

BHPS BUZZ

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Message from the Superintendent

Happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed the time with family and friends. This edition of the BHPS Buzz is primarily dedicated to the referendum. We hope you will find this helpful in understanding the need and the projects in each question.

We had our first PTO referendum presentation on January 12th at Mary Kay McMillin ECC. A huge thank you to the MKM PTO and all those who attended. It was very well received, and those in attendance asked wonderful questions. The PTOs at the other five schools have graciously honored our request to present an overview and school specifics of the referendum at their February meetings. We look forward to engaging in conversation and answering questions. We will be distributing trifolds with information during these meetings.

On February 3rd at 6:30pm, there will be a referendum presentation at the Berkeley Heights Town Council Meeting. Please join us to learn more. Additionally, if you have a community group that would like to host a referendum presentation to learn more, please reach out to me.

Warmly,
Dr. Kim Feltre, Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS



SCREENAGERS: THE NEXT CHAPTER
January 27, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm



[MORE INFORMATION](#)



SAVE THE DATE! REFERENDUM SPECIAL VOTE ON MARCH 10, 2026
[More information](#)



District Spotlight

Why a Referendum? Why Now?

The Berkeley Heights Public School District will ask voters to consider a district-wide facilities referendum on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. If approved, the referendum would fund capital renovations and upgrades to classrooms and core spaces across the district, helping modernize school facilities and better support student learning.

Planning for these improvements has been underway for several years. With debt service payments from a prior referendum ending in March 2026, this timing provides an opportunity for the district to move forward with long-needed projects in a fiscally responsible way. The proposed referendum is designed to address aging infrastructure and create 21st-century learning environments for students.

The projects included in the referendum represent important investments in both district infrastructure and educational programming. By proceeding through a referendum, the district can take advantage of expiring debt from the 2006 referendum, along with state debt service aid and available tax incentives.

In total, approximately \$50 million in capital and educational projects are needed. Through the referendum, those projects can be completed for about \$34 million, resulting in significant savings for taxpayers.

If the referendum does not pass, the district will still need to address facility and educational space needs. Without sufficient capital reserves, those costs would need to be covered through the operating budget, which could result in reductions to programs and services. In addition, without a referendum, the district would not be eligible for state aid or tax incentives and would be responsible for the full cost of the projects.

The New Jersey Department of Education has already approved the district for state funding for both referendum questions.

Visit the website below for project-specific information:
<https://www.bhpsnj.org/page/referendum>

Important Information!

REFERENDUM INFORMATION QUESTIONS

The March 10, 2026 referendum includes two separate questions, and they are contingent upon one another. Question 1 must be passed in order for Question 2 to be considered. If Question 1 fails, the results of Question 2 do not count. If Question 1 passes, then Question 2 is decided by its own majority vote. In short, Question 1 must pass for Question 2 to pass.

Projects included:

Bond Proposal - Question #1 Educational Projects-

- Media Center Renovations & Upgrades (All Schools)
- TV Studio Renovations (GLHS)

Bond Proposal - Question #1 Capital Projects-

- Site Parking and Drainage Upgrades (All Schools)
- Partial Roofing System Replacement (Woodruff)
- Security and Technology Upgrades
 - Security Camera System Upgrades (All Schools)
 - Clock & PA System Upgrades (GLHS, CMS, Hughes)

Bond Proposal - Question #2 Educational Projects-

- Science Labs (GLHS, CMS)
- Technology, Robotics, STEM (GLHS, CMS)

Bond Proposal - Question #2 Capital Projects-

- Roofing System Replacement (GLHS, CMS, Mountain Park)
- Electrical System Upgrades (GLHS)
- Mechanical System and Piping Upgrades (CMS, Mountain Park, Woodruff, Mary Kay McMillin)

Tax Impact:

Based on the average assessed home value of \$318,947:

The projects included in Question 1 will have a net neutral tax implication. If question 1 passes:

- Per year: \$0
- Per quarter: \$0
- Per month: \$0

If questions 1 and 2 pass, the projects included will result in the following tax increase:

- Per year: \$250.37
- Per quarter: \$62.59
- Per month: \$20.80

POLLING PLACES

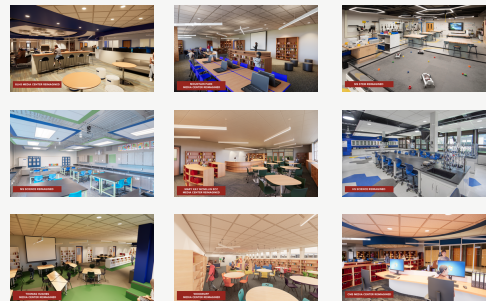
Polling Locations (Berkeley Heights):

- Zone 1-Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Berkeley Room #155)
- Zone 2- Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Berkeley Room #155)
- Zone 3 -Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Highlander Room)
- Zone 4 - Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Highlander Room)
- Zone 5 -Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Highlander Room)
- Zone 6- Fire House, 411 Hamilton Avenue (Meeting room at rear of facility)
- Zone 7- Rescue Squad Bldg, 378 Snyder Avenue (Meeting Room)
- Zone 8- Fire House, 411 Hamilton Avenue (Meeting room at rear of facility)
- Zone 9- Governor Livingston HS, 175 Watchung Blvd (Front of School Hallway)
- Zone 10-Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue (Highlander room)
- Zone 11- Fire House, 411 Hamilton Avenue (Meeting room at rear of facility)

Ballot Drop Boxes:

- Snyder Avenue Park, 240 Snyder Avenue
- Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield
- UCBOE, 271 No. Broad Street, Elizabeth
- UC Admin Complex, Corner of Rahway Avenue & Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth

REFERENDUM RENDERINGS



Welcome to Our New Administrators

Visit ['Meet Our New Admins'](#) to read more about each of these new BHPS Administrators



Ms. Meg Berry joins BHPS as the new Principal of Governor Livingston High School



News from Our Schools

Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center

The annual MKM Light Event was held in December. Luminary bags, donated by the PTO, were decorated by each student and symbolized what makes each child special. Once completed, the lights were dimmed and the hallways were soon glowing from luminary bags lit by electric candles symbolizing the unique light each student brings to the world.

Students also gave back through a holiday food drive, and the PTO hosted its annual Holiday Shop. In recognition of Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week, students explored coding and AI with Media Specialist Ms. Niedenfuhr. December also brought 'furry fun', as every class enjoyed a visit from a therapy dog thanks to Creature Comfort Pet Therapy.



William Woodruff Early Childhood Center

Students wrapped up 2025 with two themed community celebrations: 'Be Thankful for Every Day' in November and 'Believe in Yourself' in December. All students also enjoyed a visit from author Dev Petty back in December. Around the holidays, Kindergarteners explored a gingerbread-themed unit that culminated in a well-attended family gingerbread house decorating event, while second graders enjoyed the annual Balloon Parade.

With lights dimmed and hallways glowing with luminary bags, second graders led a Winter Solstice celebration, sharing their learning with the entire school during a schoolwide pajama day. A PTO-sponsored Holiday Boutique and a coat drive benefiting Jersey Cares rounded out the year.



Mountain Park Elementary School

Students at Mountain Park School had a wonderful time over the past few months celebrating the season and enjoying a variety of exciting events. Festivities included a PTO-sponsored Holiday Market, a Winter Holiday Sing-a-Long, and a festive Winter Concert.

More recently, students participated in the Bullies to Buddies Assembly, presented by the Kimberly Ann Wilson (KAW) Foundation, which delivered an important message about kindness and inclusion. Looking ahead, students can also look forward to a PTO Book Fair coming up in February!



Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School

Holiday cheer was everywhere at Hughes at the close of the year! Students ended the year with a festive Winter Sing-a-Long, while the PTO's Winter Boutique helped them shop for loved ones. The Student Council Holiday Gift Drive highlighted the incredible generosity of our Hughes families, brightening the season for many children.

Students in 3rd grade wrote heartfelt letters of gratitude to our Berkeley Heights hometown heroes, including the police, fire department, and the volunteer rescue squad. Finally, Student Council students spread joy even further by creating holiday cards for local nursing home residents.

Columbia Middle School

In December, CMS enjoyed a visit from GLHS ASL students and faculty, who performed holiday songs in American Sign Language—offering middle schoolers a glimpse into the beauty of visual language and an introduction to ASL, a world language option at GLHS that fulfills college admission requirements.

Students in the Outreach 2 program, an elective focused on service and community engagement, recently volunteered at GRACE in Summit, helping distribute food and supplies to those in need. The student-led annual 8th Grade Students vs. Staff Volleyball Game, one of CMS's most anticipated traditions, was a huge success and a meaningful reminder that at CMS, everyone matters, everyone is included, and We All Belong.



Governor Livingston High School

GLHS recently celebrated academic and athletic excellence with its National Honor Society induction ceremony and Highlander Honors Night, which recognizes students inducted into 10 subject-specific honor societies. They additionally held Athletic Honor Society inductions.

Students also enjoyed a Spirit Week and Pep Rally, led by GLSportszone, leading up to a dominant Fantastic Friday/Super Saturday with wins from Ice Hockey, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, and Fencing! GLHS looks forward to welcoming new school principal Ms. Meg Berry on January 22.

