



Bridgeton Public Schools

March 14, 2022
Volume 2, Issue 24

Superintendent's Winter Edition Bulldog Briefing

Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools

Happy Monday Bulldog Team!

I hope everyone had a great weekend and made out okay with the hour we lost this morning. Our [CALI score](#) is holding steady at green; we are the only region in the state with a "low" designation. Now that [parents are informed](#), our maintenance team will begin removing plastic shields mounted on students' desks. I have been informed that removal of the desk shields will be a lengthy project, which will take place over the weekends, in the evenings, and potentially over spring break. There is no need for staff to place requests in SchoolDude at this time.



As part of Women's History Month, I would like to celebrate Judge Demetrica Todd-Ruiz, who made history as the first woman and the first African American to serve as a Chief Judge on the Vineland Municipal Court. Judge Todd-Ruiz was inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame for her many contributions to the Cumberland County community and for inspiring students across Bridgeton. Having participated in countless career day events, Judge Todd-Ruiz has a powerful

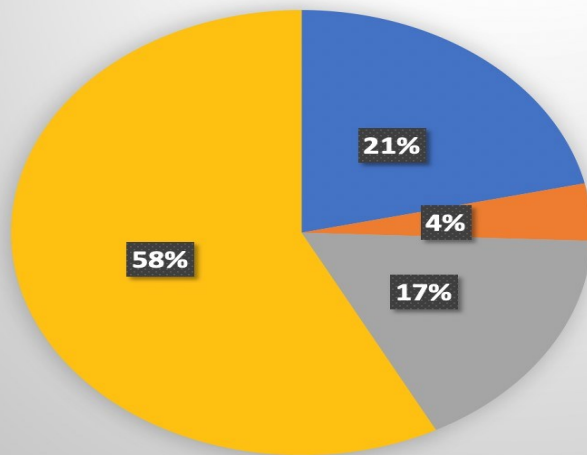
story and can be found encouraging other women and young ladies to keep pushing toward their goals. This weekend, she blessed all those in attendance at Union Baptist Temple in Bridgeton, with a message entitled "You go girl...you got this!"

In addition to Women's History Month, I would like to thank all those staff members who wore yellow on International SEL Day (Friday, March 11, 2022) as a symbol of optimism, positivity, happiness, and mental focus. Dr. Ajayi and Mrs. Wilchensky are spearheading our SEL efforts, and as a result of their work, we have made huge strides in our district, working to meet the social emotional needs of our students. It has truly been a team effort infusing SEL lessons daily for all students, and providing more intensive supports for our at-risk students. Thanks for doing your part!



Ready, Set, Read!

555 Respondents --> Opinions on Masking as of March 7th

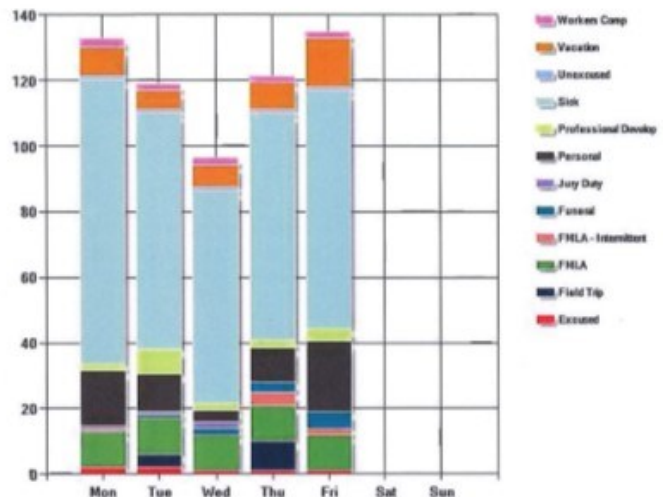


- A (119/555) Everyone Masked Until June
- B (23/555) Everyone Masked Until August
- C (93/555) Everyone Masked Until Green Rating (Now)
- D (320/555) Masks Optional Starting Mar. 7th

Meetings/Community Engagement Mar. 7 - 11

- ◆ Individual Check-ins with the School Business Administrator, the Executive Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services, and the Director of Student Services.
- ◆ Board Finance Committee Meeting
- ◆ Board Facilities Committee Meeting
- ◆ March Board Meeting
- ◆ Great Schools New Jersey Monthly Meeting
- ◆ Cabinet Meeting
- ◆ Weekly Check-in with Principals
- ◆ NJPSA Virtual ELL Summit
- ◆ Meeting with BHS Teen Center Staff
- ◆ Affirmative Action Cases & Updates Meetings
- ◆ Sunday Worship Services at Union Temple Baptist Church
- ◆ Conversations and negotiations meetings with Association leadership, Business Administrator, Board members, and attorneys are ongoing.
- ◆ Conversations with the Board President, Vice President, and other Board members are ongoing.

Mar. 7th – Mar. 11th Staff Attendance



Mar. 7th – Mar. 11th Fill Rate – 34%

Upcoming Dates/Events

- ◆ Mar. 14-17 - GPA State Testing at BHS
11:30 am Dismissals
- ◆ Mar. 17 - Administrative Council
- ◆ Mar. 18 - One Session for Students:
Professional Development for Staff
- ◆ Mar. 22 - Pandemic Response Team Meeting
- ◆ Mar. 22 - Board Special Action Meeting

March is Women's History Month

District Dons Yellow for International SEL Day



Bridgeton High's Student Athletes Reach 1000 Point Hoop Milestones

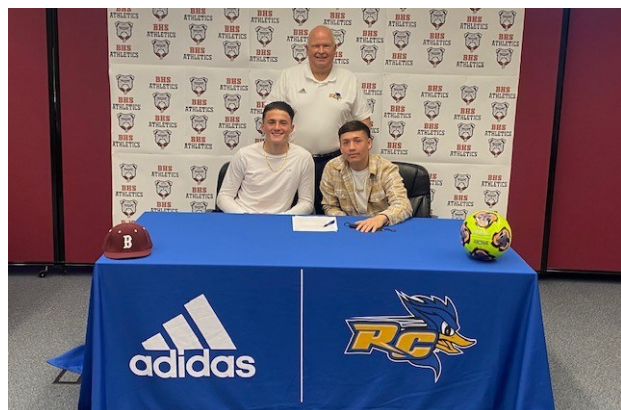
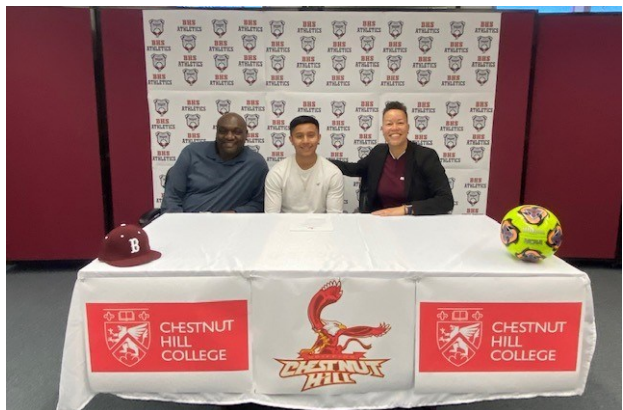
Bridgeton High School seniors Nijah Tanksley and Jabril Bowman both reached their 1,000 point milestones in basketball during this season that just ended. Both Nijah and Jabril, pictured with Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach Carlos Lebron and Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach George Linen, are the March Athletes of the Month.



Nijah finished her high school basketball career with 1,071 points by scoring 338 her senior year. She made First Team All-Conference and Southern New Jersey All-Star and was awarded the Most Courageous Female Athlete Award for Southern New Jersey. Nijah will be playing in the Albert J. Carino All-Star game and as well in the Cape Atlantic All-Star game.

Jabril Bowman scored his 1000 points versus Woodbury High School on February 22, 2022. Jabril made First Team All-Conference, and will be playing in the Albert J. Carino All-Star game as well as the Cape Atlantic All-Star game.

BHS Soccer Standouts Sign Letters of Intent



Three Bridgeton High School senior athletes recently signed letters of intent to play soccer at the college level! Jair Ruesga-Diaz and Yllzon Sylejmani will attend Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester Campus as a Roadrunner, and Jason Barragan Lesama will be attending Chestnut Hill College as a Griffin. Congratulations to each student for this very well-deserving accolade!



Christina Mendolera is a Literacy Leader!

Ms. Christina Mendolera has been working in Bridgeton for 15 years, and her 4th grade classroom is alive with literacy! You can walk into her classroom on any given day and catch her reading to or with her students. She says that reading and watching her students make connections is her favorite part of teaching!

Although it was hard for her to choose, she said that *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, and any Roald Dahl book are her favorites.

Ms. Mendolera leads the One School, One Book initiative at Indian Avenue School and conducts a Live Wax Museum yearly. As part of the Wax Museum, students must research a person and essentially become them. Ms. Mendolera says it is incredible to watch her students come alive and give speeches as though they were that person. Her advice to new teachers is, "Do not get upset if something is not going the way you envisioned. You will learn from it and grow from it. Sometimes it happens for a reason, and it actually comes out better than expected!"

Ms. Mendolera is always willing to help a colleague, and she challenges everyone to think outside the box!

Do not get upset if something is not going the way you envisioned. You will learn from it and grow from it. Sometimes it happens for a reason, and it actually comes out better than expected!"

Ms. Christina Mendolera



**BHS Music Department
presents
"Music in Our Schools"
March 17
7:00 PM BHS Auditorium**

**Featuring
BHS String Ensemble
BHS Jazz Band
BHS Vocal Ensemble**



7th and 8th grade students and parents are invited to join us at 6:15 for a pre-concert chat to learn more about music opportunities at BHS

Our Board Members



Kenny Smithbey Jr.
President



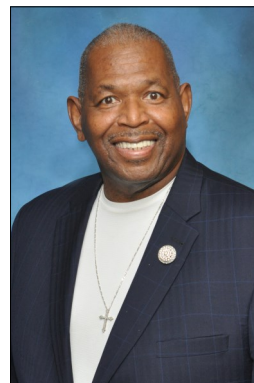
Tyrone Williams
Vice President



Angelia Edwards
Member



Dionne Edwards
Member



Albert Morgan
Member



Erica Mosley
Member



Mary Peterson
Member



Ashlee Todd
Member