



# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH



## Celebrating Spring

Dear Brentwood Borough School District Community,

As we transition into the vibrant season of spring, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the wonderful happenings within our school district and share some exciting plans for the remainder of the year.

I am thrilled to share the successful initiatives that aim to enhance the educational experience for our students. This edition of the InBrentwood, Baldwin Whitehall magazine, shines a spotlight on just a few of the exciting initiatives for this school year. Thanks to the dedication of our faculty and staff, as well as the unwavering support of our community, we have seen remarkable progress in a multitude of areas.

One of the highlights this year has been the professional development sessions organized by our Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, Mrs. Stephanie DeLuca. Most recently, one of the professional development sessions offered ways to consider how Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be incorporated into daily lesson planning. In other sessions teachers explored how to develop importance/ difficulty matrix for expanding musical opportunities. Curriculum revisions continue to be a focus of our teaching staff. Science teachers planned for the transition to the Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS) which will be fully integrated into classroom instruction by July 1, 2025.

Cross curricular projects highlighted students' ability to fine tune their computer science skills, communication skills, and problem-solving skills.

Looking ahead, we have an array of exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the year. From spring concerts to athletic competitions and academic competitions, there are ample opportunities for our students to showcase their talents and achievements.

As we embrace the season of renewal and growth, I am confident that together, we will continue to uphold the values that define the Brentwood Borough School District. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in nurturing the academic and personal development of our students.

## NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

### BRENTWOOD SCHOOL BOARD WELCOMES TWO DEDICATED COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Brentwood School District is proud to announce the addition of two esteemed community members to its Board of School Directors, **Mrs. Jennifer George** and **Ms. Antonia Focer-Brown**. Both individuals bring a wealth of experience, passion for education, and deep ties to the Brentwood community.

**Mrs. Jennifer George:** A true product of Brentwood, Mrs. George is a 1990 graduate of Brentwood High School and has been a lifelong resident of the area. Married to Jeff George, also a proud alumnus of Brentwood High School, and with two sons who have followed in their parents' footsteps, Nicholas and Connor, Mrs. George's roots in the community run deep. Her commitment to Brentwood's educational institutions is evident through her involvement as the Treasurer of the Brentwood High Athletic Boosters and her multiple terms on the Moore Elementary PTA board. Currently serving on the board of South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM), Mrs. George brings a wealth of experience in community service and a profound understanding of the values that make Brentwood unique. As the Chief Operating Officer for a bank headquartered in Washington County, PA, she also brings valuable leadership and organizational skills to the board.



In reflecting on her upbringing in Brentwood, Mrs. George expressed her gratitude for the special gift of growing up in the community and her eagerness to give back through service. Her dedication to fostering a thriving educational environment for Brentwood's children is a testament to her love for the community.

**Ms. Focer-Brown:** Another proud graduate of Brentwood High School, Ms. Focer-Brown's connection to the district runs deep. With five children currently attending Brentwood Schools and a decade of experience homeschooling them, she brings a unique perspective to the board. Her involvement in various community organizations, including the Moore School PTA Board and her long-standing affiliation with the Brentwood Athletic Association and Girl Scouts, demonstrates her unwavering commitment to the community's well-being. Ms. Focer-Brown's dedication to Brentwood's educational excellence is evident in her hope to enhance and encourage every member of the community to be their best selves, especially the children who represent the district's future.



As Brentwood continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of its students, both Mrs. George and Ms. Focer-Brown are poised to play pivotal roles in shaping the district's future. Their passion for education, deep roots in the community, and diverse experiences make them valuable additions to the Board of School Directors.

The Brentwood School District looks forward to working closely with Mrs. Jennifer George and Ms. Focer-Brown as they bring their unique perspectives and unwavering dedication to serving the community to their new roles. Together, they will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and growth of Brentwood's educational institutions.

## BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

### ACT 34 HEARING

On March 7, 2024, the District held the required Act 34 hearing for the new Brentwood Elementary School Building. Updates on the project are posted under the Construction tab of the Brentwood Borough School District webpage, [bb-sd.com](http://bb-sd.com). Written comments or written testimony should be submitted to the Superintendent's Office by 1:00 p.m. on April 8, 2024.

**DON'T MISS THE SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION OF "SWEET CHARITY" AT THE BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT!**

Mark your calendars for April 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2024, as our talented students bring this beloved musical to life on stage.

Experience the heartwarming story of Charity Hope Valentine, a romantic soul searching for love in the hustle and bustle of New York City. Filled with catchy tunes, sensational dance numbers, and unforgettable characters, "Sweet Charity" promises an evening of entertainment for the whole family.

Join us as we showcase the incredible talent of our students in this Broadway classic. From the infectious energy of "Hey, Big Spender" to the poignant moments of "If My Friends Could See Me Now," you'll be captivated from start to finish.

Tickets are selling fast, so secure your seats now for an unforgettable night of theater. Don't miss out on the magic of "Sweet Charity" at the Brentwood Borough School District. Sweet Charity will run April 18, 19, and 20, 2024 at Brentwood High School. All shows will begin at 7:00PM. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, and \$7.00 for students and senior citizens.



**BRENTWOOD IS ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2037**

As of March 18, 2024, Brentwood started accepting enrollments for students who plan on entering kindergarten for the 2024/2025 school year. Families living within the Brentwood Borough who have children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to enroll them into kindergarten. The enrollment process can be started by visiting the district's website at [www.bb-sd.com](http://www.bb-sd.com) and clicking on the REGISTRATION link on the main page. That link opens to a "New Student Registration Information" page with directions of how to proceed.

In order to enter the registration portal, parents will need to type in their name and a current email address. The system generates an email back to the parent stating the username and password. In addition to reading and completing eight online forms, families will be asked to submit the following:

1. **TWO Proof Of Residency Documents. Please provide a copy of TWO of the following:**
  - **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**

2. **A copy of your child's Birth Certificate**
3. **A COMPLETE copy of your current and signed lease agreement or mortgage**
4. **Your child's up to date Immunization Records**

Once enrollments are approved, the family will receive a notification email from the district letting parents/guardians know that the process has been completed. We also use the family email to inform families of upcoming events for newly enrolled kindergartners. The district is in the planning process of scheduling dates for kindergarten screenings and kindercamp. Please watch the district website for more information.

Please note that the portal to register all other students from grades 1-12 for the 24/25 school year will not be available until July 1, 2024.

Please try to make the Registration eye catching. Feel free to be creative with text boxes, graphics, etc.



**BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH CARE SOLACE TO REVOLUTIONIZE MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS**

CARE SOLACE

Students, their families, and staff now have access to mental health care coordination services at no cost. Understanding the profound impact of untreated mental health conditions, Brentwood Borough School District took an innovative step forward by partnering with Care Solace, a social purpose organization focused on removing barriers in accessing mental health care. The collaboration provides school district families and staff with access to Care Solace's care coordination services at no cost. Brentwood Borough School District will use Care Solace to support its commitment to ensuring accessible mental health care. This initiative demonstrates the district's dedication to building a resilient community, where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive.

As a central hub of care, Care Solace streamlines communication and coordination to connect individuals with the right resources and appropriate level of care. Individuals seeking mental health care now have a trusted companion to rely on. With a team of more than 500 dedicated Care Companions, Care Solace connects Brentwood Borough School District to over 420,000 licensed mental health and substance use treatment providers. Through a human-centered and technology supported



approach, these Care Companions navigate the fragmented mental health care system on behalf of individuals, helping them find the perfect fit for their unique needs and insurance requirements. Their multilingual Care Companions are available 24/7/365 ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for the entire community.

"Care Solace is proud to support Brentwood Borough School District in prioritizing the wellbeing of its students, staff and community. Care Solace exists to calm the chaos that often surrounds mental health crises, providing a supportive and compassionate framework to help individuals regain control of their lives."

For more information about utilizing Care Solace's services, school district families can visit the Elementary school web pages or under the Guidance link on the Middle/High School web page.

To learn more about Care Solace and its services, visit [caresolace.org](http://caresolace.org).



UNITED WAY 211

United Way of Pennsylvania



The United Way's mission is to use its global reach and local presence to build stronger, more resilient communities where everyone can thrive. The 211 program is just one of the many ways the United Way gives back to communities. More specifically, the 211 program is designed to assist residents with housing, utility bills, after school programs for students, and food stability. The Brentwood Borough School District has added the 211 Program information to each school's main page of the website. In addition, families may also connect with a specialist by calling 211 or texting their zip code to 898-211.

IN THE CLASSROOM AT MOORE SCHOOL

Our classrooms have been busy the past few weeks with rich learning experiences that have cut across grade levels and have taught students about democratic processes. Peeking inside the doors to our fourth-grade classrooms we are highlighting three exciting learning experiences that Miss Downey and Mrs. Gruntz put together for our students. The spot-lighted lessons are a mock election with a twist, a STEAM arcade for the first grade, and learning about geography with the help of family and friends.

MOCK-ELECTIONS WITH A TWIST- DESK PETS FOR PRESIDENT!

As part of a unit on how government works, the fourth-grade students engaged in a mock-election. Instead of the usual voting for students to the positions of class president and vice president, the fourth graders elected their desk pets. Desk pets are small, squishy critters that can be augmented with various accessories and friends. Everyone student has a teacher provided desk pet. As part of the classroom management system, students can earn additional desk pets and accessories as rewards for having all of their materials, turning in their work, and being good classroom citizens.



At Moore School there are two fourth grade classes, one class 'party' was named the Democats and the other class 'party' was the Wolf Pack. Students were randomly partnered, and the partners decided which desk pet would run for class president and which would run for vice president. Groups were required to have a campaign slogan and poster. The groups also created a video telling why they had the best candidates.



All students voted after watching the videos, reviewing the posters, and using a QR code. Teachers and staff members were also invited to vote for their favorite candidates. It was then narrowed down to one set of candidates from each party, and we held a final vote and tallied our winners. This project encouraged students to work collaboratively across curriculums. They had a writing component, social studies connection and math was used to tally the votes. All students enjoyed the process of learning to vote. The winning desk pet group received hand-made trophies made by Mrs. Gruntz's mother!

STEAM ARCADE FOR FIRST GRADE

While waiting for the excitement of spring, in the winter students end up spending a lot of time in-doors and get restless for fun things to do. Miss Downey used the winter lull as an opportunity to develop a STEAM unit for both fourth and first-grade students, incorporating science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Fourth grade students channeled their inner engineers to design and craft a fun-filled arcade games extravaganza for their first-grade friends.



Kicking things off, students watched a video about a boy who made his own arcade out of cardboard boxes. Taking inspiration from this, our young geniuses used the engineering design process to whip up an arcade of their own! They built classic games like skeeball, basketball, and air hockey, as well as some totally unique games that had never been seen before- Arrange the Ice Cream, anyone?



The best part? Seeing their creations come to life as the little ones played with delight, grinning from ear to ear. Austin S. was thrilled to watch the younger kids play his game, while Dean loved designing his game. Brian's favorite moment was watching the joyous laughter of the little ones. Zo-Then was impressed with the uber-creative vibe that had taken over the entire fourth grade!

SUPPLEMENTING INSTRUCTION WITH AMIRA



Elementary students in Brentwood are now engaged with the innovative AMIRA program, a supplement to our Into Reading English Language Arts program. AMIRA, designed to enhance early reading skills, captivates our young learners with its interactive and personalized learning features. The program uses AI technology to assess individual reading abilities, tailoring lessons to each student's specific needs.

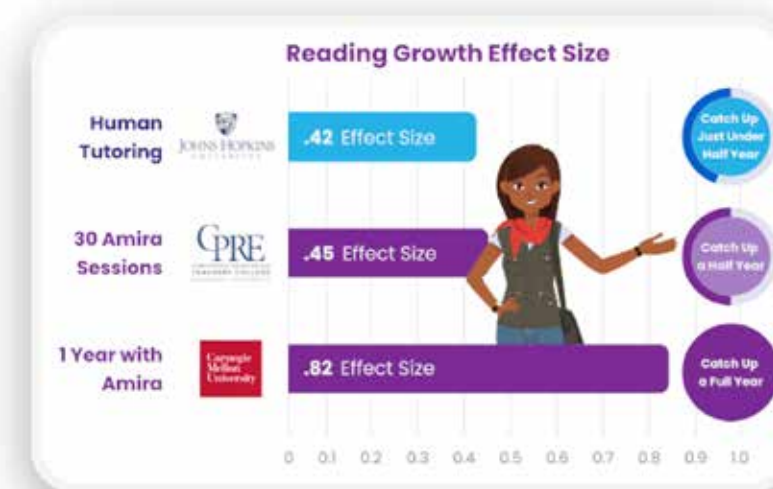
Through engaging assessments, activities and adaptive feedback, AMIRA learns each child's reading needs, and creates a supportive learning environment individualized to the progression each child needs to be taking. When a student is learning letter sounds or new words, the program shows him or her the placement of the mouth and articulation, then listens to the student as they practice the skill. This allows each student to receive tailored feedback while practicing these literacy skills.

The program focuses on foundational literacy skills such as phonics and comprehension and promotes a love for reading, which Kindergarten teacher, Rachael Maiden, sees with her

early readers. As students learn with AMIRA, teachers can track progress and customize interventions, or instruct small groups, and ensure that each child receives the targeted support required for their literacy journey.

Rachael has started to develop a routine incorporating AMIRA into her kindergarten day. She says, "My students know that when it's time for small groups, it's time for Amira! As a child, they love the playful interaction between themselves talking and Amira responding with a curated answer. As a teacher, I love that each student is working on a skill or task that is differentiated for them."

We're looking forward to seeing how this program helps our students develop their literacy skills. Rachael goes on to say, "I can easily see running records of student reading fluency and grouping my students accordingly for better instruction. While this program was new to the students, it was new to me, as well. I'm learning along with them. They see the excitement in their teacher to learn something new and it encourages them want to learn something new, too."



## ELROY FAMILY PAINT NIGHT



Elroy Elementary PTA orchestrated a spectacular family painting night that transformed the school's cafeteria into a vibrant hub of creativity and joy. A heartfelt commendation goes out to the remarkable elementary art teacher, Mrs. Graff, who expertly guided the participants through a whimsical and entertaining painting experience. The event, held amidst the lively atmosphere of the Elroy cafeteria, drew an impressive turnout with over 70 enthusiastic attendees. Mrs. Graff's dedication shone through as she tirelessly curated templates and skillfully instructed families in crafting

charming Valentine's gnomes on canvas.

Laughter and smiles resonated throughout the cafeteria, creating a warm and inviting ambiance as families relished quality time spent together. The Elroy Elementary PTA played a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless execution of the event, guaranteeing that everyone had an unforgettable and enjoyable night. Adding to the communal spirit, high school students volunteered their time, immersing themselves in the creative fervor by joining in the painting festivities. This family painting night not only showcased the artistic talents within the Elroy community but also underscored the importance of fostering connections and creating lasting memories.



## VALENTINES FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY NEAR AND FAR

A major concept in the fourth-grade social studies curriculum is the states and regions of the United States. Our students asked friends and family members who reside in different regions to reach out with a Valentine's Day Card. The classes received cards from as far away as Japan, California, Texas, and Ohio. Included in those cards were personal notes with inspiration and reflections for the students.

Two special notes were received by the class. One from a former Brentwood Borough teacher, Mrs. Girone, and the other from a former Moore School student, Mike Roberts. As we prepare to embark on the next chapter for the Brentwood Borough School District's elementary schools, it is nice for the students to see that the people who came before them have a lot to share. Mrs. Girone now lives out of state but she took the time to send in a magnet, beautiful hand drawn card, and lengthy letter talking about the interesting facts and daily life in her new home state of Oregon. Mike Roberts, who attended Moore School from 1952 until 1954 shared with the class what life looked like in Brentwood at that time -an excerpt from his letter is included below.

From Mike Roberts. My father was going to Law School at the University of Pittsburgh on the GI Bill after World War II. We lived on Dailey Road in a home that no longer exists. My folks rented the second floor for one year, then the entire home for the next 3 or 4. It was then a dirt road. My Dad drove a war surplus jeep and also worked at a gas station in Mt. Oliver. I used to walk to school, even at that young age (Mr. Roberts attended kindergarten through part of second grade), along Brownsville Road every day. I recall our neighbors across the street raised chickens. I recall when they actually bought a wringer washer, and everyone in the neighborhood went over to look at it! I also remember being able to stand on Dailey Road and look in the direction of Century 3 Mall, which was not yet built, and seeing the rail cars from the steel mills dumping the "slag" over the hill side. It was molten waste from the production of steel, and it lit up the sky like a fiery volcano!

Our students enjoyed reading the cards and notes. As you can see the fourth grade at Moore is a busy place where learning takes all forms. As we get ready to embark on a new building adventure, all of our elementary staff members will get the chance to reflect on the past and look towards the future of education!



## LIBRARY SPACELIFT BY PAIGE BOEHM

Brentwood High School recently partnered with Penn State University to co-design and remodel the middle/high school library into a new STEM Studio.

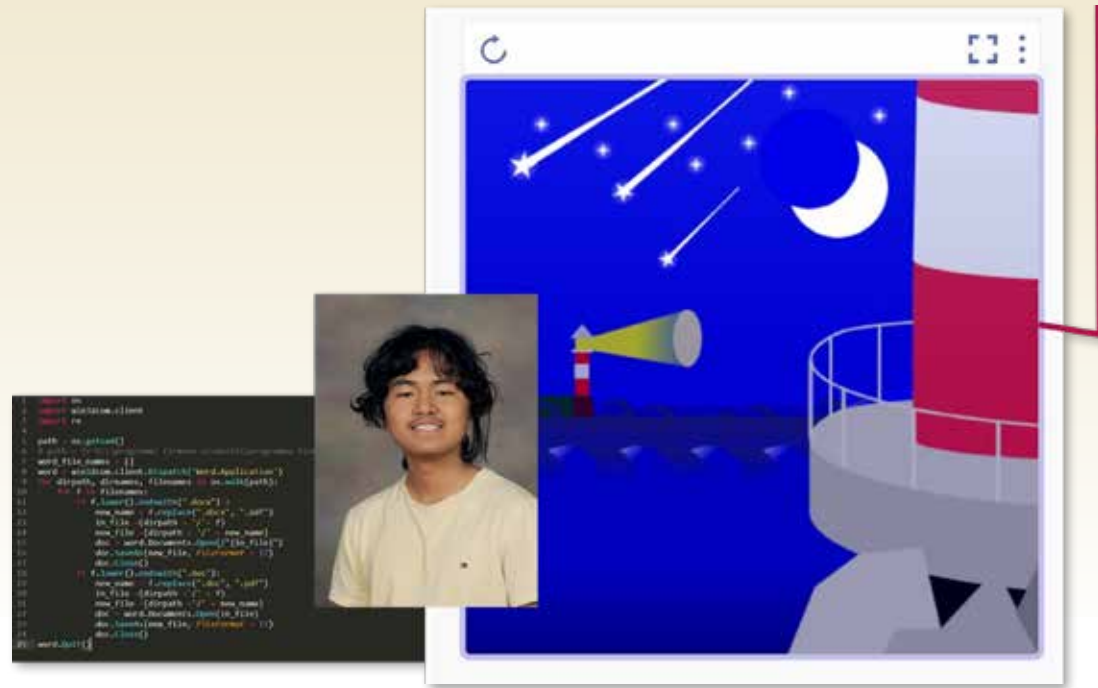
The STEM Between Us program at Penn State allows college students who are studying elementary education to connect remotely with students in Western PA to engage in meaningful work on STEM related projects. The gift was generously funded by the Martinson Family Foundation.

"The first project was funded at a community center in Hazelton which is on the eastern part of the state, and that one is a bit of a different model because it's in a community center. They were looking for another site. And so, because we were already partnered with them and they were learning more about our changing population and the way that Brentwood is, and they liked the small walking community features of Brentwood, they decided to put the second site here," said Stephanie DeLuca, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development.



## SOPHOMORE STUDENT RECEIVES ACCOLADES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Sophomore Segun Rai recently won third place at the CMU (Carnegie Mellon University) CS Academy Fall Creative Task Competition.



Each year in the spring and in fall, teachers submit the work of three students for judging. Each program submitted must meet specific requirements as they relate to programming concepts/commands learned in the CS Academy programming environment.

"Segun's work was entered into a unique category called 'Unrestricted' that allowed him to use more advanced programming concepts in his code which was an image of a lighthouse. The code he wrote to create the image was very complex," said computer science teacher Chris Pierce. For the last six years, Brentwood has participated in the CS Academy Competition, which receives entries from several countries around the world.

Rai said the most difficult aspect of the competition was the time crunch, only getting a 45 minute class period to work on his design each day.

Rai is currently enrolled in two computer science courses: AP Computer Science Principles and Coding I. Both classes use the CS Academy programming environment using the python programming language.

"I really enjoy programming and hope to continue working in computer science next year here at Brentwood and at Steel Center," said Rai.

Pierce plans to submit student work to the competition again in the spring.

The virtual teaching and learning, which offers both in school and afterschool opportunities, takes place at the

Brentwood High School library. The elementary schools will be replaced soon, so the district wanted to establish a more permanent location before the construction of the new school. This is why the MS/HS library was selected and renovated. Students at that building will be able to use the space during the day.

"We didn't feel like it was financially responsible to invest money into redoing a space in those buildings that aren't going to exist for very long, so being that we are a walking district, and elementary age kids can come up here afterschool quite easily, we thought that is would be okay to have the site here, and have that program afterschool here," said DeLuca.

"I am excited to use the space for my middle school STEM club, we have several projects planned for this year and we could use the space to collaborate," said teacher Jaime Staab.

Right now, the Studio has 30 iPads to aid with innovative programming and to connect the elementary students with pre-service teachers at Penn State. Brentwood school teachers met during a professional development session to discuss the space, and to decide on what additional technologies will be needed to be most impactful.

"We are trying to create during the school day opportunities for other teachers to do different types of thinking with you all," said DeLuca.

## ATHLETICS



A huge thank you to Mr. Jeff Healy for his continued dedication to the Brentwood Borough School District. Mr. Healy provides the photos of our athletes each season.

### Football

Head Football Coach Nicholas Caponi attended the All Conference Football program with the following Spartan Football players: Cedric Davis, Daelinn Drew, Blake Davis, Daymire Spencer, Forrest Betz



### Boys Basketball

Aiden Gorden, Shane Palmer, Zach Wuenschell, Ian Harrington, Ethan Simons



### Swimming

Yahya Majed, Noah Cramer, Remington Peters



### Girls Basketball

Mia March