



WINTER 2020

Bloomfield Public Schools Superintendent's Memo

Raising the Bar is Taking us Far

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

A new decade has begun and I trust you have had the opportunity to recharge your batteries and reflect upon the wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King. As we continue to Raise the Bar on expectations I want to encourage all of you to give extra attention this year to “self-care” – and making sure you are operating at optimal levels physically, mentally and emotionally.

Paying heed to getting enough rest and to your nutrition and exercise will enhance your personal performance.

Our mission at Bloomfield Public Schools has remained unchanged from the time I started here in 2011. We want to prepare our scholars for college and meaningful careers, while creating a competitive culture that strives for excellence in Academics, Athletics – and the Arts. All of us play an important role in embedding that culture and inspiring our students.

Closing out 2019

Academics

In December, the district hosted its inaugural Partner's Breakfast at the new Alvin and Beatrice Wood Human Services Community Center to celebrate the many partners who have contributed to a positive learning environment for our students.

Shortly after the breakfast, many of the partners expressed how excited they were about the district's vision for achieving excellence in academics, athletics and the arts.

Niagara Bottling recently donated \$14,347 for the purchase of two Chromebook Carts and 60 Chromebooks for the Carmen Arace Middle School. The additional computers will further assist the school in preparing students for college and beyond.

Along those lines, we want to update you on some key Extended Learning initiatives happening after school:

- The program is progressing well at Metacomet Elementary. There is a “power hour” of additional learning for up to 120 students three times a week. A similar program will start for Carmen Arace Intermediate School in February.
- Starting Feb. 1 – as noted in my fall memo – Extended Learning will be expanded to Saturdays, for those in grades 3-8. There will be two novel initiatives. One is with the Legacy Foundation of Hartford to provide accelerated learning opportunities in math for up to 25 Bloomfield students in grades 7-8. Additionally, the DREAM NOW program will engage up to 50 of our male students in grades 3-8 in a leadership development program. These programs will provide the additional support our students need to prepare for college and meaningful careers.



Athletics

- **Sean Dixon-Bodie** a BHS senior student-athlete is gaining national attention. He is ranked #1 in the country and recently jumped an impressive 51-feet; 6.5 -inches at a national high school track meet. He and teammate **Korey Steele** were recently featured in The Courant.
- The NFL visited BPS for the holiday recess: Retired New England Patriots defensive end **Jarvis Green**, a two-time Super Bowl champion, talked to the Bloomfield High football team about overcoming setbacks, character and life lessons he learned playing in the NFL for 9 seasons – from 2002 to 2009.
- Veteran NFL player **Marcus Cooper** – a 2010 Bloomfield High graduate – handed out toys and gifts while celebrating the holiday season with Carmen Arace Middle and Intermediate schools.

It was quite a blessing to have two professional athletes visit our district simply to inspire and encourage our students.

The Arts

The award winning BHS Music Department hosted a Winter Concert Jan. 16, 7 p.m., at BHS. **Frank Quinn** and **Aubree Salters** always do a terrific job training our multi-talented students.

Energy-Conscious

A recent ribbon-cutting was held at the Board of Education's Blue Hills Avenue building to commemorate the successful launch of a novel community solar project that will be more cost and energy-efficient for the district and residents.

The Town of Bloomfield distinguished itself in this solar project by becoming the first initiative under Connecticut's "Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program".

District Shout-Outs

- Coach **Ty Outlaw** and the BHS football team – for their stellar undefeated season and unsuccessful run at a second consecutive Class S state title. Their journey engendered great town pride and highlighted the work ethic, pride and poise of our student-athletes.
- Director of Facilities **Wayne Casper** and his team for the extra effort in making sure the BHS football field was in pristine condition in an early playoff game after a bad snow storm.
- **Sandrea Higgins** - 6th grade student at Carmen Arace Intermediate School was recognized by the Bloomfield Rotary as Student of the Month for January.

Regards,



Dr. James Thompson, Jr.,
Superintendent of Schools

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Bloomfield Public Schools – a district that aspires for excellence in Academics, Athletics and the Arts