



# Brentwood Borough School District



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH

Work in our schools is never ending. Our administrators, support staff, and contracted services work diligently throughout the summer to prepared for another school year. In this edition of the magazine, you will read about critical building projects, updates to curriculum, the hiring of new personnel, and well-deserved recognition for the district's commitment to creating a culture that is invested in helping students thrive in as digital learners.

Throughout the upcoming year the district will be seeking feedback from all stakeholders (students, parents, community

members, support staff, professional staff, and administrators) on the district comprehensive plan. The district identified goals include renovating our schools in a fiscally responsible manner, reviewing and revising curriculum, providing opportunities to utilize technology, and reviewing safety and security policies.

We have accomplished a great deal over the last five years, but we recognize that we still have a long way to go. We will continue to remain focused on teaching and learning so that all students graduate college and career ready!

### SCHOOL BOARD MESSAGE

While students get a break from school during summer, a lot happens throughout our school district to prepare for another year of instruction. Our maintenance and custodial staffs do a thorough cleaning of the facilities and tackle projects that can't be completed while students are always around, and keep our schools running and looking great (lots of people comment on how good our buildings look while visiting them). Our secretarial staff handles the administrative details that need attention year-round, not just when school is in session. Our tech staff are updating computers, installing new equipment, and preparing new software programs for use by staff and students. The business office handles the daily matters that are necessary for reporting purposes, and to keep the operations moving smoothly. And this year, we have contractors at all the buildings starting the multi-year

renovation projects that are needed for maintaining our facilities.

Your school board is proud of our staff that support all our educational programs in Brentwood. They are some of the unseen and unsung heroes of our educational system and help make us better as a school district. They and our

teachers and administrators are working to constantly improve our programs and prepare our students for a rapidly changing workplace in the 21st century. We are beginning a new school year, so watch for opportunities to support our Brentwood students in their academic, athletic, extra-curricular, and musical activities.



## Are Charter and Cyber Schools Free?

You have seen the billboards and heard the commercials claiming that charter and cyber schools are tuition free. The truth is the tuition is not free and is paid for by the student's home district. Charter and cyber school tuition are NOT based on the actual cost to educate the student at the charter or cyber school and the tuition rates can vary drastically from district to district. The tuition is calculated on a per pupil cost to the home district. This means that School District A would be charged \$12,000/student and School District B would be charged \$48,000 per student to attend the same charter or cyber school. This is adding to the divide between wealthy and poor school districts. Recently there has been a push in the state for a formula to be enacted to determine the cost of educating a student at a charter or cyber school.

School districts must bear the burden of mandated increases in charter school tuition, employee pensions, and special education. School districts do not have the authority to lower these mandated costs and are forced to cut programs or increase taxes to balance the budget. More specifically, from 2010-2018 the cumulative cost of charter cyber school tuition,

employee pensions and special education rose by \$4.68 billion but the state only increased funding by \$2.24 billion. The remaining balance was forced on to taxpayers across the state. The legislators permitted the two systems (traditional and charter/cyber) for educating students in Pennsylvania. Instead of adequately funding both systems, Pennsylvania ranks at the in the bottom of all states for funding. The situation became so dire that a lawsuit was filed, and Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court issued a trial schedule order beginning in October 2019.

Furthermore, charter and cyber schools are not managed by an elected board of school directors, so taxpayers have no say in who is managing their tax money. This taxpayer money leaves the local school district reducing the resources available for the students who continue in the traditional local school district.

The chart below illustrates the increases in tuition costs of charter and cyber schools and how much taxpayer money has left the district.

### TOTAL TAXPAYER MONEY LEAVING BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

School Year	Charter/Cyber tuition paid for one regular ed student	Charter/Cyber total tuition paid for all regular ed students	Charter/Cyber tuition cost paid for one special ed student	Charter/Cyber total tuition paid for all special ed students	Charter/Cyber total tuition leaving the district
2016-17	11,652.74	339,582.73	24,836.01	344,777.58	684,360.31
2017-18	13,137.87	535,893.04	27,259.81	341,525.49	877,418.53
2018-19	13,313.67	522,605.07	28,694.61	326,136.63	848,741.70*
2019-20	13,937.58 projected	TBD	30,359.50 projected	TBD	TBD

\*This amount is only as of June 2019. There are additional payments to be made for the 2018-2019 school year.

Charter and Cyber school tuition reform is desperately needed. In 2017-2018, the amount of tuition paid using taxpayer dollars is nearly enough to close the current deficit in the budget. On Tuesday, August 13, Governor Wolf announced plans to overhaul charter school regulations and proposed legislation to comprehensively reform the law to better serve students and taxpayers.

## Valkyrie to Compete in Abu Dhabi

Our F1 team, Valkyrie has earned the right to compete on the global level again! This time the students will be traveling to Abu Dhabi. F1 in Schools is the largest international STEM program, where over 1.3 million students participate annually from over 40 countries all over the world. The competition tests students' abilities in all aspects of design and engineering. From the creation of digital and physical media, to advertising the team and building the brand, even the methodical design and testing

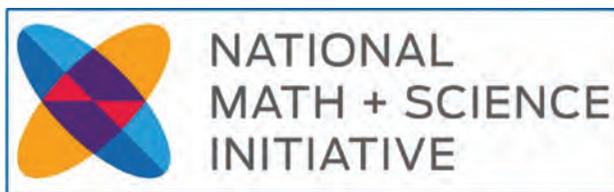
of the car. All of this is handled by students, the work involved takes dedication and time, and fosters the next generation of leaders and engineers. The team established a GoFundMe account to assist with the travel costs. Please consider donating at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/brentwoodf1> or by contacting the school at 412-881-2227 ext. 2115.





## NMSI Grant Makes Impact in Second Year

The Brentwood Borough School District partnered with the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) during the 2017-2018 school year to increase the district's capacity of offering opportunities to students to increase achievement. During the 2018-2019 school year, Brentwood High School completed the second year of a three-year grant. The mission of NMSI is to significantly improve student opportunities and achievement by advancing STEM teaching and learning. NMSI strives to partner with school districts so that all students have the knowledge and skills to thrive in the global economy of the 21st Century. They accomplish these goals by empowering teachers, equipping students, and raising the academic bar



on achievement. Over the past two years, teachers from Elroy Elementary, Moore Elementary, Brentwood Middle School and Brentwood High School participated in a summer professional development titled "Laying the Foundations, which is a collaborative, hands-on training that equips teachers to implement classroom strategies to boost student achievement

in rigorous course work, including Advanced Placement. The Advanced Placement teachers at the high school attended the College Readiness Program, hands-on interactive training to better prepare them for teaching in their content area and preparing students with skills that would transfer to the specific Advanced Placement Exams. NMSI also provided mentors, teacher training, and student study session with other school districts to increase collaboration and support among area schools.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Brentwood High School offered 12 AP courses. We increased the number of students who were taking Advanced Placement classes, increased the number of students who took the Advanced Placement exams, and increased the number of qualifying scores that students earned on the Advanced Placement exams. In addition, we had students attempt other AP tests based on their interest and confidence in taking AP exams for potential college credit. The NMSI grant has enabled more of our students to be exposed to more rigorous and college-ready curriculum with more supports. We are entering the third year of the grant and we are looking forward to working with NMSI and expect to continue to make gains district wide to the benefit of our students.

## Changes at Brentwood Middle/High School for the 2019-2020 school year

### FACILITIES

1. Replacement and updating of the phone system and fire alarm system.
2. First phases of the replacement of the roof.
3. Renovations and repairs to the auditorium that were necessary due to water damage from last fall. Wallpaper was removed and the auditorium walls were refinished and painted.
4. Renovations to the current middle school gym which will now serve as the main gym for varsity sporting events. New bleachers will allow seating capacity to increase from 450 to 750. The former middle school gym (nearest Brentwood Park) will now be known as the "BLUE Gym" while the former high school gym (in the 1972 building) will be called the "GOLD Gym".

### CURRICULUM

1. 6th grade students will follow a 60-minute block schedule for their core classes.
2. Middle school students will be enrolled in Computer Science classes in grades 6 and 8. These courses will serve as a foundation for the Computer Science program that was established at the high school in 2018-2019.
3. The middle school Advisory program was restructured for the 2019-2020 school year. Each middle school student will be assigned the same teacher/advisor for all 3 years of middle school. The students and advisors were paired based on positive relationships and common interests.
4. A Python programming course through a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University will be offered at the high school.
5. A new Digital Media course will be offered at the high school. Digital Media is a combination of digital editing and broadcasting that the students will be exposed to in order to create their own news stories and produce school announcements.

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Brentwood Borough School District recognized as a Common Sense District with 100% Educator Certification

Brentwood Borough School District has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-district approach to preparing its students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. The recognition acknowledges our district's commitment to creating a culture where our district is invested in helping kids thrive as digital learners and citizens. In fact, Brentwood is the first in the region and second in the state of Pennsylvania to have 100% of its educators certified as Common Sense Educators.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of Brentwood Borough School District for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, VP, Education Programs, Common Sense Education. "Brentwood deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

Brentwood Borough School District has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with researchers from Project Zero, led by Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy. The free K-12 curriculum is used in classrooms across all 50 states, in more than 50,000 schools, by more than half a million educators.



# Welcome to the Best School Year Ever!

*Barbara Pagan Elroy Principal*

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When parents and families are involved in their children's schools, the children do better and have healthier feelings about going to school. In fact, many studies show that what the family does is more important to a child's school success than how much money the family makes or how much education the parents have. There are many ways that parents can support their children's learning at home and throughout the school year. Here are some ideas to get you started!

- 1. Meet your child's teacher.** Elroy's Open House is September 12th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Let the teacher know you want to help your child learn. Make it clear that you want the teacher to contact you if any problems develop with your child. There will be interpreters at Open House this year. We will have a Nepali, Spanish, and an Arabic interpreter. If you feel uncomfortable speaking English, don't let a language barrier stop you. What you have to say is more important than the language you say it in!
- 2. Attend parent-teacher conferences and keep in touch with your child's teacher.** We will have one parent-teacher conference day on November 8th. You can also ask to meet with your child's teacher any time during the year. If you have a concern and can't meet face-to-face, send the teacher a short note or set up a time to talk on the phone.
- 3. Find out how your child is doing.** Ask the teacher how well your child is doing in class. If your child is not keeping up, especially when it comes to reading, ask what you or the school can do to help. It's important to act early before

We are looking forward to the best school year ever with your child!

your child gets too far behind. Also be sure to review your child's report card each time it comes out.

- 4. Make sure that your child gets homework done.** Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done each day. You can help your child with homework by setting aside a special place to study, establishing a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the television and social phone calls during homework time.
- 5. Volunteer at your child's school and/or join your school's parent-teacher group.** Teachers appreciate it when parents help at the school! There are many ways you can contribute. You can volunteer in your child's class or in the school library. You can join our PTA, which usually meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. The meetings give you a chance to talk with other parents and to work together to improve our school.
- 6. Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.** American children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities.
- 7. Encourage your child to read.** Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school-and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

## Technology in Physical Education

During this past year, Mr. Pavlecic, Elroy's Physical Education teacher, was awarded a grant from Phipps Conservatory to integrate technology into his Physical Education classes. Recent research has shown that students are doing more sedentary activities such as watching TV, playing video games, and using the Internet instead of being active every day. At Elroy Elementary, we encourage our students to be active for at least 60 minutes a day. The funds from this grant will help our students become more active by enabling us to purchase monitors, Wii Fit and Dance Dance Revolution.

Additionally, several studies have proven that physical activity helps to increase academic performance and attendance for school and improve behavior. Incorporating the Wii activity components into P.E. class compliments our STEM activities with an emphasis on Science, Technology and Math. Students will explore graphing their Fit Credits throughout the Fitness Unit. After completing physical activity stations, students will calculate their heart rate, compare the results to each station and chart their improved performance over time.

The different STEM exercise games will focus on the 3 parts of the health triangle, which include Physical, Social, and Mental. Bringing the new devices to the gymnasium will allow students to have fun while actively burning calories and relieving their stress or anxiety. This year, students at Elroy will experience exciting innovative activities with their peers through the integration of technology during their gym class.

## French Drains, a Six-day Rotation, and other Moore Changes!

While, for our students, the summer represents the time of year when they get to relax and spend time with their families and friends, the summer for schools is a busy time. In addition to our normal beautification and cleaning, this summer the Moore School began the process of having French drains installed around the building. The new drains will help to mitigate water damage to the building.

Starting this school year both elementary schools will be on a six-day special rotation. Each day will be lettered A through F corresponding to the day of the week in a rotation. Each homeroom will meet with one special a day. When there are closings or delays the day of the rotation that we leave on will pick back up on the next day when students return to school. Students will no longer miss specials because of holidays or snow days! The day of the rotation will be announced daily to students and it will be posted on the school's website. Families can learn more about their child's specific schedules and the six-day rotation during open house on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

Several curricular changes are also scheduled for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Foundations, the phonics program, will expand from kindergarten and first grade into second grade this year. Kindergarten students will have an additional special, technology, this year. The library and technology curricula are being refined and a co-teaching S-TEAM rotation is being developed so that students are given multiple opportunities to apply technology in the core content areas.

These are just a few of the exciting changes happening a Moore. In addition, the teachers will spend their professional development days either learning about developmentally appropriate mathematics instruction or collaborating with BirdBrain Technologies to learn how to incorporate computer coding into classes.

The summer has been spent planning and preparing for the new year. We can't wait to have all of our learners back so that we can provide them with some new and exciting learning experiences!

### DISTRICT NEWS

## Elementary School Counselor

This year the Brentwood Borough School District received a School Safety and Security grant through the PCCD. This grant enabled the district to purchase a social and emotional curriculum for instructional purposes in kindergarten through fifth grade. This curriculum's instruction is part of the responsibility of the school counselor. Moore and Elroy will share the school counselor who will split their time between the two buildings. In addition to providing instruction to homerooms on a weekly basis, the counselor will be available to meet with students for issues that are short term in nature such as death of a pet. For students whose issues require therapy that is more long-term in nature, the district has partnered with Mercy Behavioral to act as a satellite location for mental health services. The elementary counselor will be available during Open House. If you have questions for the school counselor or would like to discuss Mercy Behavioral services, please contact the Moore School office.



## Welcoming New Personnel

- Mrs. Jamie Staab will be the new 6th grade English/Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Staab worked as a paraprofessional at Brentwood Middle/High School in 2016-2017 and has served as a 5th grade teacher in the Sto-Rox School District for the past two years.
- English Language Learner (ELL) teacher Mrs. Katie Kostuch will join the district as a Brentwood Borough School District employee. For the past five years, Mrs. Kostuch has worked with the district through a partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.
- School Counselor, Terri Kauric is transitioning from district liaison from Holy Family to full time district employee. She will split her time between Elroy and Moore elementary schools. She will lead student groups and collaborate with families, teachers, and staff.
- Mrs. Jessica Graff will serve as the art teacher in grades K-5 for the 2019-2020 school year. Prior to joining our team, she served as the art teacher in the Baden Academy Charter School.

## Skyward and Office 365 Login Changes

The 2019-20 school year will bring some changes to the way students log-in to Skyward Student Access, the district computers, and Microsoft Office 365. The new username and password information are as follows:

**Username:** Firstname.Lastname

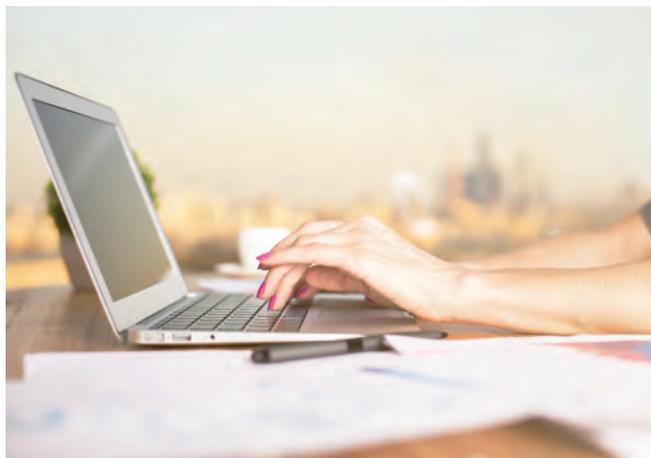
**Password:** student id# - Skyward Student Access

To login to Office 365 the login information is as follows:

**Username:** Firstname.Lastname@bb-sd.com

**Password:** student id#

If there are issues with logging into these accounts, please contact a teacher. These changes were made to streamline the district's portals in which students access daily. The system that the district will use for a Single Sign-On solution is called Clever. The students will login to a designated district website for Clever, and a list of apps that their teachers use for classes will appear on the dashboard. The students will then be able to click on each icon and be asked to login using credentials that the district has set-up for them. This will be for the first-time students' login to



the app only. Each time after, the students will be able to click on the app and already be logged in. With these changes made over the summer, it should create more ease of use for students and teachers to use district web portals.

## Student Information Release Opt-Out

Federal Public Law 114-95, Section 8528 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. The law also requires school districts to notify students and parents of their right to "opt-out" of having this information released to military recruiters. If you would like to exercise your right to "opt-out," please submit this request in writing to your child's building principal as soon as possible.



## Financial Aid Night, Open House, and Conference Days for 2019-2020

The Brentwood Borough School District values the partnership between the school districts and the families of our students. This communication and cooperation is an essential part of a positive school experience. For your planning purposes we have scheduled our Open House dates and Parent/Teacher Conference Day for the 2019-2020 school year.

### 2019-2020 FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

**Monday, September 9, 2019, Middle/High School Auditorium, 6:00PM**

This event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).

### 2019-2020 Open House

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019, Middle/High School, 6:30PM-8:30PM**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019, Elroy and Moore Elementary, 6:00PM-8:00PM**

### 2019-2020 Parent Teacher Conference Day

**Friday, November 8, 2019, Elroy Elementary, Moore Elementary, and Brentwood**

**Middle/High School, Noon – 6:00PM**

## 2019 Brentwood School Board Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule of the Brentwood Board of School Directors for the remainder of the 2019 calendar year is as follows:

AGENDA PLANNING MEETINGS	GENERAL PURPOSE MEETINGS	COMMITTEE MEETINGS
September 9	September 16	August 27 Joint Borough/District meeting at the Borough
October 14	October 21	
November 11	November 18	
December 3 (Organization Meeting)-	December 9 (Combined Agenda/General Purpose) The 2020 board meeting calendar is typically approved at this meeting.	

All Agenda Planning, General Purpose, and Committee Meetings are held in the Board Room in the Administration Offices of the Brentwood Borough School District, 3601 Brownsville Road. The public is always invited to attend. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. A Joint School Board/Borough Council Meeting is scheduled for August 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brentwood Borough Council Chambers.

## Board Notes and School District Policies on the Web

Are you unable to attend a meeting of your school board due to a schedule conflict but would like to review actions taken at those meetings that are often not covered in newspaper articles? If this is a question that applies to you, the answer is only several clicks away on the web. By going to the school district website at <https://www.bb-sd.com/>, clicking on School Board and then Board Notes, you can view actions taken by the Board of School Directors at their most recent meeting or previous ones. School

district policies are also available on the web. By going to the school district website noted above, clicking on School Board and then Board Policies, you will find the entire Brentwood Borough School District Policy Manual. Periodically, it is necessary to revise various policies. Once the Board of School Directors officially adopts revisions, policies on the web will be updated to reflect those changes.



**Brentwood  
Borough  
School  
District**

## Brentwood High School Sports Schedules

All schedules for middle school and high school athletics and activities can be found on the Brentwood Borough School District website <http://www.bb-sd.com>. Any other information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Rick Huffman at (412) 881-4940 Extension 2720, or by e-mailing at [huffmanr@bb-sd.com](mailto:huffmanr@bb-sd.com).

### Admission Fees Set for Athletic Events

The admission fees for various athletic events sponsored by the Brentwood Borough School District are as follows:

<b>FOOTBALL</b>	Adult \$5.00	Senior Citizen \$4.00	Students \$3.00
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	Adult \$5.00	Senior Citizen \$4.00	Students \$3.00
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	Adult \$3.00	Senior Citizen and Students \$2.00	
<b>SWIMMING</b>	Adult \$3.00	Senior Citizen and Students \$2.00	

In addition, active military personnel will be admitted free of charge with military identification. For any athletic events not noted above, admission is free.



## Fall Sports Events Announced for the 2019 Season

The Brentwood Spartans will host many home events in Cross Country, Football, Golf Soccer, and Volleyball during the fall sports season, and all schedules can be found on the district's website. Several special events have been planned and will be held on the following dates:

- **September 6, 2019 – Football vs Seton LaSalle**  
Youth Sports Night and the Annual Middle School PTSS Tailgate
- **September 10, 2019 – Cross Country vs Serra & Neighborhood Academy**  
Cross Country Senior Recognition
- **September 20, 2019 – Football vs Frazier**  
All Fall Sports Senior Recognition Night
- **October 11, 2019 – Football vs Carlynton**  
Homecoming
- **October 15, 2019 – Soccer vs South Side Beaver**  
Soccer Senior Recognition
- **October 17, 2019 – Volleyball vs Bishop Canevin**  
Volleyball Senior Recognition

### DISTRICT NEWS

## REMINDER: Facility Request Procedures

The Brentwood School District changed the way facilities are secured to the SchoolDude Facilities Request System. Please visit the Brentwood Borough Website and select the Facilities Tab to locate the updated information. Once groups and organizations register online, requests for after school hours Facility Use may be entered. There are more helpful tips below and on our website. Please be sure to read the registration instructions and the school policy carefully. For further assistance, please contact Mr. Jeffrey George Director of Facilities at 412-881-2227 x 2405 or at [georgej@bb-sd.com](mailto:georgej@bb-sd.com).

## Golden Ager Card Available



Once again, as in previous years, the “Golden Ager” card will be available to Brentwood residents 65 years of age or older. The card provides free admission to all events sponsored by the Brentwood Borough School District. Please note that the “Golden Ager” card is only valid for Brentwood HOME events. The card is not valid at away events, or WPIAL and PIAA playoff events. The “Golden Ager” card is available at the district Administration Offices in the lower level of the middle/high school during regular office hours 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday.

## Voluntary Student Accident Insurance for Students K-12

Did you know that you can voluntarily purchase student accident insurance for your child in grades K-12? You can! The Brentwood Borough School District has partnered with Bollinger Specialty Group to provide a number of insurance options to offer coverage for your child. This is an affordable and reasonable option to insure your child and/or, add additional supplemental coverage for your child. Please visit [www.BollingerSchool.com](http://www.BollingerSchool.com) for plan options and pricing.

**Bollinger Specialty Group**  
BOLLINGER, INC., A SUBSIDIARY OF  
ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

**K-12 Voluntary Student Accident Insurance**

### Available Coverage Options

Depending on which program your school provides, some or all of the following voluntary insurance products are available for purchase on a voluntary basis:

- \$500,000 School Time Only Student Accident Insurance
- \$500,000 Round The Clock – 24 Hour Accident Coverage
- \$10,000 Student Life Insurance
- \$5,000 Student Dental Accident Insurance

### Kids will be Kids!

1. Make sure your child is properly covered against unforeseen accidents.
2. Purchase coverage at your convenience from any computer.
3. Follow the easy step by step instructions and you're done in minutes!

These Voluntary Participation Student Accident Insurance Plans offered through your school can be purchased easily online at:

[www.BollingerSchools.com](http://www.BollingerSchools.com)

**Bollinger Specialty Group**  
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