



# The BUCCANEER



**BOGOTA  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

Prepared by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane - Interim Superintendent - For parents, students, and members of the community Jan-Feb 2017-2018

## "YEAR in REVIEW" 2016-2017 Accomplishments

by Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

- Adoption of Realtime
- Foundation repair at Bixby
- Jr/Sr High School Gym completely renovated
- Jr/Sr High School Biology Rooms
- Jr/Sr High School Band Room
- Jr/Sr High Weight Room
- Choral Program Jr/Sr HS
- Jr/Sr High School Creation of Usable Space
- NJ STATE MONITORING QSAC
- After School Homework Club HS
- Test Score Analysis Developed by Principals
- Introduction of District Newsletter
- Received a Silver Medal-US News and World Report for Best High Schools, ranked #68 in NJ
- Technology Innovations
- Video Production Course created and implemented for 2017-2018
- The return of DECA
- Creation of new Language & Learning Disabilities Class (LLD)
- The return of home soccer
- New sound system Jr/Sr High School
- Schools professionally landscaped
- Refurbished Boilers in all schools
- Permanent Business Administrator hired
- New fencing at Feigel Field
- Jay Mahoney Court named
- Reduced administrative costs
- Asbestos abatement



## NEW GUITAR CLASS INTRODUCED

by Andrea Lynch (Vocal Music Teacher)  
& Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

HIGH SCHOOL - This September, students began to hone their musical skills through a new course: Introduction to Guitar. It is the first time the course has been offered at BHS. Students have been learning the basics of playing guitar, such as playing chords/tabs and reading musical notation. Students have even branched out into songwriting.

The guitar students, many of whom had never played an instrument prior to taking the class, gave an outstanding performance debut at the Winter Concert held in December 2017. The ensemble played beautifully plucking single notes and strumming chords.

In the second semester, BHS students will continue to improve their musical skills as they begin another new course: Introduction to Piano. During the class, students will learn the basics of piano performance and music theory. Those components will include learning about and playing major and minor scales. Students will learn the basis of harmony and chord building based on scales in each key.

Both the brand new keyboards and guitars purchased this year will help students to explore music in different ways and hopefully provide a lifetime of enjoyment in the creation of music.

Andrea Lynch is now in her second year at Bogota Jr/Sr High School. Her initiative has been the driving force for these new programs. In addition to her skills as a vocal music teacher, you may have noticed that she also plays tuba with the Bogota Concert Band.

# Bogota JR/SR High School PARCC scores #1 in State DFG in English Language Arts

by Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

BOGOTA HS - Student performance results on the 2016-2017 PARCC assessment, in the area of English Language Arts, placed Bogota students in the top 10 in four grade levels in comparison to other schools in Bogota's "District Factor Grouping."

The District Factor Groups (DFGs) were first developed in 1975 for the purpose of comparing students' performance on statewide assessments across demographically similar school districts. The categories are updated every ten years when the Census Bureau releases the latest Decennial Census data. The DFGs represent an approximate measure of a community's relative socioeconomic status (SES). The classification system provides a useful tool for examining student achievement and comparing similarly-situated school districts in other analyses.

DFGs were calculated using the following six variables that are closely related to SES:

- 1) Percent of adults with no high school diploma
- 2) Percent of adults with some college education
- 3) Occupational status
- 4) Unemployment rate
- 5) Percent of individuals in poverty
- 6) Median family income.

Bogota is classified as a "DE" district. (For more information on District Factor Grouping please see <http://www.nj.gov/education/finance/rda/dfg.shtml> which was used as a source for the above information.)

In grade 10 and 11, in the area of English Language Arts, Bogota students scored #1 in comparison to other districts in the State of NJ in their "DE" District Factor Grouping. In grade 9, student scores placed Bogota #6 in their "DE" District Factor Grouping. In grade 7, student scores placed Bogota #7 in their "DE" District Factor Grouping.

In Bergen County, Bogota Student PARCC scores ranked 5th for ALL SCHOOLS INCLUDING THE ACADEMIES in English/Language Arts, regardless of DFG.

## Mathematics PARCC

	Total Scores	% who met or exceeded (2017) State	% who met or exceeded 2017	% who met or exceeded 2016	% who met or exceeded 2015	Change in % passing (16 to 17)
Grade 3 (2026)	70	52.40%	72.86%	66.67%	N/A	6.19%
Grade 4 (2025)	73	47.30%	65.75%	40.00%	N/A	25.75%
Grade 5 (2024)	76	46.20%	61.84%	62.50%	N/A	-0.66%
Grade 6 (2023)	85	43.60%	65.88%	62.75%	N/A	3.13%
Grade 7 (2022)	94	39.60%	48.94%	50.62%	38.60%	-1.68%
Grade 8 (2021)	67	27.70%	46.27%	17.39%	48.80%	28.88%
Algebra I	90	41.40%	45.56%	27.06%	34.10%	18.50%
Geometry	96	29.80%	18.37%	18.67%	8.70%	-0.30%
Algebra II	75	26.60%	20.00%	12.05%	10.30%	7.95%
District	726	N/A	49.50%	39.75%	N/A	9.75%
Elementary	304	N/A	66.58%	57.98%	N/A	8.60%
High School	422	N/A	35.83%	25.16%	28.10%	10.67%

In Mathematics, total percentage change in students who met or exceeded expectations from previous year was 116.77%

## English/Language PARCC

	Total Scores	% who met or exceeded (2017) State	% who met or exceeded 2017	% who met or exceeded 2016	% who met or exceeded 2015	Change in % passing (16 to 17)
Grade 3 (2026)	70	50.40%	61.43%	67.90%	41.70%	-6.47%
Grade 4 (2025)	73	55.90%	68.49%	65.00%	49.40%	3.49%
Grade 5 (2024)	76	58.90%	61.84%	60.00%	60.40%	1.84%
Grade 6 (2023)	85	53.30%	64.71%	65.66%	50.00%	-0.95%
Grade 7 (2022)	94	59.20%	72.34%	65.00%	57.50%	7.34%
Grade 8 (2021)	84	59.10%	54.76%	55.81%	48.20%	-1.05%
Grade 9 (2020)	86	51.50%	59.30%	48.84%	29.20%	10.46%
Grade 10 (2019)	95	46.30%	66.32%	66.67%	46.20%	-0.35%
Grade 11 (2018)	79	38.40%	65.82%	50.55%	50.20%	15.27%
District	742	N/A	63.89%	60.60%	48.09%	3.29%
Elementary	304	N/A	64.12%	64.64%	50.38%	-0.52%
High School	438	N/A	63.71%	57.37%	46.26%	6.33%

In ELA, total percentage change in students who met or exceeded expectations from previous year was 38.68%

## English/Language PARCC

NUMBER 1 !!!! IN OUR DFG		Grade 11	
		2016	2017
BHS v State	Number of Schools Counted	402	427
	State Mean % passing (4-5 score)	40.36	38.40
	Bogota % passing (4-5 score)	47.90	65.80
	Bogota Mean % passing rank	134 out of 402	42 out of 427
	Bogota PARCC Passing Percentile Rank	66.67%	90.16%
BHS v State	State Average PARCC Score	738.50	736
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	743.00	741
	Bogota PARCC Score Rank	150 out of 402	46 out of 427
BHS v DFG	State Average PARCC Score	738.50	736
	Mean DFG % passing	34.88	34.10
	Bogota % passing	47.90	65.80
	Bogota DFG Rank	12 out of 50	1 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC % Percentile Rank	76.00%	98.08%
BHS v DFG	DFG Average PARCC Score	733.54	732
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	743.00	759.00
	Bogota Average PARCC Score Rank	12 out of 50	1 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC Score Percentile Rank	76.00%	98.08%

## English/Language PARCC

NUMBER 1 !!!! IN OUR DFG		Grade 10	
		2016	2017
BHS v State	Number of Schools Counted	404	428
	State Mean % passing (4-5 score)	44.27	46.30
	Bogota % passing (4-5 score)	64.30	53.30
	Bogota Mean % passing rank	66 out of 404	59 out of 428
	Bogota PARCC Passing Percentile Rank	83.66%	86.21%
BHS v State	State Average PARCC Score	733.11	742
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	755.00	749
	Bogota PARCC Score Rank	103 out of 404	65 out of 428
BHS v DFG	State Average PARCC Score	733.11	742
	Mean DFG % passing	40.06	43.80
	Bogota % passing	64.30	53.30
	Bogota DFG Rank	1 out of 50	1 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC % Percentile Rank	98.00%	98.08%
BHS v DFG	DFG Average PARCC Score	737.50	740
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	755.00	749
	Bogota Average PARCC Score Rank	3 out of 50	1 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC Score Percentile Rank	94.00%	98.08%

## English/Language PARCC

NUMBER 6 !!!! IN OUR DFG		Grade 9	
		2016	2017
BHS v State	Number of Schools Counted	414	431
	State Mean % passing (4-5 score)	48.51	51.50
	Bogota % passing (4-5 score)	49.40	59.10
	Bogota Mean % passing rank	228 out of 414	153 out of 431
	Bogota PARCC Passing Percentile Rank	44.93%	64.50%
BHS v State	State Average PARCC Score	739.35	748.00
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	747.00	755.00
	Bogota PARCC Score Rank	212 out of 414	149 out of 431
BHS v DFG	State Average PARCC Score	739.35	748.00
	Mean DFG % passing	44.14	46.50
	Bogota % passing	49.40	59.10
	Bogota DFG Rank	23 out of 50	6 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC % Percentile Rank	54.00%	88.46%
BHS v DFG	DFG Average PARCC Score	743.82	745.00
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	747.00	755.00
	Bogota Average PARCC Score Rank	20 out of 50	5 out of 52
	Bogota PARCC Score Percentile Rank	60.00%	90.38%

## English/Language PARCC

NUMBER 44 OUT OF 81 IN OUR DFG		Grade 8	
		2016	2017
BHS v State	Number of Schools Counted	708	704
	State Mean % passing (4-5 score)	53.97	59.10
	Bogota % passing (4-5 score)	55.60	55.50
	Bogota Mean % passing rank	348 out of 708	385 out of 704
	Bogota PARCC Passing Percentile Rank	50.85%	45.31%
BHS v State	State Average PARCC Score	751.41	757
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	755.00	752
	Bogota PARCC Score Rank	311 out of 708	362 out of 704
BHS v DFG	State Average PARCC Score	751.41	757
	Mean DFG % passing	44.14	46.50
	Bogota % passing	55.60	55.50
	Bogota DFG Rank	34 out of 81	44 out of 81
	Bogota PARCC % Percentile Rank	57.50%	45.68%
BHS v DFG	DFG Average PARCC Score	751.83	753
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	755.00	755.00
	Bogota Average PARCC Score Rank	30 out of 81	41 out of 81
	Bogota PARCC Score Percentile Rank	62.50%	49.38%

## English/Language PARCC

NUMBER 7 IN OUR DFG !!!		Grade 7	
		2016	2017
BHS v State	Number of Schools Counted	719	712
	State Mean % passing (4-5 score)	54.17	68.50
	Bogota % passing (4-5 score)	65.00	74.50
	Bogota Mean % passing rank	260 out of 719	177 out of 712
	Bogota PARCC Passing Percentile Rank	63.84%	75.14%
BHS v State	State Average PARCC Score	751.43	764
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	764.00	769
	Bogota PARCC Score Rank	213 out of 719	176 out of 712
BHS v DFG	State Average PARCC Score	751.43	764
	Mean DFG % passing	55.18	62.00
	Bogota % passing	65.00	74.50
	Bogota DFG Rank	21 out of 79	9 out of 81
	Bogota PARCC % Percentile Rank	73.42%	88.89%
BHS v DFG	DFG Average PARCC Score	751.43	758
	Bogota Average PARCC Score	764.00	769
	Bogota Average PARCC Score Rank	10 out of 79	7 out of 81
	Bogota PARCC Score Percentile Rank	87.34%	91.36%



# ECRWSSSEDDM POSTAL CUSTOMER Bogota, NJ 07603

January/February 2017-2018

## Raquel Gutierrez 4th grade student from Bixby School selected as a finalist for Bergen County Poster Contest

by Damon Englese, Principal Bixby School

Fourth graders at Bixby School entered their posters into the Bergen County's "My County" poster contest, sponsored by the Bergen County Clerk John S. Hogan and the Constitutional Officers. This contest is open to all fourth graders in Bergen County who study in the State of New Jersey. Among hundreds of applicants, Raquel Gutierrez from Ms. Fatovic's class was recognized as one of Bergen County's thirty finalists.

Raquel and the other finalists were honored on May 1st on the steps of the Bergen County Justice Center in Hackensack. During this grandiose ceremony, Mr. Hogan and various Constitutional Officers, including Bergen County Prosecutors, Judges, Police Officers, and the Bergen County Sheriff, greeted the finalists and winners.

Raquel's poster has been featured in a published calendar of Bergen County. Her poster is currently on display at Bergen County Justice Center. When asked how she felt about winning, Raquel replied, "That day was a special day for me. I felt excited and happy." She discovered that Bergen County has lots of beautiful places to visit and see, and was proud to have learned so much about Bergen County's vast history.



At the Bergen County Court House, Ms. Fatovic - 4th Grade Teacher, Raquel Gutierrez - 4th Grade Student, and Damon Englese, Principal.

## Steen Students honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a "Day of Service"

by Dayle Santoro, Principal Steen School



In honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Lillian M. Steen Student Council organized a day of service. Special events that took place included a one day food drive, donations of over one hundred winter hats, gloves and scarves to a shelter in Hackensack, and a letter writing campaign to senior citizens in Bogota.

Steen Student Council members assisted each grade level with their specific project in order to ensure its success. The day culminated with all students signing our Day of Service Banner, which will be on display in our school gym.

The memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will never be forgotten. Steen students' efforts were designed to continue the dream by performing small acts of kindness that will benefit our community and school.



## ORDER BOGOTA APPAREL FROM JOSTENS

Go to Bogota website, navigate to Jr/Sr High School and click the "GO" button lower right hand corner:



Sweat Shirts, Sweat Pants, shorts, hats, T-shirts, etc.

Bogota will receive a percentage of all sales for their sports teams.

## Mrs. Ketchum wins \$500 in books for her class

by Damon Englese, Principal Bixby School

At the end of last year, Mrs. Ketchum entered a contest with Scholastic books. The theme for the entrance essay was "How you would spend \$500.00 in the book store?"

Mrs. Ketchum wrote her essay, and was notified in September that she had won \$500.00 in books for her classroom. Her students gave her lists of their favorite books and authors and she compiled their order. We are so happy to have such a great addition to Mrs. Ketchum's fifth grade library!