

# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

1755 Amwell Road  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
(732) 873-2400

### A Message from Dr. John A. Ravally Superintendent of Franklin Township Public Schools

Spring is on its way. With its arrival, I am happy to announce that we will turn the corner and enter the home stretch of our One Less Move referendum journey. I am pleased to report that our construction projects at Franklin Park School and Pine Grove Manor School are complete. Our larger projects, at Elizabeth Avenue School and the Claremont Road School site, are on schedule. The work at Hillcrest School and Sampson G. Smith School is nearly complete with only a few remaining projects such as bathroom renovations and window/door replacements left on the docket. We have additional One Less Move projects scheduled to take place during the summer months that include interior and exterior doors replacements at Franklin Middle School and window replacements at Conerly, MacAfee and, as mentioned above SGS as well as at Hillcrest School. In order to provide adequate time for completion of these projects, the Board of Education has approved the 2018-2019 calendar, which has our students coming back to school on September 20, 2018.

We are working to provide support to our families during those weeks in early September when students typically return to school. More information will be shared as details are finalized, but these may include a camp opportunity for our elementary students, as well as the coordination of practice schedules for sports and other activities for our older students.

Student families have been informed of their assigned schools for next year and we have had the opportunity to meet with our middle school families to provide information and gain their valuable input. We are planning opportunities to meet with our elementary families soon and at those meetings we intend on sharing further information on the exciting changes to our elementary program of studies, as well as C.A.R.E. changes we believe will be well received and enriching for our students.

Meanwhile as we continue to prepare for September 2018, we have been solidifying our administrative team in preparation for the grade level restructuring and the opening of our seventh elementary school. Mrs. Nicole Sury Bevere has been named the Principal of Claremont Road Elementary School. In the pages that follow, you will find an article on Mrs. Sury Bevere, as well as our new Franklin Park School Principal, Ms. Purvi Shah and our new Franklin High School Principal, Mr. Frank Chmiel. We'd also like to introduce our Supervisor of Intervention Services, Ms. Suzanne Ackley. Ms. Ackley has the important job of coordinating support services to assist students in reaching their academic goals.

Finally in this issue, we celebrate our Teachers of the Year/Educational Services Professionals of the year, recognize the accomplishment of two of our own "Outstanding Women" and share a story that demonstrates how our Franklin High School students are helping the larger Franklin community.

Be sure to stay dialed in on happenings in the Franklin Township Schools: visit our website at [www.franklinboe.org](http://www.franklinboe.org); follow us on Twitter or tune into district television – Comcast Channel 27 and FIOS Channel 34.

The finish line of our referendum journey is in sight. My thanks to both the school and Township communities for their continued support of our students and referendum projects.

Sincerely,

Dr. John A. Ravally  
Superintendent of Schools

## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Outstanding Women of Our Own

Earlier this year, the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women sponsored a program to highlight women who have made significant contributions in their professional fields, to women's causes, or in community endeavors. They are the Outstanding Women in Somerset County. Board of Education President Nancy LaCorte and Sampson G. Smith teacher, Terri Seggio were among this year's honorees.

Board President LaCorte was honored for her volunteerism. "I have always volunteered to help. I guess it is the "mom" in me. I've been able to help in areas that touch me in some way, senior citizens, economically disadvantaged, our troops and their families, and kids," explained Ms. LaCorte.

Ms. Seggio is a sixth grade language arts literacy teacher at Sampson G. Smith School, but she has also been the director of the SGS Players, and their annual musical theater productions, for many years. She received the Outstanding Women honor in the area of Arts/Entertainment/Sports.

"I was honored, humbled, and a bit overwhelmed by the phone call letting me know I would be receiving the award. I have been blessed to have worked with so many students and parents over the past 18 years and have the support of administration," said Ms. Seggio.

Every year, two separate casts of approximately 80 students in total, practice and perform a musical theater production as the SGS Players. Ms. Seggio has a loyal following of volunteer parents and former students who help with the set and costume work. Her family, as well as her colleagues past and present, also provide support. These include fellow teachers, Noel Piercy and Kiera Radvanski (music) and Linda Stadler and Cherilyn Strand (choreography). But, according to Ms. Seggio, "It is the amazing talented students who are the heart and soul of this program."

Both of these Outstanding Women also put a great deal of heart and soul into their work and the Franklin Township Public School Community is very proud of them.

Also recognized for her contribution to medicine was Franklin resident, Dr. Tasneem F. Shamim, Ophthalmologist.



SOMERSET COUNTY  
Commission  
on the  
Status of Women



Terri Seggio directs the SGS Players

## From the Board of Education President – Nancy LaCorte

As the newly elected President of the Franklin Township Board of Education, as well as a veteran member of the Board, I am so proud of the work that we have accomplished over the last few years. We have hired permanent instructional leaders for our district and schools. We have approved a new strategic plan and have supported our administration to ensure that our facilities are ready for our grade reconfiguration in September of 2018. In support of our mission statement, we continue to embrace our diversity, foster excellent educational innovation and empower all students to achieve their highest potential.

Our district initiatives this year support all grade levels. We are proud of our diversity and have implemented resources to help our teachers be responsive to the needs of our students. In our elementary schools, we have embraced programs to support the social and emotional development of our younger students. At the middle school level, technology resources have been provided. By the next school year our 1:1 Chromebook initiative will allow our students in grades 6-8 to have access to a computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At the other grade levels computers are available for all students during the school day. At our high school we continue to focus on academic opportunities by providing numerous Advance Placement courses. We have expanded our vision of preparing our students for the future with the implementation of our Career Technical Education courses. Currently available in the dance area, plans are in the works to expand this program to our film and science programs. We continue to provide a variety of athletic and extracurricular activities to support the whole student.

I look forward to working with our three new Board members, Ms. Nishita Desai; Dr. Michael J. Smith and Ms. Michelle Shelton. They join our more seasoned Board Members: Vice President Ardaman Singh; Board Members Christine Danielsen; Laurie Merris; Richard Seamon and Margaret Steele. We bring different experiences and perspectives to the Board, but will work collaboratively in the best interests of our students.

We will continue to work with the Township, the Mayor and Council Members through our various committees. We will support our administrators, teachers and support staff. We will listen to the concerns of our parents and students and provide the tools necessary for our students to continue to succeed.

The Board is here to serve you, the members of Franklin Township who provided us this opportunity. We welcome your continued interest in our school district and invite you to become involved. View a Board meeting in person, on our local television channel or via the district website. Attend one of the many Fine, Visual and Performing Arts or Athletic events featuring our talented students. Join a school connected support organization or volunteer your time and talents in one of our schools.

I invite you to join us as a Franklin Warrior.



*Franklin Township BOE with Superintendent Ravally and Board Secretary Toth*

## Franklin High School Create Bowls to Help Feed the Hungry

Franklin Warriors in Ms. Fionnuala “Finn” McNeil’s ceramics class have been giving back to the community this school year. Students have created and donated beautiful bowls to be sold at CanalFest and at Franklin’s Finest, an annual district event. The proceeds from the sale of these pieces has gone to support the Franklin Food Bank.

Price per piece ranges from ten to fifteen dollars. To date they have raised over \$1,800. Ms. McNeil is very proud of her students and they have been thrilled with the feedback they have received.



*Ms. McNeil and students show their beautiful work at Franklin's Finest.*

Board of Education Meetings are generally held once a month at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of Franklin High School, 500 Elizabeth Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 26, 2018 and May 24, 2018.

Questions or comments about the Board of Education may be addressed to the Board President at [nlacorte@franklinboe.org](mailto:nlacorte@franklinboe.org)

## Franklin Township Public Schools Senior Gold Card

Franklin Township residents who are 60 years of age or older are eligible to receive a gold card which allows for free admission to many district Athletic and Fine, Visual and Performing Arts events.

Call Nancy DeVoe at 732-873-2400 Ext. 495 for more details.



*Nicole Sury Bevere at the Claremont Road School site, January, 2018.*

## Nicole Sury Bevere to Serve as Principal of the New Elementary School on Claremont Road

“So what do you do with a chance? You take it...because it might be the start of something incredible.” These are the words that appear at the end of Nicole Sury Bevere’s email messages, just below her designation as Principal of Claremont Road School. Ms. Sury Bevere began her assignment as Principal of the district’s seventh elementary school in February of this year. While the construction of the facility will not be completed until the summer, there is much work to be done.

Part of the work has been the creation of a new elementary school schedule. Working with Ms. Roberta Mitchell, Director of Fine, Visual, Performing and Practical Arts and a team of administrators, teachers, staff and parents, Ms. Sury Bevere has helped to create a schedule that provides a daily opportunity for “Morning Meeting” time for all students Pre-K to 5, opportunities for choice time for our Kindergarten students, World Language offerings for students in grades 2 through 5, ‘Student College’ for our 4th and 5th grade students as well as before-school club offerings. The highlights of this schedule were shared with the Board of Education and the public at a Board meeting earlier this school year and will be reviewed at Town Hall meetings for elementary parents later this spring.

Over the next few months, in addition to meeting with district architects and senior administration about the completion of the school facility, Ms. Sury Bevere will be thinking about the culture and climate of the new school. “My goal is to create an atmosphere where staff and students feel supported and valued, where voices are heard and where everyone can feel confident that they can take risks as learners,” explains Ms. Sury Bevere.

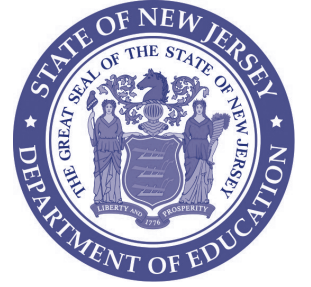
Drawing upon her experience as a teacher and supervisor of special education, as well as the Principal of Franklin Park School for the past eight years, Ms. Sury Bevere believes working with all stakeholders to create a vision for our school is paramount. Creating opportunities for the newly identified school staff to come together to build capacity as a team will also be at the top of her list. Students will also be given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their school such as selecting a mascot. Another priority of Ms. Sury Bevere is to provide information and updates about the new school to all families and the community regularly. After all, this is the start of something incredible.



# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

## 2017-2018

Annually school districts in New Jersey are invited to name their best and brightest teachers and educational services professionals for recognition at the district, county and ultimately the state level. In the past these programs were called Teacher of the Year Program and the Governor’s Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program. Today it is referred to as the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program. This process begins early in the school year for recognition the following year. Staff are invited to nominate and then a committee chooses two individuals from each school, one a classroom teacher and the other a professional in a support area. These educational services personnel would include a school counselor, special education child study team member, or paraprofessional. Criteria for nomination include expertise in the field; the ability to collaborate with stakeholders to create a strong culture of respect and success, as well as leadership and innovation in educational activities.




We are proud to announce our 2017-2018 District Educators of the Year. Any awardees from this pool may go on to compete for the county Educator of the Year and if successful, the state level award. As district educators of the year, these individuals will receive a certificate and celebrate with each other at a district breakfast later this year.



### 2017-2018 District Educators of the Year

School	Teacher	Educational Services Professional
<b>Franklin High School FHS</b>	<b>Linda Puglio, Special Education Teacher</b> A Special Education teacher for 34 years, Ms. Puglio has worked at FHS for the past 23. She also works with students in our alternative program. She has taught a wide variety of subjects and currently teaches Physics and Chemistry	<b>Linda Porter, Media Specialist</b> After some time spent in the corporate world, Ms. Porter began her work for the district 18 years ago. She started as a substitute before finding the “perfect fit” in her position as Media Specialist at Franklin High School.
<b>Franklin Middle School FMS</b>	<b>Holly Harris Vadell, 7th Grade Science/Special Ed.</b> Ms. Harris Vadell came to our district with a variety of content area and grade level experience. She currently teaches 7th grade and is involved in many committees. A favorite quote by Maya Angelou, is simple, “just do right”.	<b>Paula Jara, Paraprofessional</b> Ms. Jara, a longtime Franklin resident, attended our district schools, as did her siblings and children. Inspired to succeed by a former teacher, Ms. Jara considers every day that she works with her special needs students “a true gift”.
<b>Sampson G. Smith School SGS</b>	<b>Jill Santoni, 5th Grade Teacher</b> Ms. Santoni has been a 5th grade teacher for 9 years, the last 7 in our district. She specializes in Language Arts Literacy and Social Studies. She seeks to provide a better educational experience for her students than she had as a child.	<b>Ted Samaras, Instructional Technology Coach</b> Mr. Samaras began his career in the district 12 years ago as a computer teacher. Since 2010, as a Coach, he has strengthened our teachers’ use of technology in the classroom. He also serves as the web curator at EAS.
<b>Conerly Road School CRS</b>	<b>Jean Magyar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher</b> Ms. Magyar has been teaching in the district for 10 years in various grades. She enjoys working with elementary students because they make interesting connections between what they know and what they are learning.	<b>Katerina Moulinos, Academic Support Teacher</b> Ms. Moulinos has been a teacher at both Franklin Park School and Conerly Road School. She enjoys guiding children and considers it a great honor and responsibility to play such an important role in a child’s life.
<b>Elizabeth Avenue School EAS</b>	<b>Tara Brocco, Kindergarten Teacher</b> Ms. Brocco began her teaching career in our district 5 years ago. She tries to make students feel secure in their environment and teaches them it is okay to make mistakes. She encourages hands-on learning, even if it “gets messy”.	<b>Nancy Santiago, Paraprofessional</b> Ms. Santiago has worked at EAS for 12 years, first as a duty aide and then a paraprofessional. She credits her role as Mom and Grammy as inspiring her love for children and helping her to choose this occupation.
<b>Franklin Park School FPS</b>	<b>Courtney Collins, Kindergarten Teacher</b> Ms. Collins is an alumni of our district, Grades K-12 - FHS Class of 2006. As kindergarten teacher at FPS for 5 years, she feels lucky to be able to give back to the district where she was taught.	<b>Lori Gross, Language Arts Literacy Coach</b> Ms. Gross has worked in education for 38 years, the last 11 for our district. Her kindergarten teacher served as her inspiration. As a former teacher, now academic coach, she helps staff to realize their own potential as educators.
<b>Hillcrest School HIL</b>	<b>Karen Merlini, Pre-K Teacher</b> Ms. Merlini began as a district librarian 19 years ago and has held teaching positions in several schools. She comes from a family of teachers and loves the teaching profession as it allows you to change the world in a positive way.	<b>Aminta Machuca, Paraprofessional</b> Ms. Machuca has worked with in the field of education for 25 years, the last 13 years as a paraprofessional at Hillcrest School in grades Pre-K – 4. She seeks to help her students become good citizens.
<b>MacAfee Road School MAC</b>	<b>Marisa Saucedo, Kindergarten Teacher</b> Ms. Saucedo began her work with our district as a student teacher. After a brief time working in Spain, she returned to MacAfee Road School and has been a teacher there for 4 years. She calls teaching a creative career.	<b>Lindsay Kerzner, Speech Language Specialist</b> Ms. Kerzner has been a speech language specialist for 5 years, the last 3.5 years at EAS and now MAC. Her mother and aunt inspired her to choose this “helping profession” and to work with children.
<b>Pine Grove Manor School PGM</b>	<b>Jodi Dawson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher</b> Ms. Dawson has worked for the district and at PGM for 11 years. She has been a kindergarten and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. She recalls pretending to be a teacher as a child and uses the phrase, “Make It Happen” to motivate her students.	<b>Julie Ginsberg Ferraro, Paraprofessional</b> Ms. Ginsberg Ferraro has worked in the education field for 23 years, the last 10 years with our district. She chose this profession because she wanted to make a difference in children’s lives.



**For More News on Our Schools**  
**Check Out Our Video Newsmagazine - Focus on Franklin**  
**Available on Our District Website**  
[www.franklinboe.org](http://www.franklinboe.org)

# Board of Education Appoints Principals of Franklin High School and Franklin Park School

At their meeting on January 25, 2018, the Franklin Township Board of Education appointed a permanent Principal for Franklin High School and Franklin Park School. While new to these positions, these appointees are experienced as administrators in our school district. They bring with them knowledge of their school community and a great sense of enthusiasm for their new leadership roles.

## Frank Chmiel, Principal of Franklin High School

After 15 years as a high school teacher, Mr. Chmiel joined our school district as a Vice Principal at Franklin High School (FHS). He was assigned the 9th grade class and helped guide those students until they graduated in 2017. He took an opportunity to become a Vice Principal at Franklin Middle School and on March 1st returned to FHS as the new permanent Principal there.

Mr. Chmiel describes the climate of FHS as “exciting” and the culture of the school as “one of pride in the community of Franklin that is steeped in history and great achievements.” He looks forward to working with his staff, students and their families to unite behind a common vision.

Part of that vision will be to motivate all students to focus on their future. Principal Chmiel states, “We want all of our students to be in the best possible position of college and career readiness upon graduation from FHS so that all options are open to them to lead successful and happy lives.”



*Principal Chmiel with members of his family.*

## Purvi Shah, Principal of Franklin Park School

In 2009, Ms. Shah began her teaching career in Franklin Township Public Schools, specifically at Franklin Park School (FPS) where she taught various grade levels. After a brief period as an administrator in another district, Ms. Shah returned to Franklin as a Vice Principal at FHS and then as a Vice Principal at FPS. She began her assignment as Principal of FPS on February 1, 2018.

In her role as instructional leader of FPS, Ms. Shah believes that one of the most important qualities that she can model as an educator for her staff is, “a growth mindset - believing that hard work and perseverance will lead to growth.” She believes in the importance of cultivating a culture of life-long learning and grit among staff so that they can in turn model the same for their students.

She believes that building and maintaining strong, positive relationships with students, staff and parents/guardians is very important to the culture and climate of a school. Looking forward to the remainder of this school year, Ms. Shah is excited about the district’s focus on Social and Emotional Learning and implementing methods to help develop our students’ social and emotional skills.



*Purvi Shah, Principal of Franklin Park School*

## Suzanne Ackley Supervisor of Intervention Services



Ms. Suzanne Ackley joined the Franklin Township Public Schools community earlier this school year as the Supervisor of Intervention Services. Ms. Ackley comes to the district with experience as a teacher, reading and math interventionist and literacy coach. She also served as a Supervisor of Humanities in her former district.

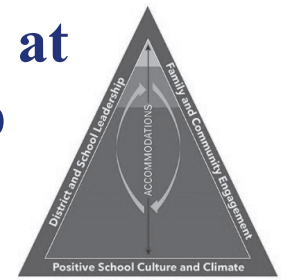
Her role in the district is to supervise the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and support the Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teachers. Looking forward, she will be working to implement the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports for the district.

Students who are referred to an I&RS Team are typically falling behind in reading and/or mathematics. Students in Tier 2 are provided support in the classroom. Their teachers are given additional strategies to help those students. For some students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 additional intervention and instruction from AIS intervention teachers is given.

The I&RS team monitors these students’ progress. Additional interventions can be recommended at follow up meetings and student progress is communicated to parents. The ultimate goal for these students, according to Ms. Ackley, is for those who struggle with reading to become fluent, for the students who were referred for Math to become confident in their application of math strategies and skills. “I want students to successfully reach their goals as learners,” she says. Intervention and Referral Services are available to enable all children to succeed.

## Intervention Services at Franklin Township Public Schools

**By Suzanne Ackley  
Supervisor of Intervention Services**



Services have been provided through the Intervention and Referral System (I&RS) for years in Franklin Township Public Schools, but the State of New Jersey just recently provided a new model for intervention. The New Jersey Tiered System of Supports provides additional support to students in general education classrooms.

The following information can be found on the NJ State Department of Education website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/brief.pdf> “NJTSS builds upon intervention and referral services and gives schools a structure to meet the academic, behavioral, health, enrichment, and social-emotional needs of all students.”

Tier 1 is the general instruction all students receive. “Tier 2 provides supplemental supports and interventions that may be delivered in small-group instruction, provided in either the general classroom or during an intervention period.”

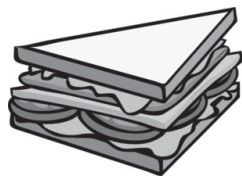
“Tier 3 provides intensive supports and interventions that may be delivered... after the delivery of core instruction. There may be adaptations of supports and interventions based on an individual student’s performance using data that are reviewed during frequent progress monitoring intervals.” All three tiers of support are part of the general education program.

There are nine components to the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports. Those components are as follows: effective district and school leadership; family and community engagement; positive school culture and climate; high-quality learning environments, curricula, and instructional practices; universal screening; data-based decision making; collaborative problem-solving teams; progress monitoring; and staff professional development. This information can be found at NJ Department of Education website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/comp/#14>

We at Franklin Twp. School District are eager to implement the NJTSS model of intervention, and will continue to provide excellent support to our students.

## REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

Your child may be eligible for Free or Reduced Breakfast or Lunch. See the Food Services page at [www.franklinboe.org](http://www.franklinboe.org) to fill out an application online or call 732-873-2400 x 335.



## Information for Parents/Guardians of Children Who Are Experiencing Delays

**Project CHILD FIND** is a program from the NJ Department of Education to assist in the identification of unserved or underserved youth, from birth through age 21, with a delay or disability. Call 1-800-322-8174 for more information on Project CHILD FIND.

Franklin Township Public Schools provides, through its Department of Pupil Personnel Services, educational services to students who have been identified as having educationally debilitating conditions.

If you are a resident of Franklin Township and suspect that your child is having learning difficulties or if a health care provider has indicated that your child should be evaluated, please contact the **Department of Pupil Personnel Services** 1755 Amwell Road, Somerset, New Jersey, 08873. (732) 873-2400 Ext. 203.

