

Happy Fall!



News & Updates - October 2016

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Cedar Hill School Named Blue Ribbon School for 2016-2017

On September 28, 2016, U.S. Secretary of Education John King, Jr. recognized Cedar Hill School as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2016 based on the school's overall academic excellence.

Representatives from Cedar Hill School will be honored at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 7-8 in Washington, D.C. In its 34-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on more than 8,000 of America's schools.



Cedar Hill is the 10th public school in Morris County to receive this honor since the program's inception.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award plaque affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The award flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- *Exemplary High Performing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.
- *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The U.S. Secretary of Education invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.



Board of Education Seeks to Improve Air Quality as Part of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Initiative

As part of the Montville Township Public School's Goal of attaining Bronze Level Certification through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program, we are sharing information regarding New Jersey's Anti-Idling Law:

Idling cars, trucks, school buses, public and private transportation buses, and off-road construction vehicles/equipment all contribute to the degradation of local air quality. Current regulations limit engine idling for both diesel and gasoline vehicles to three minutes with limited exceptions. Violations can be issued by NJDEP, County Environmental Health Officers, or local police departments. As we prepare to enter the cold weather season, we want to remind parents, guardians and community members of this New Jersey law which has been in place since 1986.

Idling is an operating mode where the vehicle engine is in operation while the vehicle is stationary at any location.

How much idling is allowed?

No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the engine of a diesel or gas powered motor vehicle to idle for more than **3 consecutive minutes** if the vehicle is not in motion.

However, exceptions allow additional idling when...

- Vehicle being actively serviced or repaired.
- In temperatures below 25 F° for up to 15 minutes (no exception in New Jersey for high heat)
- Buses while it is actively discharging or picking up passengers may idle for 15 consecutive minutes in a 60-minute period
- Motor vehicle idling in traffic, in queue or congestion. (i.e. bank drive-thru, dump truck loading)

Please be mindful of these regulations as you are waiting to pick up your children in car pool lines.

Demographic Study Presentation



At the September 20, 2016 Board of Education meeting, Dr. Richard Grip, from Statistical Forecasting, LLC, presented the results of the Demographic Study that was conducted for the Montville Township Public Schools in the Spring of 2016. Dr. Grip's report reflected that "after a period of fairly stable enrollment from 2006-07 to 2009-10, there has been a decline in enrollment in each of the last six years. The 2015-2016 enrollment is 3,773.5 students, which is a loss of 408.5 students (-9.8%) since 2006-07." The enrollment decrease is largely a function of "negative Kindergarten replacement," a phenomenon which occurs when the incoming Kindergarten enrollment is less than the outgoing senior class that graduated the previous June. In the last five years, the district lost an average of 98 students per year due to negative Kindergarten replacement.

The district enrollment is projected to decline further over the next five years with a projected loss of 364 additional students by the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to further analyze the data, a Demographic Study Task Force has been formed. The group includes representatives from the district administration, Board of Education, school principals, supervisors, teachers and parents. The Task Force will review the enrollment projections and make recommendations to the Board of Education in terms of any changes that might be necessary to help balance the elementary school enrollment and to

try to ensure that the district's comprehensive program offerings can be maintained at the middle and high school levels.

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to senior students Srinath Dhamodharan and Priscilla Kim on being names semifinalists in the 62nd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These students now move forward in the competition for one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships. Over 1.6 million junior students in 22,000 high schools entered this scholarship competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT. The highest scoring students in each state are selected as semifinalists.

Francisco Vazquez, a freshman student at Montville Township High School, had the opportunity to participate in the Explo Ortho summer program at Wellesley College this past summer.

The program included the study of anatomy, the circulatory and respiratory system, laboratory experiences and multiple field trips to rehabilitative hospitals and clinics. Vazquez had the opportunity to work directly with Dr. Dinesh Patel, the developer of modern arthroscopic surgery. Vazquez was one of only sixteen students chosen to participate in this program. The program was a perfect fit for this student who aspires to be an orthopedic surgeon.

The entire Valley View School community participated in reciting an Anti-Bullying Pledge in September. As part of the Week of Respect, students from Valley View will make a presentation to the Board of Education about this pledge at the upcoming Board of Education meeting on October 18th.

Lazar Middle School students were interviewed as part of an ongoing "Too Young to Vote" series on CNN. The students viewed the first television debate and then shared their thoughts and opinions about the debate and the 2016 presidential campaign.



School News

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