

**OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**School Starts**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2019**  
**FULL DAY**



**Kathleen W. Taylor, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear School Community:

**Ready, Set, Go!**

It is a pleasure to welcome families back for the 2019-20 school year, and we extend a warm welcome to those families new to our School District.

We are *ready* for another successful year, which we enter riding a wave of excitement following significant recognition from the state. The New Jersey Department of Education named the Ocean City School District as a **Lighthouse District**. This award acknowledges the measurable academic progress made across diverse groups of learners. It highlights the efforts of our School District and each of our schools to close achievement gaps for all students. This means that district-wide, we have exhibited a genuine commitment to help each student achieve and demonstrate academic growth. We take great pride in our Lighthouse District designation, because the state Department of Education examined our student data and verified that we are both committed to and effective in closing achievement gaps. This Lighthouse District distinction also helps to elevate and empower voices of experts in the field to strengthen teaching, leading, and learning in all classrooms across New Jersey. We are happy to contribute to that effort to make our state’s exceptional public education system even stronger. On a more personal level, we are honored to receive this distinction as it signals that every employee at every level, every parent, and every student gives us his or her best; it’s a complex web of accomplishment that really is admirable and worth celebrating.

Our School District is all *set* with our new **Strategic Plan** to ensure that we continue to provide the best education for our students. We have three focal points: Engage, Innovate, Achieve. We thank the Committee of community members, School Board members, administrators, and staff, who reflected on the District’s challenges and opportunities to develop our new plan. Committee members drew upon their experiences and ideas and reviewed research on the future of learning. The result of their efforts is a five-year educational plan to provide a relevant and challenging education for our students now and in the future. Our plan helps us keep pace with our rapidly changing world to ensure that our students are prepared to succeed when they leave Ocean City. The Strategic Plan will be presented to the community at the School Board Meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Annually, we are driven to evolve to better serve students, not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. Therefore, we proudly announce that we also are all *set* to begin the 2019-20 school year with a new Intermediate School **Wellness Center**. Knowing that early adolescence is a period of rapid physical, intellectual, and social change, with emotional peaks and valleys, we developed a space with resources and staff to support the unique developmental needs of our Intermediate School students. We have a similar space at OCHS, which has proven to positively impact students’ well being. Thank you to the Ocean City Education Foundation for their generous donation to help us equip this Center. For more information please contact Mr. Matthew Carey at [mcarey@ocsdnj.org](mailto:mcarey@ocsdnj.org).

Now, here we *go* with our new staff for the 2019-20 school year! With our strong team, we’re poised to remain a high-achieving district.

**District New Staff:** Stephanie Grisinger, School Social Worker/SAC; Lisa Gilroy, Food Service Worker; Geoff Haines, K-12 Athletic Director; Stephen Lyons, Maintenance Worker; Chiarina Meron, Special Education Aide; Devon Miller, Special Education Aide; Linda Persia, Secretary to the School Business Administrator; Daniel Sinclair, District Security Aide; Ingrid Vasquez-Santos, Custodian.

**High School New Staff:** Brian Burke, Business Education Teacher; Cheryl Cantwell, Nurses’ Aide; Nate Garza, Social Studies Teacher; Caitlin Jagielski, Math Teacher; Sara Maimone, Library/Media Specialist; Aashani Patel, Biology Teacher; Lee Styer, English Teacher.

**Intermediate School New Staff:** Michael Mattina, Principal

**Primary School New Staff:** Abigail Barrett, Music Teacher; Jennifer Christiano, Preschool Teacher; Kim Gray, Preschool Aide; Amanda McCormick, Preschool Teacher; George Plamantouras, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher; Amanda Stanco, Preschool Teacher; Kristine Swartz, Preschool Aide; Devon DeVries, Special Education Teacher.

For more information on the District’s new hires, please check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/oceancityschools](http://www.facebook.com/oceancityschools).

Have a great school year,

Dr. Kathleen Taylor  
Superintendent



**Ocean City School District – Committed to Excellence**  
Equal Opportunity Employer

