



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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August 12, 2021

Dear BPS Community,

We are anxiously awaiting and excited for the first day of school with ALL of our scholars back together. **The first day of school for Bristol Public Schools is Monday, August 30, 2021.** We will continue to monitor, update, and adapt to new health and safety protocols and operational efficiencies to meet the needs of our students, teachers, and staff. Please [click here](#) to review the updated *BPS Innovate and Elevate Continuation Plan*. We have addressed the use of masks, quarantines, and mitigation strategies that we will implement during the school year. We attempted to address each potential scenario within the guidance (e.g., spot quarantine for a single student, classroom quarantine, etc.) and hope that adjustments will be limited as the school year unfolds. I say this optimistically while remaining flexible and fully prepared to modify if necessary. Please [click here](#) and enter the **Passcode: !g=.7fTs** to view a narrated presentation of the continuation plan's main elements and our district goals for the 2021-2022 school year. A link to the slides from the narrated presentation can also be found [here](#).

The beginning of a new school year usually brings anticipation, excitement, and joy, and we hope that this will be true for the majority of our scholars. However, we also need to recognize that some of our scholars have had limited experiences inside physical classrooms since March 2020. While the majority of our elementary scholars attended school in-person last year, a larger number of grade 7-12 scholars opted for remote learning. With that in mind, we are prepared and ready to welcome last year's remote learners and in-person learners *back together and better than ever*, as we focus on building relationships and ensuring that our scholars experience the joy in learning.

The summer has been busy preparing for the first day of school and aligning the resources from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. During the spring and summer, we implemented afterschool and summer enrichment programs and will continue a number of the programs throughout the upcoming school years. BPS will also welcome several new staff to support the academic and social needs of our students including teaching assistants for our kindergarten classrooms, instructional support staff in literacy and math for all grade levels, school social workers, parent liaisons, high school guidance counselors, climate and culture specialists, academic coaches, and additional custodial staff. Many, if not all of these ideas, were generated through your input via parent feedback sessions and ThoughtExchange surveys. Additionally, we are excited to open Community Health Centers at Bristol Central and West Bristol to ensure that all students and families have access to medical and mental health services.

Since school was dismissed, BPS has made progress on several facility projects. Construction continues at Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School and as you drive by in the coming days, you will see the installation of windows, the new entrance, and the exterior of the new gymnasium move toward completion. Other building projects include site work at West Bristol, new generators installed at Bristol Central and Chippens Hill, HVAC upgrades and building enhancements at South Side, as well as capital improvements at Bristol Eastern, Edgewood, and Hubbell. These projects were made possible by several

funding sources including Alliance Building Grants, ESSER, and the Bristol Board of Education general fund.

As you know, the Bristol Board of Education unanimously supported the *Reimagining BPS Plan* and approved the proposed new grade configuration for Bristol Public Schools and two new building projects at the May 2021 Board of Education Meeting. BPS will transition to a Pre-K Academy, K-5, 6-8, 9-12 school model in the fall of 2023. Our goals are to reduce class sizes, improve the conditions of our school buildings, increase access to Pre-K, and balance the socio-economics and diversity of students within all schools.

Over the next two years, renovations will occur during the summer months at Edgewood and the building will open as a Pre-K Academy by August 2023. During the interim, Edgewood will remain a K-5 school. Upon the transition, existing K-5 students at Edgewood will be reassigned to other attendance zones. A construction grant will be submitted in the spring of 2022 to build a new, larger Northeast Middle School for 6-8 scholars, scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year. After construction, Greene-Hills and West Bristol will transition to K-5 schools and the new NEMS will open, creating uniform grade configuration across all schools. Middle school attendance zones for Chippens Hill and Northeast will follow the high school boundaries for Bristol Central and Bristol Eastern. Please [click here](#) to view model attendance zones, an interactive map, and a full explanation of the *Reimagining BPS Plan*.

It is an exciting and promising time to be a part of Bristol Public Schools! As proven during last school year, the partnership and collaboration with our families are critical to our scholars' success both inside and outside of our classrooms. Your daily dedication, encouragement, flexibility, and patience allow our mission to *Teach and Learn With Passion and Purpose* to be possible.

As we prepare for the return to school, please [click here](#) for information on before and after-school care at the Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

As always, we are BPS! We are *better together and stronger than ever!*

In partnership,



Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools