed their 5K! This 8 week program taught them so much about positivity, acceptance and uniqueness, while building self-esteem and a friendship bond!

Thank you to the coaches for volunteering, the families for running alongside the girls, the staff for showing their support, and the cheerleaders for their encouragement! We couldn't be more proud of our Bobcat community!

A HUGE thank you to the Southcoast Business Alliance Group for fully funding this program for the girls! We cannot thank them enough for this opportunity!



# MEETING AUTHOR GEOFF RODKEY

Shared by Dan Bossalt



At Roosevelt, we have an amazing new ELA teacher named Tricia Breton. She observed that many of her students were reading books by the author Geoff Rodkey. He has written many adolescent literature books as well the screenplays for movies like "Daddy Day Care" starring Eddy Murphy and "RV" starring the late Robin Williams!

He is famous and extremely busy, but Tricia reached out to him, and he agreed to Zoom meet with her and our students! We thank Tricia for going above and beyond because Geoff did meet our kids for nearly an hour, and it was an awesome and inspirational experience for the kids!

