

Bradford School News

Sept. 18, 2020

*“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders,
but they have never failed to imitate them.” - James Baldwin*

****Please be on the lookout next week for a racial equity survey – our Antiracism and Equity Action Committee is looking for your active participation and feedback!*

Follow us on Twitter [@BradfordSchool](#) to receive photos and updates about school!

Fire and Security Drills

• Pursuant to 18A:41-1, all schools are required to conduct two security drills per month. One is a fire drill, and the other is another type of security drill. The state has not relaxed this requirement, even for schools participating in remote instruction. We had one such drill today, where teachers instructed students to remain quiet as they would during a real fire drill, and they reviewed details such as the importance of listening to directions (such as lining up and leaving the classroom quickly).

Back to School Night

• 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. Back to School Night will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. There will be a short Principal’s video, and then a short video from the PTA. Teachers will run two live sessions: 7:15-7:45 and again from 7:50-8:20. The same information will be presented at both sessions, so you can choose the time that is most convenient. Your child’s teacher will provide you with a meeting link for that evening and links will also be provided for you to hear recordings from related arts teachers. A master list of links will be sent out on Monday for your convenience.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Instruction

• We are listening to the feedback we have received regarding K-1 instruction. We know that parents are concerned with the amount of mandated screen time, and I have shared with many of you that our teachers are going to be as flexible as possible in terms of online requirements. In conjunction with district administration, we are tweaking our K-1 instructional delivery model, and will have more information to share with you next week.

Tech Trouble-shooting and Survey

• We know some of you have been having difficulty with the district-issued chromebooks and the technology in general. We are asking parents to complete a survey (linked [here](#) to assist us in

trouble-shooting technical issues students may be experiencing. Please complete one survey for each child in your household. This will help us to keep the information organized by homeroom class. Any questions, please [e-mail](#) Ms. Tamasco.

- Please click for an [interactive](#) tech support guide that you may find useful. Click for a more [traditional](#) guide.
- You may want to have your child bookmark [Clever](#) and [Google Classroom](#) for easier access. Clever provides access to Seesaw, ThinkCentral, BrainPop/BrainPop Jr., and other resources.
- With regard to Zoom glitches some of you are experiencing, try having your child sit closer to your router if possible. Leaving and rejoining a class meeting when there are technical glitches, while not ideal, is also a simple solution. Regularly check your Wi-Fi signal.
- We recommend using Google Chrome as your browser. However, when experiencing difficulties, it may help to try a different browser.
- Close unnecessary tabs on your browser and apps you are not using.
- Update your software regularly. After updating, restart your device.
- Log out, then log in again.
- Clear your web browser's cache and cookies.
- Restart your device.
- If none of these tips work, call the district tech hotline number at 301-259-1510 for further assistance. You may leave a message with your child's name, your phone number, and the specific issue. The hotline will be monitored Monday-Friday from 8:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Eye Strain

• A parent shared this helpful article that you may be interested in reading. The American Academy of Ophthalmology has stated that while staring at a computer screen for a long period of time does not necessarily damage your eyesight, it can cause strain and other negative symptoms. Humans normally blink around 15 times each minute. When staring at screens, this number decreases to a half or third that often, which can lead to dry, irritated, and tired eyes. The article cites a study published in the Nepalese Journal of Ophthalmology in which researchers examined computer use and its effects on the eyes of university students in Malaysia. Almost 90 percent of the 795 students in the study had symptoms of this type of eye strain, or computer vision syndrome, after just two continuous hours of computer usage. Taking frequent breaks to look at faraway objects during screen time significantly lessened their eye strain symptoms. Please read the [article](#) to learn about the “20-20-20 rule” and other strategies to alleviate eye issues during remote instruction.

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) and 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.

Class Parent Volunteers Needed!

- Do you want to be a class parent? We need 2-3 volunteers per classroom to help throughout the year! We especially need volunteers this year to keep our families virtually in touch. Some responsibilities include: Meeting with teacher to determine needs of classroom (help with parties, classroom volunteer opportunities, etc.), planning virtual community building events for the class, and communicating via email with parents regarding upcoming classroom, school and PTA events. Contact [Erin Haley](#) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

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.

Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 22nd: Back-to-School Night 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 24th: Early (1:40) Dismissal for Staff Curriculum Meetings
- Sept. 28th: District Closed for Yom Kippur
- Oct. 1st: PTA/SATp Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Have a wonderful weekend!