

# J. Harvey Rodgers School

## BOARD REPORT

February 2025

Principal - Melanie Sweeney



### PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
  - Caitlin Wawrzyniak (ABA Special Education Aide) - 2/18/25
- Resignation/Retirement - N/A
- Staff Evaluations to Date:
  - Tenured: 18
  - Nontenured: 36
  - Non-Certificated Staff: 4

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dept/Level
  - February 4th - District Character Council Meeting
  - February 4th - Multicultural Meeting
  - February 5th - Character Champion Team Meeting
  - February 6th - Annual School Plan Committee
  - February 10th - 2-hour Delay (PD)
  - February 11th - Attendance Meeting
  - February 14th - Early Dismissal (PD)
  - February 19th - School Based Leadership (SBL) Meeting
  - February 21st - I&RS & PIRT
  - February 24th - School Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting
  - February 25th - Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Meeting
  - February 26th - JHR New Teacher Academy
  - February 27th - SciP Meeting
- Safety & Security
  - N/A
- SciP - February 27th
- PD
  - February 5th - Canva & AI Professional Development Follow-Up (Sue Kornicki)
  - February 10th - Creative Curriculum & Inclusive Practices (2-Hour Delay)
  - February 14th
    - Preschool: Preschool Checkpoint #2 Data Review & Magic School AI
    - Kindergarten: Kindergarten MAP Review & Magic School AI
    - Paraprofessionals & Substitutes: Visual Supports with Corey Grisi & De-escalation Strategies with Brynn Morgan



## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (C&I)**

- Pacing Guide for Wit & Wisdom Revisions (Module 3)
- Revisions to Pacing Guide for Eureka Math Revisions (MP 3)

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Athletics - N/A
- Visual & Performing Arts - N/A
- Community Events
  - February 13th - Preschool Read with Your Sweetheart Day Event

## **OPERATIONS**

- Safety & Security Meeting
  - February 7th
- Safety & Security Drills
  - February 25th - Fire Drill
  - February 28th - Hold

## **FACILITIES**

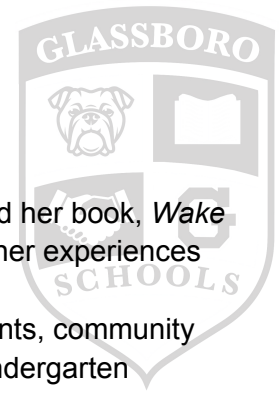
- Needs Assessment: See Miquel Olivo's Report, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

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

- The February Monthly Virtue was positive attitude, which is thinking and believing that everything will turn out well in all that you do. To illustrate this virtue, the story *Tomorrow I'll Be Brave* by Jessica Hische was used as an uplifting and positive book that encourages kids to promise that tomorrow, they will try new things, do their best, and be brave. In the classroom, each student received a paw print that said "I am" and filled it with positive adjectives like happy, strong, kind, or smart. Then they colored their paw print, which are displayed around the school. This activity encouraged self-reflection and spread positivity, leaving "pawsitive" prints everywhere!

## **BULLDOG PRIDE**

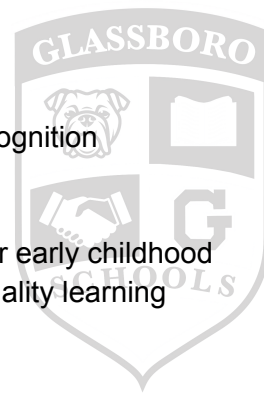
- We are excited to share that our school has been honored as a New Jersey State School of Character, receiving an outstanding score of 3.8 out of 4.0 in recognition of our commitment to fostering character development and creating a positive school culture. This marks a significant achievement, as last year we were recognized as an Honorable Mention School of Character, and our continued efforts to strengthen our character education programs have led to this elevated distinction. Building on this momentum, we have submitted our application for National School of Character recognition, with our interview scheduled for March. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and community, and we are thrilled to continue our journey toward promoting values of respect, responsibility, and inclusivity.
- Throughout the month of February, we dedicated our efforts to celebrating Black History Month by honoring the numerous achievements and contributions of African Americans across various fields. Each week was dedicated to exploring the impactful legacies in specific categories, providing our team with a deeper understanding and appreciation of these individuals. The following sections outline our weekly focus and key highlights. They included:
  - Week 1 - Inventors and Scientists



- Week 2 - Musicians and Artists
- Week 3 - Athletes
- Week 4 - Authors and Illustrators
- On February 24th, we had local author Kathleen Lindsey visit us to read her book, *Wake Up Granny, It's Time To Go To School!* She also shared her quilts and her experiences as a young child going to school.
- On February 27th, we held our annual African American Read-In. Parents, community members, district staff and administration read to our preschool and kindergarten classrooms to honor Black History Month.
- 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 18 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 excited to continue our partnership with Rowan University through their Adaptive Physical Education Program. Thirty of our Special Education students in Kindergarten and Preschool are participating in this program, working once a week for 7 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.
- 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 February 19th, we held a productive meeting to discuss important initiatives related to the grant. Topics covered included:
  - Site Visits from Oaklyn & Collingswood
  - Debriefed about Speech Therapist and Integrated Services Presentation

- Inclusion Institute Presentation
- National School of Character Application & State School of Recognition
- Upcoming Professional Development
- ECAC & Kindergarten Collaboration

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.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March - Music In Our Schools Month
- March 3rd to March 7th - Read Across America Week
- March 4th - District Character Council Meeting
- March 4th - Early Childhood Council Advisory (ECAC) Meeting
- March 5th - Character Champions Team Meeting
- March 5th - Staff Meeting
- March 7th - 2-hour Delay
- March 11th to March 14th - Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 17th - JHR New Teacher Academy
- March 18th - Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Meeting
- March 19th - School Based Leadership (SBL) Team Meeting
- March 20th - SciP Meeting
- March 21st - I&RS & PIRT Meetings
- March 24th - School Leadership Team Meeting
- March 26th - Grade Level PLC
- March 27th - PreK Workshop #3