



BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS E-NEWS

“Our Primary Purpose is to Improve Student Achievement”



Superintendent’s News

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

In This Section:

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

Over the past few months, there have been increased reports, across the region, state, and country of increased hostility to school staff and the spread of misinformation on social media which is not only hurtful but not productive in maintaining open communication and the ability to collectively solve problems. Unfortunately, we are increasingly seeing similar patterns in our own community and we hope that we can get back to a place of respect, polite disagreement, and open communication. The concern is not about disagreement with specific incidents, policies, or programs, but simply the manner in which they are expressed. The Bethel Public Schools continue to be open to stakeholder feedback and mechanisms to improve our work as a school system.

To give specific examples of the seemingly growing issues regarding more open hostility, this morning I woke up to an email asking me if “...we have lost our minds?” The individual was referring to a social media post involving an alleged incident regarding a student who was sent home from school due to a dress code policy violation. This incident did not occur at our Bethel High School and it is my understanding that the individual posting the complaint lives on the west coast. There was no inquiry as to the truth of the post or even if it was our school district. We have had administrators sworn and spit at while directing traffic. Our nurses have endured verbal hostility for implementing directives from the Department of Health. Even simple concerns get expressed in a manner that does not promote healthy dialogue.

We know that the pandemic has created a level of stress which makes emotional regulation difficult. Here are some strategies we believe will get us back to a respectful community while still being able to express concerns:

- Do not automatically assume information on social media is accurate. If you see something that you are concerned about or question, simply email or call the school/district. We are happy to discuss your concerns. Sharing or adding to information on social media that is not accurate only exacerbates the problem.
- Assume good intentions. Lately, we have increasingly received concerns expressed in a manner of accusation or hostility without an understanding of the

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FAQs

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

[School Closing /Delay Info.](#)

[@BethelICTSuper](#)

[@christinelcarver](#)

[@BethelPublicSchoolsCT](#)

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

October 15
Professional Learning Day
Early Dismissal K-12



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full picture. Before making judgments, it is important to understand context or perspective. Engaging in an interactive dialogue based on respect will promote problem-solving.

- The pandemic and all of the directives from the Department of Health, State Department of Education, and Office of the Governor have generated a spectrum of opinions on the topic of mitigation strategies. That guidance is also constantly shifting. We communicate those mitigation strategies, any changes that occur, and our understanding of the reasons for those strategies. We have families who think we are not doing enough to implement mitigation strategies and others who are opposed to the same strategies. Please continue to respectfully ask questions or express concerns, but understand that at times we do not have the ability to adjust our practices due to directives. We are proud that we have kept our schools open and tried to resume a more typical school experience. We believe that this has been possible by taking a balanced, but safe approach to those mitigation strategies.
- In addition to staff, be nice to each other as parents and members of the community. Model your conversations, emails, and social media engagement the way you would want your children to interact.

Congratulations to Robert Roda, Lorenzo Cazzaniga, Mia Visuano, and Kayleigh Cooke who were named a Commended Student in the 2022 @nationalmerit scholarship program. They are among the approximately 34,000 students throughout the nation being acknowledged for their exceptional academic ability! #WildcatPRIDE—



Brotherhood



Brotherhood in Action is holding a Food Drive that will support the approximately 150 Thanksgiving baskets to Bethel families. Brotherhood in Action drive-through food drive will be held at the BIA parking lot on School Street, October 30th, 8 a.m. to noon.



Bethel Schools Odyssey of the Mind - Registration NOW OPEN,
All K-12 students are eligible to help form teams! Registration will close on 10/15/21.
See [flyer for details and registration link](#).

REMINDERS

Community members/parents have asked frequently, *“Why can’t I get paper copies of fliers, notices, etc.? and How am I supposed to know what is going on?”* First, all of the information previously distributed by paper in backpacks is provided in the weekly newsletters (school and district). If you cannot read the whole newsletter, I highly encourage you to read the Principal or my letter as it often contains the most up to date information. Also, the newsletters are available on our [website](#). You can always look there if you delete the message. If you are not receiving it, check in the parent portal to ensure your email is correct or check your spam folder.

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. Making copies is not environmentally or fiscally responsible.

Be a Part of Our Adult Mentoring Program! We are currently looking for individuals who are interested in mentoring our high school students. We are looking for responsible adults who are willing to make a connection and offer support to these students.



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This would entail a commitment to meeting with a student approximately 30 minutes every week during school hours (7:55am-2:35pm).

If you are interested and willing to hear more about the program, please contact one of the following individuals at Bethel High School (203-794-8600): Colby Holleran (holleranc@bethel.k12.ct.us), Megan Mason (masonm@bethel.k12.ct.us) or Corrine Caridi (caridic@bethel.k12.ct.us)

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent Teacher Conferences are October 27th, 28th, and 29th. **We will be offering those conferences in-person**, allowing for virtual options for those that would prefer it. A reminder that masks are required in all school buildings regardless of vaccination status.



Want to be the first to know when school is delayed or canceled in bad weather? Follow me at: @BethelCTSuper
In order to enhance communication with parents, in addition to our Twitter feed, @BethelCTSuper, we have a Facebook page at [Bethel Public Schools](#), and Instagram @christinelcarver. We post photos of school and district events, general communications, and school closing/delay information.

SCHOOL HEALTH UPDATES

*****DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF HE/SHE IS ILL*****

Health Office Procedure:

- If a student exhibits any illness while at school the following will occur:
 - The student will be sent to the health office for a more comprehensive assessment.
 - If necessary, the nurse will notify the parent/guardian with an appropriate course of action.

Health Office Protocols:

- **If a student or family member has been asked to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 the school nurse must be notified as soon as possible.**
- **If a student is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms ([CDC - COVID-19 Symptoms](#)) they should remain home.**
 - **Contact a primary health care provider for guidance.**
- **If a student is being tested for COVID-19:**
 - **School nurse must be notified**
 - Students **cannot** attend school until their test results are submitted to and reviewed by the student’s school nurse.
- **If a household member is symptomatic and awaiting a COVID-19 test result, all unvaccinated members of the household, including BPS students, must remain at home until results are received.**
 - The school nurse must be contacted as soon as possible if a household member is being tested.
 - Consult the school nurse for quarantine/isolation guidelines.
- Families and staff are prohibited from giving medication to suppress fever or symptoms (regardless of what you think the reason is) and send them to school or report to work

The Bethel Public School District follows the mandated screening guidelines as set by the State of Connecticut.

CT State Department of Education State Mandated Screenings:

School Name	Vision	Hearing	Scoliosis
Frank A. Berry Elementary School	Grades: K, 1,	Grades: K, 1,	
Anna H. Rockwell Elementary School	Grades: K, 1,	Grades: K, 1,	
Ralph M.T. Johnson School	Grades: 3, 4, 5	Grades: 3, 4, 5	Grade: 5 (female)



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Bethel Middle School			Grade: 7 (female)
			Grade: 8 (male)
Bethel High School			

SCHOOL NEWS

PSAT TESTING AT BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 13th

On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, all BHS students in grades 9-11 will take the PSAT. The Grade 9 students will take the PSAT 8/9 and the Grade 10-11 students will take the PSAT/NMSQT. According to the College Board, “the PSAT/NMSQT helps students prepare for the SAT and provides entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT/NMSQT assesses the same knowledge and skills as the SAT.”

Additional information on the PSAT tests can be accessed on www.collegeboard.com. Students can access their scores online through a College Board student account. They can share their scores with Khan Academy®, (www.khanacademy.org) to create a free of charge personalized online practice experience tailored to their strengths and academic needs. If they have not done so already, all students must set up their College Board account and get connected with Khan Academy. We will assist students in this process during their math class.

Testing begins promptly at 7:55 a.m. It is imperative that all students get plenty of rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and arrive on time to school. Students must bring two sharpened #2 pencils (no mechanical pencils!) and a College Board approved calculator. Please note: lunch will not be provided on this day since it is a half day. Students must bring water and a snack. They will have an opportunity to eat during the testing breaks.

On testing day, we will follow an early dismissal schedule. Students will be dismissed from their testing rooms at 12:05. A late bus will be provided to students testing in extended time rooms. This bus will arrive at 2pm. There will not be a 4pm late bus on this day. Please contact Ms. Lerz, Assistant Principal, if you have any questions (lerzm@bethel.k12.ct.us).

NOTE: On October 13th, there will not be any scheduled classes for seniors. Instead, seniors may report to the Library Learning Commons to work on college applications and college essays. The school counselors, Ms. Conley, and English teachers will be available to assist seniors at this time. Seniors may also use this day to visit college campuses or do asynchronous school work.

BHS Yearbook:

Attention Senior Families: This week seniors received their senior packets in advisory. Now is the time to build their senior profiles for the yearbook, and think about ordering personalization for their senior yearbooks and marking this special milestone with a recognition Ad.

Here are some upcoming due dates for senior yearbook items:

October 15th - 4 Google forms sent to seniors via email from "Yearbook BHS" must be completed:

- Senior Superlative Nominations
- Teacher Superlative Nominations
- Senior Quote, Will & Write-up
- Baby Photo submission (can also be hard copy)

If seniors have not yet had their portraits taken or they want retakes, they must sign up immediately online with [Legacy Studios](#): There are two more sessions - October 25th, 26th, 27th & November 18th & 19th.

January 28th - [Senior Recognition Ads](#) and [Personalization orders](#) are due (see linked documents)



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Attention Grades 9-11 Families:

Click on the link to shop the [BHS Wildcat Yearbook site](#). The current cost of the yearbook is \$70, the cheapest it will be all year. **The sale ends October 29th!**

Picture retake day is Thursday, October 21 - Due to the nature of green screen technology, do not wear green clothing on Picture Day.

Please email yearbookBHS@bethel.k12.ct.us with any questions!

Music Notes

Dear Parents, Students, Alumni, Caregivers, and Friends,

The Bethel Music Department would like to share with you our current calendar of events as well as some news from the beginning of the school year.

Are you interested in becoming a member of BAM? **The Bethel Alliance for Music, or BAM**, is a newly forming organization dedicated to all things music in our schools. Members can help to:

- Facilitate events including concerts (ticket sales, concessions, promotions)
- Plan and facilitate field trips and experiences for students (chaperoning, collection of payments, forms, and fundraising)
- Advocate for music education in our schools (on social media, through events and board of Ed meetings as applicable)
- Unify music students of all stripes (band, chorus, orchestra, producers, composers)
- Connect local business and interest groups with school functions

If interested, please contact K-12 Music Department coordinator **Richard Baumer** - baumerr@bethel.k12.ct.us

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, November 11 - Last Day to Upload an Audition for HS Western Region Festival

Monday, December 20, 7 pm - BHS Music Dept Winter Concert Program and Tri-M Induction Ceremony

Tuesday, December 21, 7 pm - SNOW DATE for BHS Music Dept Winter Concert Program and Tri-M Induction Ceremony

School Lunch News

[2021-2022 Elementary & Middle School Lunch Menus](#)

BPS App!



Check out the App for the Bethel Public Schools. If you go into your App Store and type in Bethel Public Schools, you should be able to install it for free. We are hoping that the App can provide you quick mobile access to information commonly requested.

Our calendars, time schedules, social media feeds, athletic schedules, district social media, lunch menus, etc. are all in the App. You can call the schools from the App.

After you download the App, you will be prompted to select the schools from which you want to get information. Essentially, this is the "news", push notifications and the "events calendar". This is a screen shot of what the App looks like.



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BETV – Comcast Channel 97



Fall Sports are in full swing!

Varsity Volleyball vs Brookfield 9/24/2021

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=7c4be6becc03>

Varsity Football took on Weston at home check out our Wildcats!

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/show?video=7295abb82d13>

The latest Board of Education Meeting can be viewed here.

<http://devos2.bethel.k12.ct.us/Show-Videos?g=f87c9047&page=1&filter=vod>

Check out our full line up here

<https://sites.google.com/bethel.k12.ct.us/betv/home>

Watch when you want to watch? Go to our Video On Demand Channel

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

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>



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 events. **On Twitter follow @DanDeBlois for updates on event postings.**

Go to flickr and take a look. Click on logo.



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
- Rockwell Families - rockwellmentors@gmail.com
- Johnson Families - johnsonmentors@gmail.com
- Bethel Middle School Families - bmsmentors@gmail.com
- Bethel High School Families - bethelhighmentors@gmail.com

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 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 Polices](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us)



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All Board of Education meetings are now currently being held only in-person at Bethel Middle School, Media Center (unless otherwise posted). Masks & Social Distancing Must be followed.

Board of Education meeting agendas are posted with [Town Clerk's Office](#).

Prior Board of Education meeting videos can also be found on our website via **BEtv** under the Board of Education Channel or click here:

[Bethel Board of Education TV](#)

(Prior Meeting Videos On-Demand)

District Dashboard

The District Dashboard is a new tool available with data and information about our students, schools, and District.

You can access it from the District website under the Board of Education drop down menu [BPS Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and District Dashboard](#). The information is extracted from a number of resources and presented on the Dashboard in one place. See the [Board's communication regarding the District Dashboard](#).

Bethel Education Foundation

www.betheledfoundation.org

Flyers & Community News & Events
(USE LINK BELOW TO VIEW ALL FLYERS)

New Flyers:

Bethel Park & Recreation Winter Program Flyer – Something for Everyone!

Registration begins September 1, 2021. See flyer for details.

Reminders:

Come join the Greg Willmott Foundation - 5K Road Race, November 14, 2021, at 9:00 am in Bethel, CT. See Flyer for details.

www.lightboxreg.com/the-greg-willmott-foundation-5k

Bethel Winter Guard Invites New Members Grades 2 – 8 TO JOIN!

NO EXPERIENCE!?! NO PROBLEM! • THERE ARE NO AUDITIONS! See flyers for details.

Advance Child Tax Credit payments the IRS is holding a number of free information sessions in English and Spanish.

The Internal Revenue Service estimates that almost 24,000 Connecticut children who may be eligible to be claimed for the expanded and newly-advanceable Child Tax Credit have not been claimed on a recent tax return. This means that these Connecticut families could be losing out on approximately \$71,000,000 in Child Tax Credits. See Flyer.

The Akili Readiness Academy

Open to Grade 7th – 9th. See flyer for details

The Akili School Age Before/After Care Program

See flyer for details.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. See flyers for details. [English](#) & [Spanish](#)



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Become a Foster Parent, for more information see flyer

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

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Board of Education complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities because of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or gender identity or expression, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or gender identity or expression, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics. It is also the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, disability (including pregnancy), veteran status, or gender identity or expression.

Title IX District Coordinator

Dr. Kristen Brooks
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Section 504 District Coordinator

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