

INSIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe we are at the halfway point of the 2022-2023 school year.

So much has happened in the first four months of the academic year, not the least of which is the announcement by Middlesex County and State of New Jersey officials of a strategic plan that will include a new Magnet School "the Magnet School of the Future"— on the Middlesex College campus.

In keeping with our shared mission, the Middlesex College campus is already home to one of our county magnet schools — the Edison Academy Magnet School — and now it will be home to a second — the Middlesex County Magnet School of the Future.

With programs like environmental technology and engineering, information technology, and global logistics, the School of the Future will leverage its location on the Middlesex College campus to provide an education that is advanced both academically and practically, giving students access to college-level courses as well as the latest tools and technologies.



In the future, our students will be able to graduate with both a high school diploma and a two-year associate's college degree. This will be game-changing for our student community.

We have much work ahead of us, but I am confident that with the support of our valued partners and the community, this project will be an unparalleled success.

This newsletter contains the highlights and achievements of our students, staff and programs for the last two months. Please review them at your leisure.

Kind Regards,

Jorge E. Diaz

Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

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

Quick Links

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REBRANDING INITIATIVE

Our Rebranding Effort Continues!

We are transforming every day into our Middlesex County Magnet Schools identity — from the gym floors, to ID badges, signs and flyers, letterhead, and email signatures - the evidence is all around.

Our students and staff are excited to show off their new apparel at sporting and school events, in the hallways, and in the community. Across social media platforms and through our online presence, we are expanding our Middlesex County Magnet Schools family.

[Be sure to follow us on all of our socials](#) to stay up to date on the latest news regarding the Magnet Schools.

Together through this process we will all become **COLLEGE READY. CAREER READY. LIFE READY.**



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT

Middlesex County Strategic Plan to Include New Magnet School



A new Magnet School — the Magnet School of the Future — on the Middlesex College campus is part of Middlesex County’s Destination 2040 Strategic Plan.

The County, in partnership with the State of New Jersey, has finalized its Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan. The plan is designed to transform and bolster Middlesex College and the Magnet School System, as well as meet the diverse needs of the entire community. Announced officially to the public in a press conference held at Middlesex College, County leadership along with key state and local government and school district officials spoke about the long-term economic impact this new plan will have and how it will transform the region.

Highlights of the plan include:

- An open-air Multipurpose Community Venue for concerts, cultural events, and multiple sports such as baseball, soccer, or lacrosse
- A Workforce Development and Conference Center
- A new Community Park featuring an educational children’s amenity
- A new Student Center, which will include campus and community amenities
- A new Middlesex County Magnet School, the Middlesex County Magnet School of the Future
- A Destination Athletic Complex featuring 14 multi-sport synthetic fields; 16 tennis courts and a state-of-the-art recreational cricket field; and much more



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT

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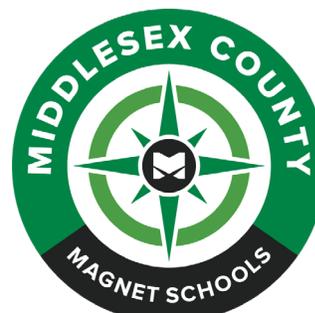
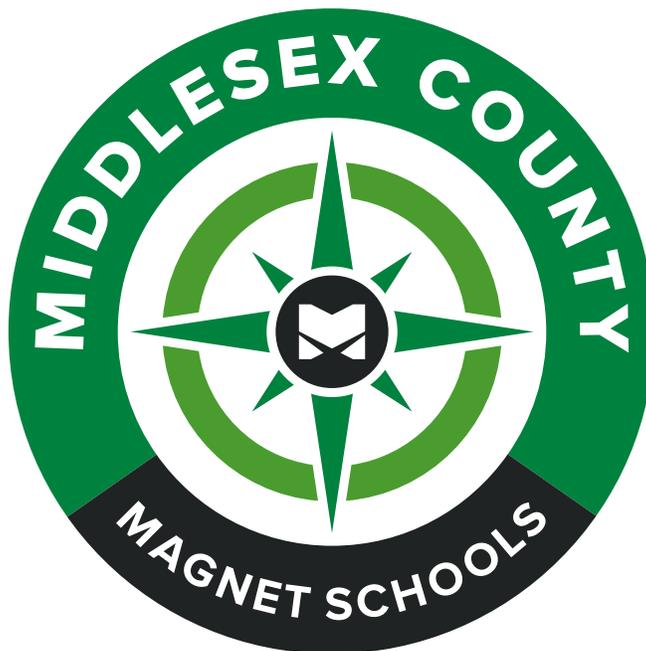
With programs like environmental technology and engineering, information technology, and global logistics, the School of the Future will leverage its location at the Middlesex College campus to provide an education that is advanced both academically and practically, giving students access to college-level courses as well as the latest tools and technologies,” said Superintendent of the Middlesex County Magnet Schools Jorge E. Diaz. “In the future, our students will be able to graduate with a High School diploma and a two-year College degree. This will be game-changing for our student community. We have much work ahead of us, but I am confident that with the support of our valued partners and the community, this project will be an unparalleled success.”

Dignitaries shared the significance of these investments in education and infrastructure in Middlesex County and the positive impact they will have on its students, staff, parents, and the region. The program included Governor Phil D. Murphy; New Jersey General Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin; Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios; Edison Mayor Sam Joshi; Middlesex College President Mark McCormick; Middlesex County Administrator John A. Pulomena; and Middlesex College Alumni Trustee Anvay Patel.

[Read the full article here](#)



VISUAL IDENTITY



**ADULT
EDUCATION**

NEWS RECOGNITION

Featured Articles About Us:

- [CentralJersey.com](https://www.centraljersey.com)

'Ah-ha moments' happening in county Magnet Schools' new AgriScience program

- [ROI-nj.com](https://www.roi-nj.com)

Middlesex County announces CIO Strategic Investment Plan to transform schools

- [TapInto.net](https://www.tapinto.net)

Edison Students Named Governor's Scholars

- [CentralJersey.com](https://www.centraljersey.com)

Middlesex County envisions Middlesex College a 'multi-faceted destination' for education, sports, arts and entertainment

- [MyCentralJersey.com](https://www.mycentraljersey.com)

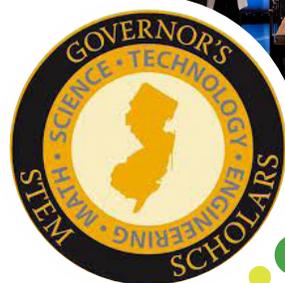
Middlesex County unveils ambitious plan to transform its college into regional destination

- [Patch.com](https://www.patch.com)

A Little Shakespeare: 'Romeo and Juliet' Planned In Red Bank

- [CentralJersey.com](https://www.centraljersey.com)

Nine students from Edison, Woodbridge named Class of 2023 Governors STEM Scholars



SPOTLIGHT VIDEOS

Twelve students from 12 different career majors representing all five campuses were recently filmed to highlight the various programs that we offer at all five schools. These videos were filmed to bring awareness to our many different programs in the perspective of our students. Check in weekly to our social media platforms for more upcoming videos to be posted.

Thank you to the following program students that were featured for the first five videos:

East Brunswick Magnet School

- Madison Woods, *Music Technology*
- Lilly Clements, *Agriscience*

Piscataway Magnet School

- Liam Hoag, *Welding*

Edison Academy Magnet School

- Varija Mehta, *Computer Engineering*

Woodbridge Academy Magnet School

- Ishaan Tangirala, *Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences*



EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to all the District recipients of the Teacher of the Year and Educational Professionals of the Year. Being named is not only an award, but an honor that comes with responsibility to represent the Magnet Schools. We are proud to have you as a part of the Middlesex County Magnet Schools family.



East Brunswick Magnet School

- Ms. Sandra Girgis, *Learning Disabilities Teacher Coordinator*
- Mr. Louis Horowitz, *English Teacher*



Perth Amboy Magnet School

- Ms. Jillian Rise, *School Counselor*
- Mr. James Luginsland, *Chemistry Teacher*



Piscataway Magnet School

- Ms. Antonia Mastrella, *Culinary Arts Teacher*
- Ms. Stephanie Laties, *School Social Worker*



Edison Academy Magnet School

- Ms. Michelle Gomes, *Honors Algebra II, Honors Precalculus, and AP Statistics Teacher*
- Ms. Rosemary Simmons, *School Nurse*



Woodbridge Academy Magnet School

- Ms. Leah Hoffman, *English 10 Honors and AP English Literature Teacher*



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS APPRECIATION MONTH

Middlesex County Magnet Schools Board of Education Embraces the Goal of High-Quality Education for All New Jersey Public School Students.



New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation’s best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments.

Since the first School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey in 2002, the State Board of Education, the state-level public body that regulates public education, has approved resolutions to honor the work done by local school board members.

School board members in New Jersey receive no pay for their service. More than 5,000 men and women serve on New Jersey’s local boards of education, making them the largest group of public officials in the state.



“Nothing is more important than our children’s education. School board members provide countless hours of service to their communities and strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students,” said Keith Jones II, President of the Middlesex County Magnet Schools Board of Education. “That is why our board is joining in efforts to recognize these volunteers throughout the state. We urge all citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the improvement of our children’s education.”

STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Senior Graphic Design student from East Brunswick Magnet School Michael Rizzi has been accepted to the [BFA Design Program at the School of Visual Arts \(SVA\) in New York](#).

After their highly competitive selection process, he has been awarded the Silas H. Rhodes Scholarship in recognition of his academic and artistic success.



[An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.](#)

We would like to congratulate Griffin Kennedy, senior at Perth Amboy Magnet School, for his acceptance to the [Culinary Arts program at Johnson and Wales University](#).

Griffin has received scholarships and grants in the amount of \$25,445.

Amanda Batista Cortorreal, a senior at the Perth Amboy Magnet School, [signed her national letter of intent](#) to continue her academic career as a Health Science major and athletic career in softball [at Georgian Court University](#).

[Congratulations to each student on your achievements!](#)



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

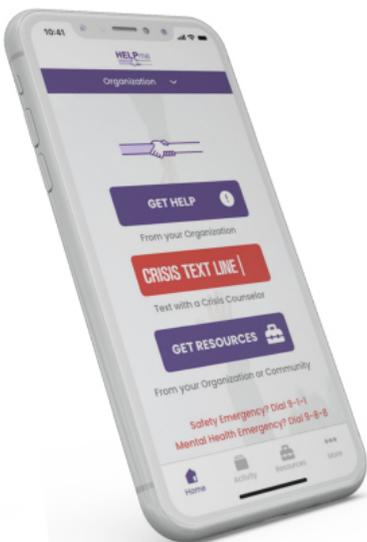
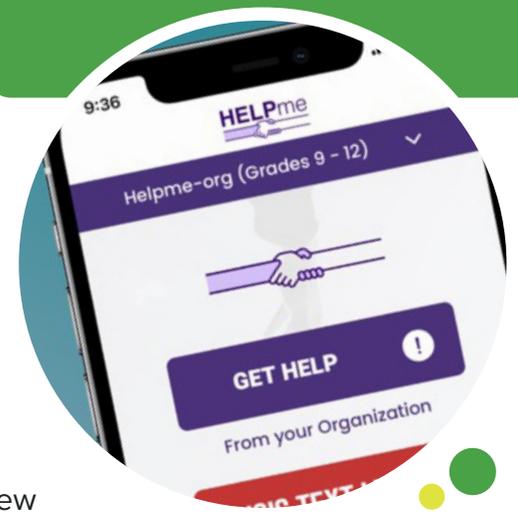
HELPme is an Empowering Tool Students, Parents, and Staff Can Access to Get the Help They Need with Dignity and Privacy.

The health and safety of our students always being foremost in our minds, we ask you to please take note of the information about the new HELPme app, which puts assistance to students who are troubled in any way just a click away.

The HELPme App has been installed and pinned to the ChromeOS taskbar on all district-managed and provisioned student Chromebooks to allow students to quickly access the resources provided by HELPme and easily submit information.

All parties will have access to the HELPme mobile app, which has three main features:

- **GET HELP** can be used to anonymously request help from local school contacts, including Messenger, which allows anonymous two-way communication with school contacts and help requesters.
- **CRISIS TEXT LINE** can be accessed directly from the app to text with other trained crisis counselors.
- **GET RESOURCES** can be used to search community, local, state, and federal resources and helplines.



Get help in the way you need it.
Download today.

ADULT EDUCATION

National Apprenticeship Week in November was an opportunity to highlight how Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, provides a critical talent pipeline that can help to address some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges, such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply-chain demands, supporting a clean-energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care-economy issues.

On Culture Day in December, Practical Nursing students and instructors made appetizers, main entrees and desserts to represent the many cultures across the globe. The Practical Nursing Student Council also conducted a fundraiser and prizes were awarded to the winners.

Pediatrics Day was held in December in Ms. G. King RN's classroom. Four children were present, ranging in ages from 12 months to 9 years. Students took turns interviewing the parent and examining the child, similar to how an admission assessment would be done in the hospital or outpatient clinic. Vital signs, height, weight, and developmental status exams were done, each coordinating to the age level of the child. Since there was such a diverse age range, the students saw developmental differences in the different ages and could compare it to what they learned in theory class.



ATHLETICS NEWS

Isabella Marquez of the East Brunswick Magnet School has been recognized by the Greater Middlesex Conference as an All-Division player for the 2022 cross-country season.



The 2022 United Soccer Coaches High School Fall Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Awards have been announced. Kathy McNulty and the Edison Academy Soccer team have been named a Gold Award recipient.

Amanda Batista Cortorreal, a senior at the Perth Amboy Magnet School, signed her national letter of intent to continue her academic career as a Health Science major and athletic career in softball at Georgian Court University.



Click here to view Athletic Schedules

Both the boys and girls basketball teams of the East Brunswick Magnet School will be playing at the Prudential Center in Newark. The games will take place on Friday, January 20, with a doubleheader starting at 5pm. [Click here for tickets and more information.](#)



East Brunswick Magnet School
Tigers

COME OUT AND SUPPORT!

Boys and Girls Basketball
at the Prudential Center

January 20, 2023

Doubleheader starting at **5:15pm**

See complete schedule information [here](#)

Scan for Tickets

PLAYBOOK

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Students from our East Brunswick and Piscataway Magnet Schools, who are enrolled in the [Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education grant](#), received their grant-funded tool kits. These industry standard tools will help our students' work in the field as they continue their careers. Some of the locations where students have been completing their apprenticeship include Audi of Bridgewater, Dayton Toyota, and Ray Catena Jaguar.

On November 14, [Local 825 Operating Engineers](#) visited [our Piscataway Magnet School](#) to showcase the many career opportunities available to our students in honor of National Apprenticeship Week. Students had the opportunity to speak to representatives and see construction equipment used in the field, including a 30-foot crane simulator. Our guests stressed the ability to obtain college credit while completing an apprenticeship. Thank you to Cooperative Education Coordinator George Gent for organizing this event.

On December 5, the Middlesex County Magnet Schools Career and Technical Department met with representatives from Local 825 to talk about [future collaborations and apprenticeship opportunities](#). They had the chance to tour the facility, which included simulators, classrooms, and heavy equipment operations on their 61-acre campus. The department looks forward to potentially building a relationship with Local 825 that allows students to stay competitive within the industry.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Seniors from East Brunswick Magnet School's **School of the Arts programs** (Arts Technology, Music Performance and Technology, Dance, Theatre, Digital Film, Multimedia and Digital Design, and Graphic Design) successfully completed, displayed, and performed their **2022 Senior Showcase**.

Ms. Cleo Mack's Dance class from East Brunswick Magnet School performed their show "Flux States" at the New Brunswick Performance Arts Center. The performance was showcased at the NBPAC for two nights, December 8–9th. This was the Dance program's first performance of the year and first performance at NBPAC.

In an effort to help struggling asylum seekers arriving in Staten Island, the **Woodbridge Academy Magnet School Cultural and Diversity Club** and **Spanish Honor Society** coordinated with Project Hospitality to collect new clothing and shelf-stable food items to help migrants start off their new lives on the right foot.

Edison Academy Magnet School held its first annual **Shark Tank**. Thirteen senior design teams from both Mechanical Engineering & Electrical/Computer Engineering presented their proposals to an evaluation team of engineers from our instructors' advisory committee.

The Piscataway Magnet School Culture and Diversity Club, along with HOSA, under the guidance of Ms. Hobbs and Ms. Rogers and a helping hand from Ms. Gibbs, created Thanksgiving gift baskets for those in need. Many thanks to Mr. Rios' family for their very generous donation of turkey dinners and food. Any extra food was donated to Elijah's Promise.



STUDENT CLUBS AND EVENTS

The Perth Amboy Magnet School Interact Club and Green Team Club held a very successful food drive during the month of November and December. Food donations were given to Middlesex County Replenish Food Bank (MCFoods). The Replenish Program services all of Middlesex county. Students and staff also participated in The Angel Tree Program with the Perth Amboy Salvation Army.

East Brunswick Magnet School SkillsUSA, in collaboration with Student Council and staff advisors, competed in Battle of the Classes & Spirit Week. There were themed days starting with pajama day, sports day, ugly sweater day, fancy dress up day, and concluding with class colors day.

The Edison Academy Magnet School's Debate Club/JSA Chapter attended the 2022 Fall State Convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition to actively debating and participating in climate change activism, six students were able to bring home gavels for best speaker awards.

The Woodbridge Academy Magnet School Culture and Diversity Club decorated the school in accordance with all of the upcoming winter holidays. The Club was able to spread awareness and information about these holidays through the posting of informational flyers in the building.

The Piscataway Magnet School Music Club had caroling and hosted coffee and cookies for the faculty, which was beautifully prepared by Chef Mastrella's students.



ALUMNI NEWS

Magnet School graduate returns to AgriScience program

A 2018 graduate of the Agriscience program at the East Brunswick Magnet School has returned as a student teacher eager to continue as an educator.

Jennifer Obrizan of Carteret graduated from Rutgers University with a double major in agriculture/food systems and plant biology. She will receive a master's degree in science education from Rutgers in May.

"I'm also getting an endorsement to teach students with special needs," she said.

She has been working with Agriscience teacher Kylie Naylor in the program's new lab on the East Brunswick campus.



"I'm really enjoying it," she said. "All the students are really great. They've been really receptive to my teaching."

"Since I graduated from here, I feel it's really easy to relate to the students and help them decide what they want to do after graduation."

"I was always thinking I wanted to work in the field of science. Agriculture appealed to me when I started to think about teaching. There is a national shortage of agriculture educators."

Jennifer had been "tagged to teach agriculture" by her agriculture teacher at the East Brunswick Magnet School, Lisa Ann Moschera, who has since retired. Three current students have been similarly tagged, Jennifer said.

While in high school, Jennifer was a member of the National Technical Honor Society and salutatorian of her class.

ALUMNI NEWS

Magnet Schools Culinary Graduate Returns to Inspire Future Chefs

The seed for a future teaching career was planted when Christian Rios was a culinary student at Perth Amboy Magnet School.

He said he was asked by his teacher, Chef Stephen Moir, what he wanted to do with his culinary studies. Inspired by his experience with a number of special-needs people in his life, he began to think about teaching.

A 2009 graduate of Perth Amboy Magnet School from Carteret, he graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence and launched a career as a chef. He worked for nine years as a sous chef at a country club in Manalapan before becoming a culinary arts teacher at Piscataway Magnet School a year ago in December.



He said he was surprised to learn from college classmates that they had not had a good experience during their high school culinary classes.

“I wanted to change that, I wanted my students to feel, ‘I’m good at this; I can do this,’” Chef Rios said. “I’m grateful to be able to accomplish the dream that I had.”

He said he finds that his students are engaged and eager to learn.

“It’s a life-changing experience for me,” he said. “It almost doesn’t feel like a job.”

Chef Rios’ background is in Latin cuisine, but he also has experience in Indian, Mediterranean, Asian and Caribbean foods.

QUICK CLICKS

Follow us on Instagram!

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The Perth Amboy Magnet School's Patriots Basketball has their heads in the game this season! [#quickclicks](#)

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Our Woodbridge Academy Magnet School Allied Health students are always working hard and amaze us every day! [#quickclicks](#)

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"The best way to spread cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" -Buddy the Elf. Thank you for the carols, Piscataway Magnet School! [#quickclicks](#)

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Our dancers always put on a show to remember! [#quickclicks](#)

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Edison Academy Magnet School put on a night full of fun at their Talent Show! [#quickclicks](#)

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Adult Education Cosmetology students always know how to make their clients look and feel their best! [#quickclicks](#)

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QUICK CLICKS

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Nothing is better than hot chocolate, PJs, and friends! Thank you East Brunswick Magnet School SkillsUSA for the treats! [#quickclicks](#)

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Perth Amboy Magnet School's Fall Food Drive was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who donated. [#quickclicks](#)

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All smiles here at Piscataway Magnet School! [#quickclicks](#)

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Adult Education Nursing students are working hard to become the best future nurses ever! [#quickclicks](#)

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East Brunswick Magnet School Tigers Cheerleading always gets us pumped up and ready for Game Day! Go Tigers! [#quickclicks](#)

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Build a house? No problem! Building Trades students are working their magic. [#quickclicks](#)

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School is better with friends by your side!
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Our Welding students showed off their skills for the camera! [#quickclicks](#)

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Students got in the Holiday Spirit during Spirit Week 2022! Happy Holidays! [#quickclicks](#)

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Our talented dancers never fail to WOW us!
[#quickclicks](#)

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We are so proud to see our students showcasing their hard work and awesome projects!
[#quickclicks](#)

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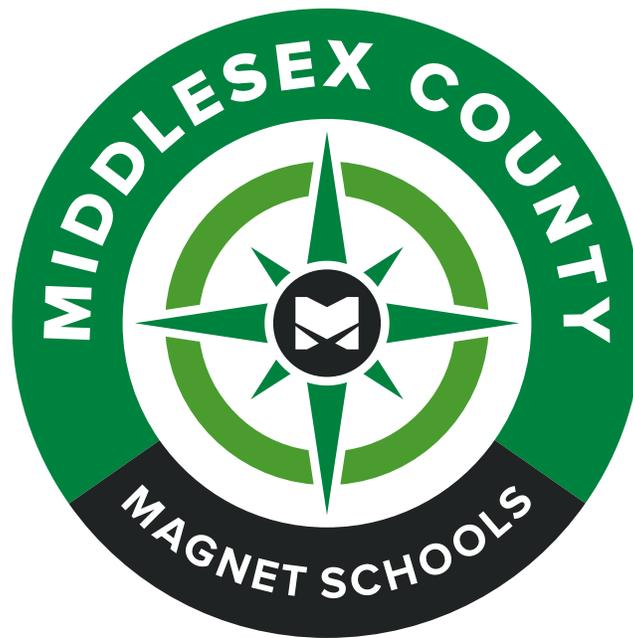


middlesexcountymagnetschools
You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. Go Piscataway Magnet School Raiders!
[#quickclicks](#)

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1 DAY AGO

THANK YOU



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

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schools and programs
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