

INSIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Magnet Schools Students Embark towards new Milestones, Continuing their Journeys

February was Career and Technical Education Month, and the Middlesex County Magnet Schools celebrated, as we do annually, with our five-school Tech Expo.

This is an opportunity for our students, faculty and staff to showcase what we do on a day-to-day basis: teach our students to be College Ready, Career Ready, and Life Ready!

Four-hundred of our students participated in front of internal and external judges, distinguished guests, and their classmates. Winners were chosen from each school, but all presentations reflected the knowledge, skill, creativity and imagination that make our students second to none!

I congratulate the Career and Technical Education Department, the administrations of each school, our faculty, and especially, our students. I could not have been prouder of their performance.

As we enter the final quarter of the school year and welcome spring, we have a lot to look forward to, including milestones such as prom and graduation.

Our seniors will be receiving acceptance letters and getting ready to move on to the next phase of their lives. We hope they will take advantage of our Alumni Portal to keep in touch as they enter college, embark on further training, start their careers or join the Armed Forces. We would like to know what they are up to and continue to celebrate their successes.

Always know that the success of our students is our foremost goal, and we are always here to assist them in any way we can.

Kind Regards,

Jorge E. Diaz

Superintendent of Schools



Board of Education

- Keith Jones II, *President*
- Laura Czarneski, *Vice President*
- Christine Faustini, *Member*
- Vittorio Tartara, *Member*
- Kyle Anderson, *Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools*

Quick Links

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ALUMNI PORTAL

Graduating This Year? Alumni of the District? Register Today!

Congratulations to the Middlesex County Magnet Schools Class of 2024. We couldn't be prouder of all our seniors, who weathered unprecedented challenges to reach their senior year.

As you embark on the next phase of your lives and careers, please consider staying in contact with your alma mater and all your fellow alumni. [Click here](#) for the official announcement video.

In our schools, we believe in the power of lifelong connections and in providing students with opportunities to benefit them throughout life. The bonds formed within our schools can continue to grow after graduation day, and we're very excited to announce a new platform that will further strengthen those connections. Our alumni website is a dedicated online platform designed exclusively for our graduates who have passed through our halls in East Brunswick, Edison, Perth Amboy, Piscataway and Woodbridge. This digital hub will be a centralized place for networking, mentorship, career development, and much more.

Whether you were a Vo-Tech student years ago or are a recent Magnet Schools graduate, with the alumni portal, you'll be able to:

- **Connect with fellow alumni:** Reconnect with old friends and make new connections within our growing alumni network. Find classmates, join affinity groups based on graduation years, and expand your professional network.
- **Explore career opportunities:** Discover job openings, internships, and mentorship programs tailored to our career and technical education community. Perhaps you'd like to seek career advice from other graduates – or post a new job opportunity? This platform will be your go-to resource.
- **Stay updated:** Receive the latest news, events, and announcements from the Magnet Schools and throughout Middlesex County. Stay informed about reunions, alumni gatherings, and other opportunities to engage with your alma mater.

Our student successes reflect our community's strength, and we actively want to forge lifelong relationships with every member of our extended family. Join us today on alumni.mcmsnj.net to connect, and help recent graduates continue to unleash their passion.



DISTRICT RECOGNITION

Acting State Commissioner of Education Angelica Allen-McMillan presented the 2023-2024 Lighthouse Award to the Middlesex County Magnet Schools on January 18 in recognition of the district's efforts to achieve equity in education, especially through dual enrollment programs that allow students to earn college credits while in high school.



Superintendent of Schools Jorge E. Diaz accepted the award in the presence of state, county and school district officials at East Brunswick Magnet School.

Allen-McMillan called the Magnet Schools “a shining example for schools in New Jersey” in promoting programs to nontraditional and underserved students. She said the Magnet Schools administration, faculty and staff “demonstrate that they care about students.”

“Your success is their success,” she said.

Diaz said the Magnet Schools had implemented changes over the last three years to increase enrollment from nontraditional and economically challenged families. He cited a \$150,000 state grant the district recently received for a pilot program to provide College Connections coordinators from Middlesex College at East Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Piscataway Magnet Schools as well as tuition assistance for marginalized populations.

“Our work does not end with this recognition,” Diaz said. “It challenges us to continue to innovate further, to ensure that every student has the highest quality education, and to create an environment where each student can thrive.”

Natalie Evans of Highland Park, a senior architecture technology career major at East Brunswick Magnet School who spoke at the ceremony, said she is in her third dual-enrollment course – in honors calculus – a fact that has impressed college admissions officials.

“That gives me a big step up,” she said.

↳ [Read the full article on mcmsnj.net](https://www.mcmsnj.net)



2024 TECH EXPO

Magnet Schools Students Present Creative and Inventive Projects to Distinguished Guests

The Middlesex County Magnet Schools celebrated National Career and Technical Education Month with our annual Tech Expo. Groups from across our district showcased their talent and creativity to guests, judges, and their peers. About 400 students participated. Teams from each of the five campuses will be selected to present at the Advisory Dinner in April.

Guests of honor included Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios; County Clerk Nancy Pinkin; Magnet Schools Board of Education Vice President Lauren Czarneski; Joanie Coffaro, Dr. Donna Howell, Dr. Nurzan Duzgoren-Aydin, Tracey Montani, and Martin Schamberger of Middlesex College; Judi Friedman, Rachel Pillow, Ashley Spoleti, and Karen Gold of TopRight Partners, the county's marketing consultants; Isamar Payano of the Perth Amboy Mayor's Office; Mike Dooley and Steve Neier of Dayton Toyota, and Glenn Best of NJ Pathways.

Woodbridge Academy Magnet School hosted a gymnasium full of excellent presentations ranging from an investigation into microbes to the kinds of food that can help our minds, to advances in prosthodontics. Winning teams included a showcase of Physical Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Technology (The Lifesavers), recommendations for the best SPF foundation and preventing skin cancer (Sun-Sational Scientists), and a model demonstration of ectopic pregnancy (JMN).



2024 TECH EXPO

Perth Amboy Magnet School students from various career majors presented a wide variety of hands-on skills, ranging from an Arduino-programmed RC car to a look behind the walls of your home's electrical wiring. Winning teams included an impeccably crafted PR campaign by Graphic Design (Five Four Design), a working snowman-shaped refrigerator coil by HVAC (Sunshine the Snowman), and a practical demo of repairing rack-and-pinion steering by Automotive (Patriots). Chef Moir and his Culinary students served a delicious lunch to our judges and honored guests.



Edison Academy Magnet School students kept the momentum going, as a dozen teams showcased their talents, ranging from programmed robots to mapping the moon. Winning teams included a web-based employment service for high-school-age CTE students (CTE Connect), a prototype device charger with an eye for conserving power (Powerhouse), and a portal for keeping track of school club rosters and meeting schedules (Convergence).

↳ [Click Here to view the photo album of the Woodbridge Academy Magnet School Tech Expo.](#)

↳ [Click Here to view the photo albums of the Perth Amboy Magnet School Tech Expo.](#)

↳ [Click Here to view the photo albums of the Edison Academy Magnet School Tech Expo.](#)



2024 TECH EXPO

Piscataway Magnet School students finished our first week, presenting a host of excellent presentations ranging from the History of Knives (Culinary Historians) to the branding designs of the Graphic Design career major. Winning teams included a demonstration of identifying EKG readouts (Vascular Vanguard), a showcase of successes and obstacles to women in industry (Women Leaders of Tomorrow), the construction of a gaming PC (Chadha-cade), and a demonstration of Narcan in response to the opioid crisis (The Epic 4). Chef Diemer and the students of The Hook served breakfast, and Chef Mastrella's students served a scrumptious lunch.



Tech Expo concluded at East Brunswick Magnet School, with presentations ranging from a practical demonstration of CPR to a live performance of Dua Lipa's "Dance the Night," and an exploration of the Agriscience curriculum. Winning teams included a working solar-powered water provision system (Temp Pros), the playable "Battle of the Shops" board game (Battle of the Shops), and a temporary museum exhibition about the history of film (Development of Film). Chefs Mercogliano and Pulgarin and their Culinary and Baking students served a delicious lunch to our judges and honored guests.

↳ [Click Here to view the photo album of the Piscataway Magnet School Tech Expo.](#)

↳ [Click Here to view the photo album of the East Brunswick Magnet School Tech Expo.](#)



BEYOND THE BOOKS

Serving Beyond Our Classrooms

The Middlesex East Brunswick FFA chapter attended the New Jersey Agricultural Convention and Trade Show in Atlantic City. Members attended a Women in Agriculture workshop to learn more about involvement, leadership, and advocacy in professional organizations. Two teams also competed at the state level during the convention. Congratulations to Erika M. for placing fifth in the state individually! Lilly C., Rebecca H., and Erika M. competed in Farm and Agribusiness Management; as a team they placed eighth in the state. Congratulations to Haley P. for placing 13th in the state individually! Rose D., Haley P., and Jace R. competed in Meat Evaluation and Technology; with the team placing eighth overall in the state.

Ms. Dlugosz's art class continues to bring plenty of creativity and life to the halls of Perth Amboy Magnet School. They recently worked on their second mural in their school, and are planning a third.

The Woodbridge Academy Model UN team participated in the Global Citizens Model UN Conference in New York City. Our students had the opportunity to attend an opening ceremony in the United Nations headquarters and interact with other students from around the world. The following students earned Honorable Mentions (the only individual awards given at this conference): Navneeth Murali, Nitin Balajikannan, Ruhi Patel, Lily Sharma, Aadithiya Bharanidharan, Anika Bukkapatnam, Warda Chowdhury, Yash Vora, Riya Patel, Prisha Shah, Hael Raj, Aditi Gopalakrishnan, Bhavesh Manne, Vyomini Gurung, Riyanshi Gupta, Kaavya Pratikantham, Subiksha Ganesh, Saanvi Mushti, Raadha Garg, Vyshnav Rajiv, Fenny Kayastha, Aryan Garg, and Aarnika Gharse. Navneeth, Ruhi, Prisha, Aryan, Vyomini, Anika, and Warda were also all chosen to speak at the plenary session during the closing ceremony. Woodbridge Academy Magnet School also won an award for Best Large Delegation.



BEYOND THE BOOKS

Serving Beyond Our Classrooms

Sophomore Dance student Katherina "Rina" Wiscovitch of East Brunswick Magnet School was featured on Season 4 Episode 2 of the CBS show "The Equalizer" starring Queen Latifah. You can see Rina showing off her dance skills in the first few moments of the episode. Streaming now on Paramount+. Go Rina!

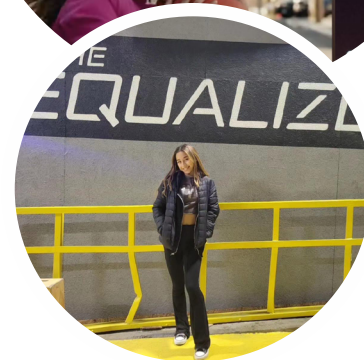
Five short films from the Digital Film program at East Brunswick Magnet School are Official Selections (Student Home Grown High School) at the prestigious 22nd Garden State Film Festival 2024. Congratulations to *Lafayette & Noble* by Josias Ortiz (sophomore), *Me vs Me* by Lucas Rodriguez (senior), *Locker Killer* by Marlee Marte (junior), *Subjective Worlds* by Euridice Sagastume (senior), and *Tellurium vs Gold* by Josias Ortiz (sophomore).

Congratulations to all the other Official Selections. Screening will take place at The Berkeley Hotel, Berkeley Kingsley Ballroom in Asbury Park on March 24, 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. The 22nd GSFF will take place March 21-24.

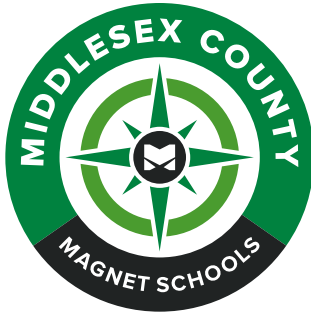
For more information and tickets, please visit gsff.org.

The globally recognized Garden State Film Festival is New Jersey's Premier Independent Film Festival®, enriching our state with robust year-round programming. The artistic philosophy of the Garden State Film Festival is rooted in the celebration of the independent film genre and the creation of a forum where local and other independent filmmakers can exhibit their work. It was also created to pay tribute to New Jersey's legacy as the birthplace of the American filmmaking industry in Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratories, where he invented the first film cameras and projectors, to Fort Lee, where the original studios were founded.

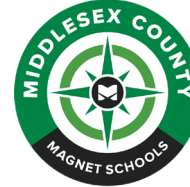
The event provides novice and aspiring filmmakers, actors, and others interested in careers in the film business the opportunity to meet and network with industry professionals in an atmosphere conducive to learning and mentoring.



FOLLOW US!

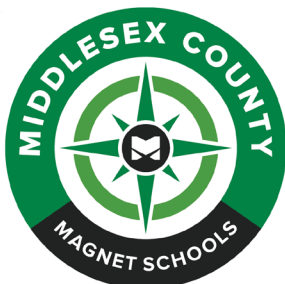


**COLLEGE READY.
CAREER READY.
LIFE READY.**



**ADULT
EDUCATION**

Keep up to date on what's happening throughout the Middlesex County Magnet Schools by following us on all of our social media accounts!



**COLLEGE READY.
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NEWS RECOGNITION

Featured Articles About Us:

- **Central Jersey Sports Radio**

- [Carman's buzzer-beater for upset-minded Piscataway Magnet highlights GMC Tournament play-in round action](#)

- **Taplnto Woodbridge / Carteret**

- [Middlesex County Magnet School Filmmakers to Shine at NJ Film Fest](#)

- **Two Rivers Theatre**

- [East Brunswick Magnet School Theatre Arts Students Featured in Upcoming Show, Tickets](#)

- **Middlesex County Magnet Schools**

- [Applications Now Open for Middlesex County Eighth-Graders to Attend Magnet Schools in the Fall](#)



↳ [View all District News posted on mcmsnj.net](#)

↳ [View all School News posted on mcmsnj.net](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

East Brunswick Magnet School Digital Film Student's Work Internationally Recognized



A photograph taken by a senior at East Brunswick Magnet School has been chosen for publication from among more than 200 entries from high schools around the world.

The photo by Euridice Sagastume of Perth Amboy, a digital film major in the School of the Arts at East Brunswick Magnet School, is among 47 included in “We the Present,” a book being distributed by the School of Visual Arts in New York City to universities, high schools and the professional film community.

The contest challenge was to present images that explore what it means to be in the current moment as we look to the future.

Euridice explained that the image of two fellow students wearing virtual reality goggles head to head while holding hands contrasts an intimate moment with the fear of physical touch, as was evident during the pandemic.

“Our moments are going to change,” she said.

Euridice is trying to decide where to attend college, hoping to concentrate on film editing and cinematography.

She said the thing she loves about her digital film classes is “we’re always going forward.”



“We’re extra proud of Euridice’s dedication to her craft,” digital film teacher Louis Libitz said. “It’s a tremendous honor to have her work selected.”

Her photo also is part of an [online exhibit](#) through May 31.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Practicing Self-Care: 5 Tips For Teachers. As an educator, you're constantly navigating changes and challenges. From dealing with sudden schedule shifts to managing student behavior, you have a lot to juggle each day. On top of it all, you're trying to keep up with the needs of your students and your own life.

↳ [Click here](#) for five ideas for practicing self-care as a teacher.

[The Child Mind Institute](#) is committed to improving the lives of children and families who are dealing with mental health and learning disorders. They have become the foremost independent nonprofit organization in children's mental health by offering high-quality, evidence-based care. Additionally, the Child Mind Institute provides educational resources for families and educators. The Child Mind Institute gives educators tools and resources to support their students in the most helpful and effective way possible.

Perth Amboy Magnet School teacher Ms. Hill invited two women, Tomeco and Diamond Washington, to speak with the ninth- to 11th-grade young women about taking their voices back. Diamond was a victim of sexual abuse as a child and her mom, Tomeco, is a psychotherapist. They gave a brief synopsis about their personal story but also spoke about the effects of trauma, growing patterns of perpetrators, the effects of PTSD on victims, and ACES. They used a Kahoot to see how familiar students were with characteristics of victims, and the students fully engaged and participated in the four small-group sessions.

It is the mission and vision of our school district to nurture and ignite the minds of our students to help ensure they are college, career, and life-ready. According to Dr. Carol Dweck, people in a fixed mindset believe their basic abilities, like intelligence or talent, are fixed traits. In a growth mindset, people believe that their basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The East Brunswick Magnet School Ski and Snowboard club had its first successful trip to Blue Mountain, PA, on Feb. 9. The students and advisors had an amazing time. Big thank you to Ms. Gustray for organizing.

Edison Academy Magnet School ninth-graders connected with peer mentors over ice cream at the annual Ice Cream Social halfway through the school year. The purpose of this event was for our freshmen to connect with upperclassmen to talk about how the school year has been going thus far and also serve as an opportunity to ask any questions or advice for the remainder of the school year and beyond. Thank you to Mr. Fernandez for organizing.

A speech language pathologist from Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in Edison and the director of the ParkinSINGS choir visited East Brunswick Magnet School with the choir on Jan. 17 to perform and take part in a panel with our Theater and Health Services students. Studies show that singing can help maintain strength in the muscles of speech and voice in people with Parkinson's disease. Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute and the Parkinson's Foundation have collaborated to provide the Parkinson's community with a fun way to exercise voice, speech, and swallowing muscles through singing. Since August 2019, the choir for people with Parkinson's disease and Parkinson-Plus syndromes meets weekly to rehearse songs from a variety of genres, artists, and decades, using cognitive and language skills and exercising the muscles used for speaking, swallowing, and singing.



STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Woodbridge Academy Magnet School Science Olympiad Team qualified for the New Jersey State Tournament with an excellent showing at regionals in Union County. First place was awarded to *Disease Detectives*, seniors Anika Bukkapatnam and Navneeth Murali. Second place was *Anatomy and Physiology*, seniors Anika Bukkapatnam and Navneeth Murali. Sixth place was awarded to both *Chem Lab*, sophomores Nicole Chang and Ryan Joseph; *Write-It-Do-It*, freshman Carmela Mancuso and Aishani Sahoo.

Senior Danielle Zur of East Brunswick Magnet School was selected as a Student Award Winner in Exceptional Artistry and Community Leadership in Dance. The New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education began in 1980 to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts, recognizing the creativity, talent and leadership of the award winners. Each year, awards are presented to approximately 20 educators and 80 students.

Woodbridge Academy Magnet School had 50 students who participated in the HOSA Southern Regional Conference at Cumberland County Technical Education Institute. Woodbridge Academy Magnet School is pleased to announce that 34 of our students placed in their events. It was a fantastic achievement for our HOSA chapter. We would also like to acknowledge the support provided by advisor Erin Creighton and chaperones Lindsey Hintelmann and Leah Hoffman.

At Edison Academy Magnet School, P. Joshi was named Student of the Month for January, and S. Prakash was Student of the Month for February. Both seniors were honored by the Edison Rotary.



ADULT EDUCATION

On Feb. 15, the Practical Nursing program graduated 16 future licensed practical nurses in Piscataway. But there was something special about this group – there was a mother and daughter graduating together.

Nadene Allen and Charlie-Ann Allen-Douglas both graduated from the program that evening, with many family and friends in attendance. For Nadene, it was something she took on thinking she wouldn't be able to finish. Charlie-Ann faced challenges, too. But they both pushed through, persevering until the very last day.

Now, Nadene Allen has the opportunity to become a Licensed Practical Nurse after years of working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), which is something she has dreamed of for years, and her daughter will not only follow in her footsteps but alongside her. Best of luck to both of you! To quote Nadene Allen, "So ... don't ever think you are too old to follow your dreams!"

Congratulations to all February 2024 Practical Nursing Graduates!

➡ [Click Here](#) to view the full graduation photo album.

In the Machine Tool Technology course, students spent time crafting pins for a unique chair frame.

This particular frame is being used for a carousel seat from the 1930s and the frame will propel the chair back and forth. Students worked on myriad projects throughout the course. One student used a surface grinder.

This machine is able to grind down vice jaws to be more precise when using them. These grinders also help clean away wear and tear from metal.



ATHLETICS NEWS

E. Atanacio, a senior on the East Brunswick Magnet School boys basketball team, recorded his 1,000th point during his four-year career.

Piscataway Magnet School senior Matti Miller scored her 1,000th point for the Lady Raiders against Timothy Christian School.

↳ [Click here to see this incredible moment!](#)

The Perth Amboy Magnet School boys and girls basketball teams both qualified for the NJSIAA state tournament this season.

We have another GMC Champion! Edison Academy Magnet School senior V. Naik placed first in the 55-meter hurdles at the Indoor Greater Middlesex Conference Championships. He won with a time of 7.76 seconds, just outside the New Jersey top 10 and US top 50. He competed for his hometown of Metuchen, which finished second overall in Middlesex County. He was also part of their 4x400 relay team, also finishing second overall.

Our basketball teams celebrated their senior players during their Senior Nights.

↳ [Click Here to view photos from each Senior Night.](#)

Piscataway Magnet School Health and Physical Education teacher Rob Gardella celebrated his 100th career win against the Academy of Urban Leadership, 46-16. Mr. Gardella is in his ninth year as Head Coach of the Lady Raiders basketball team.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CTE Coordinator Mr. Wiater accompanied three students from Mr. Carvalhais's Construction Technology class to visit Epic Millwork in Somerset. Michelle Santiago, Aiden Alvarez and Zecariah Ragland from Piscataway Magnet School were invited to tour the cabinet making facility as part of our Work Based Learning Program.

The students were shown the process of how commercial custom cabinetry and millwork are manufactured within the company. The tour began in the estimating room where the company receives the blueprints and where the bidding process begins. General manager Bob Kostelansky explained to the students after the contract is awarded the team then begins creating a material and cut sheet using their CAD system.

They then received a tour of the workshop, where they saw the actual process of prepping, cutting, assembly and finishing of the cabinets and millwork. The employees were very happy to show everyone the machinery and process that the material goes through to turn it from raw material to the finished product. They were shown the automatic table saw and edge bander as well as the application of veneer to sheet goods.

The students also had the opportunity to meet shop forman Luis Rubio, who graduated in 2007 from Mr. Wiater's Carpentry program. Luis, who has been employed by Epic since 2017 also gave a demonstration of how the CNC router he operates turns a sheet of material into several parts for the cabinets.

Michelle, Aiden and Zecariah were impressed by all that goes into producing the cabinetry that we see everyday in hospitals, offices, restaurants and such.

Upon completion of the tour the students were asked to submit their resumes, which may lead to possible employment in the future.



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION NEWS

Read About Our Students' Latest Assessments, Programs, and How Our Faculty is Leading Students Towards Success

The Woodbridge Academy Magnet School staff had a great time exploring our team-building skills and learning that we already use most of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as a *Leader in Me* school. After completing various skill/collaboration activities, we discussed the correlation between our approaches to teams, collaboration, communication and understanding and how our approaches relate to others as well as the importance of recognizing the need to practice the 7 Habits within *Leader In Me*.

Supervisor of Instruction Mrs. Dennison and social studies teacher at Piscataway Magnet School Mrs. Becerra, collaborated with the Center for Youth Political Participation to bring the RU Ready program to our district. This is a civic engagement initiative to provide students with the motivation and tools to address public problems in the community. Rutgers University students will work directly with high school students to administer interactive workshops designed to foster active citizenship and political engagement. Our role as educators is to make students informed citizens upon graduating. This civics engagement initiative informed students on voter registration, volunteerism, understanding local government, and how to get involved in the community.

↳ [Click Here to view the photo album from the event.](#)

The Spanish department completed administering the STAMP test on Feb. 6. The district is proud to congratulate 60 seniors meeting the Seal of Biliteracy criteria. These seniors will have the NJDOE's Seal of Biliteracy added to their state diploma. Congratulations to all the students on this great accomplishment.



TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The Heroes Behind the Screens: Middlesex County Magnet Schools' Technology Department.

TechSpo 2024

The technology team attended the 2024 TechSpo Convention. Formation sessions attended focused on Cyber Security, Google Admin Console Updates, Google Add-on and Extensions, AI, Tech Coordinator Round Table and Ed Tech Best Practices. They were able to network with other industry professionals, catch up with vendors they currently work with and connect with new vendors for future projects. In addition to the workshops and networking, the event was an amazing team-building opportunity.

E-Color TM-355

The new TM-355 e-Color2 Poster Printer has been installed. The printer has the capabilities of printing large format posters, stickers and banners for District displays.

Technology Upgrades and Installations

The installation of the cellular booster is complete at Edison Academy Magnet School.

Technical Support

Continue to provide daily technical support for staff and students via phone, email and work-order tickets.

Chromebook Repairs

Created accidental damage claims, packaged and shipped damaged Chromebooks, as well as manufacturer warranty returns for faulty Chromebooks. Repaired out of warranty Chromebooks in house.



COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

Woodbridge Academy Magnet School JSA Chapter attended Winter Congress in Washington, D.C., accompanied by Mr. Stiles and Ms. Hoffman. Twenty-one of our students participated in the event, which included schools from three JSA regions: Mid-Atlantic States, Ohio River Valley, and Pacific Northwest.

In advance of the competition, students had to write proposals for hypothetical bills that would be debated at the event. Navneeth Murali, Varnith Bhat, Prisha Shah, Lily Sharma, Sanjana Anand, Yashvita Thacker, Sarah Mathew, and Anika Bukkapatnam had bills that were chosen to be debated. Several other students from the chapter had the opportunity to be the main speakers against bills submitted by other schools.

Prisha Shah was chosen to chair one of the four political parties that were represented in the conference.

At the end of the conference, Navneeth Murali, chapter president, won a special award for Statesperson of the Year.

Mrs. Sobolewski's Graphic Design program at East Brunswick Magnet School created new art for The Memory Project, a nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create portraits for youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents, violence, war, and extreme poverty. This year, students created portraits of children from Syria.



COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

Mr. Price's U.S. History I Honors class at Edison Academy Magnet School examined the origins of the antislavery movement and the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision.

Q. Alexandre created an amazing self-teaching tool to give an interactive experience about the significance of the mutiny of the Amistad from 1839.

Piscataway Magnet School students enrolled in Mr. Joyner's Physical Therapy and Exercise Science program gained invaluable insights into the daily life of Montclair State University students.

The immersive experience featured an exclusive behind-the-scenes presentation and tour by Dr. Fredrick Gardin, Ph.D., LAT, ATC, CSCS, the Athletic Training Program Director/Coordinator and Associate Professor of the College of Community Health, home to esteemed programs in Athletic Training, Exercise Science and Physical Education.

During the session, students had the unique opportunity to explore state-of-the-art research laboratories, familiarize themselves with professional equipment, and witness firsthand the various skills taught in the program. Dr. Gardin also provided comprehensive information about the program's structure, educational outlook, student expectations, admission requirements, financial overview, and other essential aspects of program completion.

The students of Mr. Joyner's program expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to witness the dynamic and ever-expanding college campus, providing a tangible connection to the future dreams of many within the program.



COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

Senior students in the Building Services program at East Brunswick Magnet School have installed the brass colonnade that tops the Capitol dome on the Brian Sicknick memorial. The colonnade was crafted by the students of Mr. Eisebrey's Machine Tool Technology program. The Brian Sicknick Memorial is being built at East Brunswick Magnet School to honor the 1997 graduate who died as a result of his injuries defending the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Several programs are involved in the project, including Building Services, Machine Tool Technology, Graphic Design, and Mr. Evans' HVAC program. The memorial will be completed this spring and dedicated in early June.



Fourteen Piscataway Magnet School students passed the AUTODESK AUTOCAD certification exam. This is a fantastic accomplishment for our students. Congratulations to the following students: A. Jofre-Cenci, E. Villalva, L. Reyes, E. Davis-Harold, C. Campbell, N. Rosario, N. Carman, J. Diaz, P. Comaianni, A. Matos, M. Gomez Gomez, R. Gomez, A. Baskerville, and J. Jenkins.



Congratulations to the Woodbridge Academy Ethics Debate Team for placing third in the National High School Ethics Bowl Regionals. They were the overall points leader going into the semifinals. Fernanda Herrada (12), Isai Balamurugan (12), Michael Annunziata (12), Shreya Dutt (11), and Avanthika Balaraman (11) successfully debated topics like honoring the wishes of a person's will, gift giving, true crime entertainment, the responsibilities of social media when it comes to disinformation, censorship of books, the nutritional value of lunches in school, nuclear deterrence, and intellectual property in relation to AI.



COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

Two automotive services students at East Brunswick Magnet School have received credentials that will help them advance their careers upon graduation.

Vincent Rutigliano, a junior from Woodbridge, has completed 10 online learning modules for general maintenance in the Toyota/Lexus technician training program.

Mitchell Tomaszewski, a senior from Sayreville, has received Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications in 10 areas. Teacher Kenneth Colavito said both students “have gone beyond the curriculum.”

“It shows that I put the work in to do the training,” said Vincent, who applied to East Brunswick Magnet School in the hope of becoming an auto mechanic after beginning to work on cars with his father at the age of 8.

“He was motivated,” Mr. Colavito said. “He has the opportunity now to work more in the summer.”

Although he is certified by Toyota, Vincent said he would like to work on German cars, which Mr. Colavito said is not a problem.

“This helps him by building the work ethic in the industry,” he said, adding that he has former students at work in the industry who have not completed the modules that Vincent has.

Mitchell, who completed the ASE certifications while still a junior, works after school at Ray Catena Audi in Freehold.

“It’s a significant milestone,” Mr. Colavito said of his achievement.

“He can now help train other students.”

“I’ve always been around cars,” Mitchell said. “My dad was a mechanic.”

He hopes to one day open his own repair shop and has been planning for that day with his friends.



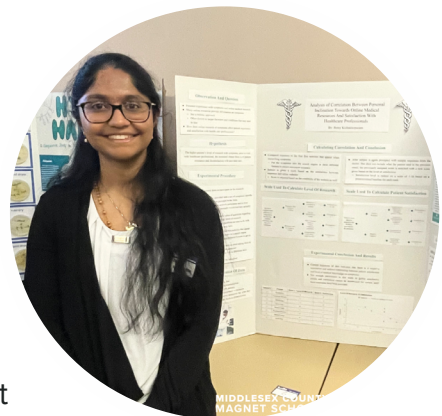
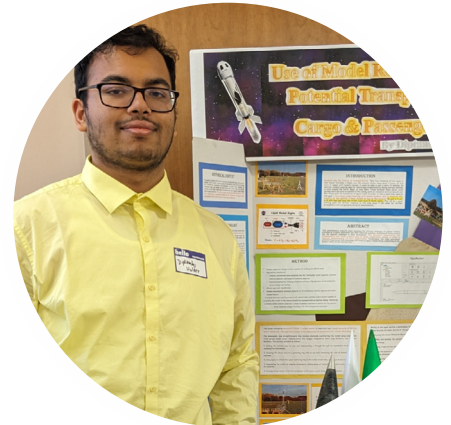
COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.

Edison Academy Magnet School's Research Club hosted New Jersey's first high school-based research convention, bringing together students and professors from all over the state.

The one-day conference was organized by A. Kirubakaran, E. Poon, T. Catuosco, and S. Valluripalli. The event at Middlesex College's Crabiel Hall brought over 100 attendees together for an afternoon filled with keynote speeches, student presentations, and networking sessions. Professors Borcea, Chen, Hoover, and Naik of NJIT and Professor Lee of Stevens Institute of Technology attended. The teaching sessions guided students through the process of conducting research and submitting projects to prestigious science fairs, including the Terra North Jersey Science Fair and the Northern New Jersey Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Student research was shared through videos and posters.

Mr. Rand and Mr. Hickman from Perth Amboy Magnet School hosted a Women in Construction club that is making waves: empowering young women to pursue careers in the construction trades. The club is on a mission to increase female representation in this traditionally male-dominated industry. "Our goal is to support female students and help them navigate the challenges of entering a career in the trades," says Mr. Hickman and Mr. Rand. "We want to show them that they can succeed in this field and provide them with the tools and resources they need to thrive." The club aims to inspire confidence and provide a supportive community for young women interested in construction careers.

Through mentorship programs, guest speakers, and hands-on activities, they are paving the way for a more diverse and inclusive future in the construction industry.



ALUMNI NEWS

Magnet School grad began his logistics career while still in school, and now his younger brother is following him

John Peter Martinez began his career in logistics and supply chain management while still a student at Piscataway Magnet School.

The Piscataway resident went to work as a materials handler at Johnstone Supplies in Kenilworth after being recommended by his teacher, Robert Araujo. A 2023 high school graduate, he continues there while a student at Rutgers-Newark.

Johnstone Supplies is a wholesaler of heating, ventilation and refrigeration parts and supplies.

"I work in the morning and go to school at night," he said. "We supply contractors."

"I'm definitely exhausted," Martinez quipped.

But he is pleased to be working in logistics, "a career field that is still expanding."

"Having that experience from the Magnet School has made the transition easy," he said.

"I'm learning how I can become an asset to the company. They're very big on promoting within the company."

Araujo said Martinez's opportunity came because he was impressive during mock interviews conducted by Johnston Supplies at the school.



"I told him to treat it like a real interview and that's what he did," Araujo said, "and they wanted to hire him."

He described Martinez as "always a standout student."

"He puts 100 percent into everything he does," he said. "He has a work ethic and perseverance that a lot of kids his age don't have – and his brother is like that too."

John Peter's younger brother, sophomore Johnny Joseph Martinez-Chacon, also is a global logistics and supply chain management major at Piscataway Magnet School.

"He wants to have good opportunities," Martinez said. "He has been taking notice of what I do and trying to make himself better."

"I'm definitely intending to follow in his footsteps," the younger brother said. "When he started out it seemed really interesting to me and something I wanted to pursue as a career."

↳ [Read the Martinez brothers' full interview on mcmsnj.net.](https://mcmsnj.net)

ALUMNI NEWS

Magnet Schools Culinary Grad Pursues Law in London

As Paola Guzman-Morgan studied culinary arts at Perth Amboy Magnet School, she was learning things that will come in handy in a future legal career, she says.

A 2012 graduate of what was then Perth Amboy Tech, just a few blocks from her home, she now is in London pursuing a law degree and an ambition to work in family law.

“Being in culinary taught me so much. It taught me about being on time, respecting other people, getting along with other people, being professional,” she said. “The teachers were really good, the programs were really good.”

She had special praise for history teacher Frank Paprota, who encouraged her to pursue law and “is still a mentor to me,” and culinary teacher Stephen Moir, who she said has “a very strong personality,” and teaches with “tough love.”

“It rubbed off on me when I was there,” she said. “All of my teachers were really instrumental in shaping us.”

After high school, she attended Bloomfield College as a psychology major and entered a study abroad program in London.

“I really fell in love with London,” Guzman-Morgan said, adding that she applied to a university there and decided to make it her home.



She studied law at Kingston University in London and is pursuing a master’s degree at Leeds Beckett University in northern England, hoping to qualify as a solicitor working in family law.

“I always wanted to do law. I like to argue and to be able to prove a point,” she said. “Using the law to argue a point is kind of a thrill. I like reading cases and finding things that happened in the 1800s that still influence the law today.”

Although she says she is an emotional person and finds working with at-risk women and children difficult, she has some experience working with them, and that is the area she plans to pursue.

“I found that fulfilling,” she said. “It’s something I’m really passionate about.”

↳ [Read Paola's full interview on mcmsnj.net.](https://mcmsnj.net)

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It is "automatically" a good day once you walk into the East Brunswick Magnet School automotive technology classroom. [#quickclicks](#)

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Learning new nursing skills is always fun when you're with friends. [#quickclicks](#)

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The Perth Amboy Magnet School Culinary Arts students are cooking up a storm. [#quickclicks](#)

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Muy bien! Woodbridge Academy Magnet School's Spanish Honor Society sang their hearts out at the annual karaoke. [#quickclicks](#)

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Say "cheese!" You'll always find a bright smile when you run into Piscataway Magnet Schools' counselors and Child Study Team faculty. [#quickclicks](#)

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From murals to canvases, Perth Amboy Magnet School's art students bring creativity and beauty to the school. [#quickclicks](#)

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Game time! Monopoly has nothing on the East Brunswick Magnet School Graphic Design & CAAD students' new board game. [#quickclicks](#)

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Ready to go for the Woodbridge Academy Magnet School 2024 Tech Expo. [#quickclicks](#)

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One California roll, please! The Piscataway Magnet School Culinary Arts program students are rocking & rolling up delicious sushi. [#quickclicks](#)

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It's always a bright day for the IBEW apprenticeship class! [#quickclicks](#)

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The Edison Academy Magnet School robotics team is putting their skills to the test. [#quickclicks](#)

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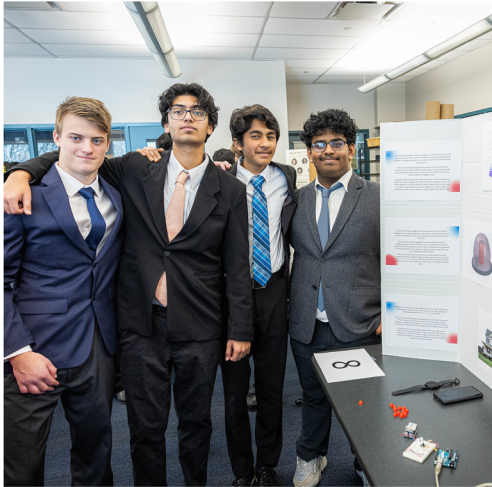
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Adult Education Cosmetology students are perfecting their craft one wave at a time. [#quickclicks](#)

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Teamwork made the dream work during the annual Tech Expo. [#quickclicks](#)

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A bright day for Middlesex County Magnet Schools as they receive the Lighthouse Award. [#quickclicks](#)


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Computer Science Technology class is in session at Perth Amboy Magnet School. [#quickclicks](#)

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What's better than live music? When it's performed by Piscataway Magnet School music students, of course. [#quickclicks](#)

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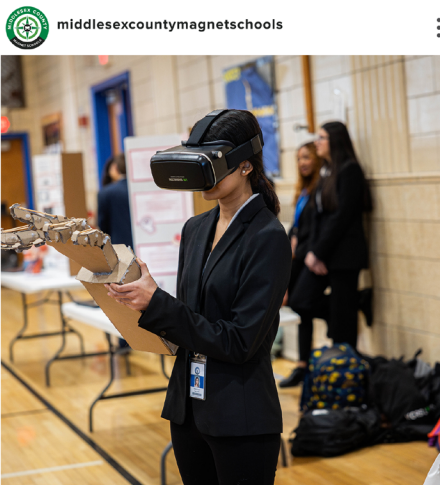
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Commissioner Director Rios screen printed t-shirts with the Perth Amboy Magnet School Graphic Design students. [#quickclicks](#)
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Model students and Model UN members from Woodbridge Academy Magnet School. [#quickclicks](#)
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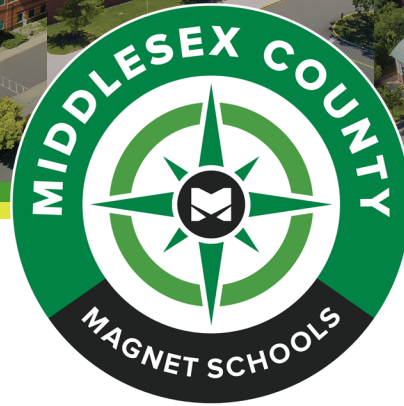
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How VR-y impressive: Woodbridge Academy Magnet School students made a VR-equipped prosthetic prototype. [#quickclicks](#)
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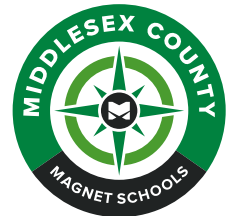
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Let's hear those Tigers fans roar! Congrats to the East Brunswick Magnet School girls' basketball team seniors. [#quickclicks](#)
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Want to learn how to build a computer? Look no further than the Piscataway Magnet School CST students. [#quickclicks](#)
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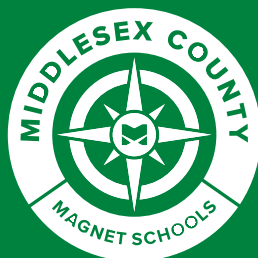
“

***My motto is... be comfortable
with being uncomfortable.
Those moments are what give
you a lot of growth, and you'll
never know what you can get
into if you don't ever start.***

Jonas Belmont

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The Musical

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April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 7 p.m.

April 12 at 11 a.m. (Community Day Show)



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Recommended age 10+

FOOTLOOSE

Stage Adaption by DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE

Based on the Original Screenplay by DEAN PITCHFORD

Music by TOM SNOW Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN

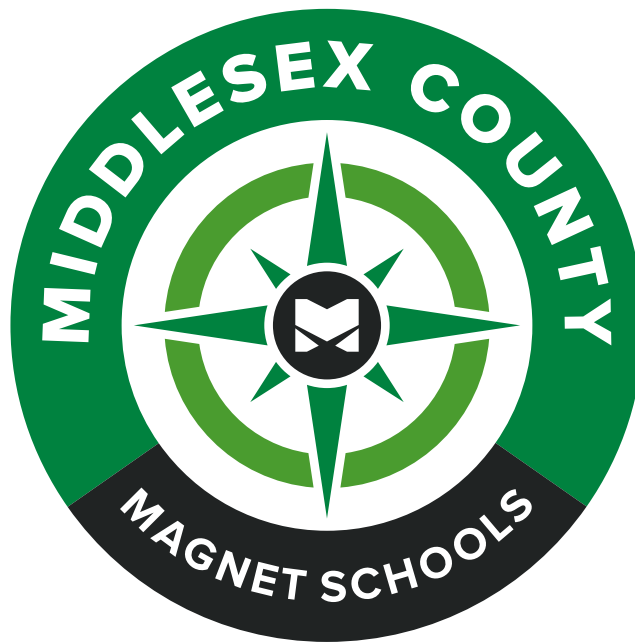
Director: Devin Massih

Choreographer: Raven Dunbar-Abbott

Music Director: Angelina Francese

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