



## **BBRSD Family and Student Update** **September 4, 2020**

### **Superintendent's Office**

Greetings, Families, Students and Staff,

I want to start by assuring everyone that the ten days of additional time for staff to prepare for the start of *this* school year has been invaluable. Multiple opportunities for professional development, training, and meetings have taken place throughout the days, and provided us with the necessary time to put into place all of the pieces that will ensure as smooth a transition as possible for all individuals. I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and professionalism demonstrated by our staff and administration during this time.

In addition to the efforts taking place during the day, our elementary principals and Bridge Plan teachers hosted a Town Hall for parents of participating students on Tuesday, September 1st. At that time, the principals shared a power point outlining the schedule for the Bridge Plan and introduced the teaching staff who will be instructing within this structure. I know that they will continue to reach out to families as plans move forward.

More information on the online platform for grades 6-12 will also be sent by the Tahanto principal and assistant principal and the Director of Curriculum. We are making progress with this plan and want to be able to share all that we know as more information unfolds.

Building principals are working to finalize student schedules, drop-off and pick-up times, and as much of the "concrete" details that parents have long awaited.

Finally, please refer to the message in the Curriculum Department section that speaks to the *no Wednesday make-up day*. This change to a small portion of the hybrid plan will be added as an addendum in the plan and will be shared at the next Berlin-Boylston School Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 15th.

In closing, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. One week to go!

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

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## **Department of Curriculum and Grants**

Greetings!

Please be sure to read these quick but important updates:

1. **A Change in the Wednesday Make-Up Date:** We will be going back to our hybrid plan and adding an addendum that changes our original intention of using Wednesdays to make-up school days missed as a result of a holiday. We will, instead, continue to preserve Wednesday as a day for synchronous and asynchronous learning options, staff meetings, and professional development.

As an example, Monday, October 12th is a holiday. Students who are in Cohort A, and who attend school in person Monday and Tuesday, **will not** make up the day on Wednesday.

2. **School Start Date:** The first day of school for all students on Monday, September 14th. Cohort A students will attend school **in person** and Cohort B students will attend school remotely. Teachers are busy preparing assignments and activities for both cohorts in anticipation of the start of the school year for all.

3. **Remote Learning Platform Grades 6-12:** Families of students who are participating in the *Edgenuity* remote learning platform in grades 6-12 will be receiving a letter and additional information from Ms. Tucceri, Ms. Stukuls and myself today. Please look for the letter and additional resources sent to assist families in better understanding the program and expectations. Information will be sent to you on Tuesday, September 8th.

4. **SAVE THE DATE for Technology Training for Parents:** We are very excited to have Mr. Wesley Swenson, one of our mathematics teachers at Tahanto, provides synchronous technology training to parents at two different times in September. (Mr. Swenson is also responsible for the online training available on our website).

**The first date is Thursday, September 24th at 7:00pm.**

**The second date is Tuesday, September 29th at 4:00pm.**

Each of these sessions will be devoted to the topic: *Navigating Google Classroom for Parents*. If you are feeling stuck and struggling to figure out how to support your child on this platform, or if you need some tips on specific areas such as ensuring that assignments are completed, please join us in one of these two virtual meetings offered through Zoom.

We will be sending along a link to each session on the Friday prior to each session, as well as posting the link on the website.

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

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## Business Office

### Food Service Update

Please see the link below for an update from our Director of Food Service, Lauren Staples. One note – the grab and go lunches will be frozen prepared meals, such as pictured below, instead of the grocery bag of supplies offered in the Spring. With more time to plan, this was developed in an effort to provide more diverse offerings that may be attractive to students.

[Please click here to see a message from Lauren Staples, Food Service Director](#)



Italian Broccoli Meal, with cinnamon spiced apples and roasted chickpeas

### Bus update

Bus routes have been posted to the district website. Separate routes were developed for each cohort, so for example, Berlin Memorial bus#1 has one route for Cohort A on Mondays and Tuesdays and another route for Cohort B on Wednesday and Thursday. [Please click here to see bus routes.](#)

By the end of the day Friday, September 4, an email will come from the Principal's Office of your school notifying you of the bus assignment for your child. **If you did not receive an email, you were not assigned transportation based on your survey response from a few weeks ago, which indicated that you plan to drive your child to school, or your child will not be attending in-person. If your situation has changed, or you believe this to be incorrect, please contact the Principals' office of your child's school.**

## School Contacts

Berlin Memorial – Judy Rapa ([jrapa@bbrsd.org](mailto:jrapa@bbrsd.org))

Boylston Elementary – Michele Hatem ([mhatem@bbrsd.org](mailto:mhatem@bbrsd.org))

Tahanto Middle-High School – Sue Boudreau ([sboudreau@bbrsd.org](mailto:sboudreau@bbrsd.org))

## Bob Conry, Director of Finance and Operations

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### Facilities Department

- Bottle Fill stations have been received. Installation will occur next week.
- The touch free hand sanitizer dispensers have been delivered to all schools. Custodians will install in the next week or so.
- Tents have been received, permits are complete and they will be installed on 9-8-2020 and 9-9-2020

## Steve Pusateri, Director of Facilities

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### Technology Department

#### **Chromebooks/Devices for Student use: 1:1 Questions and Answers**

**I originally did not request a Chromebook for my child, will they still be able to receive one?** Yes, it is still our intent to have any student who needs access to a device to have a district-provided Chromebook.

**How will the Chromebooks be distributed?** Full details are still being worked out, as again we have had to shift in the last few weeks from still being “cart based in classrooms” to more student centered 1:1. I can share a couple details. First most students will be receiving their Chromebook on their first few days of in-person instruction. Some students, based on need and our ability to have them in place on-time, will hopefully be receiving their Chromebooks late next week (Thursday/Friday). For those students a schedule will be posted for pickup times (probably by grade) and location(s).

**Will my family be responsible for any damage incurred to the Chromebook?** This is a complicated question but the short answer is yes, the Chromebook would be treated like any other “borrowed” material from school. To that end we will also be offering an optional insurance for these Chromebooks which covers damage and repairs. Details for this have not been finalized with the insurer. Also, our School Committee will have to approve the use of this fee which at this time is expected to be around \$25. Again, as details are finalized we will send that information out and post to the website as well. The insurance, assuming we are able to finalize, will be optional. If you choose not to take the insurance, you will be responsible for our

costs related to the repair. Typical costs for repairs include screen replacement (\$90-\$100), keyboard replacement (\$60-\$70) or full replacement (\$250-\$260).

**I purchased a device (Chromebook, laptop...) for my child already and prefer that my child NOT receive a district owned Chromebook. Is that allowed?** So as was part of the previous update, students are allowed to bring in family-owned devices and join them to our open wireless network. I would not say we are encouraging that, but I will say that having families that are providing their own devices for their children will definitely help us keep the number of spare devices on hand to a point that makes this program work. I will add that many if not all teachers will expect that their students will have access to a device during in-person learning, so if you chose to turn down the district-supplied Chromebook please understand that it will be expected that your child has their family-owned device with them when they come to school for in-person learning. We will not be able to make devices available for “borrowing” on a day-to-day basis.

**Will students be taking the devices back-and-forth from school to home?** Yes. While some of the younger grades may in fact decide to have students keep their devices in one place or the other it is expected that most grades will have their students accessing material both in-school and at home, so devices will need to travel.

**Will the district be providing carrying cases?** Not at this time. Our original plan was to have students “in need” have a device to take and keep at home while still maintaining the remainder of devices in carts at the school. Because of the high demand and the need to change this late in the game we did not budget for carrying cases. We certainly would encourage those that can afford cases for their child’s device to purchase one, as anything we can do to limit the need for repairs is going to help our district.

**You mentioned in your last update that my child’s family-owned device would not be able to access “network resources”. Can you clarify?** So all teachers this year should be using Google Classroom for assignments, links to materials and so forth. These will all be accessed through your child’s Google account and all these materials will be accessible both at home and while at school on your family-owned device. What will not be available on your family-owned device will be district-owned devices, mostly meaning printers and servers. There will still be ways for your children to print out materials should teachers require that. Again, our hope is we are cutting down on paper and that more resources and assignments will be on-line. Family-owned devices are going to be helping us, especially this year as we were not truly 100% ready to go to 1:1, so while we have to protect district assets, I also do not want to make the use of family-owned devices difficult.

**So all students will have a Google account?** Yes. All students will have a school-issued Google account in order to access Google Classroom as well as be able to log on to the district-owned Chromebooks. If you have students in primary grades (PK, K, 1 and 2) or are new to our district your child may not know about these accounts yet. Expect info (user name and password) to come from your child’s teacher or principal.

**Will my child be getting a brand new device?** The short answer is the majority of the devices in the district are not brand new (about 200 of the approx.. 1100 devices), in fact many are two, three or four years old. Just like used books, we expect that some will have to come out of

“circulation” or be “rebound” – so things like swapping out a battery or a new keyboard or screen. Again, similar to a book – families will not be expected to replace something that is worn out. The district will incur those costs.

**Will there be some type of filter on these Chromebooks?** Yes. While in school, students will be accessing through our network which includes a CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) rated filter. While at home, all district-owned devices will also be going through a third-party filtering system as well. We still encourage parents to take advantage of their ISP (Internet Service Provider) based services for parental controls as well. No filter is perfect, so if you do find that your child has accessed materials that are inappropriate please let us know and we will contact the companies that provide our services and have them try to update as needed. The at-home filter also allows for optional tracking of devices. The district will only be turning that service on for any particular device that is reported as lost or stolen. Otherwise, that service will remain off.

**If the Chromebook does get damaged does that mean my child won’t be able to access needed materials?** No, at least that is our hope. There will be a process in place, again hate to say it but details still being worked out – for your child to be able to swap the damaged or otherwise non-working device for a loaner while repairs take place. At this point we believe that may be at one central location, most likely Tahanto. Should we run out of loaner devices we will inform your child’s teacher(s) of the situation so they are aware of the need to provide materials in an alternate method if the district-owned device is the only means they have to access Google Classroom.

**You haven’t answered my question yet, what can I do?** So I believe next Wednesday night around 6:00 (I’ll email exact time and Zoom webinar link) I will do a similar “Town Hall” for about an hour, similar to what was done around the school re-entry plans. I will mostly be answering questions that were submitted by Tuesday September 8 at noon, but will try to answer follow-ups as needed in the Q&A section over the last 10 minutes. If you wish to submit a question send an email with the subject line of “Technology 1:1 Program Question” to [parentquestions@bbrsd.org](mailto:parentquestions@bbrsd.org)

Please continue to stay safe and thank you for your support of our schools.

**[Paul Mara, Director of Technology](#)**

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## **Pupil Personnel Office**

**Preschool Sessions-** Preschool at both Berlin Memorial School and Tahanto will hold two sessions as they have in the past. Students will be scheduled to attend either Monday and Friday with a remote day for the whole school on Wednesday, or they will attend in person classes on Tuesday and Thursday. The remote day will be a mix of asynchronous and live sessions. Students with special education services should expect a call from their child’s teacher to talk about their specific services for the year.

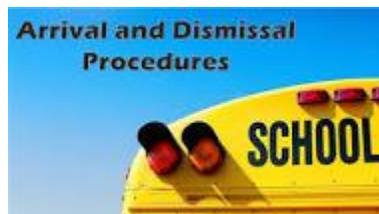
Preschool will begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>, opening day for all students. Preschool Teachers will be sending more opening day information directly to parents next week.

[Karen Molnar, Director of Pupil Personnel Services](#)

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## **Boylston Elementary School**

This school year will be different. Very different. For all of us. We're still a week away but I wanted to give you plenty of time to digest some of our changes. I'm going to do my best with words and pictures but if anything doesn't make sense, please let me know. If you have a question I'm sure others are thinking about it as well. Also, these are the plans to start with, I anticipate that we will have to tweak and adjust over the course of the coming weeks, months, and year. It is all a work in progress. That being said, and knowing that I'm trying to answer some questions preemptively below, I'd like to schedule a [virtual town hall meeting](#) on Thursday (9/10) at 6:30. I will use the Zoom webinar program to cut down on ancillary noises and answer anything I can in the Q&A section.



We have revamped our arrival and dismissal procedures. This was necessary for a few reasons. First, I've never loved our old system. Secondly, we are trying to minimize students moving throughout the building and potential co-mingling. And finally, based on the survey results we're anticipating 77 students in cohort A and 80 in cohort B arriving via car. This exceeds some of our busy days in the past when we have all students in the building. To that end:



Buses will now come up the drive and stay to the left of the peninsula (see image below). They will unload one at a time with students maintaining social distance while entering the building. Kindergarteners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders will follow the sidewalk and enter through the main entrance. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will enter through the door by the gym. Dismissal will be similar but in reverse. Buses will be dismissed one at a time.



Bus route



Drop-offs will take a left after the peninsula and drive clockwise around the circle before entering the side road to the playground (see image below). Parents will proceed around the building and drop their students off at the appropriate wing based on the student's grade level. Staff members will be assigned to meet them at each entrance. To avoid bottlenecks at the beginning we ask that parents try to arrive in a staggered way with 3rd through 5th graders arriving close to the start of drop off (8:25) and students in K through 2 closer to (8:35). A similar process will take place for pick up in the afternoon with one slight change. When picking up, parents will stop briefly at the main entrance where a staff member will "check you in". They will notify teachers in the building of your arrival so your students will be waiting for you (hopefully) as you get to the end of their wing. For younger students who need help with buckles and car seats, I ask that you pull off to the designated "Belt Stop" to help your child and allow traffic to keep moving.



Car Pickup/Drop off



If you are late and miss the drop off procedure, we ask that you don't walk your child into the building. Rather, you can drive them up to the main office and call, on your cell phone, into the building so we know they have arrived. Similarly, if you are picking up early, you can drive up the circle and call into the office. When Mrs. Hatem or whoever is monitoring the office sees you and confirms who you are, they will release your child to you. We are not accepting in-person volunteers at this time and are limiting the number of adults that enter the building to employees unless otherwise arranged through the office.



NRT has been hard at work and the bus routes are posted on [our website](#). You should have also received an email from School Dismissal Manager. Mrs. Hatem has already populated your child(rens') default based on your survey responses. Unfortunately, you cannot shift onto the bus because we cannot guarantee seat availability. However, if you elect to pick up your child instead of sending them on the bus, this change can be made.



### Google Classroom

We are now a Google Classroom school. Last year, we heard from parents of students in different grade levels, that multiple platforms and communications styles made it almost unmanageable at times to keep track of who needed to do what when. To this end, all staff will be using Google classroom and if your student sees more than one teacher, they will share that classroom account. Families can request guardian sharing information so they receive the same information as to their child. We've also thought about supporting parents in this new technology. A staff member is creating "asynchronous" learning opportunities [here](#). Feel free to make suggestions and ask questions.

In previous blogs, I've introduced our new 5th-grade teacher (Ms. Cavallo) and School Psychologist (Mrs. Wong). And now....



Megan Tamalavitch

I'd like to introduce our new Technology Integrationist Megan Tamalavitch. She joins us with a wealth of technology and scientific knowledge. Part of her days will be teaching technology as a special, the other part will be teaching science remotely.



Michelle Ruggieri

Michelle Ruggieri is also joining us in the role of Long-term Substitute in Kindergarten. She will be teaching Mrs. LaPierre's class while she is out on leave. The length of this leave is to be determined but Mrs. Ruggieri will be available for the length of it. She comes with years of experience and a passion for Kindergarten.

The Look Ahead:

- Thursday 9/10 (6:30)
  - [Town Hall Meeting](#)
- Monday 9/14
  - First Day in BES for Cohort A!
  - First Day remotely for Cohort B!
- Wednesday 9/16
  - First Day with everyone Remote!
- Thursday 9/17
  - First Day in BES for Cohort B!
- Friday 9/18
  - Celebrate the first week of school!

[Ace Thompson, Principal BES](#)

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## **Berlin Memorial School**

The final countdown has begun!

Teachers and staff have been hard at work making final plans for the return of children to Berlin Memorial! It has been a very long six months, and we are all looking forward to students in the halls once again.

Our goal is – despite all the changes and safety rules – to make school feel as normal as possible. We are currently finalizing a “Frequently Ask Questions” document so that you can go to one spot for information. Here, however, are answers to some of the questions we hear most frequently.

**Buses** – Our bus company, NRT has completed their routes and you can find these on the school website. You will be receiving, if you said you were having your child ride the bus to school, an email to confirm this. If you do not receive an email (possibly because you answered that you

would drive your child to school) by the end of the day, please give the school a call so we can fix that for you.

**Start of the school day** is 8:25. Unlike previous years, when you could drop your child off early and have them wait in the hall, this year students will not be able to enter the building until 8:25. This is to ensure that the kids maintain distance in the hall.

**Lunch** – We are finalizing our lunch menu, but I can tell you that we will serve both hot and cold lunch. The kids will be eating in the gym, at desks with 6 feet of separation. Those surfaces will be cleaned after each of the three lunch periods we will have. Lunch will be completely cashless so this would be a good time to check your balances in your Myschoolbucks account.

**Recess** – We will continue to have recess before lunch. It will be slightly shorter than we are used to because we will need a bit of time to get in, wash hands, and get settled. Four classes at a time will go to recess, and each will be assigned a specific area. With the blessings of Nurse Ana, we will be using the playground structures, although classes will need to rotate turns over the course of the week.

**Dismissal** will be a little different if you are going to pick your child up at school. While the traffic pattern will be the same, we will not be able to have everyone waiting outside watching for cars at the end of the day. Instead, we will be using School Dismissal Manager to have kids dismissed a few at a time. This process will be new and may take a longer time. For that reason, we will be starting dismissal for PPU students at 2:40 PM. Kids riding the bus will still be dismissed at 3:00.

Note from Nurse Ana...

If your child will require medication during school hours this school year, please contact Nurse Ana to schedule an appointment next week on Tuesday Sept 8th, Wednesday Sept 9th or Thursday Sept 10 between the hours of 8am and 4pm. You can reach Nurse Ana by email (preferred) [AAmaral@bbrsd.org](mailto:AAmaral@bbrsd.org) or phone 978-838-2214.

Please remember our district policy regarding medication:

A parent, guardian or parent/guardian-designated responsible adult shall deliver all medications to be administered to the school nurse. No child will carry/transport medication to and from school.

The medication must be in the original pharmacy or manufacturer labeled container.

Proper medication order from a licensed prescriber for this school year must accompany medication:

- the student's name;
- the name and signature of the licensed prescriber as well as contact information;
- the name of the medication;
- the route and dosage of medication;
- the frequency and time of medication administration;
- the date of the order and discontinuation date;

- a diagnosis and any other medical condition(s) requiring medication, if not a violation of confidentiality or if not contrary to the request of a parent, guardian or student to keep confidential;
- specific directions for administration.

3. Special Considerations:

- Epi Pens - please send in two-pack and have the physician complete an Allergy Action Plan for school.
- Inhalers- please have the physician complete and Asthma Action plan for school

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact [Nurse Ana](#)

[John Campbell, Principal BMS](#)

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**Tahanto Regional Middle High School**



**Tahanto Today September 4, 2020**



## **Schedules**



You have all been waiting patiently for your schedules and they are ready!

Here is how to access your schedule!

### **For Students**

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.

### **If you have any questions related to your schedule please contact:**

Mr. Greg Picariello, School Counselor, Grades 6-8 and  
Grade 9 (last initial M-Z), Ext: 2318 E-Mail: [gpicariello@bbrsd.org](mailto:gpicariello@bbrsd.org)

Mrs. Ilene Rodman, School Counselor, Grade 9 (last initial A-L), Grades 10-12 Ext: 2317  
E-mail: [irodman@bbrsd.org](mailto:irodman@bbrsd.org)

## **Tahanto Safety Information Video**

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

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

## **School Nurse Information**

## **Mandatory Daily Parent Screening Health Checklist**

## **Grade 6 Parent Camp and Student Orientation**



When: September 9th

Where: [Gr. 6 Parent Camp/Student Orientation Link](#)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

A survey was sent to your child's bbrsd email address that gives you and your child an opportunity to ask questions that you may have about Team 6 curriculum and culture. Team 6 will be tailoring the Q & A portion of the event based upon your questions.

## **September 14th- First Day of School for ALL students**

**Week of 9/14/20-9/18/20**

**-ODD 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

Times	Monday Day 1	Tuesday Day 2	Wednesday Day 3	Thursday Day 4	Friday Day 5
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
			EARLY		
			RELEASE		
			PD		

\* Odd weeks are for high school classes that meet every other day and show on your schedule as meeting (2,3,5 or 1,3,4)

\* 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.

**Hybrid remote students on 9/14 should check their emails for Google Classroom invitations from their teachers. Each teacher will also have important information posted on their teacher's website.**

## **Edgenuity Full Remote Information**

For those families that have chosen full remote through Edgenuity information will be sent out to you on Tuesday, September 8th.

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## **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**

For the latest information regarding fall athletics please click on the link below:  
<https://tahantoregional.rschooteams.com/>

**Diane Tucceri, Principal**

**Sally Stukuls, Assistant Principal**

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