

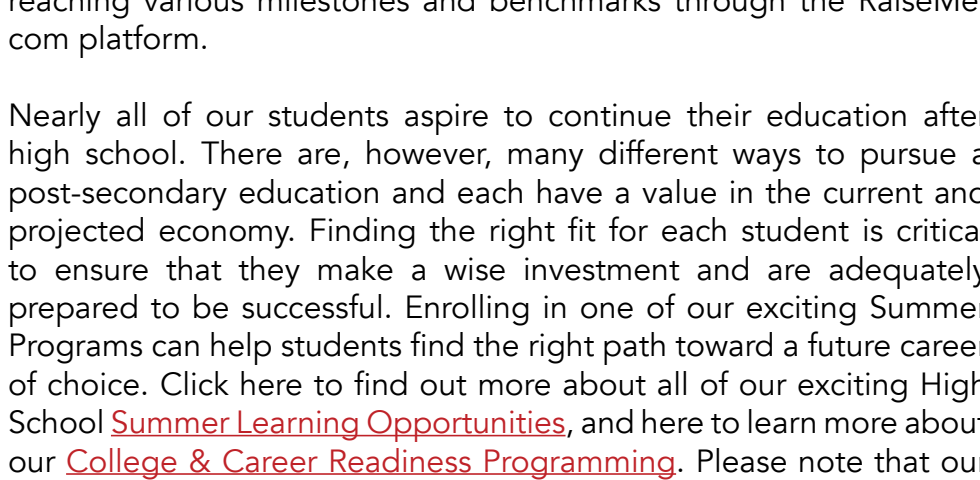


Dear Parents and Guardians,

The second marking period has come to an end and I could not be more proud of our students, teachers and administrative team as I look back on the first half of the school year.

I am not sure if you had the opportunity to see one of the Spring Awakening performances this weekend. Our incredibly talented Hoboken High School Drama Department tackled the powerful and serious messages with grace and a sense of responsibility to generate important conversations between young adults and their parents. I want to thank our students, Ms. Danielle Miller and her staff, and all of our volunteers that made this show a possibility. I think that I speak for all of us when I say that I can't wait to see what's in store for our District musical selection this year, Willy Wonka. As a reminder, all of the necessary student paperwork for participation can be found on our [website](#), as well as important information regarding sign-ups, auditions, and rehearsals.

In other news from the Drama Department, the internationally produced and award-winning playwright George Cameron Grant hosted a PGP Lunchbox Lecture Series event last week, sharing the true story behind his play, Fortune, with students and staff. During this special event, celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans, Brandon Lyons and Demeara Davenport from Hoboken High School's award-winning theatre program presented excerpts from the play, the nationally-recognized Rockin' Redwings performed Swing Low Sweet Chariot, and the high school chorus sang spiritual hymns including 'Follow The Drinking Gourd'. I want to thank Mr. Grant for once again connecting with us and enriching the lives of our students. You can find more information, pictures, and video clips from the presentation later in The Herald!



I am pleased to announce that 95% of our current senior class has now submitted applications to continue on to higher education, and have received over \$11.5 million dollars in college and university academic and merit scholarship awards. In addition, the senior class has earned \$2.4 million dollars in scholarship money as a result of reaching various milestones and benchmarks through the RaiseMe.com platform.

Nearly all of our students aspire to continue their education after high school. There are, however, many different ways to pursue a post-secondary education and each have a value in the current and projected economy. Finding the right fit for each student is critical to ensure that they make a wise investment and are adequately prepared to be successful. Enrolling in one of our exciting Summer Programs can help students find the right path toward a future career of choice. Click here to find out more about all of our exciting High School [Summer Learning Opportunities](#), and here to learn more about our [College & Career Readiness Programming](#). Please note that our Summer Learning Opportunities Directory is updated regularly, so be sure to check back often!

Please join me in recognizing all of our students who participated in the Hudson County Spelling Bee this year. I am proud of each and every student. Spelling Bee competitions are certainly anxiety-producing. Our students were calm, confident and prepared. Calabro student, Raine Sayaan, placed 8th in the overall competition. This is a tremendous accomplishment considering she was up against students two and three grade levels above her. More information can be found [here](#).

Last week, Mrs. Sandra Rodriguez-Gomez, Director of Early Childhood Education and her Early Childhood Education team hosted our annual Pre K Day of Visitation. We welcomed over 350 families for the one-hour information session, followed up by guided tours of each of our six preschool locations. Tours were led by current parents, family advocates, and Hoboken Early Childhood staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank HECAC, Hoboken's Early Childhood Advisory Committee, for providing ongoing support, guidance and recommendations. In case you missed the event or know of any neighbors that may not have attended, the [powerpoint presentation](#) is available on our website. Our Early Childhood Team is looking forward to the week of registration, which will be held from April 9-13th. More information can be found [here](#).

Hoboken Public School District's partnership with Stevens Institute of Technology to build a living classroom and outdoor activity park at Hoboken Middle School took another step forward last week, as staff members and our district's Architect visited with two classes on campus. Stevens students asked critical questions about the physical space and attempted to troubleshoot any potential obstacles. Ideas for the activity park include climbing apparatus, life size game areas, designated sporting zones, and so much more. Concepts for the living classroom are beginning to take shape as well. It's amazing to think that our students will have a model of the Hudson River in their own school, which may include aquariums, research areas, and interactive history boards. I can't wait to see what the final designs will look like. The classes have already met with a group of our Middle School students. This week, the classes will be meeting with small groups of 5th and 6th grade students, parents, and staff.

The Hoboken Middle School Parent Advisory Committee is hard at work with Principal Davis. They will be hosting their first Game Night for 7th and 8th grade students and family members at Hoboken Middle School on February 23rd from 5:00-7:00 PM. Their goal is to build and enhance the school community as students, parents, and teachers become better acquainted.

There are a few other items that I would like to draw your attention to. Please take note or mark your calendars. The second edition of our schools' Quarterly Newsletters will be published by the end of this week. Be sure to check out what's been happening in each of our schools over the last marking period!

Our Passport to Learning After School Program will be hosting its first ever Back to School Night on Wednesday February 21st at each elementary school location. More information will be distributed in the coming weeks. Please be reminded that Passport to Learning will begin its second semester today, Monday, February 5th.

February's SEPCAC Meeting has been rescheduled to February 28th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

[Registration for Spring 2017-2018 Athletics](#) is now live online! You can find the link here and on our website under Athletics!

Kindergarten placement letters will be sent home with Pre-K 4 children at the end of this week. The letter will include the placement process, the school in which your child is placed and the date and time of the school tour, and dates for information sessions.

This Thursday, February 15th is an early dismissal. In addition, schools will be closed in observance of President's Day on Friday, February 16th and Monday, February 19th. I hope you all have a relaxing long weekend.

For district information, program updates, and upcoming events, I encourage you to take a look at our new [Interactive Calendar!](#) Inside you will find important program highlights and resources, contact information, and more! This calendar will be updated throughout the year, so be sure to check back often. In addition, we have posted a website tutorial for those having some difficulty finding information.

As always, be sure to connect with us on our social media platforms and download our mobile application, where we publish updates in real-time for your convenience. Follow us on Twitter [@HobokenSchools](#), like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/hobokenpublicschools](#), and download our app on [www.android.com](#) and [www.apple.com](#) devices by searching "Hoboken School District" in the Google Play Store and Apple Store.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Christine Johnson*

Dr. Christine Johnson  
Superintendent of Schools



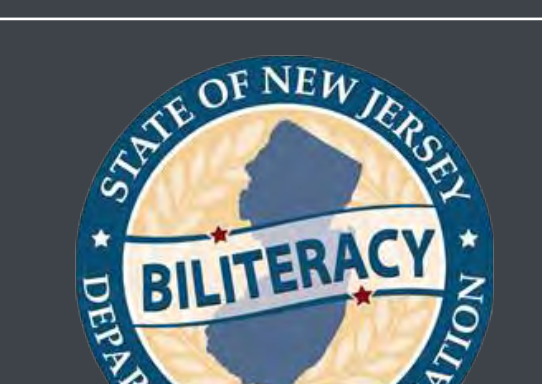
Some of our District Scholars working through complex writing assignments!

## Principal Messages

- Hoboken High School
- Hoboken Middle School
- Brandt Primary School
- Calabro Elementary School
- Connors Elementary School
- Wallace Elementary School

## Upcoming Events

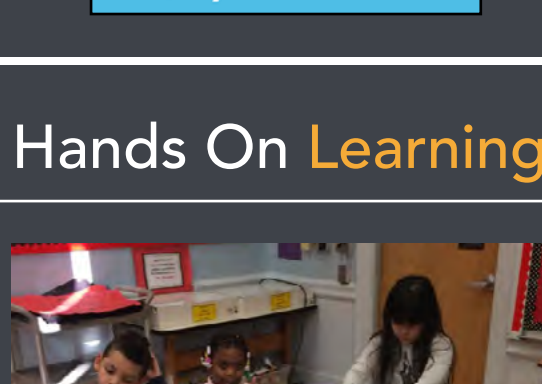
- February 12**  
Marking Period 2  
Report Cards Distributed
- February 13**  
HBOE Meeting
- February 15**  
Early Dismissal
- February 16**  
Schools Closed-  
President's Day
- February 19**  
Schools Closed-  
President's Day
- February 20-23**  
Preschool  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 28**  
SEPCAC Meeting



[www.hobokenpef.org](#)  
New HPEF Initiatives  
Become a Donor



Hoboken High School  
Featured School

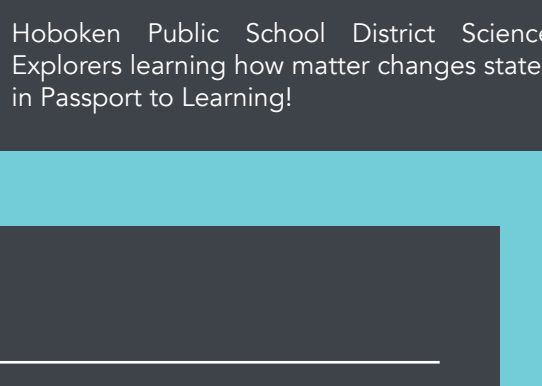


## Social Media

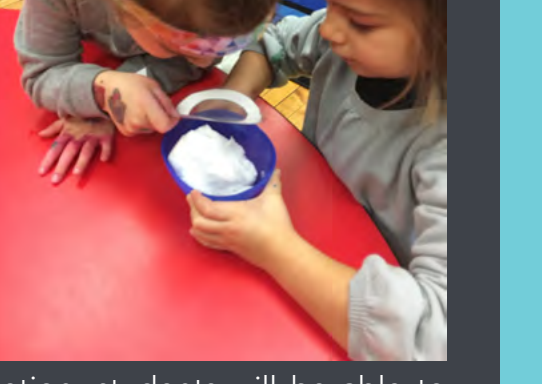
- Digital Backpack
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Mobile Application



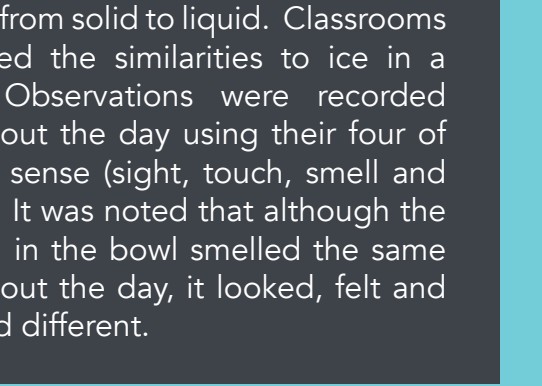
## Hands On Learning



Connors students getting a taste of Mixed Media Arts in Passport to Learning!



Wallace Elementary School 5th graders preparing VEX Vehicles for programming in their Project Lead the Way STEM class!

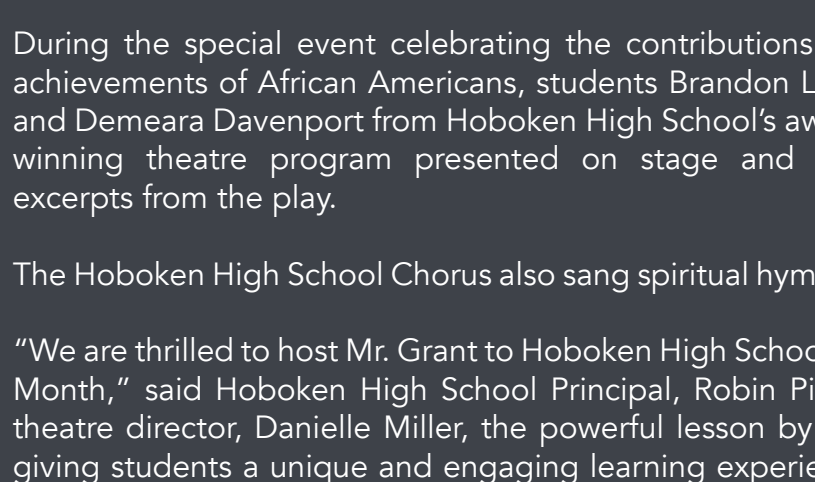


Hoboken Public School District Science Explorers learning how matter changes states in Passport to Learning!

## Early Childhood Education

Our youngest learners have been immersed in the Tools of the Mind Activity, Science Eyes. Science Eyes is aims to increase the child's ability to attend to small details when observing an object. It strengthens oral language skills through exposure to new vocabulary using adjectives and adverbs. When making an observation and discussing the similarities and differences between objects children are encouraged to use the new vocabulary. During this activity, children also practice turn-taking and listening skills with a peer.

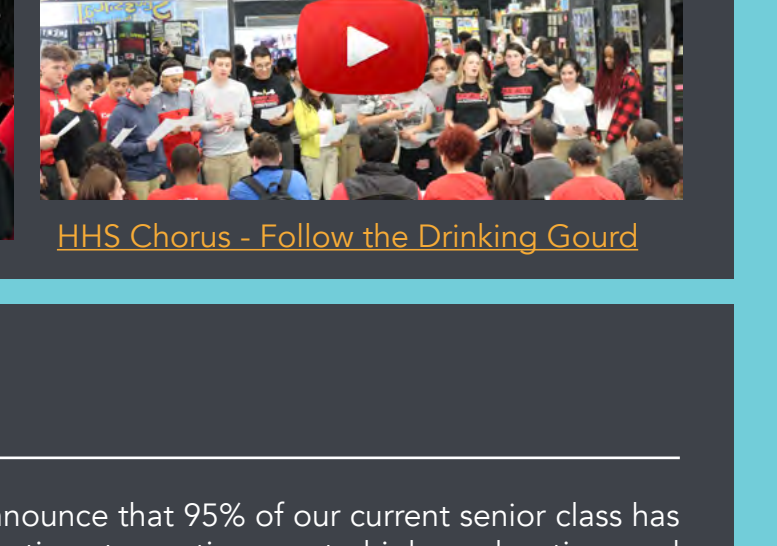
This week the children learned the life cycle of a plant and had the opportunity to plant their own oregano, cilantro, or parsley. This activity will continue as classrooms are planting and watching their herbs grow into the spring. Students will use magnifying glasses to examine their plant's growing process. Children will record their observations by drawing pictures and writing words to describe their pictures. At the project's completion, students will be able to reflect on and see the life cycle through their own experience and recordings.



Science Eyes was also used this week to observe and record the phases of matter as children brought snow into the classroom, and eagerly watched it change from solid to liquid. Classrooms compared the similarities to ice in a cup. Observations were recorded throughout the day using their four of the five sense (sight, touch, smell and sound). It was noted that although the material in the bowl smelled the same throughout the day, it looked, felt and sounded different.

## Preschool Day of Visitation

The Preschool Day of Visitation was held on Wednesday, Feb 7th at the Demarest School. We welcomed over 350 families for a one hour informational session followed by families taking tours of each of the 6 preschool locations. Tours were led by current parents, family advocates, and Hoboken Early Childhood staff. In case you missed it, the powerpoint is now available. We are looking forward to the week of registration April 9-13th. Please see our [website](#) for more information.



## George Cameron Grant Visits HHS

Hoboken High School today hosted "Fortune" playwright, George Cameron Grant as its first event to honor Black History Month. The internationally produced and award-winning playwright spoke to students and answered their questions about the person and true story behind his play.

Rose Fortune, who was born a slave, and through a 90-year life span, became a symbol of truth, social equality and human spirit.

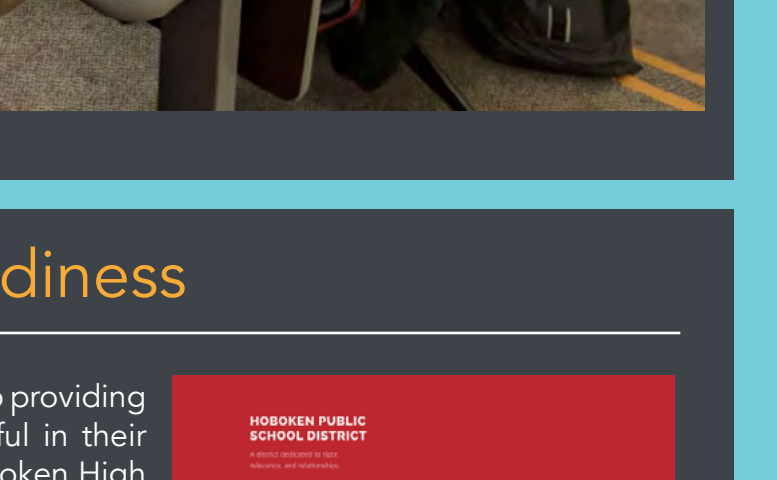
During the special event celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans, students Brandon Lyons and Demeara Davenport from Hoboken High School's award-winning theatre program presented on stage and read excerpts from the play.

The Hoboken High School Chorus also sang spiritual hymns including "Follow The Drinking Gourd".

"We are thrilled to host Mr. Grant to Hoboken High School for this year's first event for Black History Month," said Director Hoboken High School Principal, Robin Picciapetra. "Organized by our acclaimed theatre director, Danielle Miller, the powerful lesson by Mr. Grant is part of our commitment to giving students a unique and engaging learning experiences that goes beyond textbooks," said Ms. Picciapetra.

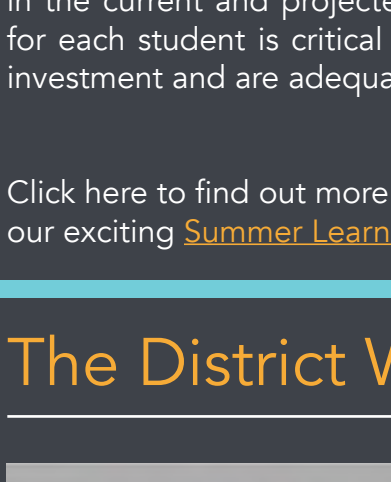


Rockin' Redwings - Swing Low Sweet Chariot



HHS Chorus - Follow the Drinking Gourd

## Guidance Department



We are pleased to announce that 95% of our current senior class has now submitted applications to continue on to higher education, and have received over \$11.5 million dollars in college and university academic and merit scholarship awards. In addition, the senior class has earned \$2.4 million dollars in scholarship money as a result of reaching various milestones and benchmarks through the RaiseMe.com platform.

Please be sure to check the [2017-2018 Guidance Calendar](#) for all of our upcoming college visits, student and parent workshops, and events.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Hoboken High School, our different academic programs, clubs and sports!

## Innovative Spaces Design Update

Hoboken Public School District's partnership with Stevens Institute of Technology to build a living classroom and outdoor activity park at Hoboken Middle School took another step forward last week, as staff members and our district's Architect visited with two classes on campus. Stevens students asked critical questions about the physical space and attempted to troubleshoot any potential obstacles. Ideas for the activity park include climbing apparatus, life size game areas, designated sporting zones, and so much more. Concepts for the living classroom are beginning to take shape as well. It's amazing to think that our students will have a model of the Hudson River in their own school, which may include aquariums, research areas, and interactive history boards. I can't wait to see what the final designs will look like. The classes have already met with a group of our Middle School students. This week, the classes will be meeting with small groups of 5th and 6th grade students, parents, and staff.



## College and Career Readiness

The Hoboken Public School District is committed to providing a solid framework for all students to be successful in their chosen path after graduation. The vision of a Hoboken High School graduate identifies the knowledge, skills, readiness and dispositions our students should have in order to be ready to effectively navigate college, career and future opportunities. This solid foundation has positively influenced our students to undertake and take on the challenges that will globally influence their futures.

Nearly all of our students aspire to continue their education after high school. There are, however, many different ways to pursue a post-secondary education and each have a value in the current and projected economy. Finding the right fit for each student is critical to ensure that they make a wise investment and are adequately prepared to be successful.

[Click here](#) to find out more about our [College & Career Readiness](#) programming, including all of our exciting [Summer Learning Opportunities](#).

## The District Website



Our website is the best place to find all of our District resources, contact information, upcoming events, and everything else you might want to know about the Hoboken Public Schools.

Using the link below, you will find detailed information on how to navigate the website and find exactly what you need. This index will be updated regularly, so be sure to refer back often to find out what's new!

[Navigating the District Website](#)

