

By
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**RAMSEY SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS**

EVERY NEW SCHOOL year begins with great hopes and expectations for our students. As 2,776 students, and 500 teachers and staff, enter the doors of our schools, I want to take you on a journey through the secret life of public education in Ramsey.

You may be aware of some of what we accomplished last year. Consider that:

- *New Jersey Monthly* magazine ranked Ramsey High School the 21st best high school in the state.
- We were one of the few districts in the country to be recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program.
- Our high school chorus program performed at Carnegie Hall and our Big Blue Marching Band competed in the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships for the 12th straight year.
- Our students continued to excel in advanced placement courses with 87.9% earning a three or higher on the exam.
- Ramsey High School theatre students won 14 medals at the state competition, and we earned a collective 67 seats on ensembles. Our athletic program captured four league, one county, and two state sectional championships.

But these accomplishments don't paint a real picture of what we do every day. We're equipping our students with the tools and skills they need for future success, starting the day they enter school. This includes a rich curriculum that goes beyond basic academics; updated technologies and training to help students navigate complex online information; and

helping students apply their classroom lessons to the real world.

You may not be aware that our students are engaged in critical thinking and problem-solving starting as early as Kindergarten, and progressing through the 12th grade. This work looks different at different grade levels. In 1st grade, this may include "solving" words and making meanings from a picture book, while in the 11th grade students may be demonstrating critical thinking through a comparative analysis of a work of fiction and related informational text dealing with human rights.

Ramsey's public schools offer students and families an array of specialized programs and opportunities to ensure that all students' needs are met, and that they're prepared for their futures. These opportunities include dual enrollment offerings with local college and universities that allow students to earn college credit while still completing their high school degree. We're proud to run Design Thinking for the 21st Century, the only course of its kind in New Jersey. Ramsey students are fortunate to learn in technology-rich environments as students at all school levels have access to devices that allow their learning to transcend the four walls of the classroom.

We have worked hard to build a safe, supportive and welcoming education community where all students are treated fairly and with respect. Our dedicated teachers, principals, school counselors and other school staff are committed to providing the best education possible for our students.

We welcome our families and community members to get engaged and see the great things that are happening at Ramsey's public schools.

Please consider signing up for the *Ramsey Review* (our regular e-newsletter), and follow us on Facebook and Twitter as well. Be sure to visit our website (www.ramsey.k12.nj.us) for all the information. ↩





THE BEST OF
Ramsey
2017