

# ATHS' New Home

September 18, 2017



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The mission of the Applied Technology High School (ATHS) is to be a full-time, four-year high school located on Bergen County College with a focus on integrating advanced manufacturing and engineering technology education into the traditional academic curriculum. As we start our third year since our foundation, there has been many milestones and accomplishments completed that has surprised the faculty and especially the students. This journey has been navigated by the architect: our beloved principal, Ms. Sheridan. She has been our visionary leader, negotiator and hands on doer of this amazing initiative.

In order to put in some perspective, our class 2019 is the inaugural class of ATHS. We were founded in a tiny area within Bergen Community College. It was a microcosm within a large college environment. We operated in three or four rooms that were lavishly decorated with all the technology and necessities. On occasions, we would use some of the colleges resources to supplement our needs. This worked flawlessly and the school was tremendously successful.

The following year we recruited additional kids for the second class, the college gave us additional classrooms. Now we doubled the student population instantaneous and the school environment evolved. There were many new faces and more energy in the halls. We welcomed the new class and made additional friends.



Now as we enter the third year, there has been a humungous makeover and tons of improvements. Notably, we now moved to the Ender Hall building that is independent of the main campus compound. It is self-sufficient, picturesque, beautifully landscaped area. We now have instantaneous access to the building from the school bus drop-off. There is no more waiting, gathering of kids and then walking through the grass to get to our building and classrooms.

The bus now drops you in front of the building and we walk right in to the "Genius Bar." This is one of the best areas in the building. It is better than a fancy hotel lobby. Where you are able to hang-out with your friends, charge your phones, use workstations to complete your homework or view the world through the large windows. This is something we had before but now it is now truly convenient

**New ATHS Wing**



and more accessible. It will be used more frequently especially in the beginning and the end of the day. What is remarkable is that we went from a few classrooms to a whole wing of a large building with tons of rooms and classrooms.

Our cafeteria is really fancy with large amazingly manicured courtyard.



More importantly, all of our teachers, guidance counselors and staff are now full-time at ATHS. They also all have their own classrooms and offices with lots of big windows. Now, we have access to all them before and after school hours which was a little challenging if you did not preplan in the past. We also have a new audio and video sound recording studio, a 3-D Design Center and state-of-the-art announcement system playing music: *Viva la Vida* from Coldplay. This selection is well thought and appropriate for us.

Our area is really secured with access control doors, picture access key IDs, 28-high resolution analog cameras and local police. It is like entering a high secured government building.



In order to integrate and get to our classes at the campus hub, we have a brand new midsize school bus that chauffeurs us to our classes back and forth. What is also exciting, we are getting a new basketball court. We also will be designing and building an elaborate Koi pond in the garden.

*What else can a student ask for?* I'm glad you asked. In addition to the academics and hands on technology studies, our school is focusing heavy on life skills and we are being graded on it too. Last year, we researched careers, salaries and job opportunities. Then we looked at the requirements, researched schools, built resumes, created PowerPoints and developed our personalized elevator pitch. This year, we are going to enhance that work. Furthermore, we will research and contact companies for next year internship using all the soft skills of introduction, presentations, formal follow-up and develop written thank-you acknowledgements. We are happy and confident that all of this will prepare us to be better rising college students and functional global citizens. *What can we say?*



Thank you to the *wonderful staff* for this opportunity and all you do for us!