

Bristol Community College's new Parenting Advancement Pathways program helps student parents reach their goals

Bristol Community College's new Parenting Advancement Pathways program holistically supports student parents who are balancing their education while raising children. The program provides valuable resources inside and outside of the college such as case management, financial and career planning, counseling as well as integrated, wrap-around academic support that leads to earning a degree.

"When parents can focus on their educational, career and financial goals with support and high-impact best practices, they are more likely to reach their goals," said Iva Brito, Director, Bristol Community College Women's Center.

The program is planned to begin in Spring 2021 and is backed by EMPATH's Mobility Mentoring® model and the development of individual goals in five areas that represent the pillars on the EmPath Bridge to Self-Sufficiency®. The initiative focuses on supporting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color), low-income and single mother heads of a household, but is open to all mothers currently learning at Bristol. The program requires an application and virtual interview process.

The Parenting Advancement Pathways program will work with the college's student centers and departments – such as the Women's Center, Multicultural Affairs, Disability Services, Admissions, Advising, Financial Aid, Career Services and Student and Family Engagement, to customize services and

resources to aid student success.

The initiative will also provide resources such as holistic case management, financial and career planning, counseling and mentoring. Participants will be assigned both a peer mentor and a professional mentor to help stay on track and to provide experience-based guidance and encouragement.

The innovative program, funded by grants from the Island Foundation, Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts and Rise Prize, will also be supported with engaging workshops from community partners, such as the Marion Institute, Around the Bend Farm, Elements Learning Collaborative and more.

Students can apply to be in the Parenting Advancement Pathways program now, by visiting www.bristolcc.edu/parenting or by emailing Iva.Brito@bristolcc.edu.

New Bedford Public Schools Parent Information Meetings scheduled for February 1-3

New Bedford Public Schools will host three Parent Information Meetings in the form of virtual webinars on three consecutive evenings next week – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 1-3, 2021. Meetings will start each day at 5:30 p.m. and end at 6:15 p.m. Each meeting will focus on specific areas of school operations affected by changes made in order to reduce the risk of viral exposure:

- Monday, February 1: Facilities/Operations Update, 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

- Tuesday, February 2: Health Services Update, 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 3: Teaching/Learning Update, 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

The meetings are a continuation of the district's community engagement initiatives, which have increased significantly in response to learning challenges posed by social distancing and other mitigation practices put in place at the start of the new school year last fall. Zoom links to the meetings will be available on NBPS social media and the district website, newbedfordschools.org.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, "These sessions continue the district's commitment to community outreach efforts on a number of important issues, including video messages to parents, virtual open houses, the Student Resource Officer Program review, Family Institutes for Student Success events, Equity work, and numerous Wraparound Services designed to support students and their families."

Noting that the spring semester will focus districtwide on measures to minimize or prevent learning loss for those students in most need, Superintendent Anderson added, "This learning focus targets Prevention, Recovery and Acceleration to ensure students continue to progress. Recovery efforts will assist to remediate those students who need additional support – academically and socio-emotionally, while also accelerating support and greater momentum for students who are already proficient in order to maximize their strengths."

The district's ongoing Equity work includes in-depth outreach activities. A 21-day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge with NBPS staff is planned to begin on February 5, 2021. Erin Duarte, NBPS Lead Wraparound Coordinator, noted, "The district is honored to have the YWCA SouthCoast in partnership to host the Challenge, which will broaden the discussion and understanding of racial equity and issues of

social justice.”

Of the district Equity, Diversity and Inclusion working group, Superintendent Anderson stated, “the team facilitated by an external partner consists of 30 people including students, community members, teachers, and administrators. Our key focus is to embed an equity plan’s mission and vision into our NBPS Strategic Plan. Part of this process entails scrutinizing and assessing our practices, policies, and structures to evaluate their impact on our ability to be an organization that is inclusive and equitable.”

NBPS’ longstanding School Resource Office (SRO) Program is under review with community engagement a chief component of an examination of its mission and efficacy. Four virtual forums have taken place for students (Oct. 7), staff (Oct. 13), and the public (Oct. 14, Nov. 17) to gather feedback, personal experience and public opinion of the SRO program. As a result, two community-working groups met on January 7 to begin reviewing SRO models in other districts, (including districts that have removed SRO programs) and incorporating information collected throughout the review process, including input gathered in the district’s Community Conversations, surveys and focus groups.

Participating stakeholders in the SRO meetings have included the NAACP New Bedford Branch, New Bedford Coalition to Save Our Schools (NBCSOS), United Interfaith Action of Southeastern Massachusetts (UIA), parents, educators, New Bedford School Committee and the New Bedford Police Department. A final report is expected by the end of the school year.

OPINION: “It’s criminal that UMass Admins take 90% of the 100 slots of highest salary earners for Massachusetts”

In a recent Boston Globe article it was reported that the top 48 salaries for the Commonwealth were taken by UMass Administrators – to of whom make over \$1 million annually.

Furthermore, the majority of the next 50 slots are also UMass admins.

Yet, for the past few years, UMass has been decrying the need to make up lost revenue by increasing tuition, putting schooling out of reach for even more people, or placing those attending the universities deeper in debt.

The irony is that most of the students attending these universities are liberal-leaning and often protest and rally against corporations and the 1% who hold most of the wealth. Yet, here they are helping put more money in their pockets.

Does anyone see what’s wrong with this? Is it not obvious that the reason the universities need to increase tuition is to maintain the absolutely ridiculously exorbitant salaries?

Here’s an idea: how about cut those 100 salaries by half? The admins would still be part of the 1%, and those wishing to find higher education can reap the benefits of lower tuition fees.

It gets worse: with the incoming Biden administration discussing forgiving student debt, it allows the problem to continue to be ignored. The rich will stay rich, the poor or middle class will still struggle and the broken, virtually

criminal education system will persist.

If the Biden administration forgives student debt the UMass school system admins can prop their feet up on their desks, light themselves a Cuban cigar, crack open a bottle 1996 Dom Perignon Rose Gold Methuselah at \$49,000, and chomp down some Beluga caviar as they laugh themselves all the way to the bank.

The jokes on you, the Massachusetts family trying to put their kids through school. Think about that next time you vote.

New Bedford's Prince Henry Society offers annual college scholarships

The New Bedford Chapter of the Prince Henry Society is accepting applications for this year's scholarship program. Eligible candidates are all graduating seniors seeking an undergraduate or associate's degree from an accredited college/university, a resident of the Greater New Bedford area, with an emphasis on students of Portuguese descent and with interest in Portuguese culture.

"We encourage local high school seniors to apply for our annual scholarship, which we are proud to offer to Greater New Bedford students," said Robert Gaspar, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. "For the past four decades, the Prince Henry Society has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to more than 1,000 deserving high school graduates. We are glad to continue our strong commitment to education in our community."

Applications are available in the guidance offices of New Bedford High School, Dartmouth High School, Wareham High School, Apponequet Regional High School, Old Rochester Regional High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, Fairhaven High School, Old Colony Vocational High School, and Bishop Stang High School.

Applications are also available online at www.princehenrysociety.org or by calling Scholarship Committee Chairman Robert Gaspar at 508-998-2012.

Deadline for return of all applications is April 1, 2021.

New Bedford High School awarded \$250,000 grant for marine technology program

New Bedford High School has been awarded a \$250,000 grant through the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program, the Baker-Polito Administration announced recently. The grant funding will be used to construct a state-of-the-art Marine Technology Laboratory to support New Bedford High School's Career Vocational Technical Education programming in maritime industry skill training. The new facilities will prepare students for careers in marine and maritime industries.

The NBHS Marine Technology Laboratory will be outfitted with welding training equipment, virtual welding and diesel engine training equipment. To date, New Bedford High School has been awarded \$650,000 in Skills Capital Grants since 2019. Previous awards include \$125,000 for the school's finance lab and \$275,000 for robotics logistics equipment.

In announcing the awards, Governor Charlie Baker said, "At a critical time in our Commonwealth, these Skills Capital Grants will increase flexibility and support for schools and educational institutions to launch new programs and help more students develop important technical skills and prepare them for high-demand industries."

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, "We commend NBHS staff for their work on this project, which has resulted in the award of this competitive grant. It will increase the high school's capabilities in preparing students for an expanding range of careers and post-secondary educational opportunities. Thanks, too, for the support of our partners, including the Community Boating Center, New Bedford Port Authority, Quinn Fisheries/East Coast Fabrication and MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board."

New Bedford High School's Marine Technology Lab, which will include training systems connected to vessel construction and diesel engine technology, will support career pathway development for students interested maritime industry. The new laboratory and equipment will address the training requirements of the maritime industry sector. Also known as the "Blue Economy", this sector is identified as an emerging growth career area by the MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board's regional labor market blueprint.

"We are delighted to receive this third Skills Capital Grant Award to support the expansion of our Career Vocational Technical Education program, and grateful for Governor Baker's continued support for NBHS", said Bernadette Coelho, headmaster of New Bedford High School. "As the City of New Bedford has a rich history in the marine industry, it is only appropriate that NBHS serves as a career training center for new opportunities in the field".

The planned marine technology lab compliments New Bedford High School's growth in career technical education, as it has

committed to fostering new vocational programming and supplementing its existing technical training offerings. The high school has offered marine construction programs in partnership with the Community Boating Center in New Bedford and plans to expand maritime offerings as a result of the new equipment.

“Our career technical students will be well positioned to obtain maritime industry careers with the training they will receive in this advanced technical laboratory”, said Christopher Cummings, Manager of New Bedford High School’s Career Vocational Technical Education program, who noted that NBHS will engage its existing maritime industry partners and MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board to implement the new laboratory. “It is our goal to maximize the opportunities in the emerging Blue Economy by being the flagship training center for marine careers.”

New Bedford High School offers a broad range of Career Vocational Technical Education programming and is affiliated with the National Academy Foundation. In addition to marine programs, the school offers career pathway programs in Instructional Technology, Digital Media, Health Sciences, Engineering, Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, Finance, Business Technology, and Hospitality. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE at 508 997 4511, ext. 20799.

Interview new with New

Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Anderson

Chris Resendes sits down with New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Thomas Anderson to update us on the current school year and all things New Bedford Public Schools.

New Bedford Public Schools to close on December 17

In anticipation of the upcoming winter storm projections for tomorrow, all New Bedford Public Schools and administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, December 17, 2020:

- NO in-person classes
- NO distance learning/remote sessions occurring
- NO virtual meetings
- NO after-school activities

Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, “We are using our “traditional” snow day model and there will be NO in-person classes and NO distance learning/remote sessions occurring. This full cancellation is out of concern for the safety of both our students and our staff who must drive in these conditions.”

Adult Evening Classes scheduled for Wednesday, December 16 are not cancelled.

There is also a parking ban in New Bedford that starts at 5

pm. Full details [here](#).

New Bedford Public Schools to switch to all-distance learning ahead of the holiday break

All-distance learning will continue for the first week after break, January 4-8, 2021.

New Bedford Public Schools, currently using a hybrid model to serve almost 9,000 students in person and another 4,000 remotely, will convert the last 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ schooldays leading up to the holiday break, December 21-23, 2020, to full distance learning days. Wednesday, December 23 is a half-day.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson announced the change at the December 14 meeting of the New Bedford School Committee. "Our staff continues to do an excellent job keeping the teaching and learning process moving at a high level. The conversion of these final 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days before the holiday break to the distance-learning platform will assist as high numbers of staff have been out for a variety of reasons including being close contacts, Superintendent Anderson, said. "While positivity rates are up regionally and across the country, contract tracing currently shows that there has been no transmission of the virus in our schools. This adjustment in the learning schedule adds one more preemptive health measure," he added.

All instruction will occur virtually December 21-23. The holiday break starts on the afternoon of Wednesday, December

23 and runs through Sunday, January 3, 2021.

All NBPS schools and PRAB administrative offices will be open December 21-23 and NBPS employees who cannot work from home in their capacity are required to come in to their school or office. NBPS facilities and maintenance staff will report to work as scheduled.

- Monday (December 21), Tuesday (December 22) and Wednesday (December 23): ALL students in all cohorts will participate in the distance-learning platform and there will be no in-person classes.
- January 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8: will be Distance Learning Days for ALL students (including Cohort A) – there will be no in-person learning on these days.
- January 11, 2021: The current NBPS Hybrid model resumes with in-person learning for Cohort A (5-days). Cohorts B and C resume their 2-day in-person/3-day distance schedule. Cohort D students remain fully in the Distance Learning Academy.

Grab 'n' Go meals will be available for pickup at selected school locations, December 21-23, as well as during the week of January 4-8, 2021. Details on Grab 'n' Go hours and locations will be posted on NBPS Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NewBedfordPublicSchools, and the NBPS homepage, www.newbedfordschools.org.

Superintendent Anderson advised families and students to monitor the district's website, social media platforms and local media for additional announcements and news as it develops.

In a letter to staff and families today detailing the schedule changes, Superintendent Anderson stated, "We all know that we are in a fluid situation and adjustments may be necessary in the coming days or weeks. As always, thank you for your support as we continue to work together."

Dartmouth's Bishop Stang students are winners of Pope Pius X Award

Three Bishop Stang students were recently recognized with the Pope Pius X Award. This special award was established by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and named after Pope St. Pius X, founder of the Fall River Diocese, who was devoted to the youth of the church. Pastors from local parishes nominate extraordinary teenagers who selflessly serve their peers, parish and youth programs with commitment and dedication.

Senior, Emily DeDreitas, a Junior from Westport, was nominated by Fr. Paul Bernier of St. George Parish for her devotion, service, and selfless giving. Senior, Brenden Alexander, of Acushnet, was nominated by Fr. Riley Williams of St. Francis Xavier Parish for being "a faith-filled young man whose commitment serves as a role-model to young and old alike". And newly graduated college Freshman, Joey Paulo from St. John Neumann Parish was nominated by Fr. Gregory Mathias for his humble service and "great witness to our faith".

These winning recipients were presented with a cherished medal bearing the image of Pope St. Pius X along with his motto, "Restore all things in Christ". Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, of the Fall River Diocese said of the recipients "Your examples bear witness to all who know you. May God give you the courage and fortitude to continue to share your love of Christ, your devotion to your faith, and your steadfast commitment to sharing the Good News to all you encounter".

Mrs. Amanda Tarantelli, Bishop Stang's Director of Campus

Ministry, said "We are so blessed to have so many outstanding students at our School and Brendan, Emily and Joey are no exception! They are not only a blessing to their parish communities but to our Stang family as well!"

Bishop Stang High School is humbled to be a part of the lives of these extraordinary young people and thanks them for their faith and service.



Joseph Raymond Paulo

St. John Neumann Parish
East Freetown

Video: 2020_01_pius_recipients_007.mpg

"Joseph is a most generous and humble altar server, and willingly helps in so many ways. He is a great witness to our faith."

Fr. Gregory Mathias

Bishop Stang photo.



Brenden Alexander

St. Francis Xavier Parish
Acushnet

Brenden is a faith-filled young man whose commitment serves as a role-model to young and old alike. "

Fr. Riley Williams

Bishop Stang photo.



Emily Ann DeFreitas

St. George Parish
Westport

Video: 2020_st_george_recipients_067.mp4

"Emily is a devoted and faith-filled young woman who serves in various ministries at the parish. She gives selflessly, sharing her time and talent. She is a great example to her parish and school communities."

Fr. Paul Bernier

Bishop Stang photo.

New Bedford's Carney Academy to move to full remote schooling

*****ATTENTION ALL CARNEY FAMILIES*****

Carney Academy will be going FULL remote starting December 14-December 18. Staff will be in the building but students are expected to login with their teachers every day from home this week only until further notice."