



BBRSD Family and Student Update **June 12, 2020**

Superintendent's Office

Dear Families, Staff & Community Members:

Last week, our school principals shared their very heartfelt messages of solidarity, grief, and support related to the events of racial injustice that have reverberated throughout our country. As the educational leader of this community, it is clear to me that they are committed to ensuring that all of our students and staff in the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District feel welcome and are ensured a school environment that is free from racial and cultural prejudices.

This week, I would like to follow up on those thoughts with what I believe also must be stated as public servants, and that is support of our colleagues in the police and fire departments. I cannot speak to the circumstances and structures beyond our towns, but I can be certain of one thing. The individuals with whom we work in these departments within our two towns care very deeply about our families, our students, and the well-being of us all. They are here for us in crises, they are here for us in celebrations as we saw through the Tahanto graduation, they are here for us in the schools as friendly and familiar faces, and they are here with us in partnership.

Each year, our leadership team joins together with the police and fire chiefs from Berlin and Boylston, as well as their school liaison officers. Our conversations focus on problem-solving, the sharing of resources, and building relationships. We are grateful to have them at the table with us, and grateful that they show up when they are needed.

I do not want to lose sight of the atrocities that have occurred across our nation, both in the present and in the past. What I would ask is to hold in your hearts, in addition to those who are or have suffered in the hands of injustice, are the police and fire officers in *our* two towns; decent people who have made a pledge to protect and serve, and who have also made a commitment that each one honors as we do, to the best of our ability as human beings.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Zanghi,
Superintendent of Schools

Business Office

School Lunch Program – Last meals provided on June 11

A big THANK YOU to the food service staff who served their last “grab and go” meals yesterday.



Food and Meal Resources:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has been difficult for many. BBRSD is committed to helping families in our communities find resources to help feed their families. Following are some local resources.

- Boylston Food Pantry, located at Boylston Town Hall is open each Monday from 10am-12pm and by appointment. Please send an email with your name, email, and phone number to schedule an appointment.
- First Congregational Church of Boylston has a large group of people available to pick up groceries/supplies and make deliveries to those who are not comfortable leaving their homes or need help with purchasing groceries, medicine, or household supplies. If you are a senior citizen, immunocompromised, in financial need, or not feeling well, call the Boylston First Congregational Church office at (508) 869-2027 on Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. On weekends/evenings, call or text 508-873-3750 or (508) 579-1725.
- Berlin Family Food Pantry, 23 Linden Street, Berlin, MA Call: Fran Gill at 978-562-3895 if you find yourself in need of long term or temporary assistance due to your individual situation including illness, unemployment or school closing. This assistance is also available to all town employees. Currently, due to the closure of the Town Offices,

Food Pantry volunteers are working with clients to ensure that they receive the food, hygiene products, and pet food that they need. You can also fill out a new client form: <https://berlinfamilyfoodpantry.org/client>

- [Wheat Community Cupboard and Cafe](#), 272 High St., Clinton, MA 01510 508-370-4943 jodi.breidel@uwotc.org. Packaged hot meals will be handed out 5-6 pm Monday - Friday.
Community Cupboard pantry hours are:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10 am-1:00 pm Monday and Thursday 4:30 pm-6:00pm.
- CARE Food Pantry: open on Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.; St John's Church (Clinton) gym. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the pantry is providing prepackaged bags of food at the door. No ID required.
- [Project Bread Hunger and Food Resource](#)
- Project Bread Food Source Hotline 1-800-645-8333 (M-F 8am-7pm, Sat 10am-2pm)

[Bob Conry, Director of Finance and Operations](#)

Boylston Elementary School

Future planning

As we close out the school year, I keep hearing the question, "What will school look like next fall?" I wish I had an answer. I do not know. No one really knows. We have current recommendations from the CDC and requirements from the Governor but will those still be in place in late August? I do not know. We are left to try and plan for **all** potential outcomes. There does seem to be three types of reentry: whole return in August, a continuation of remote learning, or some hybrid of the two. We will have to balance parents' needs to return to work with health and safety guidelines as well as educational needs. This will never be a perfect balance. I don't know how it could be. As we await guidance around models from the state commissioner of education, please know, we are doing the best we can with the information we have and preparing for whatever changes may come our way. We have an eye on the whole return and have budgeted for it, but also have plans in the works in the event we return to remote learning (no one's preference). Thanks to the survey results and our own observations/learning, we feel confident we can do better if we need to return to remote learning. Let's hope that we don't need to. We are moving forward with the reentry planning committee and have already communicated with some parents who have expressed interest in being involved. When we have more concrete plans, please rest assured we will be communicating them.

Budget Information

I've started to see petitions crossing my social media timelines. The majority of these are in reaction to CDC guidelines and State regulations around the reopening of schools and childcare

centers. While I struggle with some of these requirements and recommendations, as a school administrator, I'm going to do whatever I need to in order to have students return to the building safely. My 5-year-old with asthma, who will be entering kindergarten in the fall (hopefully), has been practicing with his Spider-Man face mask just in case and has done remarkably well. But I digress. While these steps may seem extreme, I see them as temporary. What I see as the long-lasting concern, that seems to be flying below most parents radars, are the whispers growing louder each week, that the state and the federal government will be making up for lost revenue by making cuts to public school funding. While we try to create smaller class sizes to reduce the risk of virus spread and increase personal attention, the government is preparing for cuts that will undoubtedly result in teacher reductions and larger class sizes. I've learned from experience, it is incredibly hard to get positions back into the budget once they are gone. Reducing already underfunded schools and removing supports that all kids require to be successful. This could be one of the long-lasting effects of this pandemic on our children.

To this end, **June 15th** is the **town meeting** and on the docket is the budget. The addition of a teacher for the 5th grade is the lone standout request that has survived multiple rounds of the BES **budget** rounds. If the budget passes, it marks another hurdle towards funding this position, though we still await word from the state as to the impact of their cuts. If the budget does not pass, the teaching position is unlikely to survive another round. I would never dream of telling people how to vote. We all are in our own unique circumstances and have our own considerations to weigh. I fear the impact on BES if the budget does not pass. Not only do we lose the position many of you have advocated for, but we could also potentially be looking for additional places to cut from the budget. I'd encourage everyone to understand what is at stake and to participate in the town meeting at Tahanto on June 15th. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

End of Year Celebration

On a lighter and happier note, the school year is winding down and we'd like to have a celebration and closure on this very unique year. We will be hosting a **reverse parade on June 16th at 10:00** in the front of BES. Families are invited to decorate their cars to drive through, wave to the teachers and staff of BES, and return any school belongings (textbooks, library books, Chromebooks, etc.). If you have a loaner Chromebook it is important that we receive these so they can be repaired and updated in order to be lent out again in the event we have partial or full remote learning in place in the fall. If you have things to return but are unable to attend the parade, please email Michele Hatem and we'll arrange an alternate drop-off opportunity. The parade will follow the typical parent drop off route (sorry it's so short but it's the best we can accommodate given our parking lot). Staff will line the peninsula and wave as you come through. At the stop sign, the Bobcat and helpers will be there to collect any materials before you make the left hand turn and head back out into the summer! To limit congestion on Sewall we ask that families try to come in waves:

A through F from 10:00 to 10:20,
G through M from 10:20-10:40, and
N through Z from 10:40-11:00.

5th-grade recognition (Bold lettering indicates additions since the last communication)

- The evening before families will receive video speeches and a video tutorial of the parade route.
- Families will begin to gather at Tahanto at 12:30.
- **Students are encouraged to wear their class t-shirt.**
- Parking spots will be assigned alphabetically.
- Custodians and admin will help facilitate. BPD will manage traffic and lead the parade.
- **If you have something to return to the school (library book, textbooks, or Chromebooks) we will have a collection at Tahanto. Someone will come to your car to retrieve them.**
- At 1:00, the police department will lead the families in alpha order down south on 70, left onto 140 and right down Sewall
- Extended family members and friends can feel free to wave them on from the library parking lot, town common, etc. along the route (ensuring proper social distancing in utilized)
- The “parade” will continue around the center island in front of the building.
- Staff (standing 6 feet apart) will be on the sidewalk waving and congratulating students.
- At the end of the peninsula, a table with certificates of recognition will be placed out alphabetically for students to get out of their vehicle and receive. Individual awards will be with certificates
- **Please stay in the cars until the end when you pick up your recognition. Stop and smile for the camera too!**
- **Parking lot line up map is [here](#).**

[Ace Thompson, Principal BES](#)

Berlin Memorial School

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Friday to drop-off and pick-up belongings from school. If you were not able to participate, or still have something to drop off, please contact me via email and we will work something out.

We have begun working on preparations to mail out report cards the week of June 15th, If you haven't seen a report card for your child by June 22nd, please let us know. As a reminder, we will NOT be including the name of your child's teacher for next year. With so many unanswered questions, we have decided to hold off on that announcement until we have a better idea of what the fall looks like.

Speaking of fall, we are beginning to make plans for what school might look like come August. An essential part of making sure our planning makes sense is the inclusion of parents in the process. If you are interested in participating in that process, feel free to send me an email.

[John Campbell, Principal BMS](#)

Tahanto Regional Middle High School

Dear Members of our Tahanto Family,

WOOHOOO WE DID IT
**THANK YOU
EVERYONE!**

We did it! I want to begin by thanking all of the staff, teachers, and students for coming together during this unprecedented time! Parents and guardians, you were amazing through all of this. Thank you so much for helping to educate our children and for teaming with all of us through these difficult times.

Left Over Materials/ Materials Owed

If you did not pick up your child's locker belongings or return books, Chromebooks, etc. They will be available for pick-up on Monday, June 15th, and Tuesday, June 16th between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m outside the main office. **After this date, all leftover belongings will be discarded** unless you have contacted Mrs. Boudreau at sboudreau@bbrsd.org.

If your child has materials owed that cannot be found we will send out an invoice via mail over the next few weeks. If the material is found at a later date, we will refund the money.

1st Annual Tahanto Middle School Virtual Field Day!



When: Monday, June 15th

Where: Virtually at your home

Time: All day. You choose when

Since we are not able to have our annual middle school field day together, the Tahanto Physical Education Department has put together a virtual field day for students in grades 6-8 to promote fitness, fun, and to end the year on a positive note!

The P.E. Dept. will post the virtual field day on their website and on Google Classroom at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15th!

Below is a list of materials needed (all are things you have around your home).

Materials Needed:

- Plain paper (5 sheets)
- Bucket or Laundry Basket
- Socks (10 pairs)
- Tupperware Container
- 1 Coin
- 1 Spoon
- 1 Marble or small ball/toy
- Plastic Cups (6)
- Clock/Stop Watch

Questions? Please email Mr. Boudreau at nboudreau@bbrsd.org



Dear Class of 2024,

Congratulations on completing your middle school careers! Although you may have missed out on 8th-grade field trips, activities, and 8th-grade recognition you should all be very proud of yourselves and your accomplishments as a class. Over the past few months, you have shown perseverance and compassion.

Please click on the following link to view a presentation that the 8th Grade Team and Mr. Barbar have put together to celebrate you!

[Class of 2024 Video](#)

The 8th-grade team and administration want to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing all of the things you will accomplish as you enter into the next phase of your education.

Scheduling:

Middle School

All students should have requested all of their electives in PowerSchool.

If you have any questions please reach out to Mr. Picariello. Middle School schedules will be released over the summer.

High School

All students should have requested all of their classes in PowerSchool.

We are hoping to have schedules available for student viewing by June 30th. Please be aware that depending upon what school will look like in the fall, schedules may have to be adjusted to accommodate varying scenarios.

What will next year look like?

Unfortunately, we cannot answer this at this time and actual answers may not happen until August. What we can tell you is that we have begun working on 3 different scenarios, which include all virtual (no one wants this), in-person, and a hybrid of the two. What we do know is that we need to be fluid and adaptable in our thinking.

As we continue to receive guidance from DESE and the Governor we will adjust our planning accordingly, keeping the safety and well-being of our students and families at the forefront.

As part of our planning, we will be looking for parent input and volunteers to serve on the reentry committee during the 2nd phase. If you are interested in serving on the committee please send me an email at dtucceri@bbrsd.org.

As we continue to receive information and have a greater sense of what direction we will be moving in we will be sure to keep you posted!

We hope that you all have a safe and healthy summer!
Diane & Sally

Diane Tucceri, Principal
Sally Stukuls, Assistant Principal
