



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing holiday break with family and friends. Our students are back in the swing of things both academically and socially. For our seniors and their families, the college application process that began a couple of months ago makes this time of year both exciting and stressful. Please remind your children that our counselors in the School Counseling Department are available to support and encourage them and to assist them in navigating the entire process. Good luck to all of our seniors as they plan this next step in their academic careers.

At Bergen County Technical Schools, we encourage our students at all grade levels to participate in competitions in order to connect learning with real-world experiences, to provide opportunities to learn from others, and to challenge themselves to reach even greater heights. It is also an opportunity for students to demonstrate their expertise to future industry and corporate employers. For example, this year students from BCA competed at HackRPI at Rensselaer Polytechnic in Troy, NY. Hack-a-thons are weekend-long programming competitions where students showcase their technical skills by developing and building websites, applications, and hardware hacks. At the end of the competition, the students display their creations to technology industry representatives and compete for prizes.

I'm proud to report that our students did very well at this year's competition. One student won Best High School App for creating a new programming language based on emojis. A three-student team, competing against college teams, won in the Best Web App category for their innovation: A new user interface for an open-source tool which the Academy of Technology and Computer Science will be using in classes next year! Congratulations to all the students who took part in the event as well as to their faculty advisor, Mr. Bryan Respass.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent