

BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS



SPRING EDITION - MAY 2017



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



I welcome this opportunity to present the proposed 2017-18 School Budget for your review. With your support, this budget will enable us to continue to focus on attaining our school district's goals, strategic plan, mission, and vision.

Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Here in Bergenfield, I'm extremely proud to share the fact that the evidence, in the form of hard data, once again suggests that we are getting an excellent return on our investment in education.

For the sixth year in a row, Bergenfield High School was included on the *Washington Post's* list of "America's Most Challenging High Schools." This year's ranking places BHS in the top 5% in the nation. BHS rose 138 places from its spot in last year's ranking. During its six years on the list, BHS has risen from 1624 in 2012 to 1075 in 2017. BHS now ranks 7th in Bergen County and 46th in the state.

Additionally, for the second year in a row, we received more good news in April. We recently learned that BHS was again included on the prestigious *US News and World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" list. The publication ranked BHS in the top 4% in the country. BHS was also ranked 37th best high school in the state and 8th in Bergen County.

These achievements are possible due to the hard work of our professional staff, which is dedicated to delivering a world-class academic program to our students. Also, through our community's unwavering support of education, Bergenfield's students have access to innovative programs that provide them with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the 21st century. Because of how steadfastly we collectively value education, we enable our students to stand out from the rest upon graduation.

We are also fortunate that our learning community is supported by a committed and dedicated Board of Education that is focused on providing access to these programs, along with the resources necessary to be successful in the classroom. Yet, through due diligence, they work tirelessly to minimize the financial burden to our taxpayers.

The proposed 2017-18 School Budget provides funds to maintain acceptable class size, supply the resources necessary to support our rigorous academic programs, and add additional equipment needed to increase our use of digital content. At the same time, we will continue to focus on safety and security with our capital projects by maintaining and improving our buildings and facilities.

As was reaffirmed at the Board Retreat in May, our educational leaders remain deeply committed to making progress towards our stated goals and objectives. This budget allows us to continue moving forward as we elevate expectations for all stakeholders at all levels in Bergenfield Schools.

Thank you for your outstanding partnership and ongoing investments that allow us all to share in the greatest dividend—a better tomorrow for the community of Bergenfield.

District Praised for Continuous Improvements



Bergenfield was only the second district in New Jersey to undergo the new, rigorous Systems Approach when it first received its district-wide accreditation from Middle States Association (MSA) on December 1, 2013. Following the recent mid-term review by MSA, the district will retain its accreditation until 2020.

MSA Accreditation Officer Dr. David Montroni stated, "Your district has been a beacon, a catalyst and an inspiration for so many other districts who have sought a model of good pedagogy along their route toward accreditation."

Districts who participate in MSA accreditation find value in the process, as it provides a framework for continuous school improvement that facilitates sustainable growth. MSA evaluates a district on more than just test scores; it helps build positive public relations, provides accountability, and affirms trustworthiness. It also ensures that time, talent, and money are being used effectively.

MSA uses twelve standards to measure school efficacy: Mission; Governance & Leadership; School Improvement Planning; Finances; Facilities; School Organization & Staff; Health & Safety; Educational Program; Assessment & Evidence of Student Learning; Student Services; Student Life & Activities; and Information Resources.



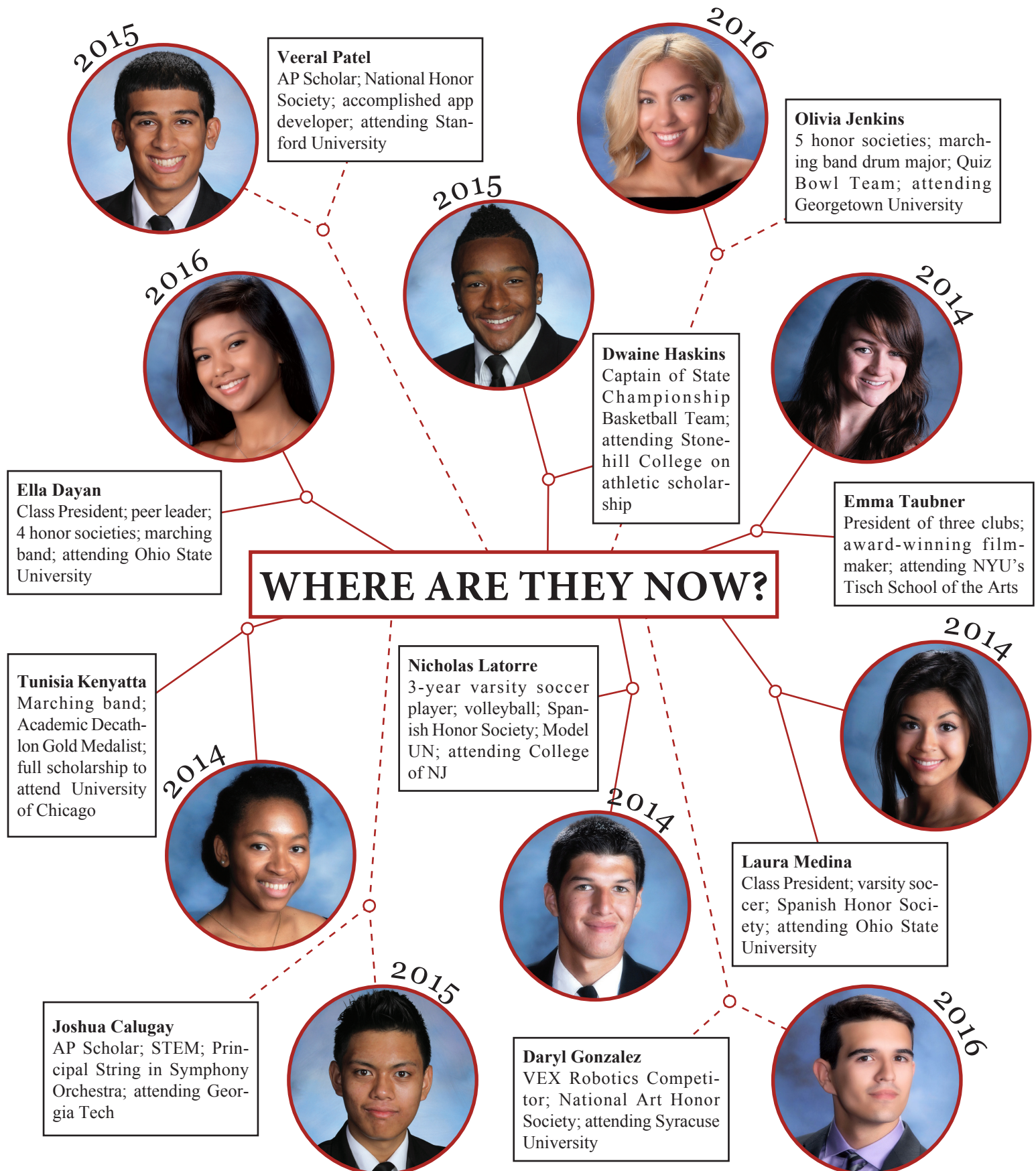
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School Budget Summary: A Contrast of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 School Budgets

INSTRUCTION	Budgeted for 2016-17	Budgeted for 2017-18
Regular Programs	19,113,821	19,556,644
Special Education	7,899,250	7,923,998
Basic Skills	592,014	623,012
Bilingual Education	552,292	569,319
School Sponsored Co-Curricular Activities	324,860	327,233
School Sponsored Athletics	531,850	531,852
Community Services Programs / Operations	6,155	6,155
Summer School	-	142,684
Total General Current Expense	\$ 29,020,242	\$ 29,680,897
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Tuition	2,821,498	2,713,166
Health Services	755,406	744,559
Speech, OT, PT, Related & Extra Services	525,975	486,855
Other Support Services	1,405,661	1,658,953
Guidance	1,171,413	1,203,773
Child Study Teams	1,217,821	1,285,888
Improvement of Instructional Services	11,753	9,248
Educational Media Services / School Libraries	800,033	827,083
Instructional Staff Training Services	13,189	13,189
General Administration	1,371,086	1,382,193
School Administration	3,246,540	3,297,944
Central Svcs	630,128	636,789
Admin Info Technology	19,305	38,346
Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services	5,596,139	5,335,746
Security	616,157	597,907
Student Transportation Services	2,027,581	2,100,345
Employee Benefits	10,629,674	10,706,701
Total Support Services Expenditures	\$ 32,859,359	\$ 33,038,685
TOTAL CURRENT GENERAL EXPENSE	\$ 61,879,601	\$ 62,719,582
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Equipment	298,507	315,523
Facilities Acquisition / Construction	1,349,189	1,192,102
Total Capital Outlay	\$ 1,647,696	\$ 1,507,625
SPECIAL SCHOOLS		
Special Schools	57,061	46,673
Transfer of Funds to Charter Schools	216,182	183,986
OPERATING BUDGET GRAND TOTAL	\$ 63,800,540	\$ 64,457,866

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Bergenfield Public School District: A Blueprint for Success



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District Central Administration

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Dr. Mary Anne DeVivio, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Dr. Frank V. Auriemma, Interim Director of Personnel
Dr. Mark Hayes, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board of Education

Dr. Joseph Amara, President
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School Budget Edition

Photo by Jennifer Murray

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