

Bradford School News

Sept. 11, 2020

"Make today so awesome that yesterday gets jealous." - Anonymous

You will receive a communication early next week regarding the date and time for pickup of student materials.

Follow us on Twitter [@BradfordSchool](https://twitter.com/BradfordSchool) to receive photos and updates about school!

Welcome Back

- Welcome to the opening of what will be a most unusual school year at Bradford School, the University Magnet, where everyone teaches and everyone learns. In these uncertain times, we remain committed to partnering with you to support the academic and social-emotional development of our students. Things will be different this year as we evolve to meet the challenges of teaching and learning in the COVID-19 era, but our core mission remains the same. We are in this together and we are here to support you!

- We'd like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of our incoming kindergartners and new students. Thank you to our wonderful office staff, Jackie Dorman and Nadine Heron-Fortune, as well as our outstanding custodial team, for working so hard to prepare our school for re-opening and our eventual return to hybrid instruction. I am also grateful to our PTA, led by Kathryn Fogliano (President), and Maryann Vanco (Vice-President) for all their hard behind-the-scenes work in preparing for the new school year, and for securing a grant that will enable us to provide a book and crayons to all students.

New Families Coffee

- For families new to Bradford, we will be hosting a virtual Principal's Coffee on Sept. 18th at 9:00 a.m. to go over some logistical information that will help you acclimate to the school. While this orientation is primarily geared toward kindergarten parents/caregivers, transfer student parents/caregivers are also welcome to attend. We hope to see you there – stay tuned for a meeting link!

Back to School Night

- Mark your calendars! Virtual Back to School Night is Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 7:00 p.m. It is important for you to attend to meet your child's teacher and hear about the curriculum and classroom routines. Your child's teacher will provide you with a meeting link for that evening.

Art Grab-n-Go Bags

- We have a limited supply of art grab-n-go bags if you need art supplies for your child. Please let the office know if you would like one of these bags and we will arrange a time for pickup.

Bradford CARES

• Every child deserves to feel safe, respected, and supported at school, as academic learning is predicated on the solid social-emotional foundation of our students. This is the heart of the responsive classroom philosophy to which we subscribe. Incorporating a Social Emotional Learning period into the daily schedule will allow us to focus on five social emotional learning competencies: relationship skills, social awareness, self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision making. We will also explicitly demonstrate and teach the Bradford CARES values of Being Compassionate, Being Respectful, Being Responsible, and Being In Control. Focusing on these skills and providing space for mental health check-ins will lead to a community of caring learners who support one another.

Related Arts Teachers

• Our related arts teachers are: Vanna Bautista (Art), Bronnie Beesley (Library), Helena Tamasco (Technology), Peter Creekmore (Music), Tom Maloney (Physical Education), Gerald Silvera (Physical Education) and Judith Grodner (Spanish).

Special Education and Curriculum Support Teachers

• Our special education team teachers are: Dina Catanzarite, Lisa Robbins, Karen Lang, Patricia Asaro, Vanessa Daerti, and Maxine Atkinson. Please note that if your child has an IEP, he or she may work with more than one of these teachers (depending on the subject). Tiffany Buffa (Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant) is the Child Study Team (CST) case manager for Grades K, 1, and 3, Sharon LaBate (Psychologist) is the CST case manager for Grades 2 and 5, and Ms. Arianna Spatidol (Social Worker) is the CST case manager for Grade 3. The self-contained classroom teachers are Vanessa Ehrmann, Rebecca O’Sullivan, Lindsay DeCandia, and Lauren Melhuish. Jill Sohn is the case manager and Sharon Balsamo is the behaviorist for the self-contained classes. Our math curriculum support teacher is Tressie Hall, and our reading curriculum support teacher is Barrie Schwartz. The curriculum support teachers work with students in general education who may need a little more support.

Setting Up an Effective Virtual Workspace

- Set your child up for success by organizing a work station for them in your home. Here are some tips for doing so:
 - Establish an area with a desk or table where they can consistently complete assignments.
 - A comfortable chair is crucial for attending class and completing assignments. Students should be sitting upright not only for good posture development, but also to support writing skills. Your child’s desk should be at or slightly below resting elbow height. You can use a pillow to support their back and a box to support their feet so that their thighs are almost parallel to the floor.
 - Have a bin or caddy nearby with all needed desk materials, such as scissors, crayons, pens, pencils, glue sticks, paper, etc.
 - If distractions are an issue, block them out with a cardboard trifold around your child’s work space. Sometimes we use these on student desks at school to create a little study carrel. You can also place your child’s desk facing a wall rather than an open room or window.
 - Create a “toolbox” of fidget toys with squishies, fidget spinners, a stress ball, etc. for when your child needs a break.

- If you can, supply a lamp with an LED bulb, which helps reduce eye strain.
- You can elevate a laptop by placing books underneath it so that it is not too low (which can lead to a hunched-over posture).

Free/Reduced Lunch Application

• The online free/reduced application is currently available to parents on the district website (click “Food Service” under the “Parents” section) or click [here](#) to complete the application online. Please note that a new application ***MUST*** be completed ***every*** year for a student to continue to receive either free or reduced lunch. The application status from last year will only carry over for a few more weeks.

School Spirit Days

• Remote learning won’t stop Bradford’s school spirit! Fridays are “School Spirit Days,” at Bradford, where students will be encouraged to wear either a Bradford or a favorite college/university shirt. Or just wear blue and yellow! Please encourage your child to virtually show his or her school spirit every Friday.

Log-in Reminders

• To log into Google Classroom (Grades 3-5):

1. Go to classroom.google.com and click **Go to Classroom**
2. Enter the email address for your student's account and click **Next** (jdoe31@mpsdnj.us)
3. Enter your student's password and click **Next** (MMDDYYYY). Password is **Montclair1** for new students.
4. If there is a welcome message, review it and click **Accept**

• To log into Seesaw (Grades K-2):

1. Go to montclair.k12.nj.us
2. Scroll down to Quick Links on the right-hand side of the page and click **Clever Student Login**
3. Select **Login with Google**
4. Enter the email address for your student's account and click **Next** (jdoe31@mpsdnj.us)
5. Enter your student's password and click **Next** (MMDDYYYY). Password is Montclair1 for new students.
6. Scroll down the page and click on the **Seesaw App icon**

If your child is experiencing any technical issues please [e-mail](#) Helena Tamasco for support.

Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 18th: New Families Orientation/Coffee with the Principal 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 22nd: Back-to-School Night 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 1st: PTA/SATp Meeting 7:00 p.m.

On behalf of the entire staff, we look forward to working with you as our partners this year. Please let us know if you have questions about anything. Have a great weekend and

congratulations to your children on completing the first two days of the 2020-21 school year!