



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH



Comprehensive Planning Process

The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus is credited with introducing the concept that the only constant in life is change and in the educational world, we are consistently deal with change. Over the next three years, we will focus on four key goals that are central to our mission: Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA), School Culture/Climate, and Community Engagement. Multiple teams of educators, led by Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Mrs. Stephanie DeLuca spent a year researching and piloting Mathematics and English Language programs to identify the resources that best address our students' needs. Students, parents, community members and business owners were invited to provide input and feedback throughout the process, as well. The plan was presented at a public-school board meeting and then placed on public display for 28 days.



utilize the School Climate Survey and the Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) Survey. A student ambassador program will continue at the middle school and students at the high school will continue to engage in belonging activities on half days.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The District was fortunate to work with the Brookings Institute, Kidsburg, the Grable Foundation and others who set out to ask the question, What does community and parent engagement look like in schools? Our goal is to shift from a lens of parent participation and community engagement to an emphasis on partnership is our goal with community engagement. We will seek feedback from parents and community members over the course of the next three years. The first event in which feedback was requested from parents occurred during Open House. Poster paper was hung on the walls of the schools with this question: "What is your primary goal for your child this school year."

The options included:

- To prepare my child for future education through rigorous content knowledge across all academic subjects
- To prepare my child with work and learning habits needed in the future
- To prepare my child to be a good citizen, community member and friend, and to prepare by helping my child gain self-knowledge find a sense of purpose and better understand their values.

All parents were asked to identify which statement best represented their belief in the purpose of school. It is interesting to note that parents within the same household do not always agree on the same beliefs.

As we embark on this Comprehensive Plan, we are confident that with your partnership, we can achieve great things. Together, we can provide our students with a world-class education and prepare them for a successful future.

MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Shifting from the lens of parent participation and community engagement to an emphasis on partnership is our goal. In parallel with our commitment to mathematics, we are equally dedicated to advancing our students' ELA skills. We will strive to improve literacy rates and foster a love for reading and writing. To measure the effectiveness of the newly acquired resources, the District will continue to utilize the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to track student achievement and growth. Our professional staff will be expected to implement the new resources with fidelity. Students who score proficient or advanced will be expected to attain their growth goals and students who are not proficient will be expected to meet or exceed their growth goals.

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE

When students feel valued, they connect with school in a sense of belonging. This in turn correlates to great student well-being and higher academic engagement. The District will continue to

NEW PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATIONAL LUMINARY:

MRS. FLOODSTROM, the latest gem to grace Elroy's educational landscape! Hailing originally from the vibrant music city of Nashville, Tennessee, she found her heart's true home in the Steel City, having called Pittsburgh her residence since 2020. Mrs. Floodstrom's teaching journey is nothing short of extraordinary, marked by an extensive background in English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and an impressive 22 years of experience shaping young minds.

In recent years, she's seamlessly transitioned to the virtual classroom, honing her teaching craft online. However, there's no place quite like the physical classroom for Mrs. Floodstrom, where her passion and expertise truly shine. Her academic journey has taken her through the hallowed halls of Syracuse University for undergraduate studies and Tennessee State University for her Master's degree, solidifying her status as a true academic connoisseur.

Beyond the classroom, this exceptional educator is an avid reader and puzzle enthusiast, finding solace in the realms of literature and the intricate world of jigsaw puzzles. When she's not delving into the complexities of ESL instruction, you'll find her nestled in Brookline, sharing her life with her cherished spouse, Cass, their son, Eric, and an adorable hairless guinea pig, Connie.

Mrs. Floodstrom is a repository of innovative ideas, and Elroy is buzzing with excitement as it welcomes this educational virtuoso. Her dynamic presence promises to usher in a new era of inspiration and growth, making her a cherished addition to the Elroy community.



INTRODUCING THE MAESTRO OF MELODIES: MS. LETTERLE,

the newest addition to the Elroy and Moore Elementary family! This dynamo of a music educator is also responsible for the 4th and 5th-grade band and choir for both elementary schools and she also plays a pivotal role as the assistant director of the Brentwood High School marching band, elevating the town's musical prowess to new heights.

Ms. Letterle brings a wealth of musical knowledge to the table, holding a Bachelor of Science in music education and a Bachelor of Arts in Theater, both earned at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her expertise extends far beyond the classroom, as she graces the professional music scene in the Pittsburgh area. Whether captivating audiences as a solo performer, singing with the Belle Voce Treble choir, or serving as the section leader and soloist at Third Presbyterian Church in Shadyside, Ms. Letterle is a name synonymous with musical excellence.

Prior to her arrival in Brentwood, Ms. Letterle dedicated three years to molding young minds at Arlington PreK-8 in the Pittsburgh Public School District, where her passion for nurturing musical talents truly shone. Now, as she takes the baton in Brentwood, she's brimming with excitement to join your student's incredible musical journey. Ms. Letterle is set to be the guiding star of a harmonious adventure that promises to crescendo into a symphony of success.



GRATEFUL

GRATEFUL FOR GRADUATE'S GENEROSITY

Xander Witt, a 2023 graduate at Brentwood High School and member of Troop 296, earned his Eagle Scout Rank after many years of service to scouting. When considering a project for his Eagle Scout Rank, Xander chose to give back to his former high school community. Xander's skills in design and paid off for hundreds of students and staff as he donated multiple planter benches to Brentwood Middle-High School. The benches have been placed at several locations on the school campus. Brentwood is truly grateful for Xander's generosity and even more proud of Xander's Eagle Scout Rank.



LEARNING ABOUT HISTORICAL CHARACTERS, JOHNNY APPLESEED

At Moore Elementary, **Mrs. T. Ziegler** and Mrs. D. Ziegler's classes celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day with some hands-on activities! The students learned about Johnny Appleseed, the American pioneer who introduced apple trees to large parts of Pennsylvania and surrounding areas. In order to make the experience 4d – engaging the senses of sight, sound, scent and taste, the teachers taught the students how to make applesauce. This lesson was both delicious and educational as the class used both math and reading skills to make the applesauce. Everyone read the recipe, mixed the ingredients, and waited patiently for it to cook. All the burgeoning chefs sampled the applesauce with the recipe receiving rave reviews. Several students took their recipe home that night to make it with their families!!



A 'TWINNING' TEAM- MEET MOORE'S THIRD GRADE TEACHERS

Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Cassella work together teaching the third-grade students at Moore. Mrs. Cassella teaches the English Language Arts classes which include reading, grammar, and spelling. Mrs. Wilson math, science, and social studies. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Cassella have been working together in the third grade since 2021. Prior to teaching third grade at Moore, Mrs. Cassella was the school librarian serving both Moore and Elroy. She also taught English as a Second Language at Beaver Intermediate Unit, and second and fourth grade at Monessen. Mrs. Wilson has been teaching at Brentwood for over twenty years! She has taught kindergarten, fourth and fifth grade prior to teaching third grade. Mrs. Wilson has 13 years of experience teaching 3rd grade. When asked what they enjoyed most about working together they both agree that being positive people makes collaborating with each other fun. A bonus is that they inspire each other to be better teachers!

MOORE LOVES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY!

Moore School enjoys helping our community and giving back. This winter our students and staff are planning a few service projects including doing a drive to help the Food Bank at Stewart Avenue Lutheran Church, raising money for the National Diabetes Foundation, and putting together dinner and snack bags for families in need. If you are or know of a Moore family that could use some assistance with Thanksgiving or snacks over the winter break, please contact Mrs. Kauric, the school counselor.



BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HELP DESK

Brentwood Borough School District recognized a gap in technology services. Many students needed help gaining access to their devices. Student tech helpers are gaining real-world skills, such as experience juggling multiple projects, timelines, providing customer service, not to mention troubleshooting hardware and software. All the work serves as preparation for the future beyond school while also supporting the educational community.

The Technology Department started a pilot program for students in grades 9-12 at the High School. Students were interviewed and given procedures and guidelines of what would be expected. With great success, the Student Help Desk was implemented into our daily schedules. Currently, five students are working with the IT Department during the day with simple troubleshooting of devices, administering loaner devices/chargers, and fixing or repairing of devices. If this sounds like something you or your child would enjoy, time slots for additional students to join the program will be offered in the Spring of 2024.

BRENTWOOD MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH ADAGIO HEALTH

Brentwood Middle/High School partnered with Adagio Health to provide students with information regarding teen vaping. According to many experts, vaping has become a national epidemic among teenagers and is even being seen with students as young as elementary school.

Each year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts a "National Youth Tobacco Survey." According to the most recent results from the 2022 survey, 11.3% of middle and high school students reported using a tobacco product within the past 30 days. However, when it comes to e-cigarette use, the percentage of middle and high school students who have used in the past 30 days increases to 14.1%.

Two representatives from Adagio Health met with Brentwood Middle and High School students during two separate assembly programs to share the impact that vaping can have on developing bodies. The students were told that the assembly was not designed to 'scare' them, but rather to inform them of the consequences of vaping so they can make positive decisions for themselves. After discussing statistics related to teen vaping in Pennsylvania, it was noted that the numbers are even higher than average in Allegheny County.

During the assembly, several specific topics were explored including: the physical and psychological impact of nicotine



addiction, the impact of vaping on internal organs, myths regarding vaping versus tobacco cigarettes, and how advertising is used to market vapes to underage students. Toward the end of the assembly, the impact of vaping and smoking on the lungs was demonstrated as student volunteers engaged in physical activity while

breathing through a straw.

As part of their community outreach to prevent underage vaping, Adagio Health has partnered with TRU (Tobacco Resistance Unit) to promote leadership among students in discussing alcohol and tobacco related issues. TRU is a statewide program overseen by the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT) and the American Lung Association. The TRU program supports the efforts of students between the ages of 12-18 to stay tobacco and nicotine free through education and teaches students how to live a healthy lifestyle. The Brentwood Middle School 'Teens That Care (TTC)' club will be partnering with Adagio Health for their annual Red Ribbon Week, and Brentwood students will have the opportunity to get connected with the TRU program and serve as leaders in their community.

Brentwood Middle/High School would like to thank Adagio Health for helping to educate our students about these important topics that are facing teenagers throughout the nation. For more information about the TRU program, you can visit 'Tobacco Free Adagio Health.'

EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND TEAMWORK

Building bonds, setting goals, and fostering leadership skills: the eighth graders of Brentwood Middle School fostered these essential life skills in the great outdoors. As part of an innovative and immersive program, these young students headed to the Lutherlyn Camp for a unique experience in team building.

The program, meticulously tailored to the specific needs and dynamics of the group, aims to develop a wide range of crucial life skills. Guided by their group leaders, the students embarked on a journey of self-discovery and growth. This adventure was all about fostering skills such as goal setting, leadership, problem solving, trust, risk-taking, confidence, communication, creativity, peer respect, and socialization - skills that are essential not just for their academic success but also for their personal lives.



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Upon entering 6th grade, each student at Brentwood Middle School is paired with a teacher/advisor and a group of classmates with whom they meet weekly for all three years of their middle school experience. During those weekly meetings, each Advisory group is involved in activities connected to personal growth, academic achievement, community service, and positive decision making. One of the activities in which the Advisory groups participate each year is the selection of a quotation that they believe promotes a positive message which can be used as a guiding focus throughout the year. Below are the quotes that the students at Brentwood Middle School chose for the 2023-2024 school year:

- “All progress takes place outside of your comfort zone.”** – Anonymous
- “Do what you can, with what you’ve got, where you are.”** – Theodore Roosevelt
- “It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.”** – Aristotle
- “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”** – Martin Luther King Jr.
- “Work hard, nap hard.”** – Si Robertson
- “A mind is like a parachute; it does not work if it is not open.”** – Anonymous
- “It’s not about what you’re capable of, it’s about what you’re willing to do.”** – Mike Tomlin
- “Life is like riding a bicycle – to keep your balance you must keep moving.”** – Albert Einstein
- “A negative mind will never give you a positive life.”** – Ziad Abdelnour
- “Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.”**
– Winston Churchill
- “If the plan does not work, change the plan, but never the goal.”** – Anonymous
- “Follow your inner moonlight; don’t hide the madness.”** – Allen Ginsberg
- “If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.”** – Anonymous
- “Never back down, never give up.”** – Anonymous

Thoughts such as these help to continually inspire the students at Brentwood Middle School throughout the year as they pursue the acronym “BMS” of Advisory – Be your best self, Make good decisions, and Serve others!

HILL IMPACT PROGRAM STARTING AGAIN SOON

Corporal Marc Ziegler, PA State Trooper and Brentwood Class of 2002 alumnus, gives back to Brentwood students on a regular basis year after year. During Marc’s enrollment at Brentwood he participated in multiple sports and activities. He knows the positive impact that staying active in school and his community had on himself and others and he shares this message with others in a variety of ways years later. Upon graduation, Marc enlisted in the United States Army and then attended California University studying criminal justice. He became a State Trooper stationed in Uniontown in 2009, and always remembered his hometown of Brentwood. Each year, Cpl. Ziegler participates in Brentwood Middle School’s Career Day to share his work experiences with students interested in a potential law enforcement career. He also visits the elementary schools in the district for Red Ribbon Week and Touch a Truck along with Brentwood’s Director of Police and Security, Officer Jeremy Bogdanski. At the high school level, Cpl. Ziegler ran the Hill Impact Program at the Army National Guard Armory. This 14 week course, taught by Cpl. Ziegler and other State Troopers and guest speakers, was available to any high school student ages 15-18 across counties. The program concentrated on physical fitness, paramilitary disciplines, and law enforcement education. Three Brentwood students, Remington Peters, Elliott Cramer, and Anthony Capozzoli, joined Cpl. Ziegler and other troopers to participate in the following courses: C.I.A. case solving, K9 Training, Stress Relieving Techniques, Effective Communication Skills and reading body language among other mini-courses taught throughout the program. Students also took a field trip to the 911 Call Center. A graduation ceremony was held for all cadets at Cpl. Ziegler’s alma mater, Brentwood High School. Brentwood School District Police Officer, Alyssa



Bogdanski, graciously joined forces with the State Troopers and presented cadet, Anthony Capozzoli, with his Hill Impact Diploma. Brentwood is grateful to Cpl. Marc Ziegler and his service to students and community. Even though he no longer lives or works in our district, Cpl. Ziegler always makes time for his hometown, Brentwood. This year’s Hill Impact Program will be at the Southwest Training Center located at 2900 Seminary Drive in Greensburg, PA. It will begin January 19 and will last until April 8 on Monday evenings. For more information on this worthwhile program for students ages 15-18, please contact TFC. Abby Blazavich at 717.614.7971 or ablazavich@pa.gov.

STUDENT SERVICES

HELP TO STOP THE CHAOS

Brentwood Borough School District is in the process of pursuing a partnership with Care Solace to help connect students, school staff, and their families to quality mental health and substance use treatment providers matched to their needs. Care Solace supports equitable access to care regardless of coverage, including private insurance, Medicaid, or sliding scale options for those without insurance.

Navigating the mental health care system can be complicated and present families with barriers that they struggle to overcome. Care Solace staff help individuals and families navigate barriers related to insurance coverage, social stigma, and language/communication. Staff is knowledgeable of available community resources, including wait lists for practices

that are at capacity. The company’s sole goal is to assist people in finding a community-based mental health or substance use treatment provider that can meet their unique needs. Care Solace will work together with school staff and families to connect youth to more intensive treatment for students with needs that exceed the scope of school-based supports.

Care Solace is a national company who has worked with over 800 school districts in the United States and estimates that they have served over 15 million students/families with their over 375,000 verified providers. This partnership will help to calm the chaos of mental health care for the students, staff, and families of Brentwood Borough.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



The **Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh (BCAP)** is offering an after-school program to students again this year and Brentwood Middle/High School library will be a new location for the program. BCAP surveyed their families in the Brentwood area to determine interest in this type of programming and seventeen students indicated they would like to attend. BCAP utilizes both paid and volunteer tutors to work with the students to complete their homework, projects, and other assignments from school. The group also works on social and emotional learning and STEAM-centered activities with the students. BCAP has also

extended an invitation to school district staff to come to visit the program and to get to know the services BCAP can provide to families. BCAP staff seek to remove obstacles and build bridges between the Bhutanese families and school district staff to ensure that parents have an active role in the education of their children. The after-school program operates Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:45 PM.

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Here at Brentwood, we have had our own Interact Club for the past 6 years. Led by Mr. Chris Weaver, one of our High School Science teachers, students meet bi-monthly to work on a variety of projects.

The Interact Club allows students to connect with local community leaders and helps them to learn how to become a leader in their own schools and communities, discover new cultures and promote international understanding, and helps them to have fun and make friends from around their local community, district, and the world!

Interact clubs organize at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Rotary club sponsors mentor and guide Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

Students can engage in activities such as World Interact Week, Interact Video Awards' Rotary Youth Day at the United Nations, and Global Youth Service Day.

This year, our Brentwood students have recycled 280 pounds of shoes to help raise money for the "Got Sneakers" initiative. This was more than any other school in Interact District 7305. We were awarded a "Trex" bench for coming in 1st place.

Current projects that our Brentwood students are working on are the Ukrainian Orphanage Project which collects gifts for orphans in war torn Ukraine. Completed projects from this school year include collecting winter jackets for North Hill Outreach and the Got Sneakers program.

Upcoming projects include, Cards for Veterans, Ornaments for Elderly, Shelter Box, Lions Club Breakfast



with Santa, Elroy Science Olympiad, Hopeful Ways glasses collection, Earth Day invasive species project, Salvation Army Red Kettle collections, and Action for Animals

The Brentwood Borough School District is pleased to announce that this year, one of our Interact Club members, Avalon Peters, a 10th grade student has been chosen to an "At-Large" Director for Interact District 7305. Her term will begin on July 1st, 2024, and expire on June 30th, 2026.

Students wishing to learn more about Interact Club should speak with Mr. Weaver in room 325 or go to <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/interact-clubs>.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TAKES ON A NEW TWIST AT BRENTWOOD

Many families may wonder, "what happens on the professional learning days where our students suddenly stay home for teacher professional development?" Well, this year at Brentwood, we've really switched up what our teacher learning looks like!

Every school district has many professional development priorities it must manage throughout the course of a school year. This includes statewide mandates, district priorities, building level logistics, curriculum and instructional practices and classroom needs. This year at Brentwood, we've shifted our focus to allow for online asynchronous learning of some of the mandatory items, so that during in-person professional learning days we can focus on providing opportunities for teachers to engage with learning groups on topics that are important to their practice. Social studies teacher, Jennifer O'Shea mentions, "The teachers are extremely excited about the new Professional Development model for this year. The asynchronous option allows us to work at our own pace and not take away from the club meetings and athletic events that so many of us are involved in for our students."

Here at Brentwood, we truly believe for our school to be a culture of learning for our students, it must be a culture of learning for our teachers; this is what we're aiming to do this year with our professional learning goal around cultivating a community of learners. In our recent sessions, teacher learning groups have been working on everything from implementing new curriculum resources, investigating new science standards, to creating works of art with resident teaching artists to infuse new ideas into our courses.



BRENTWOOD EDUCATORS GROW WITH PROJECT ZERO PITTSBURGH



This fall, Brentwood High School has continued to grow our practices with Project Zero Pittsburgh. On October 9th, several teachers from the High School, as well as Principal, Dr. Olexa and Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Coordinator, Stephanie DeLuca, attended the Project Zero (PZ) Pittsburgh Regional Conference, bringing together like-minded educators from the region at the Children's Museum. The keynote speakers included Daniel Wilson and Tina Blythe, both from Harvard Graduate School



of Education around creating learning opportunities in classrooms and other spaces.

Each educator attended sessions around implementing PZ practices into their classrooms, gaining new ideas which will benefit our Brentwood students as we work towards developing habits of deeper learning. Dr. Olexa and Mrs. DeLuca also presented a session highlighting how we have started infusing these practices at the school level, creating a culture of learning for teachers. This group will continue to explore PZ practices and ideas throughout the year, working together to implement them in classrooms with students along the way.

LUNCH WITH THE SPARTANS!

When Nick Caponi was named the head coach of the Brentwood Varsity Football Team he wanted to do more than just manage the team. One of his primary goals was to do more community outreach and interaction to promote the program as a whole. His primary idea was to have members of his football team working with elementary students both at Elroy and Moore Elementary School in a positive way. One of the ideas that Coach Caponi came up with was called "Lunch with The Spartans."

Each Friday, select members of the football team are sent to Elroy and Moore Elementary School on a rotational basis. The players spend time with 2nd and 3rd grade students in the cafeteria. The players meet and mingle with younger students and engage them in conversation as well as developing personal relationships and providing mentoring. The players then walk these students back to their homerooms at the conclusion of lunch. They return to the cafeteria and do the same positive interactions with 4th and 5th Grade students. When the lunch periods are concluded, the varsity football players who are assigned to the schools for that week go to Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms and they read to the students.

The project has been a success for both the football program and the students at both Elroy and Moore Elementary Schools. The positive interactions of high school students and elementary students has been a very beneficial experience. The high school students provide an example to elementary students regarding doing good schoolwork, being a responsible student, and including others as part of their social mission. The high school students also promote the importance of reading and being good role models for our youngest students.

Coach Caponi feels that being a member of the football team is more than just playing football. The Brentwood Spartans represent the school and the community. Players are also taught that not only are they members of a team, but they are members of a bigger community. Their actions and their time with younger students sets a good example and promotes good citizenship. Giving back to the community, especially with our younger students is one of the greatest gifts that can be given. Being a good friend, and the importance of reading are the corner stones of this outreach program.

ATHLETICS

Cheerleading Seniors

Kiera Smith, Ava Petitt, Mikayla Kling, Ariauna Eichler, Alaina Pegano



Golf Seniors

Liam Bayne, Brady Donovan, Zach Wuenschel



Band Seniors

Alec Boehm, Naomi Nordeen, Makenna Cornman



Soccer Seniors

Kenet Espina-Castillo, Abishek Khawas, Zach Wuenschell, Emmanuel Ebo



Volleyball Seniors

Shayla Millington, Seena Rai, Kiersten Finnigan



Cross Country

Santino Genock and Noah Cramer

What is the Brentwood High School Hall of Fame?



Motto:

By honoring the past, we are encouraging the future!

Mission:

The Mission of the Brentwood High School Hall of Fame is to contribute to the goals set by the Brentwood School District and the Brentwood Community. To this end the HOF recognizes distinguished alumni at a biennial banquet and provides annual scholarships to future Brentwood graduates.

Banquet Info:

Save the Date:
October 5, 2024
@ Salvatore's

Trustee Officers:

Julia McCarthy - '64 Chair
Kerry Huffman - '84 Treasurer
Helen Hughes-Smith - '78 Secretary

Scholarships:

The Hall of Fame Board annually awards tuition scholarships to several qualified senior graduates who plan on attending CCAC or an accredited vocational/trade school.

Social Media:



www.brentwoodhighschoolhalloffame.com



Brentwood High School Hall of Fame