



# Bordentown Regional School District

## The Bordentown Bulletin

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Visit us on the web at [www.bordentown.k12.nj.us](http://www.bordentown.k12.nj.us)

### Superintendent's Office

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III

Welcome (or Welcome Back) to all of our students, faculty, staff, and families to the Bordentown Regional School District. Last year I established this monthly, electronic newsletter so that families could be aware of what is occurring in all of our schools. Each month our curriculum department will share an article regarding our curriculum and our principals will share stories of what is occurring in their buildings. Occasionally, we may have some guest authors also. A link to this newsletter will be emailed to all of our faculty, staff and families each month and it will also appear on our website so that anyone in the community may read it and learn about some of the great things we are doing.

If you are a parent, when you read the newsletter you may already be aware of the information in the article from the principal where your child attends. However, please take a few moments to look through all of the articles so that you will have a better understanding of what is occurring across the district.

Throughout the year, I will update you on developments that are occurring in the district. Some of the ideas we are exploring deal with our elementary school configurations, scheduling at the middle and high school, and implementing our strategic plan. As we get closer to the "budget season" I will update the community on our progress in that area. Also, next month, you can expect to read about our bond refinancing which will offer some tax relief to our residents.

Over the summer we have upgraded our website and you can view our homepage at [www.Bordentown.k12.nj.us](http://www.Bordentown.k12.nj.us). From this page you can get up to the date information on the school district and also reach all of the individual school webpages.

I hope that you have had a smooth transition back to school and I look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

#### Administration

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Superintendent

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Business Administrator  
Board Secretary

Mr. James Lympert  
Director of  
Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Vanessa Bekarciak  
Director of Special Services

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## What's in a Name? Plenty if you ask a kindergartener. . .

This September the Bordentown Regional School District welcomed 160 new kindergarteners. As many of our parents learned when they attended our Kindergarten Readiness night last June, kindergarten is very different from when they went to school, but there are *many things* about kindergarten that remain the same such as learning letters and sounds. Young children have a natural curiosity for playing with words, letters and sounds. Just listen to them sing along with a silly song or make up nonsense rhymes as they talk and interact with you or their peers. Children also have a natural curiosity for the English language—specifically their names and the letters or sounds in their names as well as names of people they know or places they recognize. How many times have you driven by the “golden arches” which form the letter M and your child will call out, “McDonalds!” Children will often point out letters they recognize in their name or another familiar name, “My name begins with ‘M’ just like ‘McDonald’s’.” In fact, many children related the letters in their name when asked to identify letters during our kindergarten screening process last spring.



Over the summer a small group of teachers worked closely together on a guiding document centering on the foundational skills that strong readers and writers use. One portion of their work centered on letter-sound instruction. This year our kindergarten teachers are jumping right into letter – sound instruction using **Name Studies**. Names can be used to teach about words, letters *and* sounds. Using names as part of the letter-sound instruction capitalizes on the innate interest that children have with their own names and the letters and sounds in their name as well as the names of people they know or are getting to know. Using the names of our kindergarten students as part of this initial instruction helps to build phonological and phonemic awareness, a critical pre-cursor to reading success.



In all of our kindergarten classrooms teachers are introducing students' names to their classes as part of their literacy instruction. Kindergarteners are noticing the features in each name such as the number of letters in a name, which letters are upper case or lower case, the sounds associated with the letters in their own name and their classmate's names and how many parts each name has by clapping out the syllables in the name. Names are added to the class word wall sometimes with a picture to help children make and remember new friends. Children's names are highlighted in many different ways such as making the child the “star of the day”, adding their names to an anchor chart in the classroom, and comparing the length of children's names as new ones are introduced. Some classes are even including math by graphing the number of letters in their names!



Tactile activities are also part of our name studies. Some students have been cutting out the letters of their classmates' names and gluing them back together in a puzzle like fashion. Others have been using colored dabbers to create their names, writing their names with “rainbow writing” or using wikki sticks or clay to make their names and practice their letters and sounds.



Kindergarten teachers have noted that the students are engaged by the name study in their classrooms and one kindergarten teacher said, “It's just fun!” So the next time someone asks, “*What's in a name?*” think about our kindergarten classrooms where learning letters and sounds is being done in a meaningful and playful way with our students' own names!

## BRHS News & Notes – September 2016

On behalf of the staff and administration, we welcome you to another exciting school year at Bordentown Regional High School!

Make sure to sign up for our Parent Newsletter and continue to check our website for all kinds of cool stuff.

The 2016-17 school year promises to bring academic challenges and social growth for all our students. We invite you to take an active role in all we have to offer. Stay tuned in and support the Scotties!

<b>BRHS Welcomes New Staff Members</b>	<b>Homecoming is Here</b>
Amy Rivera – Learning Consultant	Books turned into Movies:
Caroline Jane Barrera – from PMS - Spanish	Seniors – <i>Harry Potter</i>
Amy Wright – from BRMS – Computer Science	Juniors – <i>Percy Jackson</i>
Bill Lloyd – from PMS – Health & PE	Sophomores – <i>Narnia</i>
Diana Eline – Science	Freshman – <i>The Hunger Games</i>
Scott Schlenker – Science & Math	Dress Up Days
Tamia Patrick – Technology Ed.	Monday – ‘Merica (Red, White & Blue)
James Gill – History	Tuesday – Dynamic Duos
Jessica Martino – Math	Wednesday – Wake Up (PJs)
Lenka McCauley – French	Thursday – Class Color Day
Tim Roselle – Art	Friday - School Colors Day

<b>Reminders &amp; Upcoming Events</b>
Homecoming Hall Decorations – Saturday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am
BRHS Spirit Week – September 19 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>
Senior Portrait retakes – September 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>
Underclass pictures – September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Field Hockey at home – Wednesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> – 4:00 pm
BRHS Back to School Night – Thursday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 pm
Homecoming Pep Rally – Friday, September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 1:40 pm
Homecoming Queen & Football Game - Friday, September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 7:00
Boys & Girls Soccer at home – Saturday, September 24 <sup>th</sup> – 12:30 pm
Homecoming King & Dance – Saturday, September 24 <sup>th</sup> – 7:00-10:00 pm

<b>Colleges and Universities visiting BRHS – September &amp; October</b>	
Scranton University	September 13
TCNJ	September 14
Albright College	September 19
West Chester University	September 21
Rutgers University	October 5
Stockton University	October 7
Juniata College	October 11
Rider University	October 11
University of Hartford	October 13
Princeton University	October 14
Drexel University	October 21

## Welcome Back Bobcats!



Another school year begins. The faculty and staff at BRMS look forward to another successful school year. The opening of school went smoothly and the first few days have been a fine beginning of what should be a productive year. The students have been most cooperative and eager to make this year their best.

The sixth graders adjusted easily to their new surroundings and their schedules and are a friendly presence in the school. The seventh graders enjoy having grown up from being the youngest in the school. The eighth graders have taken on the responsibility of being the leaders of the school and have made an excellent start in terms of academic work and overall behavior.

Now that students have settled into their class routine, our music program, fall sports, intramurals and various student activities are moving into operation. We encourage all students to become active and become part of our school community.

One of our goals at BRMS is to see that the parents and guardians of students-like the students themselves-feel at home in the school. Feel free to become an active member of our PTO and visit our website often to gain important information about events and activities. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

### Upcoming Events:

- 9/23 – PTO Pretzel Sale
- 9/23 – Student Council Dance – 7-9 PM
- 9/26-30 – Fall Book Fair
- 9/28 – Stokes Parent Meeting-6:30 PM
- 9/29 – Back to School Night – 7 PM
- 10/5-7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades Stokes Trip
- 10/10 – PTO Meeting 7 PM



## MIS NEWS



Welcome back from MacFarland Intermediate School. Staff and students are excited to get the year going and growing.



On September 12, 2016 MacFarland Intermediate students and staff were honored to remember and recognize first responders lost in 9/11 and those that serve today. Our student council officers lead the silent walk to the war memorial on Farnsworth Avenue where they presented a wreath. We would like to thank all those that served and continue to serve. Thank you to Bordentown City Police Department for assisting us on our walk, parents, and community members that walked alongside our students with pride. The civics lesson that students learn through their active participation are so powerful and on this day we saw that on our students' faces.



The Faculty, Staff, and students of Clara Barton School would like to welcome everyone back to school! We are so pleased to meet our new Kindergarten friends and new-to-CBS friends as well as welcome back our old friends for another year of learning at CBS. We are grateful for the opening day made brighter through the efforts of our fantastic CBS PTO. Thank you!



One of our first assemblies of every year is a safety assembly sponsored by the Bordentown City Police Department. This year the Officer Phil Program presented the assembly on Monday September 12. Our CBS students were amazed by the magic and engaged in the presentation which addressed stranger danger, bullying, internet safety, safety rules, and meeting "VIPs" (Very Important Pals) from the Bordentown City Police force. We at Clara Barton have been fortunate that the Bordentown City Police, City of Bordentown and numerous local businesses have partnered year after year to bring this presentation to the students at Clara Barton and we extend our continual thanks for their generosity. Thank you!

Clara Barton Students are entertained by Officer Phil.



Follow up with Officer Phil and Lucky Duck!

A coloring book was sent home with your student but you may stay connected at [officerphil.com](http://officerphil.com) to reinforce these lessons. Throughout the year you may check online or work on the Activity Books your children brought home and read through and implement the lessons and tips found there and on the webpage to help keep your children safe.



**When your child is absent, you are required to notify the school at 298-0676 ext. 3102 before 9:00 A.M.**

### CBS SCHEDULE

K-3	Normal	Half Day	1 Hour Delay	2 Hour Delay
Arrival	8:25	8:25	9:25	10:25
Dismissal	3:15	12:40	3:15	3:15

### Responsive Classroom at PMES

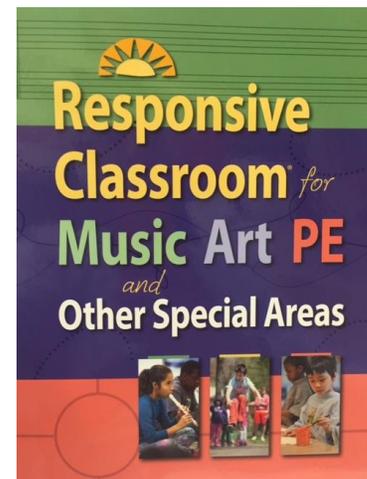
The Responsive Classroom is alive and well at PMES and this year's special subject classrooms will be a main focus area. For those who may not know, the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching and learning **emphasizes academic, social, and emotional growth in a strong school community**. The RC philosophy maintains; **how** children learn is as important as **what** they learn, and that academic success is inextricably linked to building social-emotional competencies.

This school year the PMES Special Subject teachers; Art, Library, Music and Physical Education will be involved in a book study whereby they will learn many and varied methods for infusing Responsive Classroom into each special subject area. Key strategies covered will include how to use specific

teacher language to bring out the best in students, setting a positive tone in the classroom through the use of opening routines for each class period, laying the foundations for learning by establishing rules and routines and responding to misbehavior while keeping the focus on learning.

Our classroom teachers will continue to employ similar RC strategies with their homeroom students. Each day will begin with a classroom morning meeting to foster and build a sense of classroom community, students will discuss their hopes and dreams for the school year and work with their teacher to develop a list of class rules along with logical consequences which will be employed if/when a rule is broken.

The special subject teachers began their book study this past week and are excited to enhance their current practices through the use of Responsive Classroom. Stay tuned for further updates throughout the year!



## This Month

September 5 – Labor Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

September 7 – Board of Education Meeting

September 21 – Board of Education Meeting

## Next Month

October 3 – Staff In-Service – No school for all students

October 5 – Board of Education Meeting

October 12 – Yom Kippur – SCHOOL CLOSED

October 19 – Board of Education Meeting

October 31 – ½ Day for all students – Staff Workshops



*“You’re off to great places,*

*Today is your day,*

*Your mountain is waiting,*

*So get on your way.”*

[Dr. Seuss](#)

*Thank you for checking in with The Bordentown Bulletin!*