



# BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS E-NEWS

“Our Primary Purpose is to Improve Student Achievement”



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## 2020-2021 School Calendar

### Upcoming District Calendar Dates

- ◆ **November 3**  
Professional Learning  
No School K-12
- ◆ **November 25**  
Early Dismissal K-12
- ◆ **November 26-27**  
Thanksgiving Recess  
No School K-12

## Superintendent's News

*Christine Carver, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*  
*[2020 Outstanding School Superintendent of the Year](#)*

### In This Section:

- ◇ [Reminder – COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies](#)
- ◇ [BOE Approved REVISED 2020-2021 School Calendar](#)
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### Reminders:

- ◇ [BHS Adjustment in Hybrid Schedule](#)
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### Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community Members:

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. As a follow up reminder from my earlier communications this week, and because we have data on how the COVID-19 virus is spreading in our community, we need to remind everyone to renew our vigilance to the following mitigation measures:

- Wearing a mask or cloth face covering.
- **Maintain social distancing.**
- Monitor your health for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and **stay home if you are sick.**
- Wash your hands frequently.

**Avoid social gatherings** (including within families). Almost all of the current cases are a result of social gatherings outside of school, which is getting worse because people are getting together indoors.

If someone in your household is ill and has [symptoms of COVID-19](#), they should immediately isolate themselves from the members of the household to avoid spread within families. This is becoming increasingly more common.

Contact your medical provider if you have any COVID-19 symptoms to discuss your illness and whether you should get a PCR COVID-19 test. [CT Testing Locator](#) If you are asked to quarantine as a direct contact, please follow all guidelines including staying at home.

With the holidays coming up and rising metrics, it is more important than ever to implement these mitigation measures.

### **BOE Approved the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar - Additional Early Release Days for Teacher Planning:**

Our teachers and staff are entering uncharted waters, as we try to redefine our educational system to our students during this pandemic. Our teachers and staff always rise to the occasion and set high expectations for their instructional practice so that our students continue to make growth. That being said, the amount of change and the ability to learn while implementing these complex systems requires time for professional learning and planning. The time that teachers currently have is not



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adequate to keep up with the pace of expectations. [REVISED 2020-2021 School Year Calendar](#).

**Parent Survey:** We always try to improve our practice through feedback from our stakeholders. Early next week we will be sending parents the survey links and you should complete one (1) survey per school. There will be a separate survey for our students who are only on Distance Learning Pre -K-8. Because BHS students are in a hybrid, they will only have one survey as they have part of their instruction remotely. Survey topics will include communication, learning model, student needs, social emotional well-being, and health and safety (during COVID-19). We hope you take the opportunity to provide us with feedback.

**Congratulation to Mr. Bryan Watson, BMS Principal, who has been recognized with the Connecticut Association of School Librarians' Administrator's Award. This award honors** an administrator who provides necessary support for improving school library services through encouragement and adequate funding for program maintenance and improvement.

## REMINDERS

**Snow Days:** On a separate note, at the last State Board of Education meeting, the SBOE passed a resolution allowing for districts to use "snow days" as distance learning days for the 2020-2021 school year. This resolution specified that the State Department of Education must pass guidelines for the use of those days. Once we have those guidelines, we will be communicating with families how the district will implement the guidance. We wanted to make you aware of the change.

**Bethel High School is adjusting the hybrid schedule beginning the week of October 26th.** This adjustment will allow for In-Person students to be in school on Wednesdays using an alternating schedule (Cohort A and B). For instance, during the week of 10/26, Cohort A students will be In-Person for three days M, T, W, (10/26 - 10/28). The following week, Cohort B students will be In-Person for three days, W, R, F, (11/4 - 11/6). They will continue to run all 8 periods on Wednesdays. Please see the [Tentative Schedule](#) for specific details. Students will be provided a final schedule with class times, when they get closer to the start date.

**EVENING MEAL PICK UP FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS:** Effective immediately, Food Services is changing Monday and Wednesday evening meal pick up from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. to Saturday mornings between 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. They will provide meals for your student(s) for the entire week--breakfast and lunch.

Please make sure to fill out the online form [Pick Up Meal Order Form](#) before 8:00 a.m. on the Friday or your meals will not be prepared. Pickups are on a reservation only basis. You must complete the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Riley at [rileya@bethel.k12.ct.us](mailto:rileya@bethel.k12.ct.us).



**Brotherhood In Action Announcement:** The Bethel Brotherhood in Action has served many needy families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please help us replenish our supplies by donating food items. We specifically need canned or dry food items.

The donation will be "contact-free". Simply drive up to our location between 9 AM and 12 Noon on Saturday, October 31st to drop off your donation.

We are located on Greenwood Ave. across the street from English Drug and Jacqueline's Restaurant. Simply enter the driveway next to the Bethel United Methodist Church and hand your donation to our volunteers. Thank you to all of our supporters.

**Out of State Travel:** Any individual who travels to a state on the [travel advisory](#) must present verification of submission of the [travel health form](#) to the Department of Public Health and a negative PCR test result prior to readmittance to school. The form and the negative PCR test result can be submitted to your child's school nurse. Once they have reviewed all of the information, you will be notified when your child can return to school.

**COVID Testing:** We are finding that it is becoming more routine that pediatricians are ordering COVID tests as a rule out diagnosis. In addition, we are also finding that some families are choosing to test for their own peace of mind, regardless of exposure. Those



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families should notify the health office that their child was tested and remain in quarantine until they have a negative result. In either case, children will not be permitted to attend school for in-person learning, but may participate in Distance Learning.

**DPH COVID Test Type Requirements:** We would like to clarify questions we have received regarding COVID testing. Often times, medical professionals are recommending COVID tests as a rule out based on symptoms. At the recommendation of the Department of Public Health, if your child is receiving a COVID test, the Bethel Public School District will only be accepting PCR test results. This test is the most accurate in determining positive cases. It is very important that you clarify with your healthcare provider which test your child is receiving when being tested. Documentation, regardless of results, must be received and reviewed by your child’s school nurse before returning to in-person learning. A reminder that individuals should remain in quarantine until you receive a negative test result. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our students and staff safe.

**Halloween Guidance:** The State of CT Department of Public Health has released their recommendations and guidance for Halloween and other similar Fall events. The Dept. of Public Health & the Bethel Health Department recommend you use this guidance to plan your Halloween activity in a manner which ensures participants are at low risk for COVID-19 exposure/illness prevention. It is best to participate in Halloween low risk activities. To view the recommendations and guidance please use the link below: [Dept. of Public Health’s Halloween Guidance document](#)

**BPS Fan Policy for Outdoor Sporting Events:** Bethel Public Schools will be allowing two (2) family members to attend outdoor sporting events this fall. In the sport of Volleyball, the district will allow one (1) family member and in swimming, due to limited space and more stringent guidelines at the Brookfield YMCA, no spectators will be permitted. The SWC is not allowing any spectators for away events. Therefore, this policy is limited to home games. The league has made a commitment to live stream many sporting events on the NFHS network. To subscribe visit the following website: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/bethel-high-school-bethel-ct>

If you are a family member of an athlete and plan on attending a home game, you must pre-register a minimum of one hour before the start of the game. To register complete the [Spectator Registration Form](#). All spectators that attend games in-person must wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

***Want to be the first to know schedule updates, Food Services feeding program info, etc?***

***Follow me on Facebook and Twitter.***

**In addition, we post photos of school and district events on Flickr.**



## Circle of Friends Pre-K

### **State of Connecticut Pre-K Flu Requirement**

Parents/Guardians of Currently Enrolled Pre-K Students:

This is a reminder that the State of Connecticut has mandated that children enrolled in Pre-K receive the Flu Vaccine before December 31, 2020. You must provide proof of this immunization to the Berry School nurse. If you fail to meet this requirement your child will not be allowed to return to in-person learning on January 4, 2020.

If your child is not receiving the vaccine, then you must provide either a medical or religious exemption. Your child’s paperwork can be faxed to the Berry School Health Office (203-205-0654).



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## School Lunch Information



The Bethel Public Schools now has a Facebook page specifically for School Lunch:

Bethel School Lunch Program - Bethel, CT



Please visit us to keep up-to-date on all of the news concerning the school lunch program.

The State Department of Education approved Bethel Public Schools to participate in the SSO school meal program, which means **beginning immediately all our students and their siblings 18 and under, regardless of income level, can receive school breakfast and lunch meals for FREE!** The program is funded through a Federal grant from the USDA. This program, which is an extension of the program we offered last spring, will continue through December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out. No charges will be processed for any meals served, whether the meals are served at school or picked up daily (for students on distance learning).

For those students on distance learning (including those learning from home on hybrid), the hours for pick up at rear of Bethel High School are:

- 11 AM until 1 PM, Monday-Friday or
- **EVENING MEAL PICK UP FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS: Effective immediately, we are changing Monday and Wednesday evening meal pick up from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. to Saturday mornings between 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** You will get meals for your student(s) for the entire week--breakfast and lunch.
- Please make sure to fill out the online form [Pick Up Meal Order Form](#) before 8:00 a.m. on the Friday or your meals will not be prepared. Pickups are on a reservation only basis. **You must complete the form.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Riley at [riley@bethel.k12.ct.us](mailto:riley@bethel.k12.ct.us).

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased volume of meals that will be served under this program, we will not be able to accommodate individual choices at this time. We appreciate your understanding.

For more information on the lunch program, Free/Reduced Lunch, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), go to the Food & Nutrition Department on our website by clicking here: [Food & Nutrition](#). If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact our Food Service Director, Amanda Riley at (203) 794-8722 or via email at [riley@bethel.k12.ct.us](mailto:riley@bethel.k12.ct.us).

## Bethel Education Foundation



[www.betheledfoundation.org](http://www.betheledfoundation.org)

## Board of Education Policy Updates

The Bethel Public Schools, as a learning community devoted to the academic and social growth of our children, creates educational opportunities that inspire competence, creativity, teamwork, and a drive to excel. In an environment of trust and respect, high expectations for student performance are evident in the discussions, actions, and policies of the Board of Education. Board of Education policies can be found on our district website. As a way to increase communication about Board of Education policies we



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include Board of Education policy updates in this section of our newsletter as they are approved by the Board. You can find the Board of Education policies on the district website at: [Bethel Board of Education Policies](#)

## **Policies Recently Reviewed and/or Revised, & Approved:**

[Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8](#) - Use of Face Coverings – 9/17/20

[Policy 4118.234](#) - Prohibition of Psychotropic Drugs – 9/17/20

[Policy/Regulation 4147.1](#) - Occupational Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens– 9/17/20

[Policy/Regulation 5140](#) - Health and Welfare– 9/17/20

[Policy 5141.21](#) - Administration of Medication– 9/17/20

[Policy/Regulation 5141.22](#) - Communicable Infectious Diseases– 9/17/20

[Policy 5141.23](#) - Psychotropic Drug Use– 9/17/20

[Policy 5141.24](#) - Students/Staff with HIV, ARC, or AIDS– 9/17/20

[Policy 5141.28](#) - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention– 9/17/20

[Policy/Regulation 5141.3](#) - Health Assessments & Immunizations– 9/17/20

[Policy/Regulation 5141.7](#) - Student Sports – Concussions– 9/17/20



In March, due to Governor Lamont’s Executive Order, we created a webpage to maintain public access to all Board of Education meetings that began being held virtually due to COVID-19. All BOE Meeting Agendas & Minutes are still posted with the Town Clerk’s office.

To access and view the live streaming of our BOE Virtual Meetings, go to our website’s main page and select the link for “Board of Education Virtual Meetings.” BOE meeting agendas, supporting documents, a link to the live stream during the meeting to view, and also a phone number to call to also allow the public the opportunity of participation during the audience participation portion of the agenda if they are calling in, they are all available on our website at [Bethel Board of Education Virtual Meetings 2020](#)

All BOE Virtual Meetings are recorded and posted on BEtv. You can access them via the BEtv webpage in the On-Demand section. [BPS BEtv](#)

## **Family-School Partnership**



**The Family School Partnership Committee and Bethel Schools introduce the Parent Network Facebook Pages!**

Questions about school policies, homework, special events, etc., at our schools? Join the **Berry Parent Network, Rockwell Parent Network, Johnson Parent Network, BMS Parent Network** or the **Bethel High School Parent Network** on Facebook. These friendly forums, designed to support K-12 families, allow parents to post questions, give advice and provide resources to other parents. We encourage all to join!

### **How to join:**

Berry Families - Facebook/Berry Parent Network

Rockwell Families - Facebook/Rockwell Parent Network

Johnson Families - Facebook/Johnson Parent Network

Bethel Middle School Families - Facebook/BMS Parent Network

Bethel High School Families - Facebook/Bethel High School Parent Network

### **Questions:**

Berry Families - [berrymentors@gmail.com](mailto:berrymentors@gmail.com)

Rockwell Families - [rockwellmentors@gmail.com](mailto:rockwellmentors@gmail.com)

Johnson Families - [johnsonmentors@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonmentors@gmail.com)

Bethel Middle School Families - [bmsmentors@gmail.com](mailto:bmsmentors@gmail.com)

Bethel High School Families - [bethelhighmentors@gmail.com](mailto:bethelhighmentors@gmail.com)

## **BPS Flickr Page**



**Check out the photos on the Bethel Public Schools Flickr page! Dan DeBlois, District Photographer, will post photos on Flickr throughout the school year. Follow @DanDeBlois to be notified when they photos are posted.** We have posted photos taken by our staff. The photographs are from various school events open to the public. Sports, Concerts and Musicals are some examples. We will be regularly including more photos. **On Twitter follow @DanDeBlois for updates on event postings!** Go to [flickr](#) and take a look.



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## BETv – Comcast Channel 97



**BETv has your Bethel Public Schools programs.**

Check out the Kindness video from the last kindness week!

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=cfa498383309>

Sports are on! - If you were not able to see them live catch the action here

V Field Hockey vs Immaculate 10/21/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=6fdb06165db>

BHS 7vs 7 Football vs Bunnell 10/15/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=fbfa21ff3a81>

V Boys Soccer vs Brookfield 10/15/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=3cb13f6c73da>

V Boys Soccer vs Pomperaug 10/13/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=40c356a02715>

Field Hockey vs Weston 10/13/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=dbccd3c761c5>

V Volleyball vs Pomperaug 10/13/20 <http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=ce661b2554dd>

Check out our full line up here <https://sites.google.com/bethel.k12.ct.us/betv/home>

Remember if you don't get us on Comcast cable, Channel 97, you can still see all our programming streaming live at

<http://dv2.discovervideo.com/play/?id=xw3838k&player=291&type=flash>

Or want to watch when you want to watch? Go to our video On Demand page at

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show-videos?g=4d17c1b509fc&page=1&filter=vod>

## Flyers

(Use link below to view all flyers)

### New Flyers

- **Western CT Coalition Presents: Calling All Parents: Learn how to launch your teen/tween to success by understanding the importance of being emotionally & physically present! Oct. 29 Session - Register Now. See flyer for details.**

### Reminders

- CVH Animal Sanctuary Events has started offering wonderful programs again outdoors at the sanctuary with limited registration and strict adherence to all of the social distancing rules. See flyers for details.
- Family Scouting Something for Everyone! Join Pack 156! Open to Boys & Girls, K-5. See flyer for details.

**[Digital Backpack – BPS flyers & Community Flyers](#)**

## School Closing/Delay Information

In the morning when it is necessary to close school due to inclement weather or have an unscheduled early dismissal due to forecasted inclement weather for the afternoon, the “Schools Closed” or “Early Dismissal” announcement will be made over the following radio, television stations, websites, Twitter, Facebook, and text message via our SchoolMessenger communication system.

WLAD	AM	Danbury	800 on the dial
WINE	AM	Brookfield	940 on the dial
WICC	AM	Bridgeport	600 on the dial
WEBE	FM	Bridgeport	108 on the dial
WEZN	FM	Bridgeport	100 on the dial

TV Channel 3, TV Channel 8, & TV Channel 6.

Facebook - [Behhel Public Schools](#)

Twitter - @BethelCTSuper

Bethel Public Schools Website – [www.bethel.k12.ct.us](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us)

Connecticut Weather Website – [www.ctweather.com](http://www.ctweather.com)

When school is in session for the day and it is necessary to have an unscheduled early dismissal (click for times) due to weather or other emergency an “Early Dismissal” announcement will be made. You will be notified by our automated message system,



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SchoolMessenger, via voice, text message, email, and appropriate announcements will be made over the above radio, television stations, websites, and Twitter.

**\*Therefore, it is important your contact information is accurate and you update your contact information promptly if this information changes.** If during the school year any of your demographic information were to change, you can update it at any point by contacting your child’s school directly.

The SchoolMessenger caller ID for all phone notifications is: (855) 326-1797.

**\*\*Please add this number as a contact in your phone so you can easily identify the call is coming from the Bethel Public Schools.**

**Please Note:** There will be no school activities, including athletics, on days when school is closed due to inclement weather.

For emergency announcements, SchoolMessenger notifications are sent out as soon as decisions are reached. Being on the notification list is not a substitute for monitoring your local media (radio, TV and so on) in situations where a delay in opening or school closing is an obvious possibility (such as when the weather forecast calls for snow). The BPS website, is updated as media calls are made.

**Please note,** although the district does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

## How Do I Receive School & District Information?

**Community members/parents have asked “How do I get copies of fliers, notices, etc.? and How do I know what is going on?”** All of the information previously distributed by paper in backpacks is provided to parents via email in the weekly newsletters (school and district). Making copies is not environmentally or fiscally responsible. Also, the district newsletters are available on our [website](#). You can always look there if you delete the message. **If you, as a parent/guardian, are not receiving it, please check your spam folder, check in the PowerSchool Parent Portal to ensure your email information is correct, if neither is case, please contact your child’s school directly to resolve the issue.**

Parents receive the school and district newsletters automatically using the email contact information in PowerSchool. If you know of a community member interested in opting-in to receive this newsletter, they can sign up using the link on the main page of our website at [www.bethel.k12.ct.us](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us).

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The Bethel Public Schools do not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, genetic information, protected veteran status or any other basis prohibited by law. The Bethel Public Schools provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the Bethel Public Schools nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: **Title IX District Coordinator**, Dr. Kristen Brooks, Assistant Superintendent, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801; **Section 504 District Coordinator**, Dr. Christine Sipala, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801