



**EMBARGOED** —For release: Monday, August 18, 2014

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### ***New Jersey Monthly* Names the State's Top Public High Schools**

MORRISTOWN, NJ —*New Jersey Monthly* has announced the results of its 2014 survey of the state's Top Public High Schools.

Morris County and Bergen County dominate the top of the list, with five schools each in the Top 20. The new #1 school is Chatham High School, which climbed from number 20 in the previous ranking, published in September 2012.

Monmouth County has three schools in the Top 20; Essex County and Somerset County have two each. Two South Jersey schools (one in Camden County and one in Burlington County) made the Top 20. (See list below.)

A list of the Top 100 public high schools appears in the September issue of *New Jersey Monthly*, which will be available on newsstands August 26. A complete list of all 339 schools rated by the magazine will be published September 2 at [www.njmonthly.com](http://www.njmonthly.com).

*New Jersey Monthly* publishes its list of the best high schools in New Jersey every other year. The rankings are compiled by Leflein Associates, an independent research company in Ringwood, New Jersey, and are based on data for the 2012-2013 school year reported by the schools to the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE). Among the factors taken into consideration are student/teacher ratio; student results on the SAT, HSPA and AP or IB tests; and graduation rates.

In keeping with changes in data provided by the DOE, this year's rankings include two new factors. The SAT performance score for each school is based on the percentage of students scoring 1,550 or better on the annual tests, a benchmark the DOE says is "associated with a high likelihood of college success." Also, the Student Outcomes score includes "post-secondary enrollment," a calculation of the percentage of students enrolled in a two- or four-year college at least 16 months after high school graduation.

"We specifically added these new data points to our scoring system to help identify the high schools that are doing the best job in preparing their students for success at the college level," says *New Jersey Monthly* editor Ken Schlager.

*New Jersey Monthly* also ranked the state's Top Vocational High Schools. The list reflects the emergence of a new generation of vocational schools that focus on STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and are attracting many of the state's brightest students. The #1 vocational school is Middlesex County's Academy for Science, Mathematics & Engineering Technologies in Edison. Additionally, five tech-oriented Monmouth County vocational schools finished in the Top 10 of the chart.

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The September issue of *New Jersey Monthly* also examines the Garden State's readiness for the new Common Core-aligned PARCC tests. In a spirited debate, the magazine also presents the case for and against the current school reform movement. And there's an in-depth look at the new generation of high-tech, high-performing vocational schools.

*New Jersey Monthly* is the Garden State's largest general-interest magazine. Founded in 1976, it is based Morristown and has reporters throughout the state.

#### NEW JERSEY'S TOP 20 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS, 2014

1. Chatham High School (Morris County)
2. Haddonfield Memorial High School (Camden County)
3. Northern Highlands Regional High School (Bergen County)
4. West Morris Mendham High School (Morris County)
5. Millburn High School (Morris County)
6. New Providence High School (Union County) \*
7. Pascack Hills High School (Bergen County)
8. Glen Rock High School (Bergen County)
9. Marlboro High School (Monmouth County)
10. Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School (Monmouth County)
11. West Morris Central High School (Morris County)
12. Holmdel High School (Monmouth County)
13. Ridge High School (Somerset County)
14. Moorestown High School (Burlington County)
15. Bernards High School (Somerset County)
16. Livingston High School (Essex County)
17. Tenafly High School (Bergen County)
18. Cresskill High School (Bergen County)
19. Mountain Lakes High School (Morris County)
20. Kinnelon High School (Morris County)

\* New Providence High School ranked Number 1 in the previous chart, published in September 2012.

#### NEW JERSEY'S TOP 10 VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS, 2014

1. Academy for Science, Mathematics & Engineering Technologies (Middlesex County)
2. High Technology High (Monmouth County)
- 3<sub>T</sub>. Academy of Allied Health and Science (Monmouth County)
- 3<sub>T</sub>. Union County Magnet (Union County)
5. Marine Academy of Science and Technology (Monmouth County)
6. Academy for Information Technology (Union County)
7. Bergen County Academies (Bergen County)
- 8<sub>T</sub>. Bergen County Technical (Bergen County)
- 8<sub>T</sub>. Biotechnology High (Monmouth County)
10. Communications High (Monmouth County)