



Brentwood Borough School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH



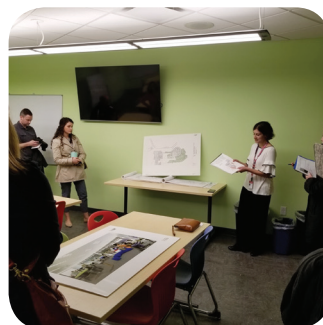
Last year the District took the first steps to updating the rapidly deteriorating infrastructure of our schools. Five million dollars was borrowed to work on emergency projects. The first phase of projects is nearing the end, and we are preparing to move on to the second phase. One of the upcoming projects that we are especially excited about is the renovation of our libraries. A great deal of time is being devoted to defining the purpose for classrooms and libraries.

Dr. Betler was charged with identifying and scheduling tours of newly renovated or newly built libraries and classrooms. The tour was dubbed, *The Reimage Learning Tour* and began in August with visits to Thomas Jefferson's High School, Baldwin Library, and Montour Elementary School. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and school board members participated. After visiting each location, the team noted the purpose of each space, the colors used, the equipment installed, and the materials selected. The second part of the *Reimage Learning Tour* led to



the Carnegie Science Center and Randyland. Once again, the discussion involved identifying purpose of the space and material selection.

During the debriefing session in October, it was determined that identifying **our** purpose for the space must occur first and only after that can we begin to discuss the physical space of the rooms and the materials to furnish them rooms. Each building may have a different purpose. A common theme heard throughout the visits was that the purpose of libraries and classrooms has changed. Libraries evolved into community gathering spaces. Classrooms are being designed



to inspire collaboration and innovation.

Follow-up meetings will occur in the months to come. There is also intent to borrow ten million dollars in early 2020 to continue the renovation of the buildings. A special thank you, to Dr. Betler and each of the host locations. It is by sharing stories that we can learn and grow.

SCHOOL BOARD MESSAGE

You may have noticed construction going on at the Middle/High School or Moore Elementary, and the emergency construction projects that had to happen this year are nearing completion. Renovations are never easy, and we're finding that out when the contractors start digging or removing walls and ceilings. Some prior work was not done properly, and we're having to address those issues before going on to yet even more projects. We're fortunate to have HHS DR as our architects and engineers, as the board is confident that all this work will be done well and will ensure our structures last for generations.

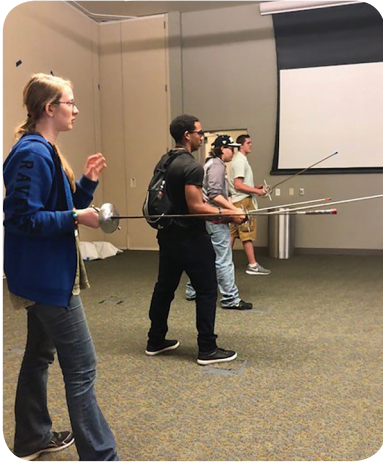


These types of issues that arise, of course, affect the amount of work we will be able to accomplish in the next few years. Our school board has made a commitment to make the necessary renovations while staying within the repayment structure established prior to the first borrowing. We are a smaller district than some of our neighbors, but we're in better financial footing than many

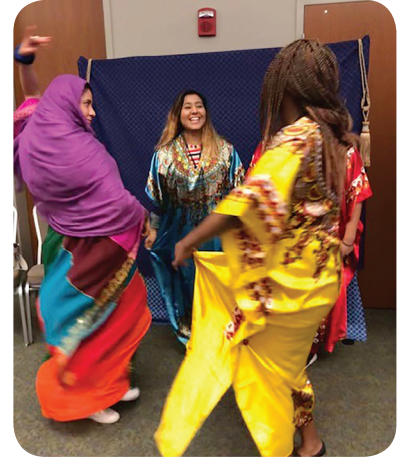
of them because of the good management our administration has exercised over the last decade. That allows us to add significantly to the security and permanence of our facilities.

The school board welcomes your questions about the ongoing renovations, so attend one of our meetings and find out what plans are ahead for our district.

Cal U Liberal Arts Festival



Forty-four Brentwood high school students visited the California University of Pennsylvania (CAL U) campus to participate in the annual Liberal Arts Festival. This festival celebrated cultures from all over the world and allowed students to participate in hands-on learning experiences. Students attended a presentation on life in Germany, which taught the importance of learning a secondary language and embracing a world view. The students were able to learn about festivals celebrated in different countries, try on clothes from other cultures, sample cuisine from around the world, learn and teach phrases in different languages, and some even learned the basics to sword fighting! This trip not only expanded students' understanding of other cultures and countries, it also gave students the opportunity to see a college campus and talk to students and professors about a variety of majors and professions in the liberal arts field.



The Brentwood Borough School District has joined forces with Precision HR Solutions, Inc. to secure substitute services for teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, nurses, and custodians. If you are interested in substituting in the Brentwood Borough School District, please contact

Paul Broman, Talent Acquisition Manager at Precision HR Solutions, Inc. via email at pbroman@PrecisionHR.net or by phone at 412-226-0770. You can also explore the website at www.precisionhr.net.

Emergency Delays or Cancellations

In the event of a change in the school calendar due to inclement weather or emergency situations, necessary information for parents and students will be provided on the following television and radio stations:

TV STATIONS		RADIO STATIONS	
KDKA	(Channel 2)	KDKA	(1020 AM)
WTAE	(Channel 4)	FROGGY	(104.3 FM)
WPXI	(Channel 11)		



In addition, the district notification system will continue to be used to contact homes in the event of school delays or school closures. For the district notification system to work efficiently, updated contact information is a must and should be submitted to your child's school office. Or just follow the Superintendent on Twitter @AmyMBurchDEd for closings and delays.

Every effort will be made for all schools to remain open as originally scheduled on the school calendar. To reduce the number of days the schools may be closed due to inclement weather or emergency situations, delayed starting times will be used when conditions allow. On days when delayed starting times are used, all schools will begin at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted in television, radio, or district announcements.

Brentwood High School Junior Pursuing Love of Aviation

Brentwood High School junior, Cecilia (Cici) Levino, is beginning her Part 61 instruction and flight training. She is working with the Pittsburgh Flight Training Center as well as taking "ground school" through the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). She is in the early stages of a very long process to become a pilot. Cici has a significant interest in aviation that she has inherited from her grandfather and father. Upon completion of Cici's training she will be the third Levino in the family to have a career in aviation.

Cici's grandfather, Rene Levino, started his career in aviation in the United States Air Force. He served in Illinois and in Pittsburgh where he was a member of the 171st Air Refueling wing based out of Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. Rene moved from active duty in the Air Force into a civilian job in aircraft manufacturing. During his time in the aircraft manufacturing industry Rene was involved in the production of a number of interesting aircraft including the DC-10 and MD-80 commercial airliners (Douglas Aircraft Company which became McDonnell Douglas), B-1B bomber, the nose cone of the Space Shuttle (Rockwell Aerospace), and the B-2 Stealth bomber (Northrop) and finally the C-17 (McDonnell Douglas again) cargo transport before he retired. In his retirement, he has stayed active in the industry. He was part of a team in Urbana, OH working on restoring an old B-17 bomber called the "Champaign Lady." His love of aviation was passed to Cici's father Robert Levino.

Cici's father, Robert Levino, began his post-secondary education in engineering and then moved to Airline Management where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Franklin University. Robert has had a successful and wonderful career in the airline industry. After 9/11, Robert became involved with a company that transported medical supplies. He worked with a company called Airnet which transported radioactive medical supplies to cancer patients across the country. There are limited facilities that produce these medications and time is essential in the delivery for the medications to be effective. This makes air transportation the most valuable option. This experience helped Robert in the position he is in currently. He works for a small family run company, Skyward Aviation based out of Washington, PA. Pittsburgh is an organ transplant hub; therefore, Skyward Aviation is a contractor for retrieving and delivering harvested organs from centers around the country to hospitals in the Pittsburgh area. The company helps save lives.



Cici is following in her family's footsteps. According to a 2018 CNN report, there were about 827,000 pilots in America in 1988. Over the past three decades, that number has decreased by 30%. This number is expected to continue to decrease through 2020. Cici has chosen a path that is not easy, and it is very expensive. She will have to log mandatory flight time hours as well as pass her ground training and physical tests. She is up for the challenge. She has been inspired by her grandfather and father and their passion for the industry and will have their support as she continues her journey to become a certified pilot.

Steel Center for Career and Technical Education – Carpentry



The year there are six Brentwood High School students who are enrolled in the carpentry program at Steel Center CTE. They are Cody Bagnull (12), Elliot Stypula (12), Shaine Flanagan (11), Alexander Johnson (11), Nicholas Milius (11), and Gerard Secilia (11). The carpentry program has one of the highest enrollments for Brentwood students this school year.

Mr. Frencho is the instructor for this program. He is extremely passionate about the carpentry program and the variety of options that it offers students in the career field following high school. Students who

are enrolled in this program will apply technical knowledge and skills to layout, fabricate, erect, install and repair structures and fixtures using hand and power tools. This program includes instruction in common systems of framing, construction materials, estimating, blueprint reading and finish carpentry techniques. These skills can be transferred to carpentry jobs and union application as well as specialty positions in the construction fields.

Mr. Frencho stated that the students earn several industry certificates within the program. The most popular are certificates for ladder safety as well as other safety certificates. The big benefit in the program is that seniors can earn their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certificate. This certificate is necessary for employment beyond high school and the students will have it earned prior to graduation.

The students enjoy the hands-on aspect of the course. They apply their mathematics skills and creativity to meet the course goals from the class. There is a split between the students of those who enjoy the framing work and those who enjoy the finish work. Either way,



the students are learning valuable career and life skills. Hands on, finish or framing, Industry certificates ladder safety and seniors earn OSHA 10 in their senior year. The two seniors of the group are Elliot Stypula and Cody Bagnull. Elliot has enlisted in the United States Navy while Cody will pursue a job in the carpentry/construction industry with the skills he has learned. We are very proud of all our carpentry students and wish them the best in pursuing their careers and employment.



Brentwood High School Successful in an Employment and Mobility Grant

Brentwood High School has successfully secured a grant from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN). The grant is worth \$6,000.00 and it will benefit special education students in the high school on gaining employment skills as well as being able to use public transportation. The primary grant writer was high school special education teacher Mrs. Colleen Mertz who set the vision and the parameters of the grant through the application process. Other contributors were Dr. Christine Winarski, Director of Special Education; Dr. Ian Shortt, Transition Coordinator; Mr. Jason Olexa, High School Principal; Mrs. Heather McElhone, Special Education Teacher; and Mrs. Tina Dental, High School Secretary.

Transition planning for high school is a major focus for our special education students. One of the major goals of

the annual review of a student's progress is what the student is going to do post-graduation. There is a great deal of discussion that is afforded to this process and there is a specific focus on employability and mobility. When a student leaves our special education program it is with the intent that they will have a plan to be successful, be able to gain and maintain employment, and be able to independently access resources such as public transportation. It was with this focus on employment skills and mobility that drove the grant writing process.

The first goal of the grant is to provide career planning and development to special education students. Students will participate in career and work exploration to narrow the areas of interest for the student. The special education department will also partner with local businesses for job experiences and job shadowing opportunities for the students. In an effort to promote and work on necessary job skills, the grant will provide the students to work in a mobile coffee cart that will be supported by the middle and high



school teachers. This will enable students to practice work skills and interpersonal skills that are needed for employment. In addition, students will also participate in "office jobs" within the building such as shredding and messenger services and some simple filing. The second part of the grant focuses on using public transportation. The students will access and use public transportation to get to destinations within the city. This will give the students experience and practice of how to use public transportation to increase their mobility and employment opportunities. This is a wonderful opportunity for the special education department as well as providing a means for students to have training and practice on employment and life skills.

Brentwood Middle School Students Get 1st Hand Account of 9-11



The tragic events of September 11, 2001 will be forever remembered by anyone old enough to have experienced the chaos of that horrific day. However, to our students, 9/11 is a historical event that they only know about through what people have told them or through accounts they have read or seen on television or in the media.

The 6th graders at Brentwood Middle School were able to hear a first-hand account of what it meant to be a New Yorker living through the events of 9/11. Katy Phillips, a math teacher at Brentwood High School since 2007, was in her fourth day of work as client associate for Merrill Lynch in the financial district of lower Manhattan when the events of that day unfolded. Katy had recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was excited to begin her

new life in New York City. Katy's office at 2 World Financial Center was approximately 200 yards from the twin towers.

During Katy's presentation to the students, she shares her recollections of the events of that day and shows them photographs of the impact that the attack had on New York City. While the fear and sadness of the day are certainly evident throughout Katy's talk, she also tells the students of the acts bravery and heroism that she witnessed on 9/11.

Perhaps most importantly, Katy's presentation drives home the value of family and friends and the importance of cherishing every day. By sharing her story each year with the 6th graders at Brentwood Middle School, Katy has helped to carry on the "Never Forget" slogan that arose after the 9/11 attacks.



Brentwood Online now K – 12

Through a partnership with Accelerate Education, Brentwood School District is now able to offer online courses for Brentwood students Kindergarten through Twelfth grade. The addition of Accelerate Education K-6 online courses continues Brentwood's dedication to meeting the needs of families within our district and preparing our students for learning in the 21st century. Online Accelerate Education courses are designed to meet Pennsylvania Education Standards and are personalized around the unique learning paths of each individual student.

Brentwood Online currently partners with Seneca Valley School District to offer students in grades 7 – 12 online learning options in either a blended, or full-time, online learning environment. Brentwood families with children enrolled in grades K- 6 who have left Brentwood School District for the Cyber Charter Schools, will now have the option to work in a learning environment that fits their needs, as well as being able to take part in all of the social and enrichment activities that occur in their home school district.

Please contact James Cassell, Middle/High School Assistant Principal, at 412-881-4940 for more information on the curriculum options available through Brentwood Online.

ELROY ELEMENTARY

Keeping Kids Active When They Avoid Team Sports

Barbara Pagan, Elroy Principal

Team sports are a great way to keep kids active, but not all kids enjoy playing them. When kids avoid team sports, parents should look for other ways their children can continue to be healthy and active. Here are some ways to get your kids moving around when they are not part of a sports team.

1. Go outside – Being outside is a great way to sneak in some exercise. Visit the local park, encourage them to climb trees, swing or play tag. Have your child go on a "treasure hunt" in the backyard and collect items that interest them such as sticks, rocks, flowers or leaves. Raking leaves, catching fireflies, or building a snowman help kids to be active while not playing sports.

2. Individual Sports – Examples of individual sports where children compete against themselves are: gymnastics, swimming, track and field, archery, golf, and wrestling. They may enjoy one of these sports.

3. Limit screen time – Remember to keep screen time to a minimum during the school week. If you do allow it, try to keep to half an hour and encourage games that involve movement. If your child is sedentary while enjoying screen time, ask them to complete a chore or outdoor play before or after they turn on the television or tablet.

4. Encourage lifelong activities – These activities are great because they can be enjoyed as a family. Encourage everyone to go on a walk, ride bikes, or hike the local park. Get a step counter for each family member and create a friendly competition to see who can get the most steps.

5. Set an example – Lead by example and get moving. Begin an exercise routine or hobby that includes movement and invite your child to join you. Make the most of the time together.

6. Find a new hobby – Encourage your child to find a hobby that encourages movement such as skateboarding, fishing, or bowling. This will not even seem like exercising because they will be enjoying it.

7. Chores – Chores are a great way to get kids active and teach them the value of hard work at the same time. Have your child clean their room, vacuum, or sweep the floors. Consider paying them an allowance for more motivation.

While team sports have many benefits, they are not for every child. These tips will allow kids to enjoy being active and can be maintained for a lifetime.





10 Concrete Ways to Help New Kids in School

Being the new kid in school is a phenomenon that many kids experience in their lives. At Elroy, we have 25 new students this year, not counting all the new Kindergarten students. New students can feel alone, nervous, and scared. Below are 10 ways that your children can help the new students feel welcomed.

1. Recognize that there will be new kids at school. They do not know anyone. Look for them, and don't look past them.
2. Say "Hi". Ask where the new student is from. Do they have any pets or siblings?
3. Sit with the new kid at lunch.
4. Invite the new student to the park after school.
5. Talk to the new student. It's okay if you are not best friends. You may find out that you have something in common.
6. Compliment the new student. You may like her backpack or a shirt that she is wearing.
7. Tell the new student about clubs, sports, or other activities at school.
8. Walk home with the new student.
9. Help the new student find their way around our school.
10. Be welcoming and inclusive in group work in class.

Parents, teach your kids to look for the new students and take these concrete steps to be kind and helpful. Elroy continues to promote Kindness in many ways, and welcoming our new students is one of them.

MOORE ELEMENTARY



Holiday Donation Drive at Moore School

By: Shannon Schubert

For the past few years, Moore School has been partnering with The Stewart Avenue Lutheran Church Food Bank to help those in need. This year, Moore School will be collecting donations of new toys and winter clothing to be given to families who use the food bank and other needy families in the area. If you would like to donate any of the following items, you can drop them off at the Moore School office by December 3, 2019.

New Toys: Ages infant through 12 years

New Hats, Gloves, or Scarves: Ages infant through adult

Thank you for your support!

Moore Elementary Presents, “Winter Chill & Thrill”

By: Jordan Sherman

Moore Elementary has been working since the start of the school year to prepare for this year's winter concert, “Winter Chill & Thrill.” Students from kindergarten to fifth grade will be performing songs to get you in the winter spirit! As an added bonus, our Primer Chorus, School Chorus, and our Advanced Band will be performing as well. Please come support our hard-working students on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at annual winter concert, “Winter Chill & Thrill!”

WINTER CHILL & THRILL

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2019**

MOORE ELEMENTARY GYM

**LAST NAME A-M 8:30AM
LAST NAME N-Z 1:00PM**

FREE ADMISSION

The Power of Social Media

By: Jessica Downey

Social Media is a huge part of our culture and an amazing tool that can be put to wonderful use. This summer, I was able to experience first-hand how wonderful social media can be to help others. In July Courtney Jones, a teacher from Texas, created an Amazon Wish List for items she wished to buy for her students. Throughout the summer, “#clearthelist” was trending on various social media platforms. I have seen several of my teacher friends on Facebook create a similar list. Many of them were receiving items for their classroom from family, friends, parents of former students, athletes,



and celebrities. I decided to create a list of things I would LOVE to have in my classroom. I created a list of STEM tools such as an Echo, Spheros, a Green Screen, Makey Makey Legos, Stem Bins, and Flexible Seating items. Through the power of social media, I was able to get many of the items cleared off my list thanks to family, friends, and professional athletes. Jaleyn Crawford, wife of San Francisco Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford, and sister-in-law of Houston Astro's Pitcher Gerritt Cole, a former Pirate, bought a significant portion of the items off my wish list. I had family and friends donate Kindle's when my sister shared my wish as well. In August, The Bill Gates' Foundation was matching every dollar donated for “Donors Choose Projects”. Again, through the Power of Social Media, my project for a new iPad was fully funded by family and complete strangers. Social Media is a powerful tool that can connect people from all over the world. I am thankful for all of the support that was provided over the summer!



Brentwood Borough School District



Over the last year and a half, several teachers at Moore Elementary School have been working diligently to add more STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) activities and tools to their daily lessons. Teachers worked together to create a list of tools that they wanted to use with their students based on what the students tended to gravitate towards in the after-school STEAM club. They also looked at other projects and activities that they wanted to bring to our students. Two main areas of interest emerged; robotics and videography using green screen technology. Since both robotics and video production are relatively new concepts for students, the teachers' schedules were revised to provide time for collaborative classroom instruction. Now during class time two teachers, Ms. Cosner, the librarian, and the math/ science teachers, Mrs. Steigerwald, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Hagerty, or Miss Downey teach together once in the rotation.

In preparation for this change, the district collaborated with BirdBrain technologies to implement "Hummingbird Kits." BirdBrain came to Moore elementary over the summer and taught the specials and classroom teachers how to incorporate the



Full S-TEAM Ahead!

technology into their lessons and how to use the Hummingbird kits to create their own robots. In addition, this summer, several teachers attended the National Math Science Initiative workshop held at Keystone Oaks. After attending a variety of workshops this summer, many of the teachers were inspired to bring these ideas into the classroom, to expand the learning process.

Since the start of the school year, our families have been extremely supportive and excited about the expansion of our STEAM program. Families have helped by supplying recycled materials and other supplies that have allowed students the opportunity to be creative. Mrs. Hagerty's class, in the first weeks of school, worked in groups to create their own robotic masterpieces using the Hummingbird kits. When visitors came for open house the hallways were filled with moving, light up creatures. The students and staff are very grateful for the support of the district, community and families in helping to provide such an amazing opportunity for students to grow and develop skills in collaboration, creativity, and problem solving.

RECOGNITION

Fall Senior Athletes and Band Members



BAND

Paige Umbel, Stephanie Shaw, Brianna Leddy, Alexis Warning, Max Marcello, Seth Nordeen



CHEERLEADING

Adele Sedlar, Ashley Klein, Carly Vickless



Paige Umbel

CROSS COUNTRY



FOOTBALL

Front row (kneeling left to right): Josh Recker, Matt Shy, Aidan Davis, Eddie Gomez, Matt Veatch

Back row (standing left to right): Luke Bauer, Jayneil Latham, John Milcic, Ian Thomas, Michael Silvio



GOLF

C.J. Ziegler, Alexis Warning, Maddi Travis, Peter Carozza



SOCCER

Cody Bagnall, David Males, Shashak Gurung, Brett Powers, Tristan Kuehner



VOLLEYBALL

Jaden Schwartz, Akir Deng, Mandy Race, Sarah Livingston