



“STAND UP FOR JUSTICE”

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Naples

Monetary grants will be awarded to successful applicants.

FUNDING AVAILABLE to COLLIER COUNTY EDUCATORS

Do you:

*teach and respect diverse religious, racial, and cultural identities?

*counter bigotry and bullying?

*prepare to stand up for justice: see something, say something and do something?

The application is open to teachers, school counselors, school librarians, media specialists, school psychologists, and administrators.

Application deadline: February 3, 2025

View previous winners and submissions here:
<https://jewishnaples.org/outreach/educator-award>



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NAPLES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

“STAND UP FOR JUSTICE”

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Application deadline: February 3, 2025

Applicant's name: Catherine Crawford

Applicant's email: crawfc1@collierschools.com Phone: 239-377-1052

Number of years in education: 29 Grade and subject taught: 10-12th grades

School Name: Beacon High School School Address: 3710 Estey Ave Naples, FL 34104

Principal's name: Brent Klein Principal's email address: kleinb@collierschools.com

How many individuals are impacted by this project? 246

All 4 bullet points must be completed by the deadline.

- Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.
- Describe the lessons or activities. If adapted from another source please reference.
- Explain how the lessons and/or activities teach students how to counter bigotry and bullying, the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural or other challenges exist, and prepare them to stand up for justice.
- PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: QUESTIONNAIRES, INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS, AND STUDENT WRITINGS, VIDEO, ETC.

Submit the completed form in writing, by email, or video format to:

Via email to: Renee at rbialek@jewishnaples.org.

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On the ROAD to Promotion and Graduation
Catherine Crawford -Assistant Principal
2025

Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.

Beacon High School, a **Dropout Prevention Program** in Naples, Florida, serves as a lifeline for students from across local high schools who are at risk of not graduating. With over **246 students enrolled**, many face significant challenges, including **low GPAs, academic struggles, attendance issues, and a lack of credits needed for graduation**. Additionally, many students experience **poverty, homelessness, or the responsibility of supporting their families**, making academic success even more difficult to achieve.

Our student demographics reflect the diversity and unique needs of our learners:

- **29.4% are students with special needs**
- **12.7% are English Language Learners (ELLs)**
- **68.2% are Hispanic, 13.9% White, 13.1% Black, and 4.1% Multi-racial**
- **59.6% speak Spanish as their first language, and 8.9% speak a language other than English or Spanish**

Recognizing these barriers, **Beacon provides credit recovery and targeted interventions** to help students **get back on track, stay motivated, and ultimately graduate**. However, beyond academics, we understand that a **strong school culture, motivation, and positive reinforcement** are key to student success.

Thus, our **lessons and activities** were initiated to:

1. **Foster a sense of belonging** – Since our students come from different high schools, we created a **unified school culture**, where every student wears a Beacon shirt to symbolize being part of one family with the same goal: **graduation**.
2. **Celebrate student progress and achievement** – With many students lacking external support, we **recognize and reward**

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milestones through graduation celebrations, incentive programs, and personal recognition.

3. **Build community and social-emotional resilience** – Many students face hardships outside of school, so we promote **self-care, life skills, peer support, and positive role models** through lessons, guest speakers, and partnerships with local businesses.
4. **Prepare students for life beyond high school** – Career and college readiness are central to our mission. We **partner with local businesses, technical colleges, and military recruiters** to expose students to future opportunities.

Beacon High School is more than an alternative program—it is a **second chance** for students to believe in themselves, **break cycles of adversity, and achieve success**. Our approach ensures that every student, regardless of background, **feels valued, supported, and capable of reaching their full potential**.

We work hard to celebrate our staff, students, academic success, and attendance. Our goal is to promote student achievement, parent involvement, and community partnerships. Motivation and building positive support are the keys! **Every quarter, we celebrate our students who are making academic progress toward graduation.**

Here are some examples of how a class celebrates the students:

Whole School

- We ring the bell for graduates.
- Students help outline and paint the stars for graduates.
- Keeping in touch with past success stories.
- Spirit Week.
- Prizes
- Field Trips to Technical Colleges, Job Fairs and Presentations by the Military and other guest speakers to prepare the students for opportunities after high school.

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Lab 108

- Students have individual bubbles. Throughout each quarter, they move from 0 credits to +2.0 credits. This gives each student a fresh start at the beginning of each quarter. Once they reach 2.0 credits, they go on the wall for the Rewards Party.
- Once a student graduates, they move their bubble over to the graduation wall and the student gets a Hawaiian lei. Congratu"lei"tions. Our theme is Welcome to Paradise.
- Mr. Fields and Mrs. Carrington call home weekly to give parents an update on their students' progress. If a student goes above and beyond, the parent is notified right away.
- For Thanksgiving, each student wrote something we are thankful for on a leaf. Then, we put the leaves up on the wall.
- The students painted ornaments before winter break and enjoyed hot cocoa.
- Take pictures with the students at graduation ceremonies to hang on my wall in class. Sparks conversations with students about the finish line.
- Play Kahoots with my intensive reading students. Sometimes I'll even compete against them!
- The teachers do "shoutouts" all the time in class. Everyone came in dress code the other day, so Hughes went out and bought donuts on the spot to recognize that small gesture.

Lab 106

Mrs. Moorer and Mr. Hughes celebrate Student of the Week. At the end of week shout-out and sometimes lunch to students that was on the R.O.A.D.(Respect, On task, Achieve Credits, and Dress the Part).

They have a treasure box that students have access to when they have completed a credit. The treasure box is filled with wired headsets,

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socks, phone rings with straps, socks, hair clips, and other items that students indicated they would like.

The teachers encourage students to show new students the classes they will need to take their respective tests. We call that student the “Student Ambassador”.

Lab 119A

Students get a snack every time they earn a credit, plus their names are on stars on a board. Mrs. Gamez has a graduate board and makes homemade keychains to give to graduates. Mrs. Gamez and Mr. Echenique hold a raffle every week for students who earn 10% or more each day. The winner gets a candy bar. At the end of the month, there is another raffle, and the winner gets a personalized stainless-steel water container.

Lab 119B

The teachers sit down with students, welcome them to Beacon, and go over rules and expectations. They give snacks when students complete a class, and we have weekly and monthly drawings for merchandise and goodies for students to reach their daily goals and complete courses. I have a credit board that shows the students and the credits that have earned for the year. Both teachers have a graduation wall that shows the students who have graduated for the year.

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Describe the lessons or activities, and if adapted from another source please reference them.

At Beacon High School, our mission is to prepare students for life after high school by helping them **discover their talents, set goals, and develop the skills needed for success**. Our program integrates **academic support, career readiness, and community engagement** to ensure students stay on track to graduation while building a strong foundation for the future.

Community Partnerships & Incentive Programs

To encourage student success, we partner with **local businesses**, including Starbucks, Carrabba's, CMX Movie Theaters, Jeremiah's Italian Ice, and Steak 'n Shake. These partners provide **gift cards, certificates, and incentives** that reward students for:

- **Academic progress and credit recovery**
- **Consistent attendance**
- **Positive behavior and contributions to the school community**

These incentives help **motivate students to stay engaged and reinforce positive habits** that will benefit them beyond high school.

"Stay on the ROAD to Promotion and Graduation" Initiative

Our schoolwide motto—"To Stay on the ROAD to Promotion and Graduation"—is embedded in our culture and displayed in every classroom. ROAD stands for:

- **Respect** for self and others
- **On Task**—staying focused in class
- **Achieve Credits**—progressing academically
- **Dress the Part**—presenting oneself appropriately

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Each quarter, students who demonstrate commitment to the ROAD principles are recognized through **celebrations, rewards, and special acknowledgments**. This initiative helps foster a **positive school environment where students support one another, regardless of background, socioeconomic status, or cultural differences**.

Quarterly & Holiday Celebrations

Beacon students work hard to reach their goals, and we make sure to **celebrate their progress** with:

- **Quarterly recognition events** for academic achievement and attendance
- **Spirit Week** before the holidays, where all students can participate in themed activities and receive gifts from our business partners
- **Graduation celebrations**, where students and staff come together to honor graduates and reflect on their journey

These activities help create a **sense of community, belonging, and motivation**, reinforcing the idea that every student has the potential to succeed.

By **combining academic support with career preparation and positive reinforcement**, Beacon ensures that students leave our program not only with a diploma but also with the **confidence, skills, and mindset needed for lifelong success**.

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Explain how the lessons and/or activities teach students how to counter bigotry and bullying, the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other challenges exist, and prepare them to stand up for justice.

At Beacon High School, we are committed to creating a **safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment** where students from diverse backgrounds feel valued and respected. Our lessons and activities are designed to **promote tolerance, celebrate diversity, and equip students with the skills to challenge injustice and bullying** in their communities.

Empowering Student Voice & Choice

One of the most effective ways we foster respect and inclusion is by **amplifying student voices**. Beacon students have a say in:

- **School activities, excursions, and celebrations**, ensuring events reflect their interests and cultures.
- **Classroom discussions and community projects**, allowing them to express their perspectives and learn from one another.

This **democratic approach** gives students ownership of their education while teaching them the value of **listening, collaboration, and mutual respect**.

Lessons on Life Skills, Respect, and Justice

Through partnerships with teachers and outside agencies, students engage in lessons that emphasize:

- **Self-care and mental well-being**, helping them navigate personal struggles and develop empathy for others.
- **Healthy living and decision-making**, reinforcing positive habits that contribute to a strong, respectful community.

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- **Higher education and career pathways**, exposing students to future opportunities that encourage personal and professional growth.
- **Civic responsibility and community involvement**, where students learn about advocacy, leadership, and standing up for what is right.

These lessons help students **recognize and counter biases, challenge stereotypes, and foster a school culture where all individuals are respected.**

Experiential Learning & Exposure to Diverse Opportunities

Beacon students participate in **field trips and career readiness events** sponsored by the Collier County Office of Career and Technical Education. These experiences teach students **teamwork, professionalism, and social responsibility**. Some notable opportunities include:

- **First Responders Fair** – Highlights the importance of community service and working together to help others.
- **The Arthex Career Showcase & Build My Future Career Fair** – Introduces students to industries that emphasize diversity, inclusion, and collaboration.
- **Florida Southwestern University, Lorenzo Walker & Immokalee Technical College Tours** – Encourages students to pursue higher education, reinforcing that success is attainable regardless of background.
- **Guest speakers from the military, technical programs, and professional fields** – Provide insight into overcoming obstacles and embracing unity despite differences.

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These experiences **prepare students for real-world interactions** and show them that success is possible for everyone, regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status.

Creating a Safe & Inclusive Community

As a **credit recovery program**, Beacon welcomes students from **various high schools, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultures**. This naturally fosters an environment of **tolerance and understanding**, where students:

- **Celebrate achievements together**, reinforcing unity and mutual support.
- **Work as a team to overcome challenges**, whether academic or personal.
- **Engage in peer mentorship**, helping new students adapt and feel included.

At Beacon, **every student is given a fresh start**, and they recognize that their differences make them stronger as a community. Our focus is on **helping each other succeed and preparing students to be compassionate, responsible citizens in the real world**.

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Wall of Beacon Graduates! Each Starfish Matters!

We celebrate every milestone!



Graduation!



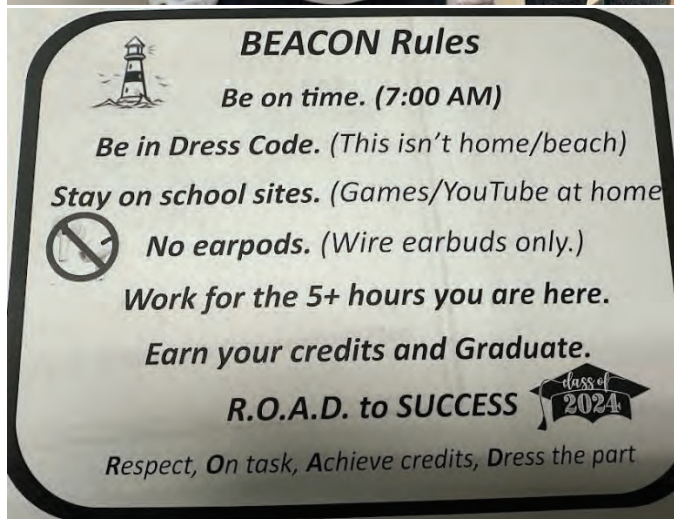
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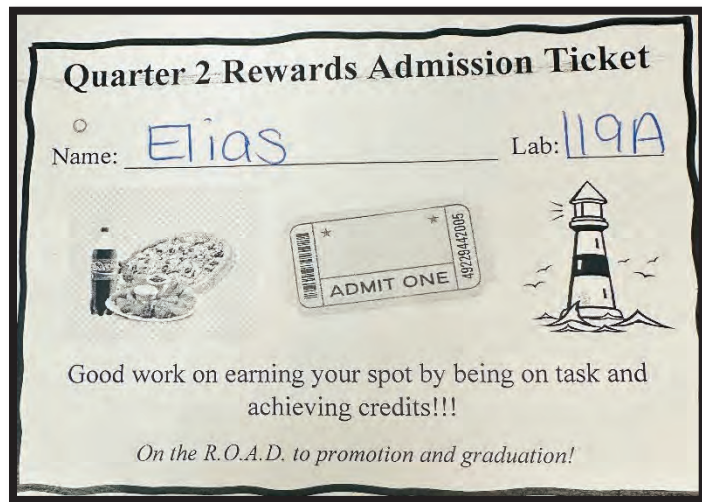
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The Beacon Motto: Stay on the ROAD to promotion and Graduation!



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We celebrate every milestone!



Field trip to Arthrex Career Showcase!

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Celebrating Staff and gearing up for another successful year!



Presentation by Build My Future!

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First Responders Job Fair!



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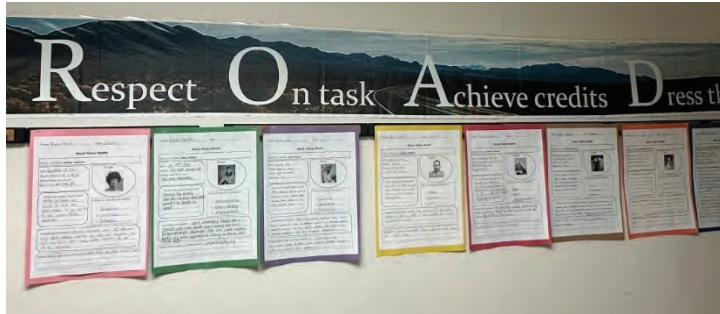
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Dress for Success and represent yourself well.

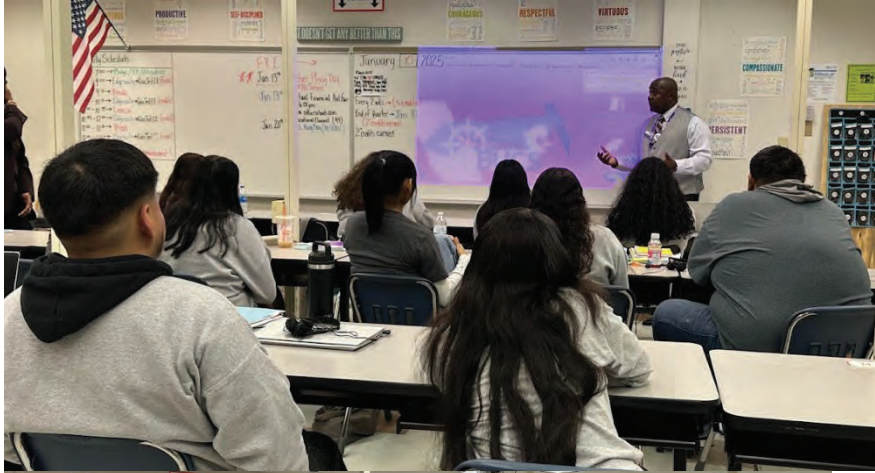


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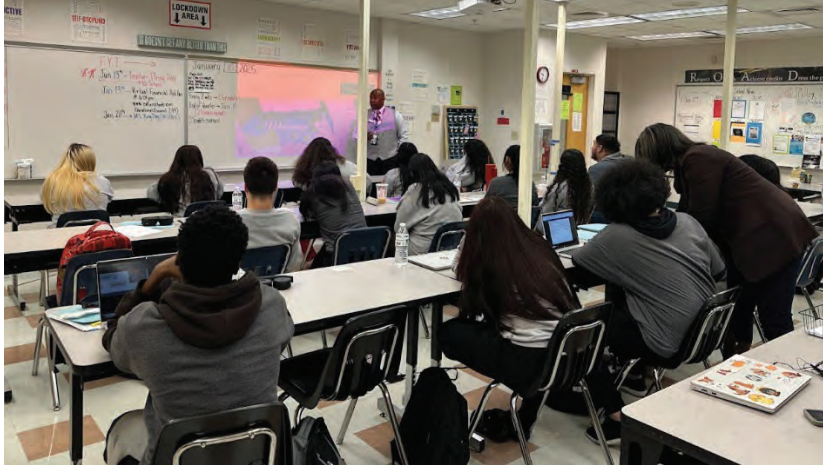


The USCG and Marines speak to students about future opportunities.

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Florida Southwestern Presentation



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Donations from our Business
Community Partners.



Celebrating Student
Success! Party!



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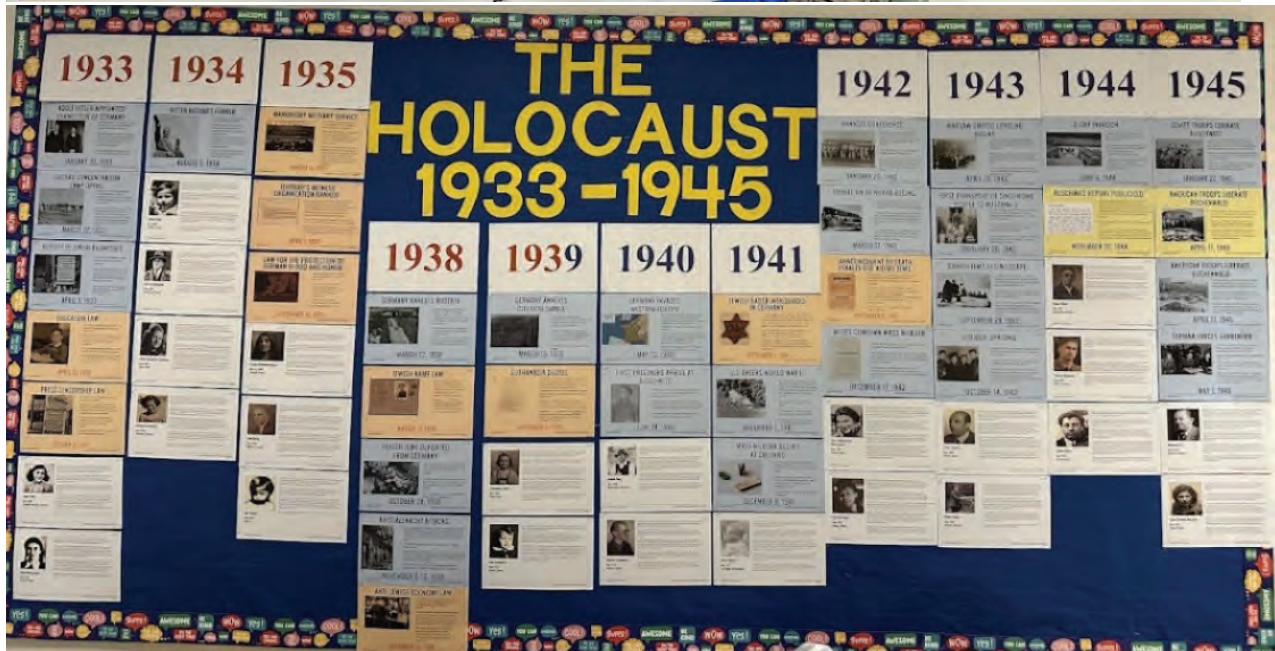
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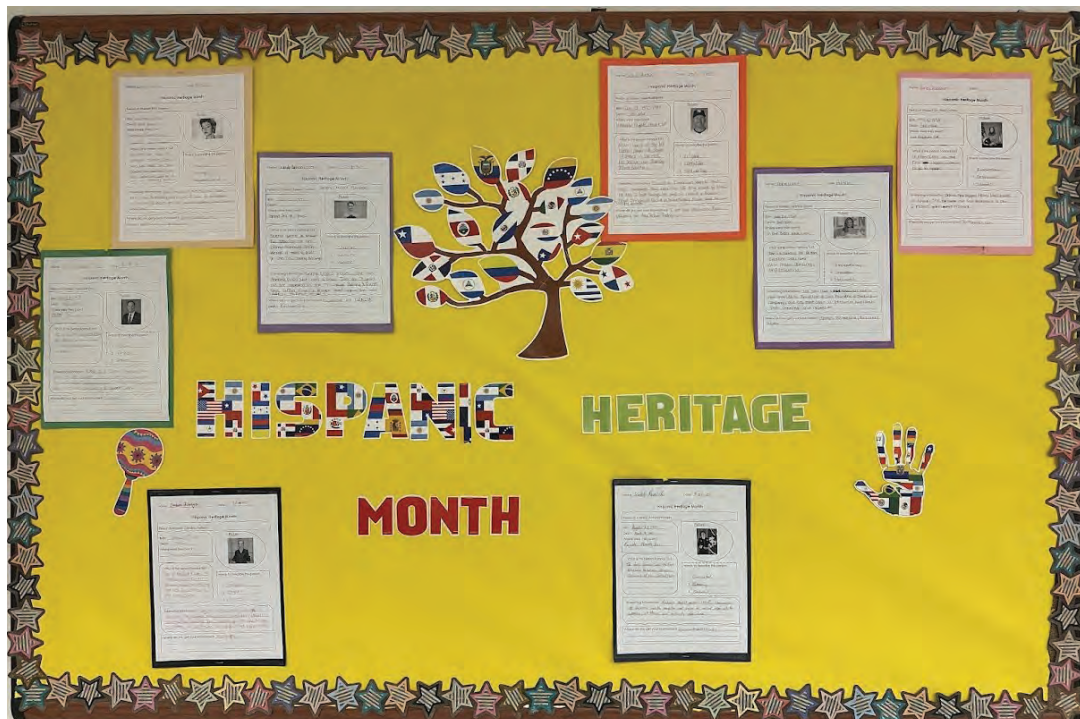
Celebrating Student
Success! Party!



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Staff and students getting in the spirit and spreading joy!

