

J. Harvey Rodgers School
BOARD REPORT
May 2026



Principal - Melanie Sweeney

PERSONNEL

- Appointments - Kimberly Deissroth (anticipated June 1st)
- Resignation/Retirement - N/A
- Staff Evaluations to Date:
 - Tenured: 36
 - Nontenured: 53
 - Non-Certificated Staff: 21

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Dept/Level
 - District Character Council - May 5th
 - District NJTSS Team Meeting - May 5th
 - District Literacy Leadership Team Meeting - May 5th
 - Character Champion Team Meeting - May 6th
 - Threat Assessment Team Meeting - May 6th
 - Attendance Team Meeting - May 6th
 - School Leadership Team Meeting - May 11th
 - School Based Leadership Team Meeting - May 20th
 - Staff Meeting - May 13th
 - I&RS & PIRT Meetings - May 15th
 - JHR New Teacher Academy - May 18th
- SciP - May 6th
- PD - N/A

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (C&I)

- Eureka Math2 End of Module 6 Assessment
- Kindergarten Peer Observations (as per Professional Development Plan)
- Kindergarten Grade Level PLC - May 20th
 - Differentiating Phonics Instruction for Maximum Impact Book Study
- Preschool Grade Level PLC - May 20th
 - Creative Curriculum Preschool Study Units

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Athletics - N/A
- Visual & Performing Arts
 - Preschool & Kindergarten Spring Concerts - May 29th
- Community Events
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council - May 5th
 - Preschool Parent Workshop #4 - May 28th



OPERATIONS

- Safety & Security Meeting - N/A
- Safety & Security Drills
 - May 11th - Lockdown
 - May 19th - Stage 2 Evacuation
 - May 28th - Fire Drill

FACILITIES

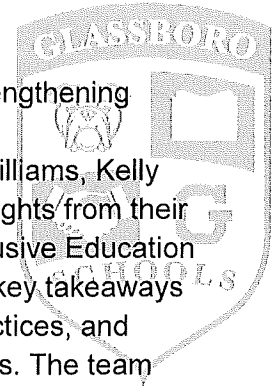
- Needs Assessment: See Miquel Olivo's Report, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (Guidance/SAC/CST)

- In May, J. Harvey Rodgers School focused on the character education virtue of Love, defined as being a true friend who unconditionally gives and wants the absolute best for someone. Students explored this important concept through the visual of a heart and the monthly phrase, "Love yourself, your friends and your school." Lessons and activities encouraged students to demonstrate kindness, friendship, and compassion toward others while recognizing the importance of caring for themselves and their school community. Preschool and kindergarten students participated in classroom discussions and activities that highlighted the qualities of a good friend and the ways they can show love and kindness each day. Students explored these concepts through read-alouds of *A Friend Like You* by Frank Murphy and Charnaie Gordon, followed by conversations about friendship, empathy, and helping others. Additional activities included hand-tracing art projects, greeting card creation activities, and discussions centered on caring for others and building positive relationships. Throughout the month, students also participated in a Random Acts of Kindness initiative, earning hearts for demonstrating acts of kindness toward classmates, staff members, and others throughout the school community. These hearts were proudly displayed on classroom bulletin boards, serving as a visual reminder of the many ways students showed love and compassion. As the school year began to transition into the final months, students were also introduced to the concept of charity and the importance of helping and caring for others. Through these experiences, students continued to strengthen their understanding of love, kindness, and friendship while contributing to a positive and supportive school environment.

BULLDOG PRIDE

- On May 1st, kindergarten students participated in an educational field trip to Storybook Land. The trip provided students with an opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences while exploring attractions and exhibits inspired by classic children's stories and nursery rhymes. Throughout the day, students practiced important social skills such as cooperation, responsibility, and respectful behavior while interacting with peers and staff in a new environment. The field trip also supported classroom learning by encouraging students to make connections between literature and real-world experiences. Students enjoyed exploring the park's attractions, participating in interactive activities, and creating lasting memories with their classmates. The experience served as a meaningful culmination of the school year's learning and



provided an opportunity for students to celebrate their growth while strengthening relationships with their peers.

- At the May 20th, School Based Leadership (SBL) Meeting, Christine Williams, Kelly Jacobs, and Roseanne Yezzo (Montclair State University) shared highlights from their experience attending and presenting at the New Jersey Preschool Inclusive Education Project (NJPIEP) Inclusion Conference. They provided an overview of key takeaways from the conference, including current research, effective inclusive practices, and strategies to support high-quality preschool programming for all learners. The team reflected on their presentation and the opportunity to showcase the work being done at J. Harvey Rodgers School in partnership with Montclair State University to promote meaningful inclusion and equitable learning opportunities for students. The team also discussed the numerous site visits hosted throughout the month as part of the school's role as a NJPIEP Demonstration Site. School districts from across New Jersey visited J. Harvey Rodgers to observe inclusive practices in action, engage in collaborative discussions, and learn more about the systems and structures that support successful inclusion. The School Based Leadership Team reflected on the positive feedback received from visitors and the value of sharing our experiences while continuing to learn from other educators. These opportunities reinforced the school's commitment to continuous improvement and its leadership role in advancing inclusive preschool education throughout the state.
- On May 29, 2026, J. Harvey Rodgers School held its annual Spring Concert, *We Are the Dinosaurs*, featuring performances by preschool and kindergarten students. Students performed a variety of songs that incorporated music, movement, and grade-level learning experiences, providing an opportunity to showcase their hard work and growth throughout the school year. As part of the annual tradition, the Glassboro High School Select Choir joined the performance, helping to strengthen connections between students across grade levels and highlighting the continuity of the district's music program. The concert was also livestreamed, allowing family members who were unable to attend in person the opportunity to view the performance from home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Threat Assessment Team Meeting - June 3rd
- Attendance Team - June 3rd
- Annual School Plan - June 3rd
- Multicultural Event - June 4th
- VIP Day - June 5th
- Kindergarten Visit to Bullock School - June 9th
- Staff Meeting - June 10th
- Prek Field Day - June 11th
- Kindergarten Field Day - June 12th
- Early Dismissal - June 15th to June 18th
- GHS Bulldog Buddy Celebration - June 17th
- Last Day of School - June 18th

