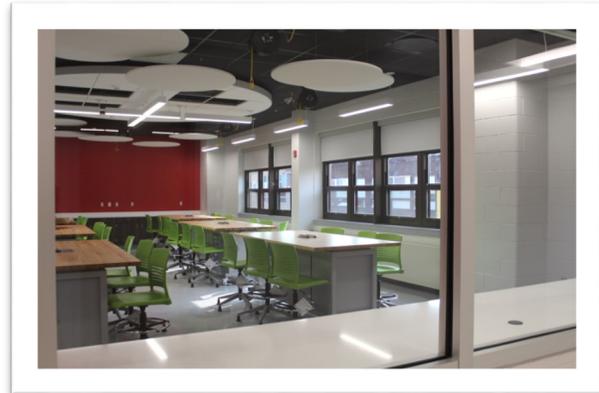




# FAIR LAWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Winter 2020

[www.fairlawnschools.org](http://www.fairlawnschools.org)



## FAIR LAWN COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

### Welcomes Students to New, Expanded Middle Schools

After completing construction projects in the fall, Fair Lawn Public Schools opened two remodeled middle schools on Oct. 19, when the district opened for in-person learning after starting the 2020-2021 school year virtually.

Middle school construction projects for the district's two middle schools, **Memorial Middle School (MMS)** and **Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS)**, were built at the same time with the goal of providing more physical space to support moving fifth-graders from elementary to middle school, while alleviating overcrowding primarily in the elementary

schools. It's the product of a \$25 million referendum approved almost three years ago.

This is the first year that fifth-grade students started school in middle school under the district's reconfiguration to a new grades 5-8 model.

"I'm extremely excited to welcome back our students to our new, state-of-the art buildings," said Superintendent Nick Norcia. "Our dream has become a reality and it will benefit our students and the community now and for decades in the future."

Construction began in June 2019 and included adding air

conditioning to both middle school's existing auditoriums and to Fair Lawn High School's auditorium and B Gym.

The construction project at MMS, located at 12-00 First St., added a new second-floor wing above the existing school building and is connected by three stairwells and a new elevator. MMS's 21,050-square foot expansion includes 10 new classrooms, a media center with red flex seating (to match the district's red in the "FL" logo), floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook MMS's front entrance, a Think Pod (conference room), an elevator, a state-of-the art STEAM lab and storage space,

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Principal Schwindt welcoming a new incoming fifth-grader to MMS.



Superintendent Norcia welcoming students back to in-person learning on Oct. 19, 2020, at Memorial Middle School.



Fair Lawn middle and elementary schools are the 2020 recipients of the **New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program** for their commitment to walking and bicycling to school. Our schools reached Gold Status!

As you know, each year Fair Lawn Schools participate in Walk and Bike to School Day in the fall. This national event involves communities and schools walking and biking together and has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school.

Fair Lawn High School was not eligible, but participated in the walk/bike day as well.

Congratulations to all students/staff for participating and for your Gold Status achievement!

## FIFTH-GRADERS

### HAVE NEW HOME FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Despite starting remotely, fifth-graders transitioned to middle school for their first day of school as part of the district’s reconfiguration to a grades 5-8 model.

Middle school construction projects for the district’s two middle schools, **Memorial Middle School (MMS)** and **Thomas Jefferson Middle School, (TJMS)** were built with the goal of providing more physical space to support moving fifth-graders from elementary to middle school, while alleviating overcrowding primarily in the elementary schools. It’s the product of a \$25 million referendum voters approved almost three years ago.

“Not welcoming you in person on the first day of school is not what we planned, especially since we’ve been working over the past year to expand our school, but you will have our full attention and although there will be speed bumps along the way, we will work with you to overcome them,” said Principal Mike Weaver, TJMS, to parents and students who attended one of the virtual fifth and sixth-grade orientation sessions in early September.

The district presented the fifth- and sixth-grade course offerings and schedule to parents last winter and integrated the best parts of elementary and middle school, including a rotational schedule to provide fifth-graders with a new and unique experience in brand new wings. The new fifth-grade cohort will also have access to additional resources such as guidance counselors and numerous after-school clubs.

The fifth- and sixth-grade in-person course schedule is as follows:

- Daily – Reading, Writing, Mathematics
- Science and Social Studies (Offered daily, but rotates each marking period)
- Physical Education, Health, and Music (Classes offered on a fixed weekly schedule)
- World Language, Art, Civics (Current Events and Personal Financial Literacy), and STEAM (Offered on a fixed weekly schedule)

Winter 2020



## MILNES RECOGNIZED AS A 2020 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

H.B. Milnes Elementary School is the recipient of the **2020 National Blue Ribbon School** award for high performance, which was announced on Sept. 24, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance and is the highest honor a school can receive from the DOE.

Milnes was honored in a videotaped announcement by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

"I am so proud of the positive school culture that we have here at Milnes School. All staff members are committed to helping our students learn, grow, and achieve academically, socially, and emotionally," said Principal Stephanie Primavera, who gathered with teachers in the Milnes' media center to watch the announcement.

"All of the credit is really due to the hard work of our teachers, students and supportive parents. I'd also like to thank our committee, who tirelessly worked putting together our application," added Primavera.

In February 2020, Milnes School was notified they had been nominated as a Blue Ribbon school for high achievement.

"I'd like to congratulate Milnes School on their 2020 National Blue Ribbon School award and for their commitment to creating a climate centered around establishing and maintaining high academic expectations," said Superintendent Nick Norcia.

Schools win recognition in one of two performance categories:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony was held virtually on Nov. 12 and Nov. 13.

Continued from Page 1

an art/music room, an administrative office and restrooms.

The construction project at TJMS, located at 35-01 Morlot Ave., includes a new two-story 28,346-square foot addition built adjacent to the existing school, as well as 14 classrooms, a guidance department office suite, state-of-the-art STEAM lab and storage space, Think Pod (conference room), cafeteria, teacher's lounge, restrooms, inner courtyard, a hallway connecting the new wing to the existing building, and rear exit to the school's blacktop. The school's existing main office space and administrative offices, as well as nurse's office, were renovated.

Promethean interactive whiteboards were added to several classrooms in both school projects, as well as the new MMS Media Center.

Construction management services were provided by Epic Management, Inc., in Piscataway, N.J. and LAN Associates in Midland Park, N.J. provided the architectural services for the project.

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# NEW WING AT TJMS

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Construction and Renovation Completed



**Special points of interest:**

- New two-story 28,346-square foot addition
- 14 new classrooms
- New Guidance Suite
- New Teachers' Lounge
- STEAM Lab
- Cafetorium

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Thomas Jefferson Middle School 's (TJMS) new front office.



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TJMS's new Cafetorium

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# A PEAK INSIDE MMS

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## School With A View



Flex seating in the new MMS Media Center that overlooks the school's front entrance.



### Special points of interest:

- New second floor wing
- 21,050-square foot expansion
- 10 new classrooms
- New Media Center
- STEAM Lab
- New elevator



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MMS STEAM Lab

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Fair Lawn High School has 12 **2021 National Merit Commended Scholars!** These seniors of the Class of 2021 are among a group of only 50,000 nationwide to be recognized; they earned the recognition by scoring in the top 50,000 of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT.

The following 12 students have been identified as Commended Students: Daniel Choi, Adwait Ganguly, Dina Gofman, Lillian



Gofman, Oluwatamilore Kabiawu, Zain Kamal, Winston Kwon, Rachel Moskowitz, Samuel Skripko, Elaine Steinberg, Sophia Trigub and Barry Walker.

## LYNCREST TEACHER HONORED FOR INSPIRING STUDENTS

Lyncrest fourth-grade teacher, Debbie Kempin, received an **Honorable Mention** from the members of the NJ Science Convention (NJSC) for the 2020 Anton Banko Award. Kempin was recognized for her ability to engage children in the study of science. She was one of three finalists and received a \$500 reimbursement for science instructional supplies and complimentary registration at the NJSC Virtual 2020 Conference.



### Tower Garden

Celebrating the Tower Garden produce by having a Salad Party last year.

For the past 10 years, Kempin has been the volunteer advisor for the Lyncrest Environmental Club. Some of her notable work on behalf of the club and in her classroom include:

- Bringing in guests from Fair Lawn's Recycling Center
- Responsible for Lyncrest's Outdoor Classroom (via a grant that funded the materials)
- Implementing an Eco-Art Project using Plastic Bottle Caps
- Student Participation in the Fair Lawn's Green Fair
- Creating Student-Friendly Recycling Cans for the Lyncrest Lunchroom
- Painting Murals Depicting Endangered Marine Life
- Educating Students about our Planet Earth
- Gathering Marker Recycling Boxes for Classrooms
- Assisting Students with the School's hydroponic Tower Garden for Optimum Plant Growth
- Helping Students Create a Schoolwide Earth Day 2020

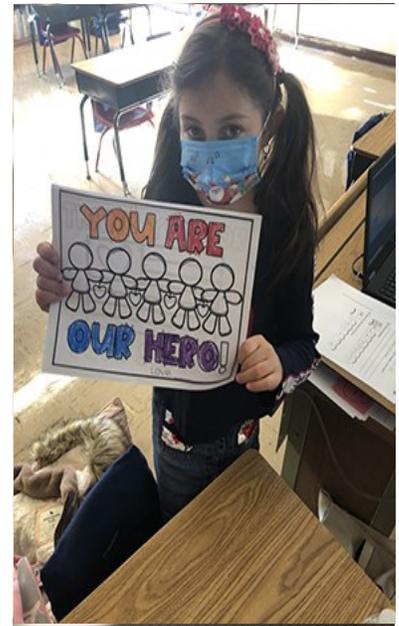
## OPERATION COOKIE DROP AT FORREST

During the week of Nov. 30-Dec. 5, staff and students participated in our **3rd Annual Operation Cookie Drop**. Operation Cookie Drop is an event organized by the Joint Base McGuire - Dix - Lakehurst (JBMDL) Spouses Club. This mission is to “help spread festive joy to our service members in the dorms, unaccompanied housing, and those deploying/redeploying over the holidays by collecting and delivering home-baked cookies for Operation Cookie Drop!”

In 2018, Miss Mottola brought this program to the school - her very first year - and has continued the tradition every year since. Even in an unprecedented year, Miss Mottola persevered and rallied the help of her colleagues and Forrest students to spread festive holiday cheer to our service members in a year where joy is certainly needed! Students colored pictures, decorated and assembled goodie bags, and wrote handmade cards and letters thanking our brave heroes for their service and wishing them a happy holiday season.

Staff followed safety precautions and made home-baked cookies to send. Miss Mottola worked with Mrs. Vargas to deliver and drop off our efforts to the military base in time for Operation Cookie Drop on Dec. 10.

With our help, and the JBMDL Community, the JBMDL Spouses Club received an estimated 75,000 cookies and were able to make bags for 1,030 troops! Forrest School is happy to participate in such a wonderful event for a great cause!



*“With our help, and the JBMDL Community, the JBMDL Spouses Club received an estimated 75,000 cookies and were able to make bags for 1,030 troops!”*

## WARREN POINT’S CENTENNIAL YEAR

Warren Point (WP) will be holding several centennial fundraising events throughout this school year and next to celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of its founding in 1921.

A 100-mile walk-a-thon is currently in progress, but future fundraising events include an online spirit wear store and a special celebration. A date has not been set for the upcoming anniversary celebration. Funds raised will be used for a time capsule that will involve input from WP students, a yet-to-be determined give back project (one idea is to replace the school’s aging marquee sign on the corner of Rosalie and 30<sup>th</sup> Street).

Warren Point’s Centennial Committee is encouraging community involvement.

“Our goal, which we know is a tall order, is to collect 100 photos or stories about Warren Point to teach the children about the school and our community,” said Lisa Simcic, Warren Point parent and member of the Centennial Committee, who added that the submissions would be made into a centennial booklet.

If anyone would like to contribute to the booklet project, has vintage or notable photos or stories they would like to share, please email: [warrenpoint100years@gmail.com](mailto:warrenpoint100years@gmail.com).



## Warren Point

The year 1921 inscribed in Warren Point’s cornerstone on the building’s front façade.

## BLOG POSTS EXPRESS SIMILAR SENTIMENT: FAIR LAWN LIKE NO OTHER

The Friends of Fair Lawn Library and the Fair Lawn English Language Arts Department partnered again for the **2nd Annual Middle School Blog Contest** in the last weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. This year's optional contest asked students to construct a blog that explored and expressed their thinking about various communities in Fair Lawn.

“The use of the blog genre gave students the opportunity to use multimodal skills. Students wrote meaningful texts that were supplemented with engaging visual images, informative hyperlinks to web sites, and creative spatial designs,” said Dr. Gary Pankiewicz, District Supervisor of English Language Arts.

Winning participants all empha-



Blog Contest Winners:

1st Prize (pic above): Raunak Singh (MMS); 2nd Prize: Max Trigub (TJMS) ; 3rd Prize: Anna Meyerzon (TJMS)

sized that a strong sense of community starts with people who care for one another, are friendly, and donate to different causes. One winner described his community as a “a place where peo-

ple are different, but all share a common home.”

First-prize winner Raunak Singh focused his blog on how the community came together during the coronavirus pandemic.

“As this crisis dawns upon us, the world might be getting dark, but the light is also shining more. The light of a united community. Being a proud Fair Lawn resident, I have seen how as this crisis tries to split the common experiences we had together, we have become more united. Fair Lawn is a community filled with love, care, and compassion for others.”

The Friends of the Fair Lawn Library provided Barnes and Noble gift card prizes to the winners.



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