



Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School

NEW BEDFORD/ DARTMOUTH/ FAIRHAVEN

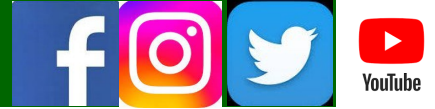
Sept. 8, 2023

PREPARATION * PASSION * PERSEVERANCE Volume 2 - Issue 1

www.gnbvt.edu

Paw Prints

Family Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear GNBVT Families and Community,

I hope this message finds you well, and I am thrilled to report that it has been an amazing start to the school year here at GNBVT, Home of the Bears! As we embark on this new academic journey, I wanted to share some important information and updates with you in our very first Paw Prints Newsletter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Academic Support and Tutoring:

We understand the importance of providing assistance to students who may need extra help. In this newsletter, you will find valuable information about our Academic Support program, which offers tutoring and additional resources to help our students succeed academically.

Attendance Policy:

We believe that regular attendance is crucial for a successful educational experience, especially in a vocational training environment. Please take a moment to review our updated attendance policy to ensure that your child's education remains uninterrupted.

Message from our DEI Director, Yolanda Dennis:

Our commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment is of utmost importance. Ms. Yoalnda Dennis, our Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, has been an integral leader in driving our culture and climate toward making all students feel comfortable at our school, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Her message in this newsletter reflects our dedication to this vital work.

School Council Meeting on October 10th:

Mark your calendars! I will be hosting our first School Council Meeting on October 10th. Please refer to the newsletter for more details on what topics we will be discussing during this important gathering. I look forward to gaining valuable insights from parents/caregivers, teachers and students through our School Council.

Upcoming Half-Day and Bus Evacuation Drill (Sept 15, 2023):

Next Friday (9/15/2023), we have a half-day scheduled for students. Dismissal will be at 10:10 AM to accommodate a bus evacuation drill that will take place on-site before students depart. Safety is our priority, and this drill will help ensure that our students are prepared for any unexpected situations.

Professional Development with Principal Baruti Kafele:

In the afternoon on Sept 15th, our dedicated teachers will be participating in a Professional Development session led by Principal Baruti Kafele, a nationally-renowned speaker and ASCD best-selling author. The training will focus on "Closing the Attitude Gap" among students. Principal Kafele's work emphasizes the importance of instilling in our students the will to strive for excellence. This training aligns with his best-selling book, "Closing the Attitude Gap."

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Student Picture Day
- Academic Support Program
- Diversity Equity & Inclusion Welcome & Family Engagement News
- School Rings Presentation to Sophomores by Jostens

Upcoming Events

- Fri Sep 15:** Early Dismissal: 10:49 am
- Wed Sep 20:** Student Picture Day– ODD CYCLE
- Fri Sep 22:** Class Ring Presentation to Sophomores
- Tues Sep 26** Student Picture Day– EVEN CYCLE

School Picture Day



Mare Studio & Gallery will be here **on Wed Sept 20 (ODD CYCLE)** and **Tues Sept 26 (EVEN CYCLE)** to take student photos. Please see order sheet previously sent to parents for pricing.

Quick Links:

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Family Engagement Center](#)

[Student Handbook](#)

[GNBVT Calendars](#)

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for the outstanding opening to this school year. Our dedicated teachers, staff, and I are thrilled to be working together to prepare your child for a bright future, where they can pursue their dreams, whether it's attending their college/university of choice or entering their desired career path.

Most respectfully,

Warley J. Williams III

Principal

Continued...>>>>>



Academic Support Program

GNBVT is pleased to offer The Academic Support Program providing students with a broad array of services including:

- ⇒ *tutoring*
- ⇒ *credit recovery courses*
- ⇒ *after-school sessions*
- ⇒ *goal of providing students with additional educational support*

All services are highly recommended and give students the opportunity to continue to access the curriculum in various academic content areas with dedicated and compassionate instructors.

After-school transportation is provided by the district.

For additional information please contact:

Sarah Blanchette, Academic Support Coordinator.

Sarah.Blanchette@gnbvt.edu Ext. 757 B257.

Please use this link for program details:

[Academic Support Program Overview](#)

ATTENDANCE POLICY REVIEW



Please take a few minutes to review [the Attendance Policy](#), including reporting a student absent, Dismissals, and tardy protocols in the student handbook (pgs.40-43).

School Forms

Please login to FamilyID at the following [link](#) to sign off on the [Student Hand-](#)



<https://www.familyid.com/gnb-voc-tech-high-school/school-forms-2023-2024>

Class Ring Presentation by

Jostens

September 22nd

Jostens will be on campus **Friday, September 22nd** to present class ring ordering information to Sophomores and any upper class students interested in ordering a class ring.





DEI

Message from Yolanda Dennis, Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and family Engagement:

GNBVT is committed to providing a welcoming environment for students to learn, study and be successful in your academic programs – free from harassment and discrimination.

I support and empower teachers to be champions of change and enhance diversity, equity and inclusion within their classrooms and shops.

Over the upcoming year, there will be opportunities where we will celebrate unique attributes, characteristics and perspectives, and create brave safe spaces where all students, no matter how they identify, have an opportunity to be heard and supported regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic class.



As a district, we will continue to strive in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within our learning and working communi-

ty and we will continue to be committed to these principles. I am proud of the inclusion work that we are doing in our curriculum, classroom environment, within our hiring practices and increasing staff and faculty. It is exciting work and we will continue to advance our efforts in diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging through ongoing discussions, workshops and professional development opportunities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 508-998-3321 x563 or email yolanda.dennis@gnbvt.edu.

“Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging I an outcome.” - Arthur Chan



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



The Family Engagement Center (FEC) is a support service for families, students, teachers and staff and will assist in ensuring that our school community strives to foster an environment for all students to succeed academically throughout their high school years at GNBVT. Families are important to us and as active participants in the life of the school, you are welcomed, valued and connected so collectively, we can work together to support your child’s education. Connecting families to GNBVT is the beginning of our committed partnership which is the gateway to family engagement.

The goal of the Family Engagement Center is to bridge the gap between parents, our school and the surrounding community and improve relationships between home and school, which empowers families to become proactive in their children’s education throughout their academic pathway on a continuous basis. These relationships develop into meaningful partnerships rooted in the strengths and assets of all to promote student success. If you would like more information about the FEC and community resources, please visit <https://www.gnbvt.edu/family-engagement-center/>.

If you have questions or concerns, contact *Yolanda Dennis, Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Family* at 508-998-3321 x563 or email yolanda.dennis@gnbvt.edu.

“When learning is relevant to students, it’s relevant to their families.”

–Steve Constantino, Education Week Teacher

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School fosters an inclusive environment that values the diversity of our school community and respects individual differences. Each individual is embraced, celebrated, and treated equitably. We aim to foster a dialogue conducive to learning, acceptance, and cultural enrichment. GNB Voc-Tech promotes its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through discussion, education, and promotion of an environment that encourages scholarship, learning, and respect for diverse backgrounds and viewpoints to prepare students for lives in a multicultural society.



School Council

*An invitation to become a member
1st meeting: Oct 10th*

INVITATION TO JOIN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL COUNCIL



ATTN: Parents, Students, Faculty & Staff

The School Council is a representative committee composed of the principal, parents, students, faculty, staff and community members. The group discusses such issues as budget, curriculum, student handbook, School Improvement Plan and professional development of the faculty. The School Council meets 4 times per year, usually held on the second Tuesday of the scheduled month from 3:00 – 4:00 pm, in the school coffee shop.

You are invited to come to the first meeting on **Tuesday October 10th at 3:00 pm**, in the coffee shop, to see what this involves and sign up to join the Council, if you are interested and can attend the meetings.

The 2023-2024 meeting schedule:

- ◇ Tuesday, October 10, 2023: 3:00 4:00 pm – Coffee Shop (*Curriculum, School Improvement Plan, Professional Development*)
- ◇ Tuesday, January 9, 2024: 3:00-4:00 pm – Coffee Shop (*Budget*)
- ◇ Tuesday, March 12, 2024: 3:00-4:00 pm – Coffee Shop (*Student Handbook*)
- ◇ Tuesday, May 14, 2024: 3:00-4:00 pm- Coffee Shop (*Budget & Handbook updates*)

We hope to see you there!

Family Newsletter



From the Health Center

Welcome back for the start of our school year! We are happy to have you all back with us and a special **WELCOME to the Class of 2027!**

For our incoming freshman, YOG 2027: please remember to bring in any updated physicals, health questionnaires and copies of your immunization records for the nursing staff to review. It is important to have updated records and be made aware of any medical conditions that require our attention.

For our junior class, YOG 2025: please remember to provide us with a copy of your most recent immunizations that would include your meningococcal vaccination record as this is a grade 11 entry requirement if you are 16 years of age or older at the start of school.

NEW this year for our senior class, YOG 2024: the Department of Public Health is requiring us to report on the final status of meningococcal vaccinations so we ask that if you have not sent in proof of this vaccination last school year to please provide a copy at this time. The deadline for submitting paperwork will be shared at a later date.



FRESH!

Our newly renovated Health Center is open and back in its original location on the first floor, on same side as the main office, on the way to the cafeteria. The nursing staff is excited to see you and looking forward to taking care of you in our newly renovated space. You won't be disappointed as this is a beautiful area!!

NEW SPACE!



Nurses from left to right: Nurse Sarah, Nurse Ursula, Nurse Jaala

Best of luck this upcoming school year. We cannot wait to hear of all the great things you have done over the summer as well as throughout this school year! Go BEARS!



End of School Year 2023

All SkillsUSA District & State Competitors, Proctors, & Chaperones attended an Ice Cream Truck Celebration for their hard work, participation and dedication to SkillsUSA on May 18, 2023.



21 SkillsUSA members attended the Youth Opportunity Expo on May 31st, that engaged hundreds of South Coast high school students and exposed them to a unique array of employment opportunities and community resources dedicated to assisting them on their career path this summer. The speaker was youth advocate, Peter "Lonelle" Walker, and lunch was courtesy of MassHire GNB Workforce Board.



On June 4th, 5 current chapter Officers, 1 state officer and 9 incoming chapter officers attended our spring retreat at MassEscape - an escape room complex, to work on the SkillsUSA Chapter Officer team building skills followed by lunch and brain drop session.

From June 14th to 24th - 4 national competitors represented our school in Atlanta Georgia at the SkillsUSA National Conference - Kylie Gagne - Gold Medalist in Early Childhood Education, Jenna Medeiros - 4th in the Nation for Medical Assisting, Annalise Applebee & Sophia DeaAlmeida - earning Gold Level of Distinction, 1 state officer - Jordan Melo, 2 national voting delegates - Nia Rodrigues & Ava Silva , 4 advisors/chaperones - Deb Brightman, Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent, Meghan Lacasse & Lori Russell-Pelsue. Principal Warley Williams joined them for the last part of the week to view the competitions, celebrations and awards ceremony.



Conference - Kylie Gagne - Gold Medalist in Early Childhood Education, Jenna Medeiros - 4th in the Nation for Medical Assisting, Annalise Applebee & Sophia Dealmeida - earning Gold Level of Distinction, 1 state officer - Jordan Melo, 2 national voting delegates - Nia Rodrigues & Ava Silva , 4 advisors/chaperones - Deb Brightman, Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent, Meghan Lacasse & Lori Russell-Pelsue



During the Summer

Jordan Melo, senior in Marine Service Technology and SkillsUSA State Region 1 Southeast Vice President attended a week-long training session to become engaged leaders who can make a measurable positive difference in their communities, schools and our state association in Marlboro, MA.



This September, 2023

New Mission Statement -

“To empower students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members.”

Our SkillsUSA Chapter Officers will continue their training to build our program of work on September 23, 2023.

SkillsUSA MASSACHUSETTS
President: Kallie Allen, Blackstone Valley ETHS
Vice President: Emma Skaker, Diman ETHS
Secretary: Thomas Marshall, Greater Lowell Tech

Meet the Officer Team 2023-2024

No Limits
National HS Treasurer: Kayla Mathias, Southeastern ETHS

Treasurer: Akram Mehil, Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical HS
Parliamentarian: Matthew Kelly, Keefe Tech HS
Reporter: Dayna Mbugua, Bristol Plymouth ETHS

Historian: Natalie DuLano, Whitier ETHS
Eastern Region Vice President: Jordan Melo, Greater New Bedford ETHS
Western Region Vice President: Alondra Neves, Palmam Technical Academy

Officer Photos: Kallie, Emma, Thomas, Kayla, Akram, Matthew, Dayna, Natalie, Jordan, Alondra

Interested in finding out more about SkillsUSA? Contact any of the chapter advisors - Meghan.Lacasse@gnbvt.edu, Lori.Russellpelsue@gnbvt.edu, Joseph.Arruda@gnbvt.edu, Michael.McConnell@gnbvt.edu, Yasmin.Flefehvincent@gnbvt.edu, Stacey.martin@gnbvt.edu.

Family Newsletter

