



## **BBRSD Family and Student Update** **September 18, 2020**

### **Superintendent's Office**

Dear Families and Staff,

It is the end of our first week back at school, and what a good week it has been for our students and staff! So many smiling faces walked through the building doors, and so many more greeted them when they came through the other side. The buildings were clean, the staff was prepared, and learning began, just as it has year after year, for so many years.

During the week, building administrators and teachers worked to adjust and correct areas that needed attention. From parent drop-off and pick-up to schedules and remote learning challenges, these issues were either addressed or continue to be addressed so that the transition back to school will be a smooth and relatively stress-free experience.

The remote learning platform for students in grades 6-12 through *Edgenuity*, launched this week thanks to the team effort of our guidance department secretary, Beth Esposito, administrative consultant, Jessica Gallagher, and our administrators. The system is new to us, the needs of students are varied, and *Edgenuity* is experiencing a high volume of clients. That being said, we continue to move forward step by step to ensure that our students learning remotely are serviced effectively.

Please be sure to check out the information on livestreaming that is being included in the principals' portion of the newsletter and in their individual school newsletters and blogs. Live Streaming will afford students and teachers another instructional opportunity to make academic connections in the classroom.

We continue to monitor the weekly color-coded health metrics provided by the MA Commissioner of Education, Jeffrey Riley and the Department of Public Health, for changes in the number of reported incidences of COVID-10 in our two towns. These reports will serve to guide us in our decision-making around future shifts in the learning plans for our schools.

I hope that you and your family members have had a positive experience this week, and that you will contact me with any questions or concerns that may assist us in making necessary improvements. It has been a pleasure to have our students back at school, back to learning, and back together with us again.

Respectfully,

**[Jeff Zanghi, Superintendent of Schools](#)**

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## **Department of Curriculum and Grants**

**Professional Development Days and Wednesdays** - Our Professional Development days have always been a time for staff to participate in numerous educational opportunities from workshops and lectures, to curriculum development and team planning. This year is no exception, and so on Wednesdays where there is a *full* Professional Development Day, **there will also be no school for students.** (That means that any synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, meetings, or assignments will not be planned for that day). On early release days, however, these learning activities *will* take place in the morning.

So that you may plan accordingly, here are the dates for Professional Development this year:

Wednesday, September 23rd - Early Release Day - synchronous and asynchronous instruction and meetings will take place during the morning

Wednesday, October 7th - Full Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Wednesday, November 4th - Full Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Wednesday, January 13th - Early Release Day- synchronous and asynchronous instruction and meetings will take place during the morning.

Wednesday, March 17th - Full Professional Development Day (no school for students)

### **Support for Parents - Navigating Google**

Wesley Swenson, a mathematics teacher at Tahanto, has been gracious enough to not only create online asynchronous workshops for staff and families on our website, [www.bbrsd.org](http://www.bbrsd.org), but has also offered his time to synchronously present two workshops for parents. These workshops, which are identical in content, offer parents a chance to navigate Google Classroom and basic Google tools with support in real time. There will also be an opportunity for questions during each session.

The two workshops are available during the following days/times by clicking on one of the links below:

**(Workshop 1) Topic: BBRSD Parent Tech Night**  
**Time: Sep 24, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97808542120?pwd=blZFNitaR2dhME9GT2daWkJITzZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 0854 2120

Passcode: ZT5pMZ

**(Workshop 2) Topic: BBRSD Parent Tech Afternoon**  
**Time: Sep 29, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96410430966?pwd=cU9ZdytWb2ZJaHZYaTdhY1FVbkZnZz09>

Meeting ID: 964 1043 0966

Passcode: tWxx6G

**[Carol Costello, Director of Curriculum and Grants](#)**

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## **Business Office**

A couple updates from the Business Office:

### **Food Service Update – FREE LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS**

**Yes, you read that correctly**, lunch and breakfast will now be free for all students. This is through a new USDA program (Seamless Summer Option, or “SSO”). The program lasts until December 31, 2020 or until federal funds are exhausted. The SSO program normally operates in the summer, and is typically only available to communities with a high percentage of free lunch students, however, due to increased food insecurity issues across the country, it is now being expanded.

The District just learned about this program the day before school started, and is still coming up to speed on the details, however, for students and parents, it really is essentially the same, except you will not pay for meals. A la carte items are not covered by the program and we will need to charge for those items.

Due to the short notice we received, we may have limited capacity to meet demand next week if participation surges. However, our orders are being adjusted now so that we can accommodate increased meal volume starting the week of September 28.

The weekly remote meal ordering form is attached below, and these meals are free as well.

<https://www.bbrsd.org/Page/1583>

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

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## **Boylston Elementary School**

Wow! What a week! We all made it through the most complicated and strangest first week of school in my lifetime. This was no small feat and could not have been accomplished without the help of everyone. Teachers and support staff have really worked hard. The kids were FANTASTIC! I have been amazed by the patience and flexibility of our parents and caregivers. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the support of our Fire Department, Police Department, and the amazing DPW that made a road appear out of nowhere. Along the way we received donations of cupcakes from T-n-T cupcakes, to keep staff energy up and donations of masks and lanyards for every person in the district from the Mecum Family of Boylston. It truly takes a village and we are fortunate to have an amazing one.

One of my greatest concerns and an area I have seen so much grace from parents is in our new drop off and pick up procedures. Saying our new system is drastically different is an understatement. That being said you have all done a great job adjusting! Arrival is moving smoothly and overall is taking less time than last year. The dismissal was a bit rough on the first day of both cohorts but much smoother and quicker on the second go around. Thank you for your patience. To help us keep it moving smoothly and safely, consider printing your School Dismissal Manager pin on a large piece of paper in your windshield. Also, please be patient with your fellow parents and their students. Please don't pass as it can be hard to see kids popping out of cars or coming around the side. I'll be around back to help facilitate this next week, especially as we now have the check-in process moving more quickly.

While we are streamlining our new processes, the specialists asked if they could write this week to help clear up some confusion. Hopefully, it helps but if you need clarification don't hesitate to email [Mrs. Bowen](#):

"Are you confused about how specials work this year?! You are NOT alone! The schedule is confusing and overwhelming **[edit: and not like anything we've done before]**, to say the least. I hope this helps:

Specials are on a rotating basis between in-person and at-home learning this year. That means on the weeks your child(ren) don't have a certain special on their in-school days, they will do it on an assigned day at home. In the example below, if your student was in this class, this week they would have followed the Week 1 column of specials having Music and Art on their in-school days and completing remote assignments for Library, PE, and Technology on the assigned days. Next week, you would follow the Week 2 column. The following week you would follow the Week 3 column, and then we'd restart the rotation again. Mr. Thompson will be including what week of the specials rotation we're coming up on in his blog and in Monday morning's announcements (ex: "This week we are following the specials week 1 schedule"). You can access the entire schedule [here](#). I recommend copying and pasting on the schedules you need for you children since 16 pages to look through is quite a challenge **[edit: you should see the creation of it]**. Make sure you copy the correct teacher AND cohort. Still, confused? Please feel free to reach out and we can (hopefully) answer your questions. Please note that at home/remote lessons will not be live on

Zoom. Our special area team will be teaching in-person classes and can't be in two places at once, although we would love to have that superpower! We are so grateful for your support and patience as we work to figure this out together.

Cohort A

Day	Format	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday	In-Person	Music	Tech	Library
Tuesday	In-Person	Art	Library	PE
Wednesday	Remote Lesson	Library	Art	Music
Thursday	Remote Lesson	PE	Music	Tech
Friday	Remote Lesson	Tech	PE	Art

**\*\*\* Make sure you check your student(s)'s email accounts for invitations to the special area teachers' Google classrooms if you have not already done so\*\*\*"**

And one final addition. The school committee voted and approved a new policy on Tuesday around face coverings I wanted to share an excerpt with all of you.

Face Coverings

A face covering that cover the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals over the age of two in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school transportation, even when social distancing in observed.

- The following types of masks/face coverings are acceptable to wear at school:
- Blue disposable surgical masks (must be replaced daily; cannot be reused or washed)
- Fabric masks (preferable at least two layers of cotton fabric, not knit material)
- Face shields along with a surgical or fabric mask.

The following types of masks/face coverings are *not* acceptable to wear at school:

- Masks with one way or exhalation vents
- Neck gaiters or bandanas
- Plastic face shields alone without a fabric or surgical mask

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family...However, the district will supply Staff disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation without one.

A note from the district regarding live streaming:

**Live streaming-Notice to Parents**

Teachers may choose to live stream their instruction to students who are learning remotely. This means live video and audio coverage of a class would occur. Teachers have been instructed that the video is directed at them or their instructional tools. However, student voices and/or images may be heard and/or seen on the live stream during class instruction.

Teachers who choose to live stream will post a sign on their classroom door alerting students that audio recording will occur.

A disclaimer will be added to the Google Meet and/or Zoom when a class is being live-streamed. Week ahead:

- Week 2 of Specials
- I see some Celtics days in our future but we'll have to see their schedule first!
- Monday
  - Cohort A
- Tuesday
  - Cohort A
- Wednesday
  - 1/2 Day PD day (this will be reflected in the amount of asynchronous work this day)
- Thursday
  - Cohort B
- Friday
  - Cohort B

**[Ace Thompson, Principal BES](#)**

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**Berlin Memorial School**

The first week of school is finally behind us!

Teachers and staff did an amazing job welcoming kids back into the school. It's been far too long, and the building far too quiet. We are all adjusting to new routines, including the etiquette of wearing face coverings and social distancing with our friends.

A huge thank you goes out to the folks who take care of our school building. The second floor got a new coat of paint, our gardens were tended, and our basketball courts have been upgraded to a new smooth surface. We are truly blessed to have so many people take time to help us get ready for this school year.

A couple of reminders on arrival and dismissal. First, if you are dropping off your child in the morning, please wait until an adult give you the thumbs up to have the kids get out of the car.

That process has gone well, and we are going to try to use two adults next week to speed things up. Just remember that our goal in the morning is not to have kids all bunch into one group. For dismissal, I am happy to tell you that we have finally worked out the kinks in the school dismissal manager program. Starting on Monday we will need you to display your 5 digit code so that the adult on duty can see it. We think that we will be able to speed up that process considerably with a little practice and your help.

### **Lunch**

We've adjusted well to our new lunchtime routines. If you've missed the menu, you can find it [here](#). Here's one thing I missed – the alternate or “B” lunch, is bagel meal all month. As you may also have heard, our school district has qualified for a free meal for all program. Details are forthcoming, but my understanding is that we hope to start that at the end of this month.

### **Remote Learning**

The School Committee recently approved a change in policy to allow teachers to “live stream” their work in classrooms to students at home. I don't know that you will see much of that at the elementary level, but here is the summary of that process for your information:

*Teachers may choose to live stream their instruction to students who are learning remotely. This means, live video and audio coverage of a class would occur. Teachers have been instructed that the video is directed at them or their instructional tools. However, student voices and/or images may be heard and/or seen on the live stream during class instruction.*

*Teachers who choose to live stream will post a sign on their classroom door alerting students that audio recording will occur.*

*A disclaimer will be added to the Google Meet and/or Zoom when a class is being live streamed.*

### **A note from our School Nurse**

Nurse Ana has her newsletter set to go – you can find this week's edition [here](#).

### **Face Coverings**

The school committee voted and approved a new policy on Tuesday around face coverings I wanted to share an excerpt with all of you.

*A face covering that cover the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals over the age of two in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed.*

- *The following types of masks/face coverings are acceptable to wear at school:*
- *Blue disposable surgical masks (must be replaced daily; cannot be reused or washed)*
- *Fabric masks (preferable at least two layers of cotton fabric, not knit material)*
- *Face shields along with a surgical or fabric mask.*

*The following types of masks/face coverings are not acceptable to wear at school:*

- *Masks with one way or exhalation vents*
- *Neck gaiters or bandanas*
- *Plastic face shields alone without a fabric or surgical mask*

**Have a great weekend!**

**[John Campbell, Principal BMS](#)**

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## **Tahanto Regional Middle High School**

*Tahanto Families,*

*We did it!! What a joy it was to welcome students back to learning at Tahanto. Whether we saw students in-person or virtually it was so nice to reconnect and be back together as a family. As we enter into our 2nd week of the school year we will all reflect on the first week and build and grow from our experiences.*

*Even though this may be a challenging year and things will look different, different can mean new opportunities and experiences for us all!*

*Diane & Sally*

### **Live streaming-Notice to Parents**

Teachers may choose to live stream their instruction to students who are learning remotely. This means, live video and audio coverage of a class would occur. Teachers have been instructed that the video is directed at them or their instructional tools. However, student voices and/or images may be heard and/or seen on the live stream during class instruction.

Teachers who choose to live stream will post a sign on their classroom door alerting students that audio recording will occur.

A disclaimer will be added to the Google Meet and/or Zoom when a class is being live streamed.

### **Tahanto School Forms Due 9/30/20**

All parents and guardians are required to fill out school entry forms. Please click on the link below to access all forms. Forms include Student Entry Packet, Health Screening Form and Extra-Curricular Release Form. These forms are due by 9/30/20 all forms can be submitted electronically except for the Extra-Curricular Release Form, which must be completed and returned to the main office.

**[School Forms Due 9/30/20](#)**



**Week of 9/21/20-9/25/20 EVEN WEEK (High School Only) \***

**Cohort A (Last name A-LeB)** you are at Tahanto in person on Monday & Tuesday and remote Wednesday-Friday

**Cohort B (Last name Lee-Z)** you are remote Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and at Tahanto in person on Thursday & Friday

**Please note that Wednesday, 9/23/20 is a half day for students. See schedule below**

**Hybrid Schedule**

Times	Monday Day 6	Tuesday Day 7	Wednesday Day 8	Thursday Day 9	Friday Day 10
7:35-9:05	1	5	1 (7:35-8:23)	1	5
9:05-10:35	2	6	2 (8:28-9:19)	2	6
10:35-12:35	3	7	3 (9:24-10:12)	3	7
12:35-2:15	4	8	4 (10:17-11:00)	4	8
			PD Day		

\* Even weeks are for high school classes that meet every other day and show on your schedule as meeting (7,8,10 or 6,8,9)

Please remember that whether you are in person or remote your classes will follow the same schedule. The school day runs from 7:35 a.m. until 2:15 p.m.

**How to Access Schedules**

Select the [www.bbrsd.org](http://www.bbrsd.org) website

Under Tahanto - Select "For Students"

Select Powerschool Login

Username and password login will appear. If you forgot your username or password, please send Mrs. Esposito an email to have it reset at [besposito@bbrsd.org](mailto:besposito@bbrsd.org).

Once you are logged in click "my schedule" located on the left side of the screen and choose Matrix view to view your schedule.

### **For Parents**

Select the [www.bbrsd.org](http://www.bbrsd.org) website

Under Tahanto - Select "For Parents"

Select Powerschool Login

Username and password login screen will appear. If you forgot your username or password or need to create one, please send Mrs. Esposito an email to have it reset or setup at [besposito@bbrsd.org](mailto:besposito@bbrsd.org).

Once you are logged in click "my schedule" located on the left side of the screen and choose Matrix view to view your schedule.

### **What Do I Need to Remember to Bring To School Everyday?**

#### **In-Person:**

- **Masks**
- **Charged Laptop/Chromebook. If you need to borrow a Chromebook from Tahanto please contact Mrs. Boudreau at [sboudreau@bbrsd.org](mailto:sboudreau@bbrsd.org)**
- **Earbuds/headphones**
- **Filled water bottle(s)**
- **Backpack with a notebook and a pen/pencil**
- **Lunch if not buying one from school**
- **A HUGE SMILE**

#### **Hybrid Remote**

- **Check your school email prior to 7:35 a.m. for your Google Classroom invite from your teachers**
- **Charged Chromebook and/or computer ready to go!**
- **Earbuds/Headphones**
- **Follow your schedule throughout the day**
- **A HUGE SMILE**

## **Attendance Reminders**

Following the guidance from DESE, attendance will be taken in each class every day. As in a typical school year, we understand that students may need to be “absent.” We ask that parents follow the same protocol and call the Nurses office at 508-869-2333 ext. 2303 to report a student’s absence. **This includes those students who are hybrid remote for the day if they cannot attend their remote classes. Period attendance is taken for every class regardless of whether you are in-person or remote.**

**If your child is remote and has an appt. Please call the Nurses office prior to 8:00 a.m. and let us know. A physical note from the dentist/doctor’s office should be sent to the main office when your child comes into school next. We must have a written note to excuse the absence.**

## **School Nurse Information**

### **From the School Nurse:**

**A reminder: All students in Grades 7 and 10 are required, by the state, to have an up to date physical on file in the Health Office. Please send one in with your child, or you can email or fax the physical as well.**

**Medications: If your child will need medication during the school day, we will need a doctor's order, co-signed by parent/guardian. Any form the primary care physician uses, is fine. You can drop off that medication at any time.**

**Email: [jsequeira@bbrsd.org](mailto:jsequeira@bbrsd.org) Health office fax: 508-869-6202**

**I just have to add that this week has been so good! The kids have fallen right into the new ways and have been great with all the new rules. We truly do have the best students. Thank you, parents for all you have done during this hard time as well. The results show.**

## **[Mandatory Daily Parent Screening Health Checklist](#)**

## **Tahanto Safety Information Video**

Please click on the link below to view the bus, hallway, classroom, nurses’ office, and lunch safety information and changes for the 2020-2021 school year.

**[Tahanto Safety Information Video 2020-2021](#)**

## Tahanto Arrival and Dismissal Information



Please understand that these procedures for arrival and dismissal have been put into place based upon DESE and CDC guidelines for safe school re-entry.

### Arrival (Students will not be allowed in the building until 7:20 a.m.)

7:20-7:35 Buses arrive at Tahanto

7:25-7:35 Student drop-off and students who have parking spaces

**Please note that no student can be dropped off by a parent/guardian prior to 7:25**

Once in the building students will report directly to their first scheduled class of the day

### Dismissal

2:05-Seniors who drive personal vehicles

2:10- We will begin dismissing those students who are taking the bus by bus number

2:15-Students who are being picked up by parent/guardian (**parents/guardians will not be able to line-up for pick-up until 2:15**)

**All students must leave the school campus (unless participating in fall athletics) by 2:30 p.m.**

### Athletics

We have reached the opening of the Fall 1 season. I would like to thank the Tahanto Community, School District, School Committee, Administration, Parents, Coaches and Student Athletes for their continuous support during this difficult time.

As we start moving forward with the approved MIAA Fall 1 Calendar Season, please remember it's going to take a collective effort by all to provide our student athletes with a positive athletic experience.

This update includes the links to the Midland Wachusett League Covid Protocols and Procedures Handbook, The MIAA modification of play rules for each individual sport, The Midland Wachusett League Statement letter, and information pertaining to the first meeting/practice of Tahanto sports teams.

We have been placed in a Geographical Pod with West Boylston, Clinton, Ayer, Trivium, South Lancaster and St. Bernard's. Schedules will be posted by early next week. Competitions will start October 5th, with golf matches eligible to start a week earlier.

These modifications were designed with the intent to enhance our safety, and get our student athletes onto the playing fields. These rules and regulations must be followed. We will be under the microscope.

The climate and circumstances might have changed but the goal remains the same; provide a positive, memorable experience for our kids through the competition of athletics. Regardless of the obstacles, I'm excited for the start of the season for our student athletes here at Tahanto.

Once again, a reminder, families will be responsible for getting their student athletes back to the campus for practices, home games, and buses for away games if they are in remote learning. As always, please check to be sure that your son/daughter's physical is up to date and on file with the school nurse.

The start date for Fall athletics is tomorrow, September 18. Varsity Boys/Girls soccer, and Field hockey will start tryouts at 2:45 on the soccer and field hockey fields.

**ALL SPORTS WILL RESUME TRYOUTS ON MONDAY AFTER THE WEEKEND.**

**Please make sure that student athletes have COVID related supplies (masks, sanitizer, plenty of water) in their personal gym bags.**

Look to the athletic website for more updates. The coaches are posted on the front page.

<https://tahantoregional.schoolteams.com/>

**The Tahanto Booster Club** is kicking off its 2020 Butter Braid and Cookie Dough Fundraiser. All Tahanto fall teams should be receiving a form from their coach but you can click on the link below if you need another copy.

The Tahanto athlete that sells the most will receive a Tahanto sweatshirt courtesy of the Booster Club. Orders are due by October 13<sup>th</sup> and can be placed, with a check written out to the Tahanto Booster Club, in the marked bin in the table outside the front office. Items will be frozen and need to be picked up after school on October 26th.

You can also support the Booster Club by donating to our Venmo account! Go to [www.tahantoboosterclub.org](http://www.tahantoboosterclub.org) for more info on what the Booster Club does for student athletes at Tahanto. An online option for the Butter Braid fundraiser is available if you wish to provide MCM Fundraising with your email address. Contact the Booster Club at [tahantoboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:tahantoboosterclub@gmail.com) and we can set that up for you. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BJy9HjqnRJiNsGmC1HHrg-rCyaEwRoup/view?usp=sharing>

Matt Porcaro  
Athletic Director  
Tahanto Regional  
[mporcaro@bbrsd.or](mailto:mporcaro@bbrsd.or)

For the latest information regarding fall athletics please click on the link below  
[Tahanto Athletics](#)

**[Diane Tucceri, Principal](#)**  
**[Sally Stukuls, Assistant Principal](#)**

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