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## Barnegat Township School District

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# OneBarnegat Bulletin



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January 2024

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## 2023 Fall Data Harvest

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Year after year, the Barnegat Township School District has demonstrated its commitment to excellence through our innovative data collection process. As we transition into the second marking period, we are taking a proactive approach to addressing the ever-changing needs of our students. We utilize data-driven decision-making strategies to guide our processes and ensure effective responsiveness.

Barnegat High School (BHS) has seen a significant increase in student involvement at school events. Most notably, BHS had over 670 students attend the Homecoming Dance in October reflecting a connected student community. BHS has made significant strides in improving attendance rates. Student attendance has increased by approximately 4% for September and October compared to the previous school year. This reflects the effectiveness of the strategies implemented by the school administration to foster a culture of consistent attendance. Disciplinary infractions have significantly decreased compared to the previous year, with a 37% reduction in the total number of referrals. There was also a 62% decrease in the number of suspensions compared to last year. This indicates a proactive approach to addressing behavioral issues and fostering a positive school culture.

The Russell O. Brackman Middle School (ROBMS) has achieved its attendance goal, highlighting an attendance rate exceeding 94%, which demonstrates its dedication to promoting regular and consistent attendance. ROBMS has also seen a commendable decrease in disciplinary infractions from the previous school year. ROBMS and the Robert L Horbelt Intermediate School (RLHS) are both piloting OpenSciEd, a new science curriculum where teachers serve as facilitators rather than lecturers. This student-centered approach allows students to engage in an iterative process, building on new understanding and knowledge. Students collaborate with their peers to discover, investigate, and construct understanding. Furthermore, the program helps students develop their ability to solve problems, ask questions, interpret data, and argue from evidence. Thus far, the staff has noted an increase in student-led scientific discussions and there appears to be improvement in their overall academic performance. RLHS has also seen a notable increase in student participation at school events. There was a significant increase in the number of students who attended the Halloween Dance, took part in the annual GaGa Ball Tournament, and joined student programs and clubs. There was also a decline in disciplinary infractions compared to the previous year.

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## 2023 Fall Data Harvest (continued)

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The Joseph T. Donahue School (JTDS) attendance rates for September and October were above 90% for both staff and students. The 4th grade Linkit scores show high standards in both reading and math. In ELA, 64% of students were proficient in identifying vocabulary in informational texts which has been a learning target across the curriculum for our 4th grade students. In math, 72% of students were proficient in comparing forms of multi-digit numbers. The Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), composed of a group of educators, have been collaborating to generate excellent ideas and develop lessons that they have subsequently shared during grade level meetings.

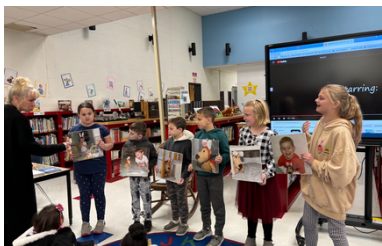
Attendance rates at the Cecil S. Collins School (CSCS) exceeded 90% for both staff and students in September and October. At the start of the school year, on the i-Ready Diagnostic, students demonstrated an overall proficiency of 82% in math and 85% in ELA for standards taught in the previous school year. Notably, preschool students are entering the program with enhanced readiness for grade-level learning. CSCS has experienced a 45% reduction in the number of discipline referrals compared to the previous year. This positive change is attributed to the implementation of social-emotional classroom lessons by school counselors, focusing on topics such as peaceful problem-solving.

The proactive approach to data-driven decision-making in the Barnegat Township School District is producing positive results throughout the schools by creating a more conducive and enriching educational environment for our students. Through ongoing commitment to data-driven practices, we are dedicated to further enhancing the educational experience and ensuring the success of our students.

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## Gifted and Talented Program

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The G&T program is designed to challenge our gifted learners with relevant activities to meet their academic needs. Students in grades 2 through 4 are invited to participate in a program of regular pull-out classes taught by Mrs. Deanna Buccella. During the first half of the year, the grade 2 students focused on learning how to write stories. Mrs. Buccella incorporated fairy tales into her teaching, encouraging students to write sequels to popular stories. To close out the unit, Mrs. Buccella invited Lynn Brattan, the children's author of *A Stuffed Animal and His Little Boy*, to share her book with the students. She covered all of the essential components necessary to write a successful book while making it engaging and enjoyable for the students.

In grade 3, the first project-based learning unit was all about endangered species. The students received the following driving question: 'How can we, as 3rd graders, bring awareness to our school and community about ways in which they can help save the threatened and endangered species in the world?' Students began by researching species that they wanted to help save. They then learned how to create infographics to be shared within the school community and also displayed in the county parks. After the unit concluded, students and parents were treated to Eyes of the Wild, an exotic animal rescue program.

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## Gifted and Talented Program (continued)

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The program emphasized key components the students had studied which include habitat loss, endangered species, and care for the environment. Students and parents had the opportunity to observe an arctic fox, porcupine, hedgehog, alligator, and chinchilla.

Students in fourth grade are in the process of designing an online school newsletter. Through a mini journalism workshop, the students have gained valuable insight into the essential skills for becoming journalists. The workshop included speakers such as a former Channel 12 news anchor, now freelance journalist, and a local writer for the TAPinto Barnegat/Waretown online newspaper. Additionally, insights from the Barnegat High School newspaper students and video news club further enriched the students' understanding of the various aspects of journalism.

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## National Honor Society

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Congratulations to the newest Barnegat High School National Honor Society inductees: Joseph Cannizzaro, Olivia Carll, Christian Chamorro, Sydney Collins, Anthony Costello, Bradley D'Aloia, Jaihan Dominguez, Riley Donlan, Emilia Ercolino, Joseph Ficorilli, Nicholas Ficorilli, Riley Fitzpatrick, Gianna George, Jayna Greenblatt, Lucas Harrer, Daniel Hoffman, Sophia Loutas, Julia Mills, Kyle Nichols, Celestina Passiatore, Isabella Pavan, Nicholas Robertson, Logan Ryan, Carly Schoeneberg, Liliana Sologuren, Emma Thornton, Cole Toddings, Luke Tortorici, and Kyle Wright.

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## Athletics and Highlighted Programs

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Valkyrie Super Smash Brothers Garden State Esports Fall Champions  
League of Legends Garden State Esports Fall Champions  
Girls Volleyball Group 2 South State Champions



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## "I of the Tiger" Award

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The Russell O. Brackman Middle School "I of the Tiger" award honors exceptional teachers who go the extra mile to inspire their students and peers. Congratulations to the following award recipients: Mr. Robert Berentes (November), Mr. Blake Fabian (December), and Mrs. Meghan VanderPyl (January) winners of the "I of the Tiger" awards!



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## UPstander Program

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The Upstander Program is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate students district-wide who demonstrate a specific BENGAL PRIDE character trait. These traits continue to enhance the positive climate in our schools as well as the home-school-community partnership that plays an essential role in our students' success.

### November Nurturing

Mairead Brain, BHS, Grade 12  
Syrah Holmes, ROBMS, Grade 8  
Riley Casale, RLHS, Grade 5  
Kara McWilliams, JTDS, Grade 3  
Valery Vega, CSCS, Grade 2  
Salvatore Roma, LMDS, Preschool

### December Generosity

Victoria Briganti, BHS, Grade 12  
Allie King, ROBMS, Grade 7  
Mila Ellis, RLHS, Grade 6  
Valentina Horbacz, JTDS, Grade 4  
Ahmed Fayed, CSCS, Kindergarten  
Eliza Klass, LMDS, Preschool

### January Acceptance

Joaquin Calderon, BHS, Grade 12  
Layla Jarczynski, ROBMS, Grade 8  
Quincy Deemer, RLHS, Grade 5  
Sienna Gautreaux, JTDS, Grade 4  
Violet Brinson, CSCS, Grade 2  
Gage Gasenheimer, LMDS, Preschool





# District Happenings

