



Birmingham

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Be Bold. Be Brilliant. Be Birmingham.

Lead Message: Assistant Superintendent



Dear BPS community:

I am proud to share with you some of the exciting developments happening within our district, particularly regarding opportunities in mathematics.

At the heart of the district's [strategic plan](#) is a dedication to strengthening core academic instruction, ensuring every student receives the quality education they deserve. To achieve this goal, we've carefully selected high-quality instructional materials and provided professional learning opportunities centered around best instructional practices.

We adopted Illustrative Mathematics, by Imagine Learning, this year to enhance our core mathematics curriculum. This program is now implemented in grades K-8 and complements our existing high school curriculum. This strategic alignment ensures consistency and coherence in our approach across all grade levels. Moreover, we have proactively taken steps to address disparities in student achievement by providing high-dosage tutoring and targeted support to learners who need it the most.

Last year, we began increasing opportunities for students to advance in middle school mathematics by offering Math 6/7 and Math 7/8 courses to students in their 6th and 7th grades. This prepares them for Integrated 1, typically a 9th-grade course, without compromising the foundational learning experiences for mathematics.

This year, we are introducing the Pathway to Mathematics Progression. The Pathway offers an equitable, consistent opportunity for all BPS students in our K-8 buildings to demonstrate their readiness to progress beyond their grade level in mathematics. The Pathway is a district-wide screening process that will identify these students and provide a potential path to the next grade level of mathematics in grades 3-8. While we will be inviting students who demonstrate the

potential for readiness to move beyond their current grade level in mathematics, the opportunity to participate in the screening process is open to any interested family.

To learn more about the Pathway to Mathematics Progression, check out our [math pathway video](#) or visit the [website](#) for additional details. Also, watching for direct communication from your child's school about the Pathway to Mathematics Progress is essential.

These efforts are deeply rooted in our core values of providing fair and equal opportunities, maintaining transparency, and nurturing each student's unique talents. Moreover, these actions are a direct response to the expressed desires of our community. We aim to meet the needs of all students striving for grade-level proficiency and seeking opportunities for progression and advancement in math. This includes a commitment to be consistent and coherent across all our schools.

As a final but important note, please know that no matter the pathway you choose for your child, they will receive a world-class education at Birmingham Public Schools.

Warm regards,

April Imperio

Assistant Superintendent, Student Learning & Inclusion

News, Notes & Accolades

Twelve BPS schools awarded 'Green School' status

In the district, twelve schools have recently been granted the designation of Michigan Green Schools. To earn this certification, a school must provide evidence of completing a minimum of 10 environmentally-friendly activities. Depending on the number of activities recorded, schools can attain one of three status levels: Green, Emerald or Evergreen.



BPS schools that earned certification:

- Beverly (Evergreen)
- Bingham Farms (Green)
- Greenfield (Evergreen)
- Harlan (Emerald)
- Pembroke (Evergreen)
- Pierce (Evergreen)
- Quarton (Evergreen)
- West Maple (Evergreen)
- Berkshire (Evergreen)
- Derby (Emerald)
- Groves (Evergreen)
- Seaholm (Emerald)

The Michigan Green Schools Program aids in the accomplishment of environmental objectives for PreK-12 schools across the state. These objectives encompass the safeguarding of air, land, water, and wildlife in Michigan, as well as the execution of community engagement initiatives. The program additionally advocates for the adoption of sustainable practices and the inclusion of environmental stewardship education for students attending both public and private PreK-12 schools.

Strong showing by GHS debaters at nationals

The varsity debate team at Groves recently posted a 3-3 record at the Second-Year Nationals in Atlanta, Ga. It was the team's first national tournament of 2024. **Vishwa Charabuddi** and **Carl Xie** teamed up, while **Sofia Audet AbdulNour** and **Charlisa Penzak** partnered for the Falcons. Most notably, Audet AbdulNour received recognition as the 16th-ranked speaker out of 70 individual competitors, earning her a plaque for an outstanding performance.

Student-led sports store opening at Seaholm

Sports Cycle is excited to announce the opening of a permanent store in the Seaholm cafeteria! A student-led, non-profit organization, the store repurposes sports clothing and equipment, collecting gear and distributing it back to the community free of charge. Sports Cycle is currently accepting donations of sports gear of all sports and sizes, as well as any shelving, racks, hangers, bins, etc. to equip the store. Donations can be dropped off in the donation bin near the Seaholm security vestibule. For questions or concerns, email sportscycle.shs@gmail.com.

Carrano to preform w/ Andrea Bocelli

Carolyn Carrano, the choir director at Berkshire and Groves, has been selected to participate in a professional choir providing background vocals for renowned Italian singer Andrea Bocelli during his North American tour stop at Little Caesars Arena on Sunday, April 14.

"It should be the performance of a lifetime and I am really honored to be involved in it," said Carrano, who will perform a 24 songs as part of the select ensemble.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Assist the Birmingham Education Foundation (BEF) in its efforts to promote and celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, which takes place from May 6-10.

Complete these easy steps to submit a donation:

- [Visit the BEF website.](#)
- Select a teacher you really appreciate and would like to honor with a donation.
- Write an encouraging note for the selected teacher.

BEF will take care of the rest. Your note, along with a flower, will be delivered to the school's main office on **Monday, May 6** for you to pick up and deliver to your teacher. Orders are due no later than May 1. If you have additional questions, please contact BEF Executive Director, **Kathy Zanolli** at kzanolli@birmingham.k12.mi.us or dial 248.203.3030.

Graduation specials at district print shop

Let BPS handle all your printing needs for graduation. Right now, the district print shop is offering specials for graduation season, so do not miss out on the discounted rates on personalized announcements, invitations and 'thank you' cards. Take advantage of this [limited-time offer](#) to

Assessment Testing Dates Adjusted

BPS announces important updates regarding the Spring state summative assessments. To align with established guidelines surrounding religious observances, the district has adjusted the testing dates. District leadership appreciates your understanding and support in accommodating these changes to create an inclusive student environment.

The revised testing dates are as follow:

- April 11 | ACT WorkKeys
- April 11 | PSAT 10
- April 16 | SAT w/ Essay
- April 16 | PSAT 8/9 (grade 9)
- April 17 | M-STEP

Community Education

Birmingham Community Education offers a wide array of enrichment, recreation classes and programs for adults and youth. Get [registered today for programming](#)! Summer camps 2024 registration is now open, too.

YOUTH:

- Kids Empowered “Sibling Love & Conflict” workshop on April 6 and “Boy Power Mini Boot Camp” on April 13.
- Register now for SNAP “Classic 5 on 5 Spring Flag Football League!” There’s an all-girls league too! Leagues begins April 13-14.
- “Certified Babysitter and Safe Home Alone” with “Certified Pet Sitter” add-on is April 20.

ADULT:

- “Yoga Fitness with Lynn Dowe” begins April 23.
- “Back on Course” Zoom Computer Workshops – different classes every week!

YOU ARE INVITED: ELA/Literacy Review



Join the district in shaping the future of education. You are all invited to explore and provide feedback on the top contenders for new ELA/Literacy (Reading) instructional materials for grades K-8. Your insights are invaluable in ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our students. Materials will be available for review at the Education Administration Center building on April 10 -11 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Office of Student Learning & Inclusion will be present to assist you on April 10 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. and April 11 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The curriculum design team for literacy will review feedback thoughtfully and utilize it when they reconvene to make final recommendations to the school board for the literacy program(s) to pilot during the 2024-2025 school year. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the ELA/Literacy review. Let's work together to shape the educational experience of our students!

Special Services Spotlight: Nicole Nahigian

A graphic with a blue background and gold accents. On the left, the word "FRIENDS" is in a large, serif font, with the tagline "KIDS FIRST — Understand their differences. Focus on their needs. Educate them." below it. To the right of this is a circular portrait of Nicole Nahigian, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. A gold medal icon is positioned above her head. Below the portrait, the text "Special Services SPOTLIGHT" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, her name "Nicole Nahigian" and title "LRC Teacher, Pierce Elementary" are listed in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font.

FRIENDS
KIDS FIRST — Understand their differences.
Focus on their needs. Educate them.

**Special Services
SPOTLIGHT**

Nicole Nahigian
LRC Teacher
Pierce Elementary

"Mrs. Nahigian is a gem who shines bright for all students. She builds relationships with her students to provide creative and effective learning opportunities based on the uniqueness of each student. Mrs. N. customizes her approach to and motivates her students to strive to be the best human and students they can be. She celebrates their successes and understands that education and learning is not a one-size-fits-all process. Mrs. N. is patient, kind, enthusiastic, and loving, and provides the best balance for students both educationally and social-emotionally. Her number one focus is on the students and the whole child and the child's development. Mrs N is a gift to Pierce and continues to provide so much for the entire Pierce community." - *BPS parent*

Do you have a BPS staff member who has had a positive impact on your life or the life of your student? If so, you can nominate them for a Special Services Spotlight! We know district staff, from teachers to paraprofessionals and everyone in between, works extremely hard for our students and their well-being.

We would like to acknowledge the exceptional staff members who consistently go the extra mile and have had a significant impact on the special services community within BPS. Students, families and staff have the opportunity to nominate one or more staff members to be featured in our upcoming newsletter and be recognized during an upcoming [FRIENDS of Different Learners](#) community meeting.

Nominee Submission: Special Service Spotlight

JOIN OUR TEAM: District seeking talent



We Are
HIRING!

Birmingham
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Apply Now: birmingham.k12.mi.us

BPS is looking to fill several vacant roles that are currently available within the district.

- **Elementary School Principal** (Pembroke)
- **Deputy Superintendent**
- **Supervisor of Special Services**
- **Technology Operational Assistant**
- **Benefits Specialist**

- **Long-term Substitute** (multiple)
- **Early Childhood Asst. Teacher** (multiple)
- **Paraprofessional** (multiple)

Submit An Application Now

Upcoming Events

Board of Education meetings

Board of Education (BOE) [meetings and study sessions](#) occur once a month on Tuesdays. The board meetings commence at 7 p.m., while the majority of study sessions take place at 6 p.m. throughout the year.

Finance Committee

- **Tuesday, April 16 | 6 p.m.**

Regular Meeting

- **Tuesday, April 16 | 7 p.m.**

BOE Retreat

- **Saturday, April 20 | 9 a.m.**

Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, April 10 | 8:30-10 a.m.

31225 Southfield Road, Beverly Hills (Michigan Coffee Creamery)

You're invited! Please drop in for coffee and casual conversation with BPS Superintendent Dr. Roberson. This informal gathering is open to everyone. Whether you have a specific question or idea, or simply want to hear more about the district's biggest priorities, challenges and successes, please consider joining us at an upcoming coffee chat.

"Coffee & Conversation" is held at various times and locations around the district to accommodate differing schedules during the academic year.

Better Together Parent Engagement Session

Thursday, April 11 | 7 p.m.

[Zoom](#)

In an effort to develop a culture of unity and wellbeing within our BPS community, the Office of Student Learning & Inclusion will be hosting a parent-night session: Supporting your Student(s) through a Restorative Approach – Understanding the foundations of Restorative Practices. [Learn more.](#)

25th Annual Elementary Science Olympiad

Saturday, April 13 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

6275 Inkster Rd, Bloomfield Hills

The event is host at West Maple with all eight elementary schools and BCS competing in a series of “hands-on” science events designed to challenge and nurture students' science interests and abilities. Students rotate through a variety of physical, life or earth-science activities which will require them to use science processes and thinking skills.

Better Together Parent Engagement Session

Tuesday, May 14 | 7 p.m.

[Zoom](#)

In an effort to develop a culture of unity and wellbeing within our BPS community, the Office of Student Learning & Inclusion will be hosting a parent-night session: Support your Students' Mental Health – Understanding Anxiety and Depression in Teens and Adolescents. [Learn more.](#)

Birmingham Public Schools

Be Bold. Be Brilliant. Be Birmingham.

