

# J. Harvey Rodgers School

## BOARD REPORT

November 2024

Principal - Melanie Sweeney



### PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
  - Teresa Brown (Preschool Aide) - 12/9/24
  - Dolores Diaz (Kindergarten Aide) - TBD
  - Kendall Appleby (ABA Aide) - Transfer from Kindergarten Aide
- Resignation/Retirement:
  - N/A
- Staff Evaluations to Date:
  - Tenured: 9
  - Nontenured: 17
  - Non-Certificated Staff: 0

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dept/Level
  - November 5th - Attendance Meeting
  - November 6th - Staff Meeting
  - November 12th - District Character Council
  - November 13th - Character Champion Meeting
  - November 14th - Annual School Plan Committee Meeting
  - November 15th - I&RS and PIRT Meetings
  - November 18th - JHR New Teacher Academy
  - November 19th - Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Meeting
  - November 20th - School Based Leadership Team Meeting
  - November 25th - School Leadership Team Meeting
- Safety & Security
  - Classroom & Staff Checklist with Building SRO
- SciP - November 21st
- PD
  - November 1st (2-Hour Delay): All staff participated in a two hour training with Creative Curriculum on Inclusive Practices. Two other days are scheduled throughout the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year for additional professional development on Inclusive Practices.

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (C&I)

- Pacing Guide for Wit & Wisdom (Module 2)
- Revisions to Pacing Guide for Eureka Math (MP 1)
- Marking Period 1 (Kindergarten) Ended November 13th.
- Checkpoint #1 (Preschool) Ended November 27th.



## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Athletics - N/A
- Visual & Performing Arts - N/A
- Community Events
  - November 19th - Family Game Night

## **OPERATIONS**

- Safety & Security Meeting
  - November 6th
- Safety & Security Drills
  - November 5th - Hold
  - November 25th - Fire Drill

## **FACILITIES**

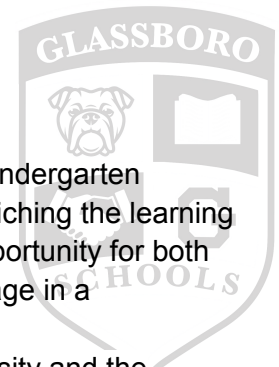
- Needs Assessment: See Miquel Olivo's Report, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

## **PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (Guidance/SAC/CST)**

- Bulldog PRIDE lessons on integrity from Mrs. Jacobs, Preschool Intervention and Referral Services and Mrs. Brice, School Counselor. They utilized the text, *Clark the Shark* by Bruce Hale. Clark tries to stay cool but soon forgets. He then comes up with a rhyme for different situations in school: staying in his seat, lunchtime, and recess. He is able to have self-control when he thinks of the rhyme. Students will complete a bubbles activity with a bubble machine and complete a How to be Cool mini-book.

## **BULLDOG PRIDE**

- On November 19th, we hosted a successful Family Game Night, with over 50 families and 100 students in attendance. The event was designed to foster family engagement and highlight the educational value of games. Families joined us for an evening filled with fun and learning, as students traveled to three different classrooms based on their grade levels. In each classroom, they learned about the educational impact of various games and participated in hands-on activities. The night was a great success in building community and demonstrating how games can promote critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. The feedback from families and students was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing interest in future similar events.
- We are pleased to continue our successful partnership with Glassboro High School's Early Childhood Education Class, under the direction of Nancy Brown. This collaboration provides high school students with valuable, hands-on classroom experience in our Kindergarten classrooms. Each Kindergarten classroom has been assigned a high school student to assist from 12:05 to 1:05 pm daily for the remainder of the school year. The students are involved in a variety of responsibilities, including:
  - Working with individuals or small groups of students.
  - Assisting with bulletin boards and classroom organization.
  - Observing classroom instruction to gain practical insights into teaching.
  - Setting up classroom equipment and materials.
  - Escorting students to the nurse or office as needed.
  - Introducing segments of lessons.



- Supporting individual students during "seat work."
- Reading stories to groups of students.
- Currently, we have 7 high school students divided across the Kindergarten classrooms, providing valuable support to our teachers and enriching the learning experience for our students. This partnership is a wonderful opportunity for both our Kindergarten students and the high school students to engage in a meaningful educational exchange.
- We are continuing our valuable partnership with Montclair State University and the NJIETA Sustainability Grant, which promotes access, participation, and support in early childhood inclusive education. This is a four-year project aimed at strengthening our preschool classes and enhancing inclusive education practices. On November 20th, we held a productive meeting to discuss important initiatives related to the grant. Topics covered included:
  - ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale): We reviewed strategies for improving our classroom environments and practices based on the ECERS framework.
  - State Visits: We discussed the upcoming state visits and how they align with our inclusion goals.
  - Transitional Activities: We focused on developing strategies to better support the transition from preschool to Kindergarten, ensuring a smooth and inclusive experience for all students.

This ongoing collaboration is a critical part of our efforts to “level up” our early childhood education programs, ensuring we continue to provide inclusive, high-quality learning environments for all students.

- We are excited to continue our partnership with Rowan University through their Adaptive Physical Education Program. Seventeen of our Special Education students in Kindergarten and Preschool are participating in this program, working once a week for 8 weeks during the fall semester. Each student has been paired with a Rowan University student, under the direction of a Rowan professor, who administered the Test of Gross Motor Development (TGMD). This assessment is followed by tailored lessons focused on the fundamental movement skill categories: locomotor, manipulative, and stability. This program provides our Special Education students with valuable opportunities to develop essential motor skills in a supportive and structured environment, enhancing their overall physical development. We are grateful for the continued collaboration with Rowan University, which enriches the educational experience for our students.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- December 3rd - December 6th: Parent Teacher Conferences & Book Fair
- December 3rd - District Character Council Meeting
- December 4th - Character Champion Team Meeting
- December 10th - Attendance Meeting
- December 11th - Staff Meeting
- December 12th - SciP Meeting

- December 13th - 2-hour delay (Professional Development): Tier 2 Supports with Pyramid Model provided by Roseanne Yezzo at Montclair State University
- December 13th - I&RS
- December 16th - New Teacher Academy
- December 17th - Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Meeting
- December 18th - School Based Leadership (SBL) Team Meeting
- December 19th - PreK and Kindergarten Winter Concerts
- December 20th - Early Dismissal

