

PRESS RELEASE

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ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDER RUFUS I. JOHNSON AND JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL RAISE \$22,000 FOR LIFT BUS



John F. Kennedy High School Lift Bus Fundraiser tally photo taken during the event. PHOTO BY DARRYL HALL

(Newark, NJ) – On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Freeholder At-Large Rufus I. Johnson and John F. Kennedy High School hosted a fundraiser to purchase a lift bus for the school, which was held at Nanina’s In The Park in Belleville, New Jersey.

The purpose of the fundraiser was to provide students, who are wheelchair and walker bound, with adequate transportation. In collaboration with Newark Public Schools, the fundraiser raised \$22,000. Although its goal is \$60,000, Freeholder Johnson and the school’s administrators are confident that the students will raise enough money to purchase the bus.

Freeholder Johnson explained his strong support by stating, “All children deserve a fair childhood. All children deserve to experience new opportunities, like attending the Essex County Turtleback Zoo, the Environmental Center, and more. This bus grants children the chance to experience new opportunities.” Dr. G. Johnson Green, Principal of JFK School said, “JFK is one of a kind and deserves the very best equipment to transport our students.”

John F. Kennedy High School is located in the West Ward of Newark, New Jersey. The school is a district wide middle-secondary special education school with two separate programs, Autistic and Multiple Disabilities with Moderate Cognitive Involvement, that service students from the ages of 10 to 21.

The specialized curriculum emphasizes the development of functional academics and life skills necessary for independent functioning in the home, community, and workplace. The students’ needs, talents, and interests form their individual educational program. In addition, the students receive services from the following full time therapists: speech, occupational and physical. They also receive on site hydrotherapy in a swimming pool.

Student achievement is the focus of all activity at John F. Kennedy High School. The students are offered an extended school day program, which includes the following: homework assistance, academic tutoring, computer skills development, health and nutritional guidance, and recreational programs such as swimming, skating and bowling. The students are also offered an extended year program and can attend 210 days per year.

At the John F. Kennedy School, Principal Dr. Glenda Johnson-Green and her staff are deeply committed to meeting the diverse needs of its students. The school’s student population consists of unique learners with various talents and gifts. The school works to identify these talents and

enhance them. The administration works closely with parents, community members, and local employers to create a thriving onsite transitional program. Part of the school's mission is to continue to provide students with access to job training, job coaching, as well as employment opportunities following graduation.

For Additional Information:
Medinah E. Muhammad, Public Information Officer
Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders
465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Newark, New Jersey, 07102
(973)-621-4452
mmuhammad@freeholders.essexcountynj.org