



WINTER 2018

Bloomfield Public Schools Superintendent's Memo

Raising the Bar is Taking us Far

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

I want to wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2019!

This has been an exemplary last few months for our district, as we continue the focus on achieving excellence in academics, athletics and the arts. We are moving in the right direction on all three fronts. Our expectations remain high. In my travels, I regularly talk with state educators who want to know more about what we are doing in Bloomfield. We have much more work to do, as I've noted before. But make no mistake, our success is resonating - and it's a tribute to all of you.

Academics

- Bloomfield's success on the recent SATs is attracting attention statewide and nationally. We were one of four public school districts across the country highlighted in "District Success Stories" by The College Board, the organization that administers the SATs - used for college admissions. The others recognized were Patterson, CA; Houston, TX; and Long Beach, CA.

Bloomfield was one of only 19 school districts in Connecticut to have its juniors achieve double-digit SAT increases in both Reading/Writing and Math.

The College Board 'Success Story' about Bloomfield read, in part:

"Focused instruction pays off. The class of 2019 saw higher-than-expected score gains. This class started high school with an average total score of 794 and went on to average 964 in 11th grade."

Bloomfield Public Schools also received state-wide media attention with stories about:

- Wintonbury Early Childhood teachers Rebecca Murphy and Haley Ryan helping to create a culture of Kindness and Love that is growing far beyond school grounds.
- Sandra Johnson, the 80-year-old Reading teacher at Metacomet School. She has worked with distinction for 59 years in the school district. Ms. Johnson's first classroom was located in a room that now serves as my office. A 1982 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, Ms. Johnson still brings passion, energy and high expectations to school daily.
- Carmen Arace Intermediate School was chosen as the only school in the state to make holiday ornaments that are now on display on a tree in Washington, D.C. adjacent to the National Christmas Tree.
- Jillian Mars, a high honors student at BHS and outstanding track athlete, will be attending Georgetown in the fall on an academic scholarship. She will be majoring in Pre-Med.



Athletics

- Bloomfield High won its second state Class 'S' football championship in four years, after beating Haddam Killingworth 25-7 on freezing day in New Britain. Kudos to Coach Ty Outlaw, his coaches, players and to Warhawk Nation, which supported the team all year.
- The Bloomfield High athletic department, under the leadership of Director of Athletics Tammy Schondelmayer, won its second consecutive Michael's Cup Award for sportsmanship and excellence in athletics

The Arts

- The BHS Music Department, under the director of Frank Quinn and Aubree Bowman, produced a spirit-filled Holiday Celebration musical performance, involving BHS students.
- BHS will host a production of Disney's "High School Musical" March 21st to the 23rd. More than 40 students from BHS and Carmen Arace Middle School will perform.

Other noteworthy highlights:

- Congratulations to Bloomfield Board of Education member Patricia Davis. She is a recipient of the 2018 Parental Involvement Recognition Award from The State Education Resource Center (SERC), in collaboration with the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors. Ms. Davis is also co-chair of the Alliance for Bloomfield's Children; she received the award in recognition of her engagement, contributions, and service.
- Preliminary budget talks have taken place at each school, with principals discussing their proposed spending plans for 2019-20 with parents.

We have a remarkable school district, one that is on the rise and making its mark in the state of Connecticut. We have much to be proud of; let's continue this positive momentum into the new year!

Raising the Bar is Taking us Far

Regards,



Dr. James Thompson, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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