



**Brentwood  
Borough  
School  
District**

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH



## Building Projects and COVID-19

### Building Projectss

As outlined in the last Board Perspective, numerous building improvement projects are underway. The windows and doors of the MS/HS building are in the process of being replaced because of significant deterioration of the window lintels. This deterioration led to leaks and damaged classrooms. The first window shipment arrived during the last week of July. Simultaneously, the reconfiguration of the bridge and library restoration projects are also progressing. These spaces are being redesigned to provide additional collaboration areas for our students and staff.

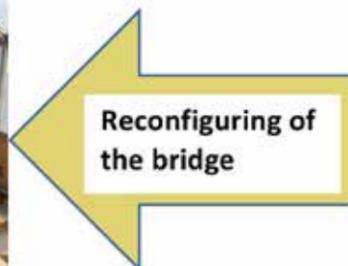
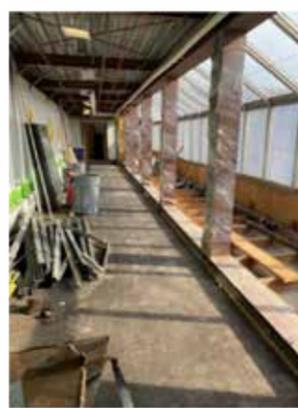
Also, in late July, it was announced that the Diocese and the District reached an agreement in principle to purchase the land where the former St. Sylvester school and convent are located. The District held one public meeting to answer questions and plans to hold additional meetings as this opportunity develops.

The MS/HS has multiple single unit air conditioning units that have exceeded their life expectancy. The District

has begun to replace the failing units with new units specifically designed to increase ventilation and purify the air with ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI).

### COVID-19 Planning and Summer Learning Opportunities

As the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, planning for returning to in-person learning on September 7, 2021 is occurring daily. The District continues to use the emergency funding to offset increase costs of cleaning supplies, personnel, and the purchasing or leasing of software or electronic devices. As required, the Board approved 2021-2022 Health and Safety is posted on the District website and will be revised throughout the school year on an as needed basis. The District will continue to operate a COVID-19 page with updates statistics and resources for families. The District operated free morning learning programs for 132 students in grades K-12 in July. While the afternoons were filled with summer minicamps designed to reconnect our students to school staff. These opportunities were made possible with ESSER funding.



## LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12

### Elementary Summer Programs

BY JESS DOWNEY

Throughout the summer months students were offered a variety of activities. Several students who recently completed Kindergarten through 5th grade were offered the opportunity to participate in a 4 weeklong summer program to help reinforce skills and concepts taught throughout the past school year to help them prepare for the upcoming academic year. Students at Moore were grouped based on grade level and worked on a variety of skills in Math and Reading. During the summer program, students had the opportunity to apply skills learned through a variety of hands-on activities such as basic math facts war, Math Twister, as well as the opportunity to make personal pizzas and slime. Students across the different grade levels worked together to create a Geometry City demonstrating the geometric skills and concepts based on their grade level.

In addition to the Summer Program, a variety of summer camps were offered by teachers. Students throughout the district were able to register to attend a week-long camp offered by district staff during the summer. Some of the different camps offered were: Star Wars STEAM & Counseling, Planting, and Cooking. Each camp was a weeklong with a variety of hands-on activities. Throughout the Star Wars STEAM & Counseling Camp, students created a variety of Star War themed crafts such as Baby Yoda and tie-dyed shirts. In the Planting camp, students painted a flowerpot with a watermelon design and planted a variety of plants. It was an amazing experience working with groups of students from both Moore and Elroy throughout the different camps.

### Middle School Summer Programs

The learning didn't stop at Brentwood Middle School when the school year ended in early June. Middle school students took advantage of the summer school program

that was offered during the month of July. The summer program was supported by ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding that was established by the federal government in response to concerns about learning losses related to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on schools.

The summer program consisted of Math and Language Arts classes that reviewed essential curriculum from the 2020-2021 school year in order to assure that students were prepared for the upcoming year. The students received personalized attention from Math and Language Arts teachers from the middle/high school. Math instruction was provided by Lynne Golvash, Tony Rogiero and Nick Vaccaro, while Kristin Cramer, Jen Weaver, and Jen Hughes handled the Language Arts duties.

The Brentwood Borough School District was excited to be able to provide this opportunity to our students over the summer and we look forward to seeing the benefits of the program when the students return to classes for the 2021-2022 school year!

### Secondary Summer Programs

When the COVID-19 pandemic began and all Pennsylvania schools were closed on March 16, 2020, it was a stressful time for many of our parents and students. At the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, the administration and teaching staff worked collaboratively to offer fun educational minicamps which were a success. These camps were offered to all students. The rationale behind the camps was to offer activities and topics that would be enjoyable to the students and simply to allow them to have fun. Our teachers offered a variety of passions and interests and produced many interesting minicamps for students to enjoy.

Below is a list of minicamps that were offered:

- End of Summer Splash
- Disney Discovery Days

*continued next page*



- Planting
- Passport to Fun
- Hands on Science Experiments
- Diving into Dance
- The Summer Crafty Corner
- Carnival Camp
- Art Adventures
- In a Galaxy Far, Far Away...
- Sea Shanties – Why We Love Them
- Instrument Lessons
- Graphic Design
- Blue & Gold bootcamp for the Mind
- Blue & Gold Bootcamp for the Body
- Bonner's Backyard Basketball
- Intramurals
- Theater Camp
- Fun with Foods
- Dungeons & Dragons
- La Comida Espanola – Spanish Cuisine
- Shakespeare Scene Study
- Medieval History Refresher for AP European History

The camps were hosted at Brentwood Middle/High School, Elroy Elementary and



Moore Elementary beginning July 6, 2021 and running through August 19, 2021. We would like to offer a special thanks to: Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Brutscher, Ms. Bubacz, Mr. Caponi, Mrs. Caponi, Ms. Cosner, Mrs. Ferkett, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Mindy Golvash, Mrs. Lynne Golvash, Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Hebestreit, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Kauric, Mrs. Kiryk, Ms. Kortze, Ms. Manolis, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Rodi, Dr. Shortt, and Mrs. Ziegler.



Mrs. Klein was instrumental in all aspects of planning from registration to camp location. We appreciate their dedication to our students and to the school district. A great time was had by all participants.

## BACK TO SCHOOL!

BY DR. BONNIE BETLER

The change from the lazy, languid days of summer to the brisk and bustling days of the fall is upon us. The shorter days and cooler nights can only mean one thing... Back to School!

The 2021 – 2022 school year will find all of us settling into new routines that are more familiar than they are strange. For some students and families, it may take a while to get used to these new routines. However there are some things that we can do to prepare for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

As we ease out of summer you can slowly start to adjust bed times and wake-up routines. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends that children between the ages of 6 and 12 get between 9 to 12 hours of sleep each night. With school starting before 8:30 am children may need to wake up by 7 am. In order to get the recommended hours of sleep for a 7 am wake up, children may need to start getting into bed at 8 or 9 pm- which could be a change from their current summer sleep schedules. If eight or nine in the evening is a big shift, start by slowly adjusting the current sleep schedule by 5 or 10 minutes each night so that your child is ready for that first day of school.

Each new year brings new people into a child's life. On a child's first day of school they will meet their new teachers and they may even see some new faces in their classrooms. Open house is a great opportunity for you to get to know the new teachers and some of the other students and parents in

your child's classroom. If you can't make the open house, email your child's new teachers and introduce yourself and explore your child's Canvas classroom pages. Connecting with the teachers is a wonderful way to support your child's school experience. Another great way to support the school experience is by joining the PTA. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) works closely with the school to provide additional experiences for students including field trips, assemblies, and fun day!

The first few days of school may be a lot of students- longer days, lots of thinking, and early mornings. Oh, my! However, it is of the utmost importance to get some daily gross motor activities. Daily exercise can improve concentration, memory, and reduce stress and anxiety. Even if your child feels sluggish after a long day, a little bit of movement can reinvigorate them. That extra pep could be just the push they need to study their spelling words or complete their math homework.

In the fall the days may get shorter, but the return to school means that students will have a lot of learning and activity packed into those shorter days. Start the school year on a positive note by being well-rested, connecting and re-connecting with teachers and focusing on physical and mental well-being through exercise so that the momentum from the exciting first days lasts until the end of the school year.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

BY DR. BARBARA PAGAN  
ELROY PRINCIPAL

We are so excited to meet the incoming Kindergarten students! The following list is intended to help prepare your child in a variety of developmental areas to make the transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible. Believe it or not, just 15-20 minutes of playing and learning with your child can make a world of difference!

### Social/Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to persist in tasks when encountering a problem by giving your child tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution independently, encourage your child to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to kindergarten (especially if she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Tell your child you expect him/her to clean up after play.

### Language Development

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him/her to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask him/her to draw the things she sees around her.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games.

### Cognitive Development

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose.
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car.
- Talk about opposite words (big/little, empty/full, slow/fast).

### Physical Development (Gross & Fine Motor)

- Give your child plenty of opportunities for outdoor play: running, jumping, and climbing.
- Play catch on a regular basis.



- Practice skipping.
- Stack blocks together.
- Let your child use child-safe scissors to cut out a variety of shapes.
- Teach your child to write his/her name (capital for the first letter and lowercase for the remaining letters). To start, write his/her name using a highlighter and encourage him to trace over it. Be sure that he forms the letters from the top to the bottom.
- Ensure your child is holding his/her pencil correctly.
- Play with playdough regularly. Roll, squish, stamp, and even cut it!
- Encourage your child to cut out various shapes using child-safe scissors.
- String large beads to make a necklace.
- Play with an interlocking puzzle together.

### Creative Arts

- Always encourage pretend play...occasionally join your child in his fantasy world.
- Teach your child to recognize the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, white, brown, and pink.
- Use a variety of materials to let your child paint, draw and explore!

The year before kindergarten is also the time for parents and teachers to think about a child's strengths, talents, weaknesses, and personality as well as how that information will be passed on to the child's new school. Social skills such as feeling comfortable in a group, asking for help when it's needed and knowing personal information are important skills for young children to develop as they get ready for school. We are looking forward to meeting your Kindergartener and having a wonderful start of the school year – see you in September!

## SUPPORT SERVICES AT THE ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS

BY DR. BONNIE BETLER & DR. BARBARA PAGAN

We are looking forward to getting back to school and interacting with the students. This past year has brought many new challenges for our students. We are here to help and support all students to become successful in academics and their social and emotional well-being. Below is a list of services that are provided at each elementary school. As always, please reach out to us if you need additional services.

**SAP – Student Assistance Program** - The Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides assistance by identifying issues that pose a barrier to a student's learning and/or academic achievement and working with a team to make recommendations to families to address those possible barriers. The elementary counselor works with families who are interested in learning more about the SAP program.

**Title I** – Title I program focuses on the development of reading skills through the reading room or intervention times. Students are recommended for the Title I program based on their DIBELS and MAPS data and all students. During open house and at PTA meetings families can learn more about the Title I program and services. Questions regarding the Title I program can be directed to the building principal or the Title I reading specialist.

**Nurse** – The nurse annually checks each child's weight, height, and vision. In addition, hearing examinations are administered in kindergarten and grades one, two and three. If your child has unique health needs or if you have concerns about your child's health, please contact the school nurse.

**Pupil Services** – The Brentwood Borough School District seeks to meet the needs of all pupils by employing specialists

with a wide range of expertise. Some of the services provided by these specialists are elementary counseling, speech and vision therapy, remedial reading instruction, enrichment instruction, and instruction for students with learning disabilities. These services are available either directly from the school district or through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. In addition, other contracted services may be provided to the students through outside agencies.

**ESL** - An English Language program is in place for students in need of language instruction educational programs. Upon enrollment in the district families are provided with a home language survey. The home language survey is used to identify students that would benefit from a language instruction program. The language instruction program may include planned instruction, modifications to content instruction and assessments or a combination of both.

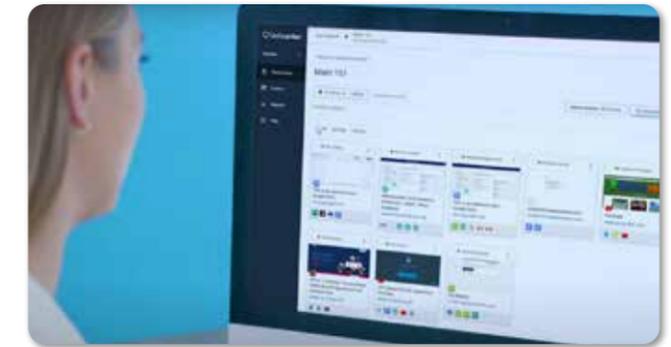
**YMCA** – After school care is provided at both buildings from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please contact Annamarie Casciato at 412-522-3961 to register.

**PTA** – The PTA annually sponsors cultural and recreational activities designed to enrich the educational life in the elementary school. Their efforts are aimed at bringing the home and school into a closer relationship by involving parents and teachers in programs of benefit to children.

**Mercy Behavioral Health** – Each of the elementary schools serves as a satellite location for Mercy Behavioral Health. The elementary counselor can provide more information if you are interested in mental health services for your child.

## GoGuardian

BY MELISSA FULMER



### How Are We Monitoring?

GoGuardian is a software company that helps districts manage a fleet of Chromebooks. GoGuardian Admin is primarily used to filter the content of the Internet on the district-owned Chromebooks. The District's IT staff creates filtering policies that block or allow websites based on predetermined categories and assigned to students. GoGuardian's content filtering only applies to the district-owned Chromebooks. Students using laptops, desktops, or personal devices on the district's WiFi network are filtered through another piece of software, Cisco Meraki. This does not filter or monitor sites accessed by students using a personal device on cellular service.

### What Are We Monitoring?

GoGuardian keeps track of the websites that a student visits on their device. A report provides a chronological timeline of websites visited along with how much time was spent on each site. Even if the browsing history is erased, the record is still available from when they were online.

### Special Features

GoGuardian uses artificial intelligence and machine learning in order to block websites based on what is on the screen regardless of where the content was found. It examines the words and images on a web page for inappropriate content and if believed to be unsuitable for students, it will block the page immediately. This helps to protect students from exposure to unwanted materials accidentally or intentionally. No filtering or monitoring program is perfect, as technology is constantly changing, but it has helped alert teachers and admins to student

safety issues that would have been missed or overlooked without it.

### In the Classroom

GoGuardian Teacher is a classroom management tool for Chromebooks. It allows teachers to see what is on the screen of every student in their classroom. They can see the active tab the student is currently looking at, as well as any other open tabs in the browser. These tabs can be sites, documents, games, etc., that may be open but not being used. Timeline view allows teachers to see what each student has worked on, and for how long, all in one place. This information can also be accessed after class through an auto-generated report.

### What Teachers Can Do

Teachers can close tabs for students, send messages to students, and lock student screens. Messages between a teacher and student on GoGuardian are logged. Students cannot message other students through GoGuardian, only the teacher. Teachers can create "Scenes" for their classroom sessions. Scenes give teachers the ability to allow or block specific sites during that session. This does not give teachers the ability to allow sites that are already blocked at the district level.

## BRENTWOOD OPENS NEW TECHNOLOGY CENTER

As Brentwood Borough School District completed its goal of becoming a 1 to 1 District K – 12 during the 2020-2021 school year, a few new issues arose. How would the District properly handle, maintain, and store an influx of new technology for the entire school district? Also, how could Brentwood make accessing the technology department an easier process for families and staff? The solution to these issues was to create a new Technology Center.

The Technology Center is located just inside the main entrance of the Brentwood Middle/High School Building. The location is key because it is easily accessible and central to

all families. Brentwood Computer Technicians will have their offices located within the new technology center to assist with families and staff more easily on their technology needs. The technology center also provides a secure location to properly store and maintain all the new laptops and equipment the district has purchased.

As Brentwood continues to innovate and provide access to more educational technology, the Technology Center will serve as the foundation to support these new initiatives.



## Annual Notification Requirement of District Policies

There are multiple policies that require annual notification. The Brentwood Borough School District has provided a link under the School Board tab of the bb-sd.com website for all active policies. The policies may also be accessed by clicking the link:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bren/Board.nsf/Public>