



Bryant Bulletin

A Publication of BRYANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

460 N. Vernon Dearborn, Michigan 48128

Office: 827-2900 Attendance: 827-2901

September, 2013

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Welcome back to former students and parents and welcome to new families as well. Our halls and classrooms are bustling with people and activity. The beginning of the year is flying by. Teachers and students are busy reviewing and preparing for MEAP testing which begins October 8th.

SRI and Star Math testing are under way. Please remember that it is District policy that any student scoring 2 or more grade levels below in reading and/or math must have a school/parent contract on file and improve at least one grade level during the school year. Failure to improve at least one grade level will result in mandatory attendance and successful completion of summer school and/or retention.

Last year, Bryant was designated as a Focus school due to our achievement gap. Although we will remain in the 2012 Focus School cohort for the next three years, we were able to substantially reduce our gap to the extent that we are not on the list. When necessary, intervention classes are scheduled for students in need of extra assistance and support. We also have an extended day program for students who need academic assistance.

Bryant Middle School sets high expectations for each child. Our expectations include respectful and appropriate behavior and high academic achievement. Parents and teachers must work together to help each child succeed.

- Regularly check parent connect. Once a day is not too often.
- Subscribe to and visit the Bryant website and teacher blogs.
- Check your child's planner daily.

- Provide a quiet place for your child to do his/her homework.
- Every night, set aside 20 minutes for your child to read. Ask him/her to tell you what he/she read.
- Monitor your child's activities; especially who his/her friend's are, where he/she is going and his/her use of technology.
- Get to know the parents of your child's friends.
- Take your child's phone and internet device away at bedtime.
- Get involved: join PTA, volunteer at school and/or attend activities.

Together-we can make a difference for our children!

Bryant Middle School is a Title 1 school. We are receiving federal funds to assist struggling students. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school.

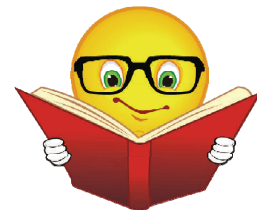
Parents are always welcome to visit the school. Please call ahead to make an appointment with teachers, staff or principals and then check into the office to obtain a visitor's pass.

I look forward to a great school year and welcome your participation. Please call or email Mr. Dear or myself with questions or concerns.

Together, we will continue to make Bryant Middle School a great place to learn!

Mrs. Peterson

Principal



*Parents: Copies the Bryant Newsletter are posted on the Bryant website.
If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office to receive a hard copy.*

FROM THE DESK OF MR. DEAR

The new school year is underway, and the students here at Bryant are gearing up for an exciting new year.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting many of the students, and look forward to meeting many more of them in the coming weeks.

Middle school is a time of transition, a time of growth, and above all a new step in the child's journey as a life long learner. Through programs such as PBIS we will continue to encourage students to make the "right choices". We will see them grow from respectful, and responsible young people into respectful and responsible young adults. Even though some may have to learn through trial and error, I can assure you that the staff of Bryant will be there to help them up, dust them off, and provide the tools necessary to learn from the experience. I have had the opportunity to learn many things from students over my years as an educator, and I have already been given the chance to continue learning along with the Bryant students.

I am looking forward to the new year, and the opportunity to continue being a part of a vibrant and growing Bryant community.

Kelly Dear

Assistant Principal

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

October 28th: 4:00-7:00pm

October 30th: 3:30-6:30pm

To Kick Off Anti-Bullying, Bryant Eagles are standing up against bullying by wearing Pink! Our Annual Pink Shirt Day is October 2nd, 2013. Pink Shirts are on sale during lunches and Open House for \$7.00.

***Remember...WORDS have POWER
ACTIONS have EFFECT
CHOOSE CAREFULLY!***

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We have added some new faces to our Bryant staff this year:

- **Mrs. Azzopardi - Spanish**
- **Mrs. Turfe - ELL Resource Teacher**
- **Mrs. Beydoun - Title I Resource Teacher and 8th grade language arts**
- **Ms. Traylor - 7th grade language arts**
- **Mr. Piche - 7th grade social studies**
- **Mr. Blake - 6th grade social studies**

PROJECT HEALTHY SCHOOLS

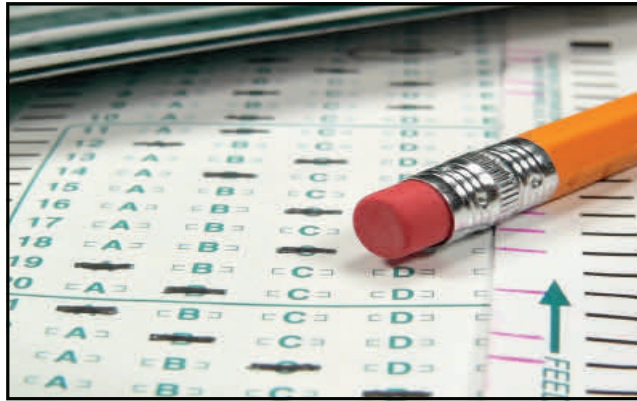
Project Healthy Schools, a community-University of Michigan collaborative designed to teach middle school students about healthy eating and physical activity, is in the first year here at Bryant Middle School. Beginning the week of October 28th there will be 10 lessons taught to the 6th grade students during their Physical Education class. These lessons will help students to learn about healthy eating and physical activity. Be sure to ask your student what they have learned! You may visit at www.projecthealthyschools.org or more information about the program.

Parents, October 3rd is National Walk to School Day. Please encourage your child to walk or ride their bike to school that day. If you must drive you child to school please make an effort to drop them off at the Dunworth pool parking lot where Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Crawford will meet the students to walk to school from there. We hope to see as many students as possible walking to school as a healthy option.

SEPTEMBER 6th

September 6th was full of activity here. Students met with Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Dear to review expectations and Mrs. Mark and Mr. Renko to learn about peer mediation, the safe box and other ways to get help here at Bryant if in conflict with another person. The rest of the day was spent doing team building activities and building community. A special "thank you" to the teachers for their creativity and planning.

MEAP Test Schedule



Fall MEAP Schedule

October 8th: Reading Day 1

October 9th: Reading Day 2

October 10th: Writing Day 1—seventh grade only

October 21st: Mathematics

October 22nd: Writing Day 2

October 23r-24th: Social Studies—6th grade ON-LINE

October 28th-29th: Science— eighth grade ON-LINE

What can parents do to help?

- Have your child go to bed early the night before each test.
- Feed your child a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Remind your child the importance of doing his/her best on each and every test.
- Discuss with your child the importance of doing his/her best.

Welcome back PTSA Members, Parents, Students and Staff!

All of the PTSA board welcomes you to another school year which we count on as being productive and a safe time of growth and enrichment. We will work hard to see that these goals are achieved. As I stated last year, please note that the name is not SPTSA - as in Some Parents - each of us have children at Bryant and each of us needs to play our part in achieving this success. We all have busy schedules and multiple commitments as I know all too well. Again, ***if each family has just one parent volunteer for just a single event, or even just one hour out of the entire school year, we will meet all our volunteer needs!*** Can you honestly say you cannot afford one hour over the next year to help out? Please sign up on one of the volunteer sheets or give us a call/drop us a note to say you can help in any small way! Join the PTSA today.

Make your voice heard ... call us, come to a PTSA meeting, let us know what we can do to be even better. Many of the improvement and support programs we are working on will, of course, mean a commitment of money. Bryant PTSA has only one major fundraiser a year - the magazine subscription program. Even if you are not interested in this program, a donation per family of just \$20 or \$25 for the entire year, would mean we could meet our goals without having to rely entirely on the fundraiser. You can help in other ways too, such as the no cost Kroger, GFS, or Subway card programs, which again cost you nothing and rewards our school with each of your purchases - ask for details.

And as also stated previously, we're all in this together for the same 700+ reasons - our 700+ kids - and with just a small effort you can help us make this year just a bit better for all. Please do what you can and I promise you and your child will be better because of it.

Ali Dagher

Bryant PTSA President



Dearborn Public Schools accept a parent's assertion that he or she needs language assistance without requiring additional corroboration. For free help with understanding the content of this document, please call the Student Services office 827-3005 for translation/interpretation Assistance.

Arabic: تؤكد مدارس ديربورن على توفير خدمات الترجمة بدون أي شرط للحصول على هذه الخدمة المجانية ولفهم هذه الإستمارة يرجى الإتصال بمكتب خدمات الطلاب على الرقم 827-3005

French: Les écoles de Dearborn vous offrent le service de traduction sans aucune condition. Si vous souhaitez avoir le service gratuit pour comprendre le contenu de ce document, prière d'appeler le bureau de Services aux Etudiants 827-3005. **Spanish:** Las escuelas de Dearborn aceptan la afirmación de un padre que él o ella necesita ayuda con el idioma sin necesidad de corroboración adicional. Para obtener ayuda gratuita con la comprensión del contenido de este documento, por favor llame a la oficina de Servicios de los Estudiantes 827-3005 para recibir asistencia de traducción / interpretación.

Italian: Scuole Dearborn accettare l'affermazione di un genitore che lui o lei ha bisogno di assistenza lingua senza bisogno di ulteriori conferme. Per aiuto con la comprensione del contenuto di questo documento, si prega di chiamare l'ufficio Student Services 827-3005 per la traduzione / interpretazione di assistenza.

Albanian: Shkolla DEARBORN pranojnë pohimin e të prindërve që ai ose ajo ka nevojë për ndihmë të gjuhës pa kërkuar vërtetim shtesë. Për ndihmë lirë me kuptuar përmbajtjen e këtij dokumenti, ju lutemi telefononi zyrën e shërbimeve për studentë 827-3005 për përkthim / interpretim ndihmë.

Romanian: Scolile orasului Dearborn accepta orice declaratie parinteasca care atesta nevoia copilul de asistenta cu limba engleza fara nici o dovada suplimentara. Daca aveti nevoie sa intelegeti acest document da-ti telefon la oficiul serviciilor scolare la numarul 827-3005 pentru a primi asistenta cu

translatia sau interpretarea lui. **Urdu:** ڈیئر بورن اسکولوں میں والدین کا دعویٰ ہے کہ وہ یا وہ اضافی تعاون کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے بغیر زبان امداد کی ضرورت ہے کو قبول کرتے ہیں۔ اس دستاویز کے مواد کو سمجھنے کے ساتھ مفت میں مدد کے لئے، براہ مہربانی مدد ترجمہ / تشریح کے لئے طالب علم کی خدمات کے دفتر کو کال کریں 827-3005.

MEDICATION

Please note that students are not permitted to self-administer prescription or over the counter medications during school hours. If your physician has determined that medication has to be taken during the school day, a Medical Authorization Form, available in the office must be completely filled out and signed by both the physician and the parent. The form and medication must be submitted to the office. Your child must report to the office to receive their medication. This policy of the Dearborn Public Schools is in accordance with General School Law (Section 380.11780).

BICYCLE SECURITY

Students must lock up their bikes in the racks on the north side or south side of the school. It is recommended that bicycles be secured with a strong cable and lock.

TEXTBOOKS

Parents can help students avoid end of the year fines, which can amount to a great deal of money, for damaged and lost texts by doing the following:

1. Periodically go over each text book with your child to examine and check for damage. This also shows the child that you will be monitoring his /her progress carefully. It is recommended that books be covered.
2. Do make sure that your child's name is written in the place provided on the inside of the cover with the teacher's name. This will help us get lost books back to the student quickly.
3. Do remind your child not to lend their books to friends as he/she are responsible for the book that they have been as signed.

Pesticide Prior Notification Request

As part of the Dearborn Public Schools District's pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and building. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Shannon Peterson

Principal, Bryant Middle School

460 N. Vernon

Dearborn, MI 48128 (313) 827-2900

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Student's Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____

Please check one:

I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment inside of the building.

I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment on the outside grounds of the school.

Both of the above

Signature _____ Date _____

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

No electronic equipment is allowed in school. Examples are portable cameras, iPods, hand held games, and PDA's. These items are frequently lost or stolen and disrupt the educational process. School personnel will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

If an electronic device is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and returned only to a parent on the following day. The second time an electronic device is confiscated will result in a detention and a parent/guardian retrieving the device on the following Monday. If a student is caught using an electronic in class, the device will be confiscated and returned the following Monday to a parent or guardian. Repeated offenses may result in further discipline.

CELL PHONES

Dearborn Public Schools policy on cell phones is that they cannot be seen or heard. We discourage students from bringing them to school. If a phone is brought to school, it must be turned off and locked in the locker until 2:55 p.m. Students may not use their phones inside the school, or on the busses. Phones may only be used after school and outside of the building.

School personnel will not be responsible for lost or stolen phones. If a cell phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian the following day. The second time a cell phone is confiscated will result in a parent/guardian picking up the cell phone on the following Monday. If a student is caught using a cell phone or if the cell phone rings in class, the cell phone will be confiscated, a detention will be assigned, and the phone will be returned the following Monday to a parent or guardian. Repeated offenses may result in further discipline.

PARENT CONNECT

Please take advantage of this exciting service. Parent Connect allows parents to view their student's grades in real time through the web. We encourage every parent to sign up and access parent connect regularly. Sign up forms can be found in the office or on the Bryant Middle School website.

LUNCH PRICES

Complete Lunch \$2.75
Sandwiches \$2.50
Fries \$1.25 and \$1.75
Salads and Fruit \$.75 - \$3.25
Desserts \$.30 - \$1.25

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

Students who received free or reduced lunches last year will be continued in September. Everyone will need to reapply to continue free or reduced lunch after September. The forms are available in the office.

LUNCH CHARGES

Lunch charges may be made for the lunch entrée only and must be paid back within one week. Students may not exceed \$5.00 in charges. The balance must be paid before any further charging is allowed.



SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Eligible students should have received a postcard from our transportation department telling them where they should wait for their bus and the pick up time. Students should make a point to learn their bus number and their driver's face. This makes it much easier to find the bus at dismissal time.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Students are expected to behave as young adults on all buses. Students who misbehave will face a range of consequences including loss of riding privileges. All questions regarding transportation should be addressed to the Transportation Department at 827-3300.

REPORTING ABSENCE/TARDY

Attendance Phone 827-2901

The voice mail is available 24 hours a day. Please call before 8:00 a.m. on the day the student will be absent or late. If we do not receive a call from a parent regarding the student absence, a call will be made to your home phone to notify you of the absence. If a student must leave school due to illness or an appointment, a parent or guardian will be required to show a driver's license to sign them out. No child will be released to anyone not appearing on the Emergency card without administrative approval. If the student returns to school during the day, he/she must report to the office to sign in and get a pass back to class. Homework can be requested if a student is absent three consecutive days.

ATHLETIC/ ACADEMIC FEES

To participate in athletics, middle school students must pay a \$50.00 activity fee. Participation requires the above fees to be paid before the activity begins. Other activities require a fee of \$25.00. This includes: math counts, academic games, chess, art club, etc.

LATE START DATES

School begins at 9am on the following dates.
Doors open at 8:50am.

September 11, 2013

October 2, 2013

November 13, 2013

December 11, 2013

January 8, 2014

February 12, 2014

March 12, 2014

April 9, 2014

May 14, 2014

8TH GRADE PARENTS

Research has shown that the 8th grade year is critical to success in high school. Please discuss with your child the importance of being on task and focused at school. We expect the 8th graders to be role models for the younger students.

As you are aware, your son/daughter will enter high school and be required to meet the new State of Michigan graduation requirements. The curriculum leading to graduation is much more precise and demanding than past ones. Part of that curriculum allows boards of education the ability to give high school graduation credit for courses taken in the middle school. Taking high school credit at the middle school level can provide students greater opportunity for electives at the high school level.

The Dearborn Board of Education offers students the opportunity to earn high school credit for math and Spanish while in 8th grade. These classes are based upon the High School Content Expectations and should mirror high school rigor.

Students passing these classes will receive a credit toward high school graduation. The class will appear on the student's high school transcript.

