



Town of Bedford

97 McMahon Road

Bedfordps.org

Superintendent Update

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola dos seus filhos - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译, 请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة، - طفلك/طفلاتك

Friday, September 3, 2021

Hello Bedford School Community,

Welcome Back! Wednesday and Thursday were wonderful school days, despite the rain. It was wonderful to see everyone back in school together. I was fortunate to be in all four schools and see and hear much of the opening remarks by administrators and teachers. I particularly appreciated JGMS Assistant Principal Bacigalupi's message to the eighth grade about masking up. When talking about masks he reminded them that while none of us enjoyed wearing masks, we are all doing it to keep one another safe. I appreciated his positive and upbeat attitude towards masks. We really are doing this to keep one another safe and in school. I hope that the first two days of classes were positive for you and your students too. It was wonderful to see all of the relationship building activities taking place in classrooms throughout the district. There is no school tomorrow 9/3 or Monday 9/6.

Labor Day

Monday, September 6, 2021 is Labor Day. Labor Day is the unofficial end to summer and a day that pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. The first Monday of September has been a holiday in The United States since 1894. For more information please navigate to [History.com Labor Day](https://www.history.com/topics/labor-day)

Rosh Hashanah

Happy New Year to all of our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 6, 2021, through Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Rosh Hashanah is one of the holiest days in Judaism. For more information about Rosh Hashanah please navigate to [History.com Rosh Hashanah](https://www.history.com/topics/rosh-hashanah)

National Suicide Prevention Month

Please be aware that September is National Suicide Prevention Month. All month long mental health advocates, prevention organizations, schools, and community groups will be highlighting ways we can unite and promote suicide prevention awareness. For more information please go to <https://afsp.org/national-suicide-prevention-week>

Message from the Bedford Police Department

The Bedford Police Department put out communication on Friday, August 27, 2021, in preparation for the opening of school next week. The flyer about safe travel to and from school can be seen at [BPD Back to School Safety Tips](#). Thank you to Chief Bongiorno for this important message.

Pool Testing/ COVID Safety Checks

There is quite a bit of information about the DESE testing programs that we are involved in. At this point we are waiting to finalize the infrastructure with CIC Health. In order to provide as much information as possible, we have created a BPS Covid Dashboard on our website. The Dashboard can be accessed using the following link [BPS COVID Dashboard](#) or by clicking on the YELLOW Banner on our BPS Home Page. On the page you will find news and information regarding the BOH mask mandate, DESE COVID Updates and links to the MA DESE COVID page including a video that explains many of the details around the Test and Stay protocol. The four minute video can also be seen by using this link [ArxEd DESE Guidance Video](#)

ESSER III

Based on feedback we received last spring, the Bedford Public Schools offered a summer school program. The program was a wonderful success and was supported financially with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Education portion of the funding. The funding is known as ESSER which stands for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds. The purpose of the funding is to help us respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our summer programming helped us to do this. We do have a small amount of these funds remaining and would be interested in your thoughts about how we can support additional learning acceleration or social-emotional learning this fall. If you have ideas or suggestions, please email Dr. Tricia Clifford, Assistant Superintendent at tricia_clifford@bedfordps.org

As always, thank you for your patience, your participation, and your continued commitment to our schools,

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad
Superintendent