



Bridgeton Public Schools

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Superintendent's Spring Edition Bulldog Briefing

Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools

Happy Monday Bulldog Team!

This week, Bridgeton Public Schools will celebrate and add four additional honorees to the Bridgeton High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Past honorees have included former educators DeEdwin Hursey, Austin Gould, Joyce Powell, Felton Lingo and Robert Sharp; local business owners Edgar Joyce, Gary Simmerman and Sidna Prickett; renown fashion designer James Galanos; retired athletes George Jamison, Richard Kates and Harold Gould; and civic leaders Samuel Hunter, Mayor Albert Kelly, Carl Kirstein and Judge Demetrica Todd ... to name a few. Our four most recent honorees are:

- ◆ **Nancy Sungenis**, a proud member of the BHS Class of **1957**, has been the chairperson of her class reunion committee for over 60 years. Nancy co-founded Sungenis Insurance Agency with her husband in 1963 and still works there today. Nancy served on the Hopewell Township Committee and was the first female mayor of Hopewell Township and also the first female mayor in Cumberland County. She is chairperson of the Cumberland County Regular Democratic Committee and serves as chairwoman of the Rowan College of South Jersey's Trustee Search Committee.



- ◆ **Iris Santiago** graduated from BHS in **1981** and presently is an accomplished Bilingual Educator in the Bridgeton school district. Her love and passion has always led to education and building pathways for the students in our community. Her 27-year career in education has earned her influential recognition, including Educator of the Year and the State of New Jersey's Governor's Educator of the Year Program. Iris has held the VP position of the Greater Bridgeton Women's Club, President of Bridgeton HUD and member of the Bridgeton Public Library Board of Trustees.

- ◆ **John Boykin III** is a **1956** BHS graduate where he participated in football and track. He retired from Vineland Public Schools as a classroom teacher and coach in 2008. John prides himself in being a Master Barber with more than 60 years of barbering and hairstyling experience. Coach Boykin initiated the Vineland PAL Track Program, the City of Vineland Middle School Interscholastic Track and Field Program and was head coach for his private travelling track club: Quick Silver Track Club of NJ (USATF affiliated). He also coached track at Vineland High and Middle schools. Most notably, Coach Boykin was an All-American Masters Track & Field competitor, earning national recognition in long jump, shot put and the 100 meter. His highlight was to participate in the Penn Relays Master Races while in his 70s.



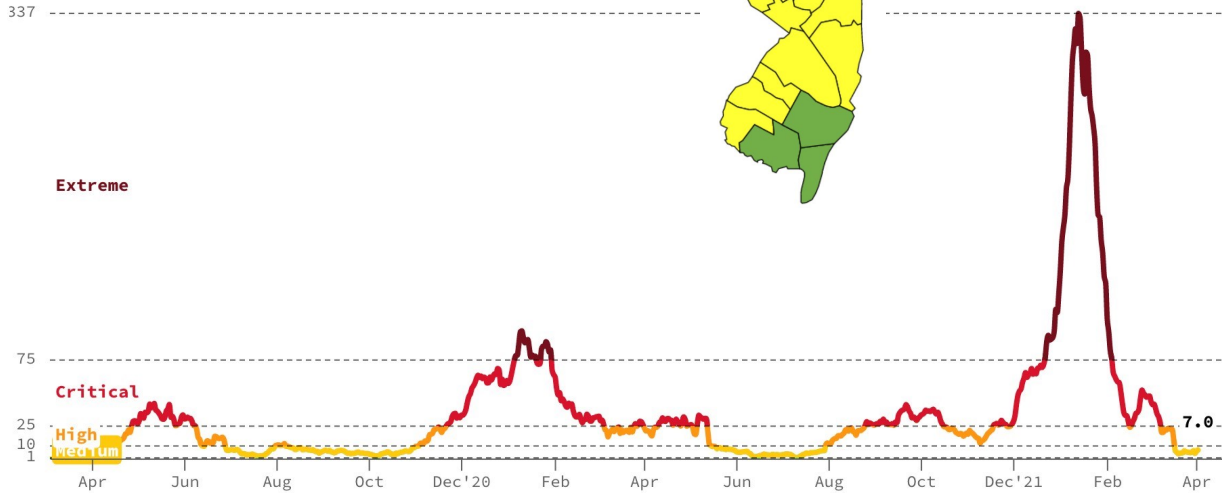
- ◆ **Patricia Dames Bayron** (posthumous) graduated from BHS in **1965** and she went on to serve in the United States Navy, Navy Reserve, and the New Jersey Air National Guard. She was the first woman Human Resource Advisor in the NJ Air National Guard, the first woman to graduate from the Air Force Senior NCO Academy and was the second female in the 50-year history of the NJ Air National Guard to be inducted into the McGuire Air Force Base Chief's Council. Serving for 35 years, Patricia Dames not only retired as the first African American Chief Master Sergeant in the NJ Air National Guard but was ranked the highest female in the state of New Jersey.

Ready, Set, Read!

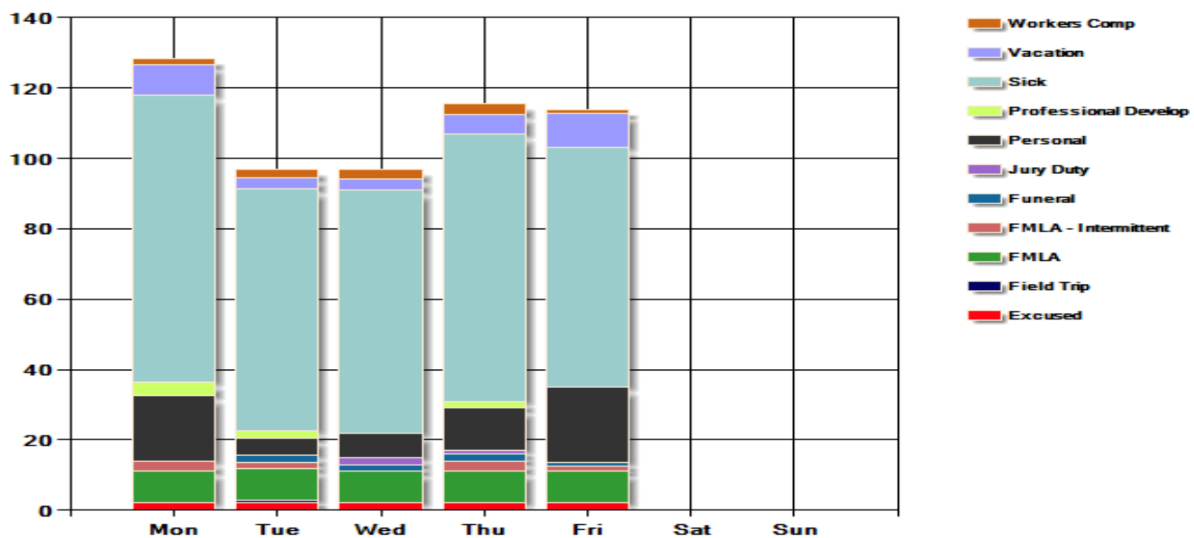
Cumberland County COVID-19 Cases Update

Cases

DAILY NEW CASES INFECTION RATE POSITIVE TEST RATE
 ● **7.0** PER 100K ● **0.73** ● **1.2%**



Mar. 28th – Apr. 1st Staff Attendance



Mar. 28th – Apr. 1st Fill Rate – 32%

Upcoming Dates and Events

- ◆ Apr. 5 - 3rd Marking Period Ends
- ◆ Apr. 6 - Wellness Wednesday One Session; Report Cards

- ◆ Apr. 6 - Job Fair, 1-4 pm, BHS
- ◆ Apr. 15 - Good Friday, Spring Break begins

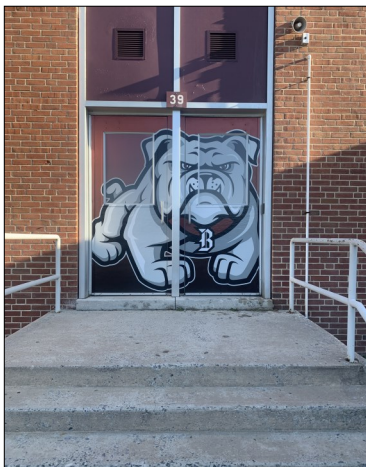


Rebranding Project Brings New Energy to BHS



Bridgeton High School's wonderful re-branding journey started over a year ago. We finally got all of our "BULLDOGS" in order and gave BHS a face-lift. Everyone is so excited about this. Our Josten rep Terry McGovern worked with us and we have many new wonderful visual images to greet our students, staff, families and visitors to BHS. Very soon we will have additional signage added to BHS. Thank you to all involved and all who supported this project.

"Students and staff are elated as we move BHS from a school to a campus!"
- Steve Morris, BHS Principal





Literacy Leaders: Patty Talavera, Elsie Figueroa



This week, we have a team of literacy leaders! The powerful Broad Street Kindergarten team of Ms. Patty Talavera and Ms. Elsie Figueroa has been creating a welcoming, literacy-rich environment for their students for the last seven years.

"Do not ever be afraid to be creative or think outside of the box in order to give every student in your class a chance for success."

- Patty Talavera

Ms. Talavera has been working in the district for 22 years, with 18 months teaching in Mexico. She says that her favorite part of teaching is seeing her students' excitement and how they can surprise her with what they know and learn. Ms. Talavera loves it when the students bring their own ideas to the lesson, which she says are sometimes better than hers! Ms. Talavera loves her Super Hero of the Day daily routine. She uses the name of a student to practice writing and math skills. She also loves using animals to introduce letter sounds. Ms. Talavera wants to remind all teachers, "There is never one program, series, or method that can provide your class with 100% of what they need. Multiple strategies and small

groups will be your best friend. Do not ever be afraid to be creative or think outside of the box in order to give every student in your class a chance for success. Bring your passion into the classroom. If you are excited, your students will be excited too!"

Ms. Figueroa has been in Bridgeton for 18 years. She loves working with students in small groups. Ms. Figueroa loves to teach the students how vowels and consonants work together in the Spanish language. She says understanding this helps the students to become better readers and

"Be creative in the classroom. The teacher's manual can guide you, but you need to bring your own sparkle."

- Elsie Figueroa

writers. Ms. Figueroa's favorite book to read with students is *Corduroy* by Don Freeman. She wants to remind all teachers to ... "Be creative in the classroom. The teacher's manual can guide you, but you need to bring your own sparkle!"



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