

J. Harvey Rodgers School

BOARD REPORT

March 2025

Principal - Melanie Sweeney



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - Patricia Scappa (Nurse) - TBD
- Resignation/Retirement - N/A
- Staff Evaluations to Date:
 - Tenured: 22
 - Nontenured: 43
 - Non-Certificated Staff: 8

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dept/Level
 - 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 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 27th - PreK Parent Workshop #3
- Safety & Security - N/A
- SciP - March 20th
- PD
 - March 7th - 2-hour Delay
 - Pyramid Model Tier 2 Supports with Montclair State University
 - March 26th - Grade Level PLC
 - Inclusive Practices with Creative Curriculum

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (C&I)

- Pacing Guide for Wit & Wisdom Revisions (Module 4)
- Revisions to Pacing Guide for Eureka Math Revisions (MP 4)

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Athletics - N/A
- Visual & Performing Arts - N/A
- Community Events
 - Preschool Parent Workshop #3



OPERATIONS

- Safety & Security Meeting
 - March 7th
- Safety & Security Drills
 - March 20th - Fire Drill
 - March 27th - Hold

FACILITIES

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

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (Guidance/SAC/CST)

- The March Monthly Virtue was humility, which is defined as being confident without thinking you are better than someone else. To help students understand this important character trait, the classic story of *The Tortoise and the Hare* was used as a visual representation. In addition, students read *The Big Cheese* by Jory John during their Character Education lesson. In this story, the Big Cheese is used to being the best at everything and isn't shy about bragging. But when the quiet new student, Wedge Wedgeman, unexpectedly wins the annual Cheese-cathlon, the Big Cheese is faced with a lesson in humility. Students reflected on the idea that sometimes, being humble is even better than being the best. As a follow-up, students participated in a compliment activity, practicing humility by uplifting others through kind words. The monthly phrase, "Friendship is gained through humility and actions of the heart," served as a guiding reminder of how humility strengthens our connections with others.

BULLDOG PRIDE

- During the week of March 3rd through March 7th, J. Harvey Rodgers School celebrated *Read Across America Week* with a variety of themed days designed to foster a love of reading and highlight the importance of literacy.
 - Monday, March 3rd was *Crazy Sock Day*, inspired by *Fox in Socks*, adding a fun and whimsical start to the week.
 - Tuesday, March 4th focused on *Inspiring Leaders & Positive Messages* with the theme *We Positively Love Books!*, encouraging students to explore books that promote kindness and inspiration.
 - Wednesday, March 5th was *Dress for Success Day*, where students dressed to represent various professions, careers, and trades, connecting reading to future aspirations.
 - Thursday, March 6th the theme was *Cozy Up to a Good Book*, featuring the beloved works of Mo Willems and inviting students to enjoy a comfy reading experience.
 - Friday, March 7th concluded the week with *Books Brighten Our World*, where students participated in a school-wide *Stop, Drop, and Read* activity to celebrate the joy of reading.
- As part of our annual *Fox in Socks* celebration during Read Across America Week, J. Harvey Rodgers School successfully collected 528 pairs of socks. These socks will be donated to The Samaritan Center of Glassboro, Inc. Food Bank and distributed to members of our own community in need. We are grateful for the generosity and support from our school community.



- Conferences were held from March 11th to March 14th, with evening conferences taking place on March 11th.
 - Preschool:
 - In-Person Conferences: 79%
 - Phone/Virtual Conferences: 21%
 - Total Conferences Held: 124
 - 95% of preschool families participated in conferences.
 - Kindergarten:
 - In-Person Conferences: 69%
 - Phone/Virtual Conferences: 31%
 - Total Conferences Held: 137
 - 97% of kindergarten families participated in conferences.
- 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 March 19th, we held



a productive meeting to discuss important initiatives related to the grant. Topics covered included:

- Site Visit from Gloucester City
- ECAC & Kindergarten Collaboration Update
- Pyramid Model Training
- Kindergarten/PreK Teacher Observations
- Tracking students with IEPs vs. Non-IEPs
- Looking at data deeper for Math and Literacy strands

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

- April 1st - District Character Council Meeting
- April 2nd - JHR Character Champion Team Meeting
- April 2nd - Staff Meeting
- April 7th - Kindergarten Marking Period 3 Ends
- April 8th - Attendance Meeting
- April 11th - I&RS Meeting
- April 14th - JHR New Teacher Academy
- April 15th - Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Meeting
- April 16th - School Based Leadership Team Meeting
- April 17th - SciP Meeting
- April 28th - I&RS Meeting
- April 28th - School Leadership Team Meeting
- April 29th - Preschool Workshop #4 (Fine Motor Skills)
- April 30th - Class Pictures