

Superintendent's Report

Linden, NJ

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August 29, 2019



New Jersey honors 21st Century program's successes

The New Jersey Department of Education has awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the 21st Century Community Learning Center, an after-school and summer program serving the students of Soehl Middle School. The award recognizes the 21st Century program and Director Isabella Scocozza for completing five years of successful grants management. Scocozza is the new principal at Soehl, and the 21st Century program has just been awarded a new five-year grant. Soehl just completed its 14th year in the program, which includes tutoring and help with school work, enrichment in technology and other areas, and recreation. [Click here for full story.](#)

Her push for equity is personal

McManus Middle School language arts teacher Fatema Sumrein shared a personal story of discrimination in a TED Talk this summer at a New Jersey Department of Education conference on equity in education. She told of how two Linden educators helped to lift her up after she faced taunts and isolation as a young

Muslim girl after 9/11. Her aim is to follow their lead in reaching out to her students today, and to use her own story to help give momentum to the idea that every student should be given an equal chance at success regardless of their background. [Click here for full story, video and more photos.](#)



Fatema Sumrein

LHS mural salutes U.S. military



Students will be greeted by a beautiful new mural celebrating our nation's military when they enter the lobby of the Linden High School Academy Building, home to the LHS NJROTC program. Pictured are graphic design teacher Debra Heffernan, who designed the mural, and NJROTC Commander Boyd Decker, senior Naval Science instructor at LHS.

IB diploma gives top graduates a head-start on college



Piotr Zelazny and Muhsin Khan

Recent Linden High School graduates Piotr Zelazny and Muhsin Khan were honored on Tuesday, July 30, for attaining the prestigious International Baccalaureate diploma. The IB diploma is the pinnacle of achievement in the high school's most rigorous course of study, offering those who achieve it up to a semester's worth of college credits.

Khan and Zelazny were also the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Class of 2019. Each was given a certificate of excellence and an engraved desk clock with a globe design, symbolizing the global reach of the IB program. [Click here for full story and more photos.](#)

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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New principals highlight administrative changes

Changes in the Linden Public Schools administration for the 2019-2020 school year include new principals at both middle schools and at two of the district's largest elementary schools.

Isabella Scocozza, formerly vice principal at Soehl Middle School, has been named principal. Atiya Perkins, former School No. 2 principal, will be the principal at McManus Middle School. Peter

Fingerlin, who had been principal at McManus, will be principal at School No. 2. Suzanne Olivero, former vice principal at School No. 4, will be taking the helm as principal. [Click here for full story.](#)

LHS entrepreneurs go public



Throughout August, Linden High School's Entrepreneurial Management Achievement Program (EMAP) displayed work at the Linden Public Library that students created throughout the school year. [Click here to learn more about EMAP.](#)



Tigers fans cheer on the Troopers

McManus Middle School seventh-graders LJ Aponte and Santiago Alvarez were part of a magical run to the Little League World Series by the Elmora Youth League Troopers. Pictured are McManus Middle School Vice Principal Wayne Happel and his daughter Riley wishing the boys good luck before their first LLWS game in Williamsport, PA.

Coming Up

9/5: First day for all schools. Parents are invited to share photos on social media with the hashtag #LindenFirstDay

Back to School Nights

9/11 Soehl
9/12 McManus
9/17 Schools 1 & 8
9/18 Schools 9 & 10
9/19 Schools 2 & 6
9/23 Schools 4 & 5
9/25 LHS and Academy of Excellence

Next Board of Education meeting: Sept. 26, 7 p.m., at Linden High School