

PANDA PRESS



Message from Principal D. Brooks

Happy 2020-2021 School Year Bel Pre Families!

I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and your children in awesome health, great spirits, and eager for a beginning unlike any other. It continues to be an honor to serve the students, staff and community of Bel Pre Elementary. And while it is always with great enthusiasm and pride that I approach each school year, the distinct challenges that our staff, students, and community have had to navigate since March does not fall short on me.

With our world continuing to grapple with a global pandemic, and our country jolted by civil unrest, now more than ever Bel Pre aims to continue its service as the hub of our community. Parents and families, as you are determining the best ways to balance your children's distance learning while working full-time; and your children are wondering what the new school year will bring; please rest assured that our instructional leadership team (ILT) and parent/ teacher association (PTA) have been working thoughtfully to ensure that:

Every child, every day is finding a way to feel **connected**;

Every child, every day knows they have a **champion** they can turn to; and

Every child, every day is being **challenged** by new learnings and experiences.

Typically our summer letter is released the first week of August. However, as our district leaders continue to work diligently to navigate this uncharted territory I have hesitated in sharing information as "finalized " for worry that what is true today may change tomorrow. That said, we do have a few updates that we can share with certainty. Of course, as information changes or updates are shared, I will be sure to keep everyone posted.

Technology and Materials Distribution



As we prepare to continue virtual learning, our school will offer curbside pickup of devices and available instructional materials on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH** and **FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST**. On August 20th and 21st, we will provide curbside service to families from **9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** We ask you to follow the schedule provided below to limit crowds, wait times, and risks to the community. We have scheduled this time to distribute technology **for students who**

may still need a device, need to exchange a device, or to provide an upgrade (see chart below for identification and upgrade eligibility). Please rest assured that there will be a device for every student.

Any school materials that were not returned at the end of last school year can also be returned at this time (media center books). **Students who will not be returning to MCPS** should return their Chromebooks, chargers and any other materials.

Device Upgrade Eligibility:

Grade Level	What device is available for SY 2020 - 2021
Pre-K to Grade 5	One Touchscreen Lenovo 300e is assigned to each student and ready for pickup*

*** all old devices will need to be turned in when picking up a new device**

Designated pickup times to help manage crowds:

Last Name Begins With	Designated Pickup Time
A - E	9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
F - J	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
K - O	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
P - T	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
U - Z or missed time above	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

If you are not able to visit the school on these dates, please contact the school to make other arrangements.

Bel Pre will contact families to provide information for subsequent opportunities to pick up additional materials as inventory arrives and individual class or student needs are identified.

Curbside Pickup & Delivery Procedures:

- All visitors must wear a face covering and have a **VISIBLE SIGN** with **child's first and last name, grade level, and student ID #**.
- MCPS staff will follow the CDC guidelines, maintain physical distancing, and wear face coverings.
- Drivers and occupants **are not permitted to exit their vehicle** unless asked by staff to meet the needs of the student.
- Accommodations will be made for walk ups at the **Walker Door**.



Student login information and passwords:

Login and passwords will not be changed for the start of the school year. ParentVUE (formerly parent portal) - letters are being sent this week. Later this fall, more information will be provided to families regarding the required password changes for students.

Student login information will be provided to all families via an email to the email address on record for the students' guardians. If you need additional assistance with login information, please contact the school at **301.287.8870**.

MCPS issued MiFi for internet connection:

Due to limited supply, internet MiFis **will not** be available during school distributions. The device distribution team will take note of requests. Pick up arrangements will be made once inventory is received. As a reminder, the MiFis are intended for families who do not have home internet options. Those with weak or problematic internet connections should contact their service provider to ensure they are receiving the service for which they are entitled. Other issues may be solved by moving the home router to a more central location. Each MiFi device can support multiple connections.

Obligations:

MCPS will be enforcing user responsibility; the Chromebook login screen will be updated to reflect the expectations and costs associated with repair should a device be physically damaged by neglect, accident, or intent. Acceptance of the MCPS device implies consent of the policy which can also be [viewed online](#). The login screen and MCPS website outline the process for return and repair.

Student Supply List

Though each grade level team ordered student supplies for students in early June, based on current supply demands we have provided the suggested supply list for each grade level below.

A	B	C	D
Bel Pre Elementary 2020-2021 K - 2 Student Supply List			
Items (with descriptions/quantities):	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2
Dry-Erase Student Board, melamine, white 9"x12" (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Markers, dry erase, various colors (1 box)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erasers, large, latex free & Eraser Caps (1 pack each)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Composition book, hard cover (2)			
Composition book, primary-style (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crayons, regular (1 box, no boxes with sharpeners)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headphones with microphone, for computer use (1 set)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notebook, spiral, 1 subject, wide rule (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paper, notebook, 8.5"x11", 3 hole punched, wide rule			
Pencils, #2 (1 box)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pencils, fat (1 box)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Small Pencil Sharpener (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pens, ball point, black (1 pack)			
Ruler, 12", millimeters/inches (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sticky Notes, 3"x5" (1 pack)			
Graph Paper (1 Pack)			
Protractor (1)			

Communication

As we get closer to the start of the new school year, you can expect to receive communication **directly from your child's teacher via a phone call and postcard** in the week of August 24th. The communication will include specific information regarding opportunities to connect with the teacher, and to share contact information to begin to build community among the families of the students in each classroom. In addition, **weekly ConnectEd messages from Bel Pre Elementary will come from Rebecca Williams, our administrative secretary, "on behalf of Dara Brooks, Principal."**

Principal Office Hours:

We will be hosting two virtual Principal Office Hours on **Thursday, September 10th at 12:00-1:00 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm**. More information about the meeting will be communicated via weekly ConnectEd messages at a later time.



Kindergarten Orientation & Back to School Night:

On **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 between 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**, you and your incoming kindergartener are cordially invited to Kindergarten Orientation & Back-to-School Night via a virtual meeting. During the meeting, our Kindergarten team will introduce themselves, walk you through myMCPS Classroom, and share zoom expectations. More information regarding the Kindergarten Orientation & Back-to-School Night virtual meeting will be shared with Kindergarten families at a later time. **All students will receive a postcard from their classroom teachers before the start of the school year.**

Staff Updates

Over the summer we said farewell to a few Bel Pre family members who will be transitioning to exploring new opportunities. We are sad to see them go, but we wish them the best in their new journeys. Nevertheless, we are happy to welcome some new additions to our staff. Please join me in welcoming them to the Bel Pre family.

We are excited to welcome new and experienced staff members to the BPES family:

- David Bauckham, Music Teacher
- Shoshana Bandler, 2nd Grade Teacher

We say farewell to the following BPES staff members as they explore new opportunities:

- Nadia Anabtawi, Paraeducator
- Megan Amaya, Paraeducator
- Shira Lantner, Paraeducator
- Elizebeth Brown, 2nd Grade Teacher
- Carol Howell, Music Teacher
- Dawn Traub, PEP Teacher

Bel Pre /Strathmore Parent Teacher Association



Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We hope you'll consider joining the Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA. Joining the PTA is a great way to be involved in your child's education, and you can do as much, or as little as you want. The PTA is also a great way to meet and get to know those in the Bel-Pre/Strathmore area that will soon be the parents of your child's new friends and

classmates. Join PTA online today at [Memberhub Commerce Store](#)! The cost is only \$10/person for the year.

Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA Board Members:

Tia Masters-Bryant, President: tmastersbryant@yahoo.com

Latina Bobo, Vice President Bel Pre/ NAACP Rep: latinabobo@gmail.com

LaMonte Scipio, Vice President Strathmore l.scipio74@gmail.com

Chauntel Kennedy, Treasurer: chauntel26@msn.com

Emily Rhineberger, recording secretary: erhineberger@gmail.com

Amy Alipio, corresponding secretary: amyalipio@gmail.com

Yusef Kennedy, Fundraising coordinator: kennedy501@icloud.com

Stella Harrison, Bel Pre Staff representative: Stella_E_Harrison@mcpsmd.org

Felice Erdeim, Strathmore Staff Representative: Felice_W_Erdheim@mcpsmd.org

Gricel Garrido, Spanish language liaison: griceldr@aol.com

Open, Boxtop Coordinator

Open, Bookfair Chair

Open, Volunteer coordinator:

Just a reminder all board members need to be PTA members. Please sign up/pay due at this site [Memberhub Commerce Store](#).

We are excited and optimistic about the beginning of this new era of teaching and learning at Bel Pre Elementary School. We look forward to partnering with you and supporting you as we all navigate this new landscape together.

Sincerely,
Dara Brooks
Principal