Greetings Team NBPS,

Like the waning October sun, the first half of our “new” school year is quickly nearing its midpoint. As the days get shorter and the holiday season is excitedly not far away, we must keep our shared sense of urgency ever-present in all we do to positively impact the teaching and learning process every day. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for sticking with or joining New Bedford Public Schools. I repeatedly say that we have so much in which to be proud – because we do. As a whole we have a strong, quality staff who serve as models for our students. We have parents who want the best for their children and entrust us with the awesome responsibility each day – thank you!

So far this year I have seen almost 100 classrooms and my team has collectively visited well over 300, highlighting some excellent displays of learning. The excitement and positive engagement between students and staff has been encouraging. Despite the continued challenges, it has been a strong start and we continue building momentum through our positive energy.

To help keep students and staff in school we have implemented a new tool: the Test and Stay Program. With parental permission rapids tests will be administered to students and staff who volunteer, to determine results while they wait. This will help keep students and staff, deemed close contacts, in school by having them tested onsite. Last year, we had many students and staff who were deemed close contacts and missed classes and work. Test and Stay will help keep everyone safe and balance their ability to remain in school. Please see the NBPS website for more information.

On Monday, the DESE extended the mask requirement through at least November 1. While COVID continues to be with us, we are all savi er than a year ago. We know how to proactively deal with the challenge with new tools like Test and Stay to help limit the spread. First among the tools is the vaccine. Eligible students, families and staff are encouraged to participate in one of the many vaccination clinics in the city. See page 6 for this month’s upcoming clinics.

We must stay proactive - keep washing and sanitizing our hands, distance when necessary, and wear our masks when appropriate. We will get through this. Raise student learning. Every day. I leave you with Sheryl Sanberg, “We can each define ambition and progress for ourselves. The goal is to work toward a world where expectations are not set by the stereotypes that hold us back, but by our personal passion, talents and interests.”

Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
When it comes to being a goodwill ambassador for their school, few people come as readily to mind as **Yaitza Mojica-Rodriguez**, who as Junior Clerk Typist at Congdon does so much more. Like the Merriam-Webster definition of “goodwill,” Yaitza — with all whom she interacts — leaves “a kindly feeling of approval and support, and a sense of benevolent interest and concern.” It’s why Congdon’s new principal (and longstanding member of the Congdon Team), Justine Santos, has nominated Yaitza for an Employee Spotlight.

“Mrs. Yaitza Mojica-Rodriguez joined the Congdon team in 2017. Since that time, she has gone above and beyond for Congdon students, families, and staff. Mrs. Rodriguez also supports the FISS program by making calls and translating for families. She is willing to help New Bedford families in any way she can.

“Mrs. Rodriguez is the heart and soul of Congdon School. Whether on the phone or in person, she makes everyone feel heard, valued, and welcomed. Her contagious smile makes every day special. The Congdon family is so fortunate to work with her! Thank you!”

— Justine Santos, Congdon Principal

In recognizing School Nurse **Zelia Reis** for an Employee Spotlight, Brooks Principal Jenn Medeiros notes her outstanding work. “The staff relies on her professional judgement when a situation comes about or when they need advice on how to handle particular situations. Nurse Reis consistently follows up with families to ensure the appropriate documentation and communication takes place between home, school, and the pediatrician’s office. Nurse Reis makes herself available around the clock to conduct phone calls, screen symptoms, or check for clearance to return to school. For example, last semester each and every morning there was a line around the building awaiting her “re-checks” and she conducted each one with a smile, greeting students and families at the door.

Making a decision to keep a child out of school, or send a student home early due to cold-like symptoms is not always a simple decision; however, knowing that Nurse Reis handles each situation with care and uses informed judgement, makes the situation a little easier. She always has a positive outlook and remains calm when handling situations. Nurse Reis is a valued member of our school community and one that we appreciate more than she will ever know! Thank you, Nurse Reis, for keeping us all safe!

— Jenn Medeiros, Brooks Principal
The object of a democratic education is not merely to make an individual an intelligent participant in the life of his immediate group, but to bring the various groups into such constant interaction that no individual, no economic group, could presume to live independently of others.

— John Dewey (1859 -1952)
American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer


Students and staff who are deemed close contacts due to exposure to a COVID positive individual while in school will have the opportunity to be tested using a rapid antigen test and remain in school with a negative result. The close contact will be tested for the next 5 to 7 days to ensure they remain negative. During this time, students will come to school via their normal mode of transportation (bus, walk, drop-off, drive, etc.). A parent will not need to remain at the school until the test result; they will be called to pick up their child in the event of a positive result.

“It is a quick, nasal swab collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, it is not uncomfortable and easy for students to do themselves.”

— Wanda Nunes, NBPS Supervisor of School Nurses
“We recognize the essential role of interpreters and translators in our schools and celebrate the incredible assets that they bring to our community. We seek to build bridges of understanding. We encourage everyone to spread ideas and information in the language they speak with the support of our interpreters and translators.”

AMHERST FELHAM REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“We ensure families have meaningful access to all aspects — programs, opportunities, and services — pertaining to their children’s education. What’s your superpower?”

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION UNIT OFFICE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENTS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Our interpreters not only make words accessible to families and communities, they make the school culture, the world of education accessible to them. Interpreters are not only language brokers; they are culture brokers.”

KELLY JONES DIRECTOR OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION BROOKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“The work of translators and interpreters helps to provide equity and access to our students and families. Their work is of the utmost importance.”

ADAM OLElDI ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Translators and interpreters are essential partners in transforming words into understanding and connection. They are essential in building and maintaining relationships between families and school communities.”

JEANETTE VELIZ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER ESTHER BORHASEANI PORTUGUESE FAMILY LINKS EVERTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Translators and interpreters do more than just speak another language. They create a comfortable, safe environment for parents to express any concerns or questions. They offer support and bridge the gap between our schools and our families.”

JENN GOMEZ & MONICA FERNANDES MIL DIPARTMENT FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“School translators and interpreters play a crucial role in promoting family-school partnership. By facilitating communication and bridging cultural gaps, they help families access resources and participate in all aspects of their child’s education.”

BERNARDO LORENTZ MANAGER OF TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION SERVICES FRAMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“In Lowell Public Schools, our multilingual staff build bridges everyday between our families and our schools. With language services in each school, we see LPS students from all of our communities reaching and achieving success.”

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Translators and interpreters are the conduits for communications between LEP students, families, and educators. Their work ensures every family’s right to fully access information about their child’s learning. They are valuable cultural brokers and bridges to the beautiful, diverse families we serve.”

LAUREN-LEE BARRY, M.Ed. FAMILY-STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION COORDINATOR NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Interpreters ensure that reliable and meaningful communication permeates the cultural fabric of schools to close opportunity gaps for multicultural students and families. They help dismantle systems that have historically perpetuated unjust practices and inequalities for immigrant children and their families in order to build a more sustainable and inclusive world.”

LORENCIA GARCIA, Ed.D. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REVERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Staff members who provide language access are indispensable, offering essential services to families who have a right to be fully informed about their child’s school experience. Translators and interpreters ensure that all families have a strong voice in their child’s educational journey.”

DR. STEPHEN ZAIKE SUPERINTENDENT SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Translators and interpreters are an essential part of creating a sense of belonging and community for second language parents. They engage parents in the educational process of their children. They build bridges to support student social, emotional, and academic success.”

EVA KELLY ESL DIRECTOR FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Educational translators and interpreters are the bridge that connects home and school. You are not alone, we are here to help with the success of each student and each family’s communication. Everybody working together for the benefit of all our kids!”

EDUCATIONAL TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“More than 70% of our students are Multilingual Learners; as such, interpreters are critical to the relationships we build! Their steadfast commitment to quality interpretation makes all the difference for families, who feel valued and respected by the ways in which we engage in two-way communication.”

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Interpretation and Translation are necessary for student success because quality multilingual resources facilitate mutual understanding for educators and families. Meaningful family engagement cannot exist without it.”

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES SOMERVILLE FAMILY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“School translators and interpreters are an essential part of creating a sense of belonging and community for second language parents. They engage parents in the educational process of their children. They build bridges to support student social, emotional, and academic success.”

EVA KELLY ESL DIRECTOR FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Celebrate our translators, our interpreters.

NBPS Educational Translation and Interpretation Services Team (L-R): Limary Rojas, Jenifer Garcia and Fanny Nieves.

In celebration of International Translation Day, September 30, 2021, the Translation Center of the University of Massachusetts Amherst asked select school districts, “what do you want your school community to know about translators and interpreters, or their work in Massachusetts schools?” We are pleased to share the responses we received. We thank everyone for their participation and especially the translators and interpreters who make a difference every single day!

Regina Galasso, PhD
Creutzig Translation Center
Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese Studies
umass.edu/translation

UMass Amherst
College of Humanities & Fine Arts
Translation Center
NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL’S
35th Annual NESBA Marching Band Competition

Sunday, October 17, 2021
1:00PM
McCoy Field, New Bedford

See and hear some of New England’s Top High School Bands!

Andover
BMC Durfee
Bridgewater-Raynham
Dartmouth
Dighton-Rehoboth
Falmouth
Joseph Case
Shepherd Hill
New Bedford HS

New England Scholastic Band Association
For more information contact Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts, NBPS 508-997-4511 x14104
**Adult Volunteers Needed**

We are happy to announce a great opportunity to get involved with our community and assist a local organization.

**What is Gifts to Give?** Gifts to Give’s mission is to remain focused on building a new currency for philanthropy by building a more caring community that’s focused on child poverty, literacy, service to others and giving. By sharing our gifts, we can ensure that children are connected with what they need both physically and mentally.

**What would I do as a volunteer?** Volunteers do everything from unloading donations from cars and trucks to assembling individual gift package requests for children in need, sent by distribution partners.

**Where are they located?** Gifts to Give is located right in Acushnet, MA.

**How can I sign up or learn more?** To learn more about this organization and how to volunteer please visit: giftstogive.org/online-volunteer-request or call 508-717-8715.

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**NBPS Vaccination Clinics Schedule**

The City of New Bedford Health Department and New Bedford Public Schools are hosting weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics through early November at Keith, Normandin, and Roosevelt middle schools, and NBHS. Students, parents, faculty and staff members all are welcome at the free, walk-up clinics.

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Thank you!
EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS:
AIC WANTS TO MEET YOU!

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION SESSIONS

COMMUNITY ROOM
AT MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
1135 N Main St, Fall River, MA 02720

Meet with admissions staff to learn more about AIC’s educator prep programs, the application process, initial and professional license opportunities, and our convenient format. Application fee waiver provided to all attendees.

OCT.
14
4:00-6:00 PM EST
4:00-5:00 PM EST
5:00-6:00 PM EST

90% OF GRADUATES EMPLOYED AT MA PUBLIC SCHOOLS*
97% OF GRADUATES REMAIN EMPLOYED FOR 2 YEARS*

*According to the Massachusetts Department of Education

The School of Education at American International College has moved to a virtual learning format for all Master’s and CAGS programs.

Programs will be offered in a combination of:
- REMOTE courses with live interactions taught by AIC faculty in a virtual “face-to-face” classroom.
- ONLINE courses with flexible scheduling to enable independent and meaningful learning.

TO REGISTER, SCAN THE CODE HERE OR VISIT AIC.EDU/GRTRAVEL

AIC
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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