



Superintendent's Winter Edition **Bulldog Briefing**

Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools



Season's Greetings!

**Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. and Superintendent's Office
Staff: Judy, Robin, Arletha and Elizabeth**

Happy Monday Bridgeton Team!

On this first day of winter, wishing each of you peace, love, joy, and happiness as we close out what has been a challenging year! I hope over the holiday break, each of you has an opportunity to slow down and reflect on where we have been in 2020 and where we are going in 2021 and beyond. To be at our best, we must consistently and intentionally carve out time to assess and reflect on our past as we forge into the future.

If reflecting and journaling doesn't come easy to you, you can begin by listing:

- 10 highlights/accomplishments from 2020
- 5 disappointments
- 3 unexpected events that changed your course
- 3 areas of focus
- 3 things you did not get around to
- As a result of these lists, what are your plans for 2021?

Please review the biographies and photos of our 2020-2021 Governor's Educational Professionals and Teachers of the Year, which are listed throughout this briefing. Please join me in congratulating these and other staff members who answered the call to make a difference in the lives of our young people through a career in education. I am truly honored to lead an organization filled with such talented and dedicated professionals working hard to positively impact the lives of the students entrusted in our care. Congratulations to each of this year's award recipients!

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of today, our confirmed COVID-19 total cases since 10/13 are currently at: **33**

- 3 Positive Staff Cases at the Thomas C. Lane Administration Building
– Building was temporarily closed for in-person until 12/14

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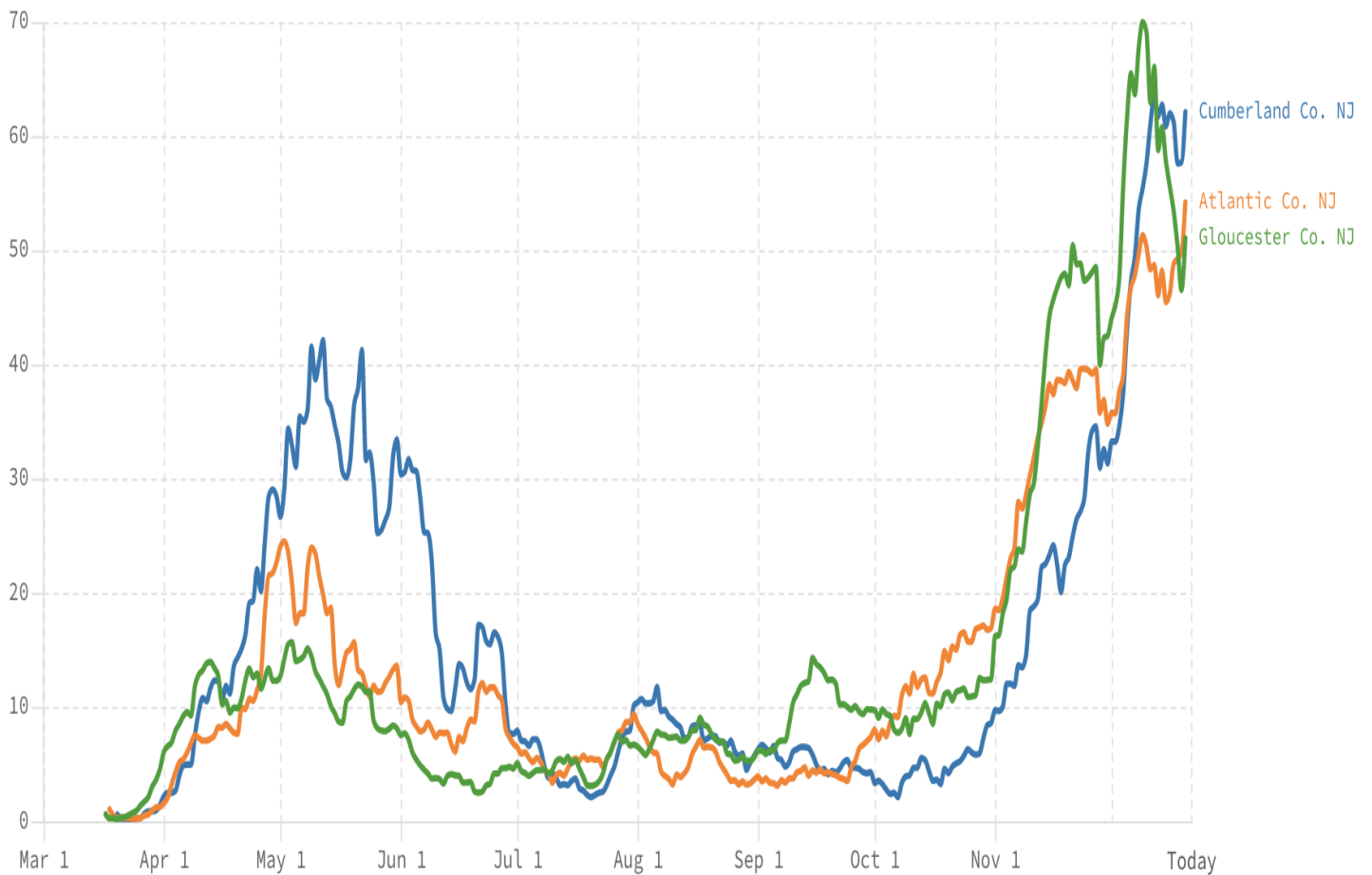


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- 3 Positive Staff Cases at Broad Street
- 4 Positive Staff Cases at Buckshutem Road
- 1 Positive Staff Case at Cherry Street
- 1 Positive Staff Case at the Annex
- 1 Positive Staff Case at the ExCEL
- 1 Positive Staff Case at GOFEC
- 3 Positive Staff Cases at Indian Avenue
- 6 Positive Staff Cases at Quarter Mile Lane
 - Building was temporarily closed for in-person
 - Reopened on November 9th
- 5 Positive Staff Cases at West Avenue
- 5 Positive Cases at BHS
 - Building was temporarily closed
 - Reopened on 11/30
 - Two student cases
 - Three staff cases



CASES PER 100K POPULATION IN CUMBERLAND CO. NJ, ATLANTIC CO. NJ AND GLOUCESTER CO. NJ



Student Average Daily Attendance/Engagement (average percentage of students who engaged at some point throughout the day)					
	Week 11 11/16-11/20 Average	Week 12 11/23-11/25 Average	Week 13 11/30-12/4 Average	Week 14 12/7-12/11 Average	Week 15 12/14-12/18 Average
District-Wide	91%	91%	93%	95%	94%
Broad Street School	91%	91%	94%	96%	94%
Buckshutem Rd School	87%	86%	89%	92%	90%
Cherry Street School	84%	84%	87%	90%	89%
Indian Avenue School	96%	95%	95%	96%	95%
Quarter Mile Ln School	94%	93%	94%	95%	94%
West Avenue School	91%	93%	94%	94%	93%
ExCEL Program	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%
Bridgeton High School	93%	93%	93%	96%	96%
Dr. Geraldyn O. Foster ECC	90%	90%	94%	94%	95%

Meetings and Community Engagements for the Week of Dec. 14 to Dec. 18

- Individual meetings with the Business Administrator, the Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Special Education, Director of Research, Evaluation and Testing.
- Restart Committee Meeting with Pandemic Response Liaisons from all sites
- Meeting with County Superintendent
- Superintendent's Goals Development Meeting
- Conversations with Association Leadership are ongoing
- Conversations with the Board President, VP, and other Board members are ongoing
- Leadership Team Meeting
- QML Literacy and Craft Night
- Jersey Retirement Celebration for Angelia Edwards and Larry Jones
- December Administrative Council
- Delta Sigma Theta Check Presentation to West Avenue School
- 2021-2022 Budget Planning Follow Up Meetings
- Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting
- Two Classroom Visitations to Observe SEL Integration

Upcoming Dates/Events

- Parents and Superintendent, Virtual COVID-19 Town Hall on January 6th (5:30-6:45 pm) in Spanish and January 7th (6:00-7:00 pm) in English
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020 One Session Day
- Winter Recess, Schools Closed Dec. 24th to Jan. 1st
- 100% Remote Instruction Resumes January 4, 2021
- Projected return to in-person learning - January 19, 2021

Meals for the Week of December 14th

Reported By
Mr. DeShields

Students Served:
3,474

Meals Served:
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
38,258

GOVERNOR'S TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Bridgeton High School

TSgt George Linen Sr. has been employed as an Air Force JROTC Aerospace Science Instructor at Bridgeton High School for the past 13 years. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Ashford University in Educational Studies and three Associates Degrees from the Community College of the Air Force in Human Resources Management, Occupational Education, and Aircraft Maintenance. TSgt Linen retired honorably from the United States Air Force after serving 20 plus years.

TSgt Linen is the oldest child of Bernard and Mary Linen. He was born and raised in Newark, NJ, where he met his high school sweetheart, Lennita Porter, and has been married for more than 30 years. The father of four and grandfather of four lives and teaches by the Air Force core values, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All That You Do." Currently, TSgt Linen is the head coach for the BHS Girls Varsity Basketball Team. He is also a BEA Union Representative for BHS.



TSgt. George Linen Sr.



Ms. Heather Camlin

Broad Street School

I received my Bachelor's degree in Radio/TV/Film and Journalism from Rowan University and a Master's degree in Education from Neumann University. Shortly after graduating with my Masters, I began my teaching career. I started teaching at local colleges and transitioned to the public school after one year.

Currently, I teach 6th grade English Language Arts at BSS, and I teach Public Speaking at Rowan University. In addition, I am the PBSIS Coach for BSS. Teaching is a true passion of mine. I come from a family of educators. I am so happy I chose to pursue education. Watching students grow academically, emotionally, and developmentally is so rewarding. In addition to teaching, I love making memories with my husband Jared and my three sons. We enjoy playing and watching sports (I coach my son's soccer team), watching movies, completing puzzles, playing board games, and creating a love for education.

Buckshutem Road School

Stacy Warner graduated from Wilkes University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She began her teaching career in 2012 at The Graham Academy, a private special education school, located in Luzerne, PA. In 2015, Stacy moved to New Jersey where she continued teaching at Salem County Special Services School District. Throughout her time spent in both school districts, Stacy taught students from grades K-7 with severe Autism as well as students in grades 9-12 with severe cognitive impairments. In 2017, Stacy began teaching at Buckshutem Road School, in a moderate cognitive impairments classroom. While at Buckshutem, Stacy has taken an active role in enhancing life skills and job skills opportunities for her students. She developed a Life Skills curriculum, as well as started a student-run coffee business, *Coffee Kids*, within the school.



Ms. Stacy Warner

GOVERNOR'S TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Cherry Street School

I am a native of the Narrowsburg, in the Catskill Mountains of Upstate, New York. I attended the STAR technical institute for Medical Assistant, receiving my certificate I worked for 8 years with Dr. Zae Uh Shim, Pediatrician. I raised my 3 children while going to school and working. I graduated Cumberland County College with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, and Rowan University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education. My career at Cherry Street school started the 2013-2014 school year, teaching middle school Science. In 2016, I traveled for the first time out of the country (and off the East coast) on a Holocaust Tour offered through NJEA. We visited many amazing, sobering and inspirational sites in the countries of Germany, Poland, Czech and the Netherlands. This trip ignited a desire to explore and see more of the world! In 2018, I was selected and attended the Maitland Simmons Memorial Award Summer Institute.



Ms. Heather Engler



Ms. Michele Evans

Dr. Geraldyn O. Foster Early Childhood Center

Michele received her BA in Early Childhood Education from Rowan University in 2010 along with a dual major in Writing Arts/English. She has her K-5 certification as well. She graduated with her MA as a Reading/Writing Specialist from Rowan in 2019. When she completed her Clinical Practice for the student teaching experience, her cooperating teacher, Heather Dian, was influential in the decision to focus on early childhood education. Michele taught at Cherry Street School as a 2nd grade teacher for three years and then was transferred to GOF ECC. She started becoming more involved with the BEA and active with the school activities and climate. Michele was transferred to Quarter Mile Lane Pre-School in the summer of 2017. Currently, she is back at GOF ECC in the PK classroom. She serves as co-chair of the Election Committee for the BEA, Rep for Elementary for BEA, Association Rep for the building, and head of the social committee at GOF ECC.

ExCEL

Straight out of Rowan University in 2014, I started my first teaching job as a Health and Physical Education Teacher at the ExCEL Program. I can honestly say I hit the jackpot! School, staff, and my HPE supervisor have been nothing short of amazing for my teaching career. They have given me the tools to be the teacher I am today.

I'm truly humbled for this nomination for teacher of the year. Extra commitment is second nature to me, I love creating or having my hand in anything that keeps the school/district functioning and puts smiles on students faces.

I am a coach for all three seasons for both Bridgeton middle school and high school sports. Promoting an active healthy lifestyle to students and staff fuels my soul.

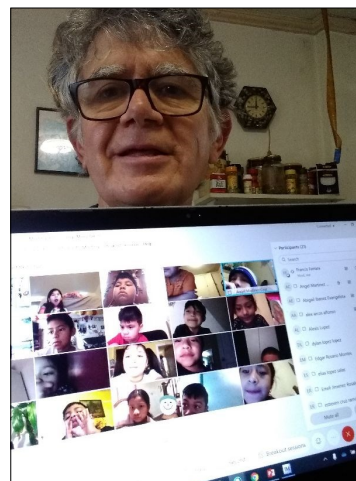


Ms. Elle Rivera

GOVERNOR'S TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Indian Avenue School

Born in Baltimore, MD, the 3rd of 7 siblings, Fran Ferrara's family moved to East Brunswick when he was 7. He dropped out of the University of Wisconsin after 2 years, ran for the local school board and lost, and settled into a janitor job at Bambergers. A fellow janitor and college dropout announced he was going back to school to become a math teacher and get summers off. Fran followed suit, soon switching his major to kindergarten/primary, looking forward to the challenge of teaching young ones. Jobless in a market populated with baby boomers, he decided to become a nomadic substitute teacher. He joined VESS – Volunteers for Educational and Social Services, and landed his first teaching job – a new kindergarten in a Catholic school on the south side of San Antonio, Tx. Moved on to 3 years in a public school in San Benito. He moved back to Jersey finding a job in Bridgeton. The rest is history – 46th year teaching, most of those as a bilingual 1st grade teacher.



Mr. Francis Ferrara



Mr. Joel Howard

Quarter Mile Lane School

Mr. Joel Howard has worked as a bilingual teacher in the Bridgeton Public School district for 5 years. He is a 2006 Houghton College graduate and Rowan University graduate student (Bilingual/Bicultural Education Endorsement, 2019). Having grown up in Ecuador, South America, Mr. Howard understands first-hand the experience of second-language learners. Mr. Howard teaches second grade bilingual at Quarter Mile Lane School and also works as a bilingual instructional tutor for the Gloucester County Special Services School District. He has previously worked as a grade 3-5 Transitional Bilingual Program teacher. He leads QML's Gifted and Talented club, and has also worked as a summer and after school program teacher with Bridgeton's Immigrant, English Learner Academy and Migrant programs. He serves as a new teacher mentor for Bridgeton Public Schools, sits on QML School's Principal Leadership Committee as well as contributes in several other leadership capacities.

West Avenue School

Mr. Buirch is a Health and Physical Education teacher. His career began at Cherry Street School in 1990 (5 years) and he has been teaching at West Avenue School for the past 25 years. He graduated from Cumberland Regional High School and earned a BA degree from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). In his 30 years of teaching, Warren has coached elementary level to the university level sports. In Bridgeton, he has coached Freshmen, JV and Midget basketball and served as the Assistant Varsity Offensive football coach. Outside the District, he has coached in two Division III National Championships for football (Rowan) and earned a state Championship in Girls Basketball at Sacred Heart HS. He and his colleagues designed West Avenue's Code of Conduct and Discipline, and they also collaborated to interconnect content from Math, Literacy, and Science with Health and Phys Ed. Married with 2 children, he is dedicated to cheering on student athletes in So. Jersey.



Mr. Warren Buirch

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Bridgeton High School

Dr. Amanda Ijeoma Alexandria Nnachetam has been a dedicated employee of the Bridgeton School District since 2008. As a member of the Child Study Team, she works diligently to make sure that the needs of the special education students at BHS and the private programs are met. Dr. Nnachetam has also filled many other roles during her time at BHS including being the current co-Advisor for the class of 2022, former advisor of the BHS LEO club, African American club, and BHS Drama Club. Dr. Nnachetam is very involved in the Bridgeton community. She is a long-standing member of Glory Tabernacle where she has served as the youth ministry and summer camp director and where she still serves as a member of the Worship Ministry Team. Since 2011, Dr. Nnachetam has also run a non-profit organization, "Brighter Paths New Jersey," whose mission is to promote community empowerment by providing quality affordable mental health services to underserved populations.



Dr. Amanda Nnachetam



Ms. Elsie Figueroa

Broad Street School

Elsie Figueroa was born and raised in Cidra, Puerto Rico, moving to Bridgeton in 1996. She lives happily with her husband, two children, and two grandchildren. Elsie has worked as a Paraprofessional for Bridgeton Public Schools for 17 years, at West Avenue School in the Special Education CMI class as well as an LD class. She was also part of the Special Education Program at Broad Street School for many years. After 10 years of working with Special Education, Elsie began working with Kindergarten Bilingual students at BSS, which is where she continues to work today. Along with her responsibilities as a Paraprofessional, Mrs. Figueroa also holds her K-5 substitute certificate. She has also worked with the Summer Migrant Program and Pathways. Elsie also interprets for the nurse, teachers, main office, helping during parent conferences, working with parents to resolve technology issues, distributing laptops and iPads, and maintaining close contact with parents.

Buckshutem Road School

Mr. Hyson has been teaching and working at Buckshutem Road School for his entire professional career, which began in 2002 as a third grade teacher. He then moved to teaching middle school science for eight years, before becoming the Technology Coordinator in 2011.

Now in his 19th year in Bridgeton, Mr. Hyson is helping teachers meet the newest challenges of virtual and hybrid learning in innovative and creative ways, while providing support to parents and students with all of their one-to-one devices.

Surrounded by the fantastic staff at Buckshutem Road School, we continue to strive for the best.



Mr. Jeffrey Hyson

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Cherry Street School

Temika Langston-Myers is a 5th/6th grade paraprofessional at Cherry Street School since 2014. She and her husband have been together for 23 years and have four sons. She loves teaching Bible classes and Sunday School. Mrs. Langston-Myers has shown herself to be a passionate educational-leader whose work has earned her the respect, admiration, and trust of her peers, parents, and students. She exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator - creativity, dedication, a love for learning, mastery of content, and a true commitment to excellence. Too often young people feel isolated and rejected by their peers and family members, yet Mrs. Langston-Myers has a gift for creating a 'safe' environment where problems can be addressed, and hope encouraged. She is also a political advocate outside of school on a local, state, and national level. She works to promote laws and policies that affect her students, fellow educators, and community.



Ms. Temika Langston-Myers



Ms. Olga Carlson

Dr. Geraldyn O. Foster Early Childhood Center

I have always known that I would become a teacher since I was about 4 years old, "playing school" with anyone who was willing to play with me. After college, I taught Preschool for BPUM in Camden, NJ (1993), Basic Skills to 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at Bowe Elementary School in Glassboro (1994). In 1995, my career began here in Bridgeton as the only Preschool Teacher at Cherry Street School and since 2003, I have been a Preschool Master Teacher. I love having students come back to visit and say that I made a difference in their lives. I strongly believe in instilling a passion for lifetime learning into students. I believe that every child can reach their learning potential, with high expectations, the necessary support and opportunities, and a caring classroom. I am passionate about the teaching profession and have never lost sight of the reason I love teaching.... the students! I am fortunate enough to work

Indian Avenue School

Since joining IAS during the 2015-2016 school year as an Instructional Aide to the Kindergarten class, Ms. Wuzzardo has embraced the joys and challenges of education. After earning her Associate's Degree from Cumberland County College (now, Rowan College) and substitute teaching throughout the district, Ms. Wuzzardo found a home assisting the amazing LLD students throughout the IAS family. Over the past five years, she has worked with every middle school grade level; she enjoys this curriculum and working with students during this unique growing period in life the most. Beyond the classroom, she brings her home-team spirit and expertise coaching Bridgeton Middle School girls Softball, local girls Field Hockey and BHS girls Basketball, helping to lead them into the playoffs in the 2019-2020 season. In her free time, she participates in the Big Brother Big Sister Program, spending time with



Ms. Meredith Wuzzardo

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR 2020-2021

Quarter Mile Lane School

I am a devoted employee of Bridgeton Public Schools for the past 20 years. Not only have I dedicated my teaching career to helping our students become lifelong learners, but I am also a graduate of Bridgeton High School. It is a goal of mine to continue giving back to the district that helped pave my educational path. In 2006, I earned a Master of Arts degree in School Leadership and, more recently, was awarded a Masters in Reading Education from Rowan University with a Reading Specialist certification in 2018. I dedicated my teaching career to Elementary Education where I spent 14 years as a Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade Teacher. As a classroom teacher I fostered student curiosity and interest in learning through engaging and hands on lessons. For the last 5 years, I have been the Master Teacher for QML. I wear many different hats; however, the basis of my job is to be an edu-



Ms. Kristi Schoppe



Ms. Rebecca Burgoon

West Avenue School

Rebecca Burgoon has been a Special Education Paraprofessional for 15 years. After working in various classroom and school settings, she finds that West Avenue School is by far her favorite.

As a para she gets to build relationships with her students that go beyond academics. She is driven to help her students overcome barriers that impact their learning. "I get to watch students struggle at something and work through it. The best part is when they have the "Aha" moment or they repeat one of my "Ms. B" talks."

Rebecca has a Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministries. She is also an ABA Behavior Therapist working with Preschoolers who have Autism. She volunteers with Special Olympics, Tim Tebow's Night to Shine and enjoys spending time with her family.



Mr. Mario Derosé

Bridgeton High School Educator Receives STEM Research Grant

We are thrilled to share the good news with you that Mr. Mario Derosé of Bridgeton High School has been named a recipient of a Society for Science & the Public [STEM Research Grant](#)! This is a testament to the good work Mr. Derosé is doing to support students in STEM research.

Congratulations on Mr. Derosé's selection!