



The
**South Bergen
 Jointure Commission**
Quarterly



Use this QR code to access Families Resources put together by the SBJC Parent Committee.

The mission of the South Bergen Jointure Commission is to unlock the potential of every student. As a leading educational provider, we will focus on the development of each student's social, emotional, and academic needs. By fostering an environment that is supportive and challenging, we will empower students to maximize their independence and potential in becoming fulfilled and productive members of their community.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Just four months into the 2022/23 school year and I can already say that this district is off to a tremendous start. Due to the hard work of our faculty, staff, and administration, SBJC has received recognition that we should all be proud of. In October, we learned that the SBJC officially received accreditation by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CES), a tremendous accomplishment and one that will continue to guide our district for the next seven years. And at last month's Bergen County School Boards meeting, the SBJC was awarded the NJSBA School Leader Award for programming. Each year the NJSBA highlights creative and effective programs and practices from New Jersey schools, and this year the SBJC staff were awarded for their development of programming that embraces the No Barrier's philosophy of "What's within you is stronger than what's in your way." With our No Barriers' partnership, important programs have been developed like our Yoga and Mindfulness for All, where teachers Kellie Weiss and Lyzzette Grassi lead all of our classrooms in learning breathing techniques to help students refocus their energies. Other programs tied to this initiative include Biking, 18-21 Hiking Leadership, Student Summer Internships, 3-Season High school Athletics, and Equestrian Program.

This year, the SBJC has undergone several changes all with one purpose in mind: ensuring that our students with extraordinary needs live independent and fulfilling lives. We now have three classrooms in the Nutley School District as part of our push-in model of programming, providing our expertise in establishing and running special education classrooms so students can learn in their home districts. We have revamped our admissions process in effort to ensure that students are learning in their least restrictive environment. In partnership with the Lyndhurst Public School District, we've started a culinary program for our STARs students using the state-of-the-art facility at Lyndhurst Middle School. Our Maywood Campus sensory gym constructed this past summer is in full utilization (pictured above). We are close to acquiring our own building in Teterboro that will be future home to our 18-21 Transition Program as well as our central office. And our three-season high school athletics program continues with the addition of a basketball program for middle/high school students.

I can't wait to see what our district does next.

LRE CONTINUUM TOOL

ENSURING ALL STUDENTS LEARN IN THEIR LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The vision of the SBJC is centered on providing our students with the tools needed to live successful and independent post-scholastic lives, and the first step in measuring that this is occurring is by developing a system that ensures that students are being educated in their least restrictive environment. The Student LRE Status Tool was developed by members of our Strategic Planning Committee to document the current placement of our students—it gives a snap shot of where each student is through the several criteria.

For this 2022/2023 school year, our district has implemented this tool to be used at all Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

PLACEMENT WITHIN THE PUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL
The SBJC offers a multitude of placements within our district, ranging from our self-contained school buildings, to our annex classrooms, to shared-time placement in students' home districts. This specific criterion identifies a student's current placement in terms of physical location within our district.

STUDENT-TO-STAFF RATIO
This criterion identifies the amount of staff support needed for students to have the maximum level of success within the classroom.

sbjc SOUTH BERGEN JOINTURE COMMISSION

Student LRE Status

This tool is for the documentation of the student's current placement within the South Bergen Jointure Commission based on his/her placement within the district, as well as student-to-staff ratio, delivery of academic and related services, and access to the community.

Student: _____
Teacher: _____
Campus: _____ Class Type: _____
Date: _____ Class Size: _____

Placement within the Public Special Education School	Student-to-Staff Ratio	Services Related to Education	Community Access
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; margin-right: 5px;">MOST RESTRICTIVE</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Separate Public Special Education School Self-contained, Non-transitioning <input type="checkbox"/> Separate Public Special Education School with Clear Transitions <input type="checkbox"/> Separate Public Special Education School with inclusion Gen. Ed. <input type="checkbox"/> Separate Public Special Education School with Full Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Special Education School inside of a General Education School No Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Special Education School inside of a General Education School Inclusion, Non-academic <input type="checkbox"/> Public Special Education School inside of a General Education School Inclusion, Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Time </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1 <div style="font-size: x-small;"> Type/Level of Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group <input type="checkbox"/> Whole Group <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Trials <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Grade-Level </div>	<div style="font-size: x-small;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Therapy <div style="margin-left: 15px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pull-out <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group (2-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Push-in </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapy <div style="margin-left: 15px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pull-out <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group (2-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Push-in <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded <input type="checkbox"/> Consult </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Speech <div style="margin-left: 15px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pull-out <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group (2-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Push-in <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded <input type="checkbox"/> Consult </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling <div style="margin-left: 15px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pull-out <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group (2-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Push-in <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded <input type="checkbox"/> Consult </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> No CBI <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Local Community <input type="checkbox"/> Interact with Local Community <input type="checkbox"/> Goal & Objective-based CBI <input type="checkbox"/> Works in Local Community
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 40px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Notes:</p> </div>			

TYPE/LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION
This criterion identifies the capacity in which the student best learns (individual instruction versus small group versus whole group versus independent). It also identifies whether the student is working on a modified or grade-level curriculum.

SERVICES RELATED TO EDUCATION
Determines which related services the student receives and at what level of instruction. Levels of instruction include:
Pull-out: Student receives services outside of the classroom.
Individual: Student receives services with no peers.
Group (2-5): Student receives services with 2-5 peers present.

COMMUNITY ACCESS
We define community access as the literal physical access to environments external to the school and home. Community access is an important part of the life of our students, as it provides access to recreation tasks, social opportunities and enables them to develop skills and competencies. This criterion determines at what level the student is accessing the local community.

LRE Tool 2022/2023 Goals

Goal #1. Tool Used at Every IEP Meeting
Ensure the tool is used at every IEP meeting starting September 2022.

Goal #2. Establish an LRE Database
SBJC will determine the structure of the database and the content that will be inputted, determining how the data will be organized in order to track student growth and monitor progress to a lesser restrictive environment.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

STARS IN THE KITCHEN



In partnership with Lyndhurst Public Schools, our STAR students have been making use of the state-of-the-art culinary arts facility at the Lyndhurst Middle School. Each week a group of STAR students along with their Transition teacher practices cooking coursework. STAR students will continue to participate in learning food preparation by conducting recipe reviews, following a step-by-step list, and engaging in functional use of kitchen tools. In addition to this, students will engage in sequencing, measuring, practicing conversation through the use of new vocabulary, following visual and written directions, learning social skills, and practicing kitchen safety & sanitation.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



The SBJC has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Bergen County to provide after-school programming once a week to our students at the Maywood Campus. The after-school program is an opportunity for students to pursue both leisure and recreational activities, including arts and crafts, sensory play and gross motor activities.

SBJC MOONACHIE STUDENTS VENTURE TO CAMP BERNIE



Team Building was the number one reason the SBJC Moonachie 8th Graders made a visit to Camp Bernie this October. All activities (even including meal time) were designed to maximize collaboration among our Class of 2023. They participated in activities such as rock climbing, swinging from trees, land skiing, and turning a “capsized boat” over while remaining on the boat. The students had to learn how to effectively listen to one another and work as a team to complete each activity with success. Despite the rain, the students enjoyed their day!

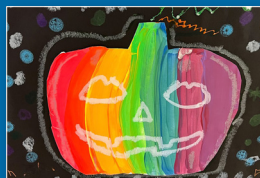
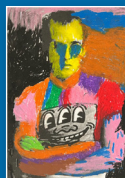
PGA GOLF IN SCHOOLS

Since 2016, our Lodi Campus Middle School/ High School classes have had the opportunity to participate in the PGA Golf in Schools program. Using a curriculum developed by Golf Association Professionals, the program introduces the game of golf to students of all skill levels, teaching them the lifelong mental and physical benefits of the sport. Greg and Christina, our PGA Ambassadors, have been great partners to the SBJC, donating to our district golf clubs as well as making multiple visits to our Lodi Campus to provide instruction to our students.



For the past six years, SBJC has been invited to bring a dozen students to Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. This year, Mrs. DaSilvas’ homeroom class attended the trip, which included: decorating their own golf ball so they can easily recognize it when out on the green; touring the course in golf carts with stops at different holes for information sessions; instructional golf lessons; lunch provided by the PGA; and one-on-one instruction in the putting garage using blow up targets.

STUDENT ART FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT





**South Bergen
Jointure Commission**
Board of Education
500 Route 17 South
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
07604

The South Bergen Jointure Commission is a public special education school district with locations spread throughout northern New Jersey. With 350+ students and an average class size of six, the SBJC prepares students with extraordinary abilities to live productive, independent, and meaningful lives.

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Vice President
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Rutherford
Mr. Jason Chirichella
South Hackensack
Mr. Anthony Albro
Wood-Ridge

SBJC Superintendent

Dr. Michael Kuchar
mkuchar@njsbjc.org

Parent Committee Family Night

In December, SBJC’s Parent Committee held its first Family Night of the year to celebrate all of the best parts of winter. Dozens of families wearing their holiday pajamas came together to create gingerbread houses, complete crafts, and eat and drink snacks and refreshments. There was even a visit from the big guy himself!

The Parent Committee, led by SBJC Principal Lorraine Rake, did a fantastic job organizing this event. Parents and staff members volunteered their time and efforts to help make this night a great one. Upcoming parent workshops are listed to the right, and keep a look out on the district website or social media for updates and additional events.

ABOUT THE SBJC PARENT COMMITTEE

Last year, SBJC held three virtual/in-person Parent Workshops. We are looking for staff and parents who may be interested in working with our Parent Committee on building the Parent Academy and to help drive the construction of a collaborative relationship between our parents and district. The committee meets monthly to brainstorm ways to support our parents to ensure the best for our students. If you are interested in joining, please contact Principal Lorraine Rake at lrake@njsbjc.org.



**Upcoming
Parent Workshops**

Social Communication
Dr. John Burke of Felician U.
January 26

Talk Straight About Social Media
Bergen Promise
March 1
Location TBD

