



**Brentwood
Borough
School
District**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH



Brentwood Borough Earns Educator, School, and District Recognition from Common Sense Media

Digital media and technology are evolving at a dizzying pace, both unlocking extraordinary opportunities and posing real risks for students. Using the immense power of the Internet and mobile technology to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined, both in and out of the classroom- especially this year.

We must also acknowledge the issues that emerge from this 24/7 "connected culture", such as cyberbullying, privacy lapses, and uncertainty about which information to trust online, are surfacing both in schools and at home.

We, the Brentwood Borough School District see these as teachable moments. We believe that digital citizenship skills have become essential for students. That's why our schools are dedicated to helping students think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate. In 2019, Brentwood Borough School District was the first school district in Allegheny County to be recognized by Common Sense Media and issued educator, school, and district badges. We recently reapplied and were acknowledged as a Common Sense District and each school has earned the title of Common Sense School, an honor that recognizes our efforts in teaching digital citizenship to young people and engaging the entire community in this important discussion and supporting educators using technology



for learning. The recognition acknowledges our district's commitment to providing safe and innovative spaces for students to thrive as they harness the full potential of technology for learning and live.

We also believe that in order to be successful that we must partner with our families to teach students to be responsible digital citizens. Common Sense Media created and organized resources for parents that address a wide variety of topics; social media and depression, how to respond to cyberbullying, determining the correct amount of screen time, and how to use social media to teach empathy.

The Common Sense Media honors are provided by Common Sense Education, part of a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology.

Our schools are one of the more than 80,000 schools across the county that use Common Sense Education's groundbreaking education resources. As a result, our students are better equipped to navigate the digital world and use devices for learning.

To learn more about Common Sense Education, visit www.common sense.org/education.

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

"BY HONORING THE PAST, WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE FUTURE"



The Brentwood High School Hall of Fame is 501c3 non-profit organization. It is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of BHS alumni. New honorees were inducted into the Hall at the biennial Induction ceremony held on October 23, 2021 at Salvatore's Banquet and Catering.

2022 Student Scholarships Available

A scholarship program, funded solely by BHS alumni, awards two annual scholarships, up to \$2,000 each, to Brentwood seniors who plan to further their studies at CCAC or a Vocational/Technical School. Funds are distributed over the course of that study. Applications are available at the Brentwood High School Guidance office. Deadline to apply is mid-April, 2022.

Information regarding the history, programs and nominating can be found at: www.brentwoodhighschoolhalloffame.com

To find the latest Hall of Fame news, look us up on Facebook at Brentwood High School Hall of Fame.

Banquet Awards

Spirit of Community Award
Spartan Pharmacy--Adam Rice

Circle of Excellence Award
--Dr. Ronald W. Dufalla

Hall of Fame Members:
Joan Herron, '68 Kevin White, '72 Robert M. Linn, '75 Gary M. Fujak, '76 Thomas J. Gill, '76 Melissa E. Milanak, PhD, '99

CELEBRATING RED RIBBON WEEK WITH LOCAL HEROES

Annually, Red Ribbon Week activities are used to equip students with the skills to be drug free. This year Cpl. Marc Ziegler from the Pennsylvania State Police along with Allegheny County Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap and Brentwood Police attended Red Ribbon Week at Moore Elementary. Cpl. Ziegler spoke with students in their classrooms about the dangers of controlled substances and the effects of those dangers. Students were given reminders to stay drug-free including stickers from Cpl. Ziegler out and glow sticks and bags from the Brentwood and County Police. Several police vehicles were on display.

Students were encouraged to try out the emergency lights, sirens, and megaphones on the first responders' vehicles. The officers spent time talking with the students, answering questions, and playing games. It was hard to tell who had more fun playing kickball and racing from one end of the playground to the other! The goal of red ribbon week is to provide answers to students while engaging and supporting a drug free life. One of the goals of law enforcement is to support families and communities and to provide resources for drug abuse support while upholding the laws.



ATTENTION INCOMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Parents and caregivers of pre-kindergarten students are often both excited and nervous at the prospect of sending their children to school for the first time. Kindergarten is an important year as it sets the foundation for all future school. At the end of kindergarten, most students are reading and writing basic sentences and they are completing addition and subtraction problems to 10. That may seem like a lot for 5-year-old children, however it is important that students get to that point for first grade.

With the pandemic shuttering a lot of preschools and many caregivers working from home how do you know if your child is on-track to be ready to start kindergarten? There are three skill sets for students to have before they begin kindergarten.

Motor skills include both fine and gross motor skills. Students should be able to walk up and down stairs, hop, skip, and jump. As for fine motor skills, students should be able to print their first name, draw basic shapes, and cut on a line. Students should also be able to velcro shoes and use zippers.

Social skills include those necessary for listening, communicating, and getting along. Before entering kindergarten, children should be able to listen attentively

to a story, follow directions, speak in full sentences, take turns, and show concern for others.

General knowledge is a broad term. In-coming kindergarten students should be able to say their full (first and last) name and phone number. Although in kindergarten students learn all the sounds each letter makes and how to write the letters in both upper and lower case, in-coming kindergarteners should be able to identify the letters of the alphabet -at least those in their name and recognize numbers up to 10. Pre-kindergarten students should be able to recite the alphabet and count to 10 as well as recognize basic colors and shapes such as circles, squares, and stars.

If you have questions or concerns about the readiness of your child for kindergarten, we strongly encourage you to participate in our kindergarten screening. The screening is important because it will provide you with information about where your child's skills fall in relation to other kindergarten students. The teachers can also discuss specific ways in which you can work with your child to get them ready for the first day.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR IS OPEN!



Spring is the time when school districts begin to plan for new classes of kindergarten students to start their school careers in the Fall. Brentwood will start accepting kindergarten enrollments on March 14, 2022.

Parents wanting to enroll their kindergartener (child MUST be at least 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2022) should click on the REGISTRATION tab on the district's main webpage at www.bb-sd.com. Parent will be asked to submit their name, email address, and phone number on the pre-registration website. The district's computer system will then email the parent a username and password to enter the Online Enrollment Portal. The parent will be asked to complete demographic information, identify emergency contacts for the student, and complete and electronically sign additional district forms. As per district policy, families must also provide copies of the child's birth certificate, current immunization record, a copy of their deed or current lease, and two proofs of residency within Brentwood Borough.

Families must provide at least two of the following documents as proof of residency:

- Current utility bill (gas, electric, cable, telephone) in your name and at the address of your residence within the district;
- IRS statement or other wage or tax statements (i.e., W2, 1040, 1099);
- Voter registration card showing current address;
- Recent employer pay stub showing current address;
- Recent letter from a government agency with parent/guardian name and current address (i.e., Social Security, Public Assistance, IRS);

- Current PA Drivers License/non-drivers license with current address;
- Current vehicle registration or car insurance policy with your current address;
- Current credit card bill with current address;
- Recent bank statement with your current address.

Documents can be uploaded electronically through the portal, sent via US Mail, or emailed/faxed to the enrollment office. Once all documents have been submitted, reviewed, and processed by the enrollment office, families receive an email from the district welcoming the child and identifying which school (s)he will attend. The entire online enrollment process can be completed by families in under 30 minutes after all required documents have been gathered.

The district will be scheduling incoming kindergartners to meet with kindergarten teachers and other district staff prior to the beginning of the new school year to complete several readiness assessments. This will give children and parents the opportunity to meet our staff and our staff will have the opportunity to get to know our new kindergartners and their skills and needs. This information will help to make the beginning of the new school year more comfortable and successful for all.

Later in the Summer, but before the beginning of the new school year, the district will also host a weeklong Kindergarten Camp. We recommend that all new kindergarten students take advantage of this opportunity and attend camp so we can help families make the transition to school as seamless as possible with all needed supports in place for students on Day One of the 22/23 school year.

In the area of special education, we talk about and plan for two big transitions in students' lives: for five-year-old's, we plan for transition from Early Intervention/Preschool to Kindergarten and for 17-18 year old's, we plan for the transition from school to work or life after graduation.

Traditionally, Early Intervention has referred to services for youngsters from birth to age 5. There has been an increased focus on providing services to students who show signs and symptoms of disabilities at incredibly young ages. Early Intervention targets symptoms of a disability while the child is young with the goal that these interventions will address any deficits and will lessen or even negate the need for more involved interventions when the child is older.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 is the agency that works with students with disabilities under the age of 5. These Early Intervention programs evaluate young children and develop educational plans to address delays. These plans are like the IEPs used in school-age programs. Prior to registering their child for kindergarten parents are invited to meet with Early Intervention staff and district

staff from the school where the child will be attending kindergarten (usually in the month of February). At this Transition meeting information regarding the student's specific challenges and needed supports are shared. This information is shared with the school district staff so the district can prepare for the student, review all information, conduct any evaluations that may be needed, and put in place the supports and services the student will be needing when (s)he comes to kindergarten. This sharing of information and collaboration allows for a seamless system of supports that start on Day One of kindergarten and allow the student to begin their school career in a positive way. Parental participation in these Transition meetings is vital and highly recommended. The district also encourages families of students with disabilities to register for kindergarten as soon as the registration period opens so all needed information can be gathered and shared with teachers who will be working with their child for kindergarten. It really helps to start off with a supportive first step in the child's education.



Due to the spread of the pandemic, the Brentwood Borough School District had to transition from having the high school at one-to-one with computers to having the entire school district, K-12, ready for computers. It was an unbelievable process that was costly and stressful on all of those who oversaw the transition. However, it had to be done in the interest of maintaining an educational platform for the students.

Through this process, the Brentwood Borough School District was fortunate enough to work with two wonderful people who helped make our transition to a technology ready school a reality. These two men are Thomas Aebi and Mark Loya. Thomas and Mark are both contracted employees who work at our schools through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. They both have a wealth of knowledge in computers and networking that strongly supported the district's efforts to maintain an on-line educational platform as well as placing working laptop computers in the hand of all the students in the Brentwood Borough School District.

Thomas Aebi was always interested in computers from a young age. His educational background was in art and animation where he became proficient in several programs across many platforms. His career in Information Technology (IT) started in his home when his parents bought their first computer. After some time, it broke, and they gave it to Thomas. His parents told him that if he wanted his own computer, he would need to fix it. He did fix that old computer and began fixing thousands of computers after that time.

Thomas started his own side business in computer repair. His knowledge and skill got him a job at Seton Hill University as part of their IT Department. While at Seton Hill University, Thomas earned his Apple Certification and became a licensed technician for Apple. A better opportunity presented itself to Thomas with Best Buy and he left Seton Hill University to become a sales manager for Apple products at the store. His skills at computer repair and problem solving were noticed very quickly, and Thomas was assigned to the Geek Squad. As a result of his work background with Best Buy, Thomas was soon hired by Point Park University to work as a IT Technician. He then moved to Carnegie Mellon University where he earned certifications in Hewlett-Packard (HP), Dell, and Lenovo. Thomas is licensed to analyze and repair computers with the backing of these companies. He was then hired by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit as part of their ever-expanding IT Support Department for the school district that they serve.

Mark Loya's story is similar to Thomas'. His parents purchased a Gateway computer in his youth. From that time forward he was obsessed with computers. He loved to change the settings on the family computer that no one in the house could figure out what he did or how he did it. He also became passionate about gaming. Soon Mark became the IT person for his entire family. If there was a computer issue, Mark could fix it. Mark has always been fascinated by how a set of silicone chips can produce images on a

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SAVE THE DATES!



Moore elementary school will host a student art show from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 18th. Elroy Elementary on Thursday, May 19th from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Come join us for a fun night of creating collaborative art, "make and takes," and viewing student work. Feel free to contact Jessica Graff at Jessica.Graff@bb-sd.com, with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!



screen. He became equally fascinated by how computers could enable someone to work on their computer at work from home. The expansion of technology and how it worked drove Mark further and further into his career in Information Technology.

Mark is a graduate of Highlands High School. He took every course they offered at Highlands in computers in middle and high school. He loved drafting and design the best. However, when he graduated from high school, he attended CCAC for a degree in Computer Information Systems. He liked that it was a general educational field that presented many opportunities for him in the job markets. While at CCAC, Mark took courses in Business Management. He transferred to Robert Morris University and continued in the same program with accepting courses. Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and a minor in Business.

Mark has a keen eye for the arts. He sees minute details that many of us miss. This skill has made him an excellent IT Technician. He hosted his own YouTube Channel focusing on computers. He continues to work audio/visual programs for the Highlands School District. He is very dedicated to

supporting the school district that gave him his start in the IT career field.

Thomas is most proud of the advance that the IT Department has made at Brentwood. We started with one computer per family and have expanded to one computer per student. The IT Department went from a small workspace to a fully functioning, professional setting located at the middle high school. Thomas was a key player with the district as we transitioned to a fully functioning technology ready school.

Mark is most proud of the relationships that he has established with faculty, staff, parents, guardians, and students. It is one thing to fix an issue. Mark enjoys the personal interaction he has with all the stakeholders that he works with and the ability to solve problems, but also develop a personal relationship with the people he helps.

Thomas and Mark are unsung heroes. They deserve to be celebrated for their efforts to keep computers running and the network viable for use. They are an especially important part of our educational team and program. Moving to one-to-one was a massive effort. It has been successful because of their professional knowledge and teamwork. We are extremely fortunate to have them on our team.

AUTHENTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCE

What do 6th grade Social Studies, lemonade, and the Humane Society have in common? All three played an important role in a fun and engaging learning activity at Brentwood Middle School!

The students in Mr. Casey Phillips' 6th grade World Geography classes study a unit on economic systems around the world. In order to bring the content to life and provide a real world learning experience, Mr. Phillips decided to wage a competition among each of his classes. The challenge consisted of the students working in teams and applying economic principles they had learned about in class in order to maximize their profits during an after school lemonade sale. Each class period chose one day to organize and execute their sale. Some of the economic principles that the students had to consider for the project were capitalism, free enterprise, profit, expenses, economic incentives, opportunity cost, and the law of supply and demand. The school lobby became a miniature lemonade business over four consecutive days. The students divided up responsibilities such as marketing, production, and sales as each group attempted to create the greatest profit.

When asked about the competition and what they learned during the experience, a few of the students shared the following:

"It was like a beginner's course in business. In the U.S. you can profit from your own business."

"We learned how to use incentives and how to adjust the price based on supply and demand."

"We learned about competitive markets and how business can steal ideas from each other."

"I'm thinking about starting my own business someday, so this was a good experience for me."

Once the sales were complete and the profits were counted, the students decided to donate the proceeds to the Pittsburgh Humane Society. A contribution of \$273 was made to the Humane Society on behalf of the 6th grade students at Brentwood Middle School. This authentic learning experience not only reinforced the principles of economics that the students had learned in class, but also provided them with a sense of pride through helping a charitable organization. The combination of collaborative learning and community service displayed by the 6th graders is one of the many reasons why Brentwood Middle School is so proud of our students and staff!



Brentwood High School is proud to present "Seussical the Musical" as this year's theatrical event. The show will be presented on April 7, 8, and 9, 2022. Curtain for all shows will begin at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for senior citizens and students. Tickets can be purchased in advance at brentwoodmusical.com.

The show has six seniors who will be making their final appearance in Brentwood High School musicals. Seniors who are participating in the show are **Julia Ferranti, Colleen Kinneavy, Olivia Kraeuter, Kaitlyn Mariana, Jacklyn Roesch, and Patrick Wolfe**. These seniors have dedicated themselves to the music program and have been contributors throughout their high school career. Brentwood High School thanks them for their talents and willingness to perform and the best of luck upon their graduation.

Annually the Brentwood High School musical features middle school and high school. It has been a school wide effort as well as a wonderful community event. The leads in this year's musical are **Julia Ferranti, Amelia Foley, David Keller, Addison Kocher, Kaitlyn Mariana, Quinn McCormick, Naomi Nordeen, Eleanor Tinker, and Tyler White**. These students are exceptionally talented, and you will enjoy their efforts in this year's show.

"Seussical the Musical" features the most popular books by Dr. Seuss rolled into one performance. The storyline focuses on "Horton Hears a Who" and "Horton Sits on an Egg," but be assured that all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters will make an appearance in the show. The show is for all ages and sure to be a hit.



Julia Ferranti



Colleen Kinneavy



Kaitlyn Mariana



Jacklyn Roesch



Patrick Wolfe



Olivia Kraeuter



Brentwood Middle School students learned a lesson in resiliency during a school-wide assembly earlier this year.

Brad Hurtig was an accomplished high school football player in Ohio when he lost both hands in tragic accident. Just after the end of his sophomore year, Brad was working at a factory that used machinery to form and bend sheet metal into car parts. While he was reaching into a 500-ton power press to move a piece of metal, the press closed and injured Brad's arms so significantly that both of his hands had to be amputated.

During the assembly, Brad spoke to the students about the challenges he faced after the accident and his desire to

eventually be able to play football again. At one point in the assembly, Brad removed his prosthetic arms and brought several students on stage to complete physical challenges without using their hands. As the students began to understand and appreciate the difficulties that Brad faced, he told them a story that would forever change his life.

While attending one of his team's football practices after the accident, Brad asked one of his coaches to pick up a water bottle that was laying on the ground. Brad recalls the coach looking at him and saying the words that he would never forget – "If you're thirsty enough, you'll FIND A WAY". Although those words at first were difficult to hear, Brad told the students that this challenge is what has allowed him to overcome obstacles and reach his personal goals.

After rejoining his high school football team, Brad eventually led the team in tackles and was named All-State at his linebacker position. Brad now travels the nation sharing his story, which has been featured by media outlets such as the New York Times and ESPN.

To remind the students of Brad's message, the Brentwood Middle School faculty wore shirts with the phrase "FIND A WAY" during the annual student/faculty basketball game this year. The lesson in resiliency shared by Brad Hurtig will always be remembered by the students and staff at Brentwood Middle School.

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT DAY AT BRENTWOOD



Congratulations to **Ava Barker** and her family. Ava participated in the National Letter of Intent Day at Brentwood on Wednesday, February 16th in the high school auditorium. Ava will be attending the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown and will participate in cross country and track and field.



Boys Basketball

Brady Fest, Dalton Daly, Nathan Ziegler, Joshua Ziegler, Lamarr Williams, Mitchell Fox

Girls Basketball

Ceci Foley, Maura Daly, Bella Grimm



Swimming

Ethan Klein, Olivia Kraeuter, Ava Barker, Reghan Woods

