

District Highlights

SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY REPORT
September 2023



From the desk of Dr. Rendell...

Hello Everyone,

This monthly newsletter is a new communication tool we are introducing this year. There are a lot of great things happening in our school system and we want to share them with you. We also want to do our best to keep our entire school community informed on BPS news.

We have had a wonderful start to the school year. Even with a slight interruption with Hurricane Idelia, we are quickly settling into smooth operations at each school. We do still have a few wrinkles to iron out with transportation, but we are well on our way. We realize that the education of our children is an awesome calling and a tremendous responsibility, and we thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Educational Technology



Educational Technology is so excited to share details of Girls in STEM and Destination Mars programs. Girls in STEM have multiple dates coming up this Fall. Don't miss your opportunity to learn more at any one of our events.

Destination Mars has a student kickoff event at the Kennedy Space Center coming up on October 18th. To view more details please see the links below.

[Girls in STEM](#)

Curriculum & Instruction



We are excited to share the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (R.A.I.S.E.) High School Tutoring program that began on August 14th! This year, thirty-eight high school students are serving as reading tutors in our elementary schools. Participating high school students receive training in the implementation of small group phonics instruction and skills for word recognition aligned to the science of reading. High school students in 11th

[Destination Mars](#)

and 12th grade eligible to tutor as student employees or they may earn volunteer hours. This special opportunity provides supplemental supports to our first and second grade elementary students. Positions have been filled for the first semester, but high school students interested in an opportunity to make a difference in their community should submit their tutoring application and/or Human Resources paperwork by December 19, 2023. For more information, please visit the R.A.I.S.E. Tutoring website using the following link.

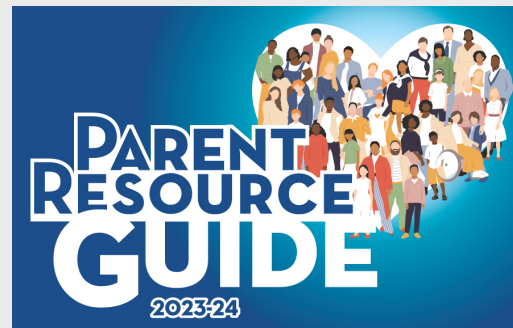
<https://sites.google.com/share.brevardschools.org/bpsraisetutoring?usp=sharing>

District Operations



Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is excited about the new school year and has already seen a 5.6% increase in lunch participation over last year. FNS launched the new “Fresh Express – Made Your Way Every Day!” line at all BPS middle and high schools this year. This innovative concept allows students to “build their own meal” from a variety of base items like lettuce, rice, tortilla wraps and chips, their choice of protein, and a variety of freshly chopped vegetable toppings and tangy sauces. Students and faculty are raving about this new line option. We invite you to try the new Fresh Express line when you visit one of our middle or high schools.

Government & Community Relations



The 2023-2024 Parent Resource Guide is now available to all BPS families. Discover a wealth of information, tips, and tools to support your child's educational journey. Educational programs, food options, transportation, and support resources are just some of the topics you'll find inside. We encourage families to review this year's Parent Resource Guide and to keep it handy as we move through the school year. From the first bell to the final project, let's make this academic journey extraordinary.

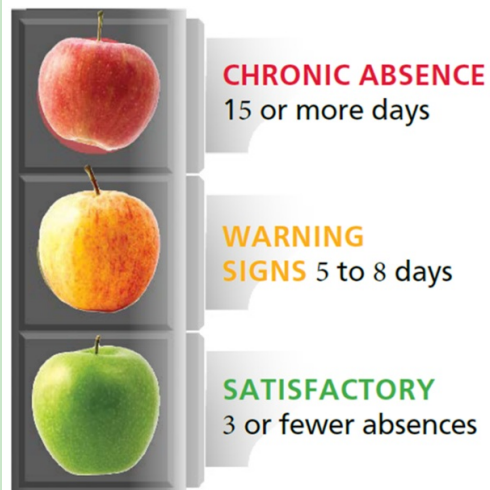
[VIEW MORE DETAILS](#)

Student Services



Student Services Program Support and Brevard Public Schools is proud to announce that it will be the host of the 2023 Florida American Print House Abacus Math Bee, an event specially designed for students with visual impairments. Students will be working to solve various math problems using a variety of tactile manipulatives to include an abacus, mental math, finger math, or counting cubes. Students with visual impairments and their families will also have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math concepts. Please join us on Friday, September 15, 2023, from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM at Educational Services Facility (2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940). Registration information can be found by following the **Florida Abacus Math Bee** link.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Did you know???

- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days of school every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance and lack of engagement.

What can you do:

- Set a regular bed and wake up time, lay out clothes and backpack the night before and avoid turning on the TV.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, share this with teachers, school counselors, and social workers for advice on how to make your child less anxious and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, be sure to talk to the school and teachers for resources and ideas to continue learning at home and not fall behind.

Facilities Services



In addition to our normal maintenance duties, maintenance completed several Surtax Projects. Under the oversight of Tony Troisi, we completed the renovation of science labs at Stone, Westshore, and Hoover, classroom renewals at West Melbourne and Palm Bay Elementary. He also oversaw new flooring in the media and music rooms for fifteen schools. The science lab renovations consisted of new flooring, goggle stations, upgraded eyewash stations, sinks, cabinets, student and teacher works stations, as well as upgraded fume hoods.

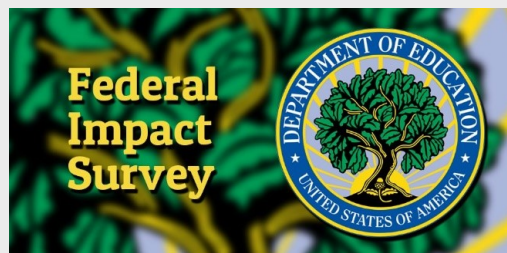
We also completed, under the oversight of Steve Ambriole, the replacement of six playgrounds and the painting of nine schools this summer. The playground replacement involved removing the old playground by our Grounds Department and the installation of a new playgrounds by our playground contractors. This also included adding rubber tiles in the fall areas to provide a safer and reduced maintenance alternative to engineered wood fiber.

The new middle school is currently under construction and planned to open August 2024! Here is a link to the latest drone video that shows the construction progress:

<https://youtu.be/ZBScBNCPCoQ>

The new middle school will include 3 buildings totaling approximately 135,000 square feet and a capacity of 900 students. The project will be funded using educational facilities impact fee collections from new residential units. Please check the capital projects website for additional information and updates on the construction:

Financial Services



Our Federal Impact Aid Survey will be available in Focus on September 19, 2023.

Filling out the Survey helps your child's school receive additional funding.

BPS includes within its boundaries parcels of land that are owned by the federal government, including military installations like Patrick Space Command and Kennedy Space Center. Federal property is exempt from local property taxes, resulting in reduced financial resources for the district. Meaning that BPS operates with less local revenue than is available to other school districts.

The Federal Impact Aid Program provides the reimbursement to school districts with concentrations of children residing on military installations or other federal properties and, to concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed serves or employed on federal properties who do not live on military installations.

[VIEW MORE DETAILS](#)



Fitch Ratings has affirmed Brevard County School Board, FL ratings.

On Wed 16 Aug, 2023

Fitch Ratings – New York – Wed 16 Aug 2023 press release affirms a “STABLE” financial outlook for our district. The “Stable” outlook denotes Fitch’s view of the district’s financial condition continues to be positive. The ‘AA’ Issuer Default Rating (IDR) reflects the school board’s history of generally

[VIEW MORE DETAILS](#)

stable financial results and maintenance of reserves that provide strong financial buffer against unforeseen revenue changes and other budgetary challenges. AA is considered "Very high credit quality."

Chief of Schools



Congratulations to Edgewood Junior/Senior High School and West Shore Junior/Senior High School who were recently recognized by US News as a top high school in Florida and across the nation:

On a list of more than 1,100 high schools in Florida, two Brevard high schools ranked among the top 10 best high schools in Florida, according to data released by US News and World Report.

West Shore Junior/Senior High School in Melbourne ranked at No. 4 in the state and No. 43 nationally, while Edgewood Junior/Senior High School in Merritt Island ranked at No. 7 in the state and No. 74 nationally.

Both schools have a graduation rate of 100%, with West Shore receiving a college readiness score of 97.3 and Edgewood a score of 97.1, according to US News data released Tuesday.

The schools were ranked based on how they performed nationally and statewide out of 17,680 nationally ranked schools and 618 schools ranked in Florida. U.S. News gave each of the 1,130 ranked Florida high schools a scorecard, which factors in data on how many students took at least one AP exam, passed at least one AP exam, mathematics proficiency, reading proficiency, science proficiency and graduation rate.



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The public or students, including Title IX, IDEA, 504, and Equity and Diversity matters contact: Title IX Coordinator Jacqueline Saxenmeyer 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Melbourne, FL 32940 (321) 633-1000, Ext. 11280 saxenmeyer.j@brevardschools.org

Employees or job applicants contact: Director of Professional Standards and Labor Relations Gail Williams, Ed.S. 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Melbourne, FL 32940 (321) 633-1000 Ext. 11265 williams.gail@brevardschools.org

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