

District

Champions for Children

At-A-Glance



Creating A Culturally Responsive High Performing Learning Environment
Where Students Thrive Academically, Social-Emotionally, And Civically.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

Here are some exciting things that are happening at Black Rock School:

On April 26th, Black Rock School held its first Career Day for 7th and 8th grade students! Students were surveyed about their career interests, and related professionals from Bridgeport and the Black Rock community were invited to speak about their jobs. Thirteen speakers attended, representing the career fields of Journalism, Digital Arts, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Trade, Animal Care, and Product Quality Testing. Each student heard from four professionals of their choice about what a typical day on the job is like, and what type of training and education is needed for the job. We are very grateful to the speakers for helping our students learn about some of the career opportunities available to them in the

- Black Rock started what they are calling the Big Buddy program at Black Rock School. The program focuses on our 8th Graders tutoring and mentoring students in a Kindergarten, 1st Grade or 2nd Grade classroom with their reading or vocabulary. They are matched up with students who may need extra motivation and attention by the homeroom teacher and visit them twice a week. Though still in its beginning stages, it has been met with excitement by all involved.
- Black Rock School has also started its first official chapter of the National Junior Honors Society. On Wednesday, May 2, 20 students who went through an application process were officially inducted into this prestigious organization. They are currently working on a Can Food Drive to help out the Black Rock Food Pantry.

In keeping with the Bridgeport Public School's expressed vision of "a culturally responsive, high-performing learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, emotionally and civically." The following activities have been initiated:

- Participation in "Examining Unconscious Bias" sponsored by the CSDE.
- Cultural Competence training disseminated to all principals to be turn keyed to the staff through replicating activities that ignite and sustain the important and courageous conversations about the roll race plays in our schools. This has been offered since 2016-2017 school year and continued this year with workshops offered in three sessions over two days, monthly.
- On April 17th students from Harding, Cental, BMA, Bassick and Fairchild Wheeler participated in a program entitled "Learn 2 Live". This initiative was sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi and is a collaborative effort with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) with participation by Chief Perez and the Bridgeport Police Dept., to formally address one of the most critical issues affecting people of color in the United States. Students listened to a presentation, participated in role play and a there was a vigorous question and answer session.
- On May 31st, the BPS high school students will have the opportunity to view the film "Walking While Black: Love is the Answer." This film highlights issues in urban cities and the initiatives being implemented to improve community/police interactions and foster positive relationships.

<p>FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: All bathrooms were painted • HHM: Old playground removed by facilities crew. Kompan preparing to do site work for installation of new playground in the coming weeks • JFK: Ongoing HVAC work continues • Districtwide: Our crews are prepping equipment for the cooling season • Potholes: Facilities crews are out districtwide filling/patching potholes.
<p>FINANCE</p>	<p>Continuing....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status of the 2017-18 budget remains precarious, in light of the adverse impact of severe budget reductions in federal and state grants and continuing risk factors. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, barring any major unforeseen spikes in areas of risk, such as special education, we expect to end the year in a balanced condition. It is important to recognize that this outcome will be accomplished by withdrawing remaining surplus funds from the Internal Service Fund, \$4M, which includes the projected FY18 surplus of \$1M. The necessity to draw upon surplus ISF funds, in addition to available grant funds wherever permissible under grant guidelines, is demonstrative of the under-resourced condition of the district. • Deficit Prevention Mode continues, as a strategic element of effective fiscal management. This mode encompasses a Hiring Freeze, continuation of stringent position control, intensive review of procurement actions, and rigid enforcement of cost management practices. The goal is to generate monetary savings to help prevent the occurrence of a deficit. <p>New...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the 5-1-18 enrollment data, the district has reached 17.00% SPED enrollment [21,025 total enrollment; 3,575 SPED enrollment]. The percentage has increased from 16.14% as of 11-1-18. As a consequence of an unabated upward trend in special education enrollment, there is heightened concern about the impact of mandated service needs on extremely constrained fiscal resources. • In regard to the 2018-19 budget, the district is focused on closing the FY19 budget gap of \$13M. On 4-27-18, the BOE made preliminary decisions on program and position reductions amounting to \$4.8M, leaving a balance of \$8M. We are awaiting confirmation of any additional monetary contribution to be made by the City to the 2018-19 BOE budget. Beyond a City cash contribution, the following avenues are under consideration to generate savings: (1) an option concerning health insurance (subject to collective bargaining negotiations and BOE approval); and (2) preliminary forecasts of potentially higher or stable appropriations in major grants (subject to confirmation, depending upon final action at the federal and state levels). Despite the prospect of these potentially positive developments, the district should remain mindful that the budget gap would be lowered but may not be closed fully. Therefore, we will remain engaged in the continual study of strategies to achieve budget reduction in ways that have minimal negative impact on the school system.
<p>HUMAN RESOURCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An open House recruiting fair was held on Monday, April 30, 2018 at Bridgeport Central Offices and was well attended by potential candidates interested in working for BPS. The emphasis was on shortage areas, math science, special education, but open to all disciplines. Several Administrators participated and interviewed candidates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently we have 2 Paraprofessionals who were nominated by their Principals for consideration in the Relay Graduate School of Education, an alternative program for teacher certification. Amanda Tamburino and Clifford Hutchinson. Amanda will be pursuing a certification in Elementary Education and Clifford will pursue a certification in Secondary Science. ○ The second meeting of the Ct Department of Education sponsored “Examining Unconscious Bias in Hiring” was held in Hartford, on May 4, 2018. Several members of the BPS team were in attendance. The third session will be held on May, 30, 2018.
<p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Technology Services has been working hard to ensure the technology and networking needs for SBAC, iReady and other mission critical District testing is in good working order. ITS continues to address a significant amount of Help Desk work orders related to the “SmartBoard”, projectors and projector-based “SmartDisplay” systems in the District. As a vast majority of these systems are

	<p>meeting and in most cases exceeding their expected life occurrences, we will continue to have an extraordinary work order load to keep with this service demand. Several schools have begun replacing their aging projectors and “SmartBoards” with new Multi-Touch displays, which have a substantially better lifecycle and usability model. ITS is currently recommending that all schools replace their projector-based technology with this new standard in lieu of the past standard. It is recommended that Board of Education look to plan funding, wherever possible, to address this continuing concern for schools across the District and ITS will be working with school improvement grants, where possible to address this need. Integration Partners in conjunction with the Microsoft DAP Wave One deployment has completed its planned roll-out and refurbishment of roughly 1200 computers (both new and used) at no cost to the District. This substantial investment by Microsoft has help schools take labs and areas that were once in significant need of repair and returned them to fully working order and enhanced to meet today’s educational standards. Through our joint effort with District, School and ITS staff and the Microsoft partnership we will continue to enhance our children’s access to a world of technology and services to meet the ever growing educational demand. Our efforts with the new Harding High School project continue to develop and meet further milestones that will bring a complete one-to-one environment at the school with day-one immersive wireless access for all students.</p>
<p>NUTRITION</p>	
<p>SPECIAL EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though it can be challenging to find time to connect regularly as a family in today’s fast-paced world, over 50 Skane School families attended the “Build It Big” Family Night last week. It was a great success as our parents were so excited eagerly engaged in all of the STEM activities. Most noteworthy were the fathers ‘interactions with their children. Families built large elaborate buildings and proudly shared them with other families. • Parents also attended a RULER breakfast this week and participated in activities to reflect on their best self. They participated in a restorative practice circle and were very responsive, offering their impressions of the importance of emotional learning, and setting and sharing one goal toward achieving their best self.
<p>SVA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport recently sponsored an activity at the Discovery Museum for the mentors and mentees in our school-based program. Students and their guidance counselors were bused to the museum where they met their mentors. They attended an entertaining and informative program on Light, toured the museum and had pizza for lunch. The activity is important not only for the learning that takes place but also for providing an enjoyable activity that helps to strengthen the matches. Strong matches are the agents of change in mentoring. • We are now planning our end of year Mentor Banquet, which will be held on May 30th.
<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S SUMMARY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTDE has opened an application for Federal Emergency Impact Aid to assist LEA’s with displaced students who enrolled in the school district for the 2017-2018 SY (Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Maria, or the 2017 California Wildfires), applications are due May 15, 2018. The Tauck Foundation convened on May 7th to interview BPS and all of the partners involved in the grant submission for social emotional learning. Three of the four Educators for Excellence Award ceremonies took place at Sacred Heart University on May 2nd, Fairfield University on May 3rd, and Housatonic Community College on May 7th, each event was very well attended. The next event will take place on at the University of Bridgeport on May 16th. Our Annual Grandparents luncheon was held on May 11th. High School graduations are set to occur on June 22nd with BMA at 8:30 a.m. at the University of Bridgeport, followed by BHS at 10:30 a.m., HHS at 1:30 p.m. , Fairchild Wheeler 4:00 p.m., and CHS at 7:30 p.m. at the Kennedy Stadium. <p style="text-align: right;">www.febps.org</p>

School	Date of Visit
Aquaculture	3/12/18
Barnum	10/04/17
Bassick	10/02/17
Batalla	10/10/17
Beardsley	10/18/17
Black Rock	10/23/17
Blackham	10/24/17
*BLC	09/01/17
BMA	10/17/17
Bryant	11/17/17
Central	10/12/17
CSMA	11/08/17
Claytor	11/03/17

Columbus	09/25/17
Cross	10/06/17
Curiale	11/14/17
Discovery	11/9/17
Dunbar	12/6/17
Edison	127/17
FCW: Aero	10/30/17
FCW: IT	12/18/17
FCW: Zoo	11/01/17
Hall	11/27/17
Hallen	11/20/17
Harding	11/20/17
HHM	11/06/07
Hooker	11/29/17

Johnson	12/08/17
Madison	12/12/17
Marin	09/22/17
MCM	11/06/17
PCM	11/8/17
Read	12/15/17
Roosevelt	12/11/17
*Skane	08/31/17
Tisdale	10/27/17
Waltersville	10/04/17
Winthrop	11/30/17
*Detention Center	08/21/17
*University School	10/17/17
Adult Education	2/21/18