



Bryant Bulletin

A Publication of BRYANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

460 N. Vernon Dearborn, Michigan 48128

Office: 827-2900 Attendance: 827-2901

September/October, 2014

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

As I prepare for my last, few days at Bryant, I would like to say a heart felt "thank you" to the entire community. The last 8+ years have been wonderful. The Bryant community is still my home and I will never be far away.

Parents – thank you for supporting the high expectations we have here at Bryant. Our eagles are a wonderful group of students with an enormous amount of talent. Please remember, as your children ventures through middle school and high school, they will cry for independence but need you to set clear boundaries. I challenge you to get to know your child's friends and their friends' parents, attend all of their extra curricular events and continue to be involved; even when they tell you not to. Remember, as technology invades every aspect of our lives, it is quite possible that people outside of your family will have more contact with your children than you do. Keep a close watch over them, they are special. (Yes, take their electronic devices away at bed time too.)

I would like to thank the teachers for their patience, kindness and talents. They will continue to shape these young people into responsible, respectful individuals. I am confident that the teachers will prepare our eagles for the challenges that they will face in high school. Our staff is professional, caring and committed to helping each child succeed.

Students- remember, life is what you make of it! The Bryant staff and your parents set high expectations for you. I challenge you to work hard and succeed, follow the core values and select friends that are honest, caring and bring out the best in you. Remember, that you are responsible for the choices you make. Being responsible means taking ownership of your actions, dealing with the consequences—good or bad and learning from your mistakes. Always work hard and seek to improve.

Please know all of my eagles will hold a special place in my heart. I will miss being here and seeing each of you every day. I trust you to continue to make Bryant a great place to learn and "the school of champions."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peterson

Principal

BRYANT ENRICHMENT CLASS

This month in Bryant Enrichment Class, the students did fundraisers for the Natural Wonders Courtyard and for a mechanical pencil dispenser for the school. We also have reopened the Eagle's Nest, which is our school store.

We have started tutoring 6th graders and have created Quizlet study guides for teachers which will help students prepare for tests. Lastly, we are making preparations for Pink Shirt Day, which is October 14.

*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 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 27th: 4:00-7:00pm

October 28th: 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 14th, 2014. 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:

- **Ms. Friedman - Physical Education**
- **Ms. Lepkowski - Physical Education**
- **Ms. King - Physical Education**
- **Ms. Jamieson - Language Arts**
- **Ms. Elder - Social Studies**
- **Ms. Murphy - Science**

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.

DEARBORN CITY HALL IS MOVING

City Hall services and departments are moving to the Dearborn Administrative Center (DAC), 16901 Michigan Avenue (two miles west of the current City Hall building). Any questions regarding the City Hall move should be directed to the City of Dearborn, Department of Public Information, (313) 943-2285

SEPTEMBER 5th

September 5th 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.



Hold Harmless Millage Renewal

VOTE November 4, 2014

More Information At: www.DearbornSchools.org Or Call: 827-3006

The Hold Harmless Millage will expire in the spring of 2015. The district is asking residents to RENEW this millage for another 10 years. This is not a new tax, only a RENEWAL of an existing millage.

The Hold Harmless Millage is made up of two parts-

- 18 mills on business & commercial property generating \$27.8 million
- 6.17 mills on homeowners generating \$11.5 million



Combined the Hold Harmless Millage generates \$39.3 million or 22% of the District's total \$178.7 million budget.

Clearly, a 22% reduction in the budget would force the administration and Board of Education to make dramatic reductions across the spectrum of opportunities now offered to students. Services such as buses, programs such as art, music, and sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and numerous elective classes would come under scrutiny and might need to be cut or drastically reduced.



HOLD- This is not a new tax, only a RENEWAL to HOLD Funding at current levels.

HARM- Without Hold Harmless funding, the district would face massive cuts that would HARM the quality of education and the level of service provided to students.

LESS- Can you live with 1/5 less funding for the district?
1/5 less teachers, programs, services to students,
and maintenance to buildings?

Be Part of the Success in the Dearborn Public Schools-

10 years ago voters renewed the Hold Harmless Millage allowing the district to offer new classes and innovative programs, continue providing a variety of services to students, and ensure quality instruction in the classroom. Knowing that each student has the ability to learn, our staff has built a culture of learning throughout the district with an expectation that all students will be academically successful.

The hard work was recognized when, out of more than 500 districts in the state, Dearborn Public Schools was named an Academic State Champion by Bridge Magazine and placed in the top 15 overall on their list of top schools.

Other accolades and recognition includes:

- Collegiate Academy received the 2013 *Innovative Business of the Year Award*
- Michigan Association of School Administrators named Brian Whiston the 2013-14 Superintendent of the Year
- All schools accredited by AdvantED
- Graduation rates at all three high schools exceed state averages and increased by 10 points over the last 2 years
- Received a *Best Communities for Music Education* designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation
- Awarded an *Education Excellence Award* by the Michigan Association of School Boards for the development, implementation, and success of the District's 5 step plan for improving graduation rates
- Most dual-enrolled students in state (over 50% of our high school students have taken a dual enrollment class) - students earn college credit while still in high school and save on tuition costs
- Now for 2014-15
 - 6th & 7th Grade STEM School
 - Dbn. Ctr. for Math, Science, & Tech. (DCMST) Now Starting in 8th Grade
 - Dearborn Academic Center of Excellence (8th/9th grade alternative school)

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 assigned.

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 10, 2014

October 1, 2014

November 12, 2014

December 10, 2014

January 14, 2015

February 11, 2015

March 11, 2015

April 15, 2015

May 13, 2015

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.

