



2023-24 School Year Updates

September 13, 2023

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



Agenda

- Opening Days
- Leadership Updates
- Health Protocols
- YRBS Parent/Guardian Forum
- ESY



Summer Excerpts



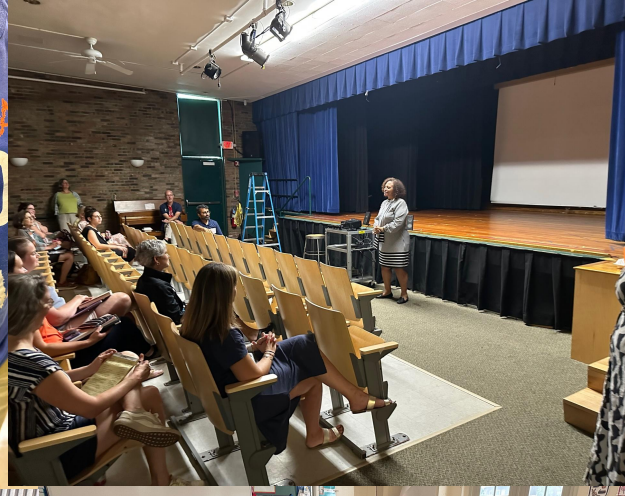
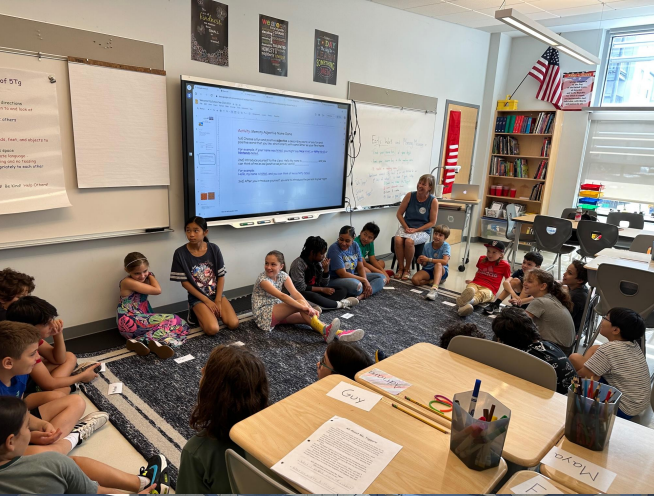
THEHILL
**March on
Washington turns
60 with miles to go**





August Leadership





Opening Days

Staffing Changes



Astrid Allen



BHS Dean of Students, Grades 9 and 11

- Served as Associate Dean of Students (Class of 2023) for the past two years; Has been involved with the BHS faculty since 2007, primarily teaching Spanish.
- Ms. Allen has also served as the program liaison for the BHS Innovation Fund since 2015 and launched other program initiatives, such as the “Day of Racial Reform & Solidarity.”

Dr. Anna Bauer-McTigue



Director of Special Education, Baker, Lawrence, Ruffin Ridley

- Formerly the Director of Special Education at the Bridge Boston Charter School.
- Since 2009, Dr. Bauer-McTigue oversaw and developed several strategic plans and special education initiatives - including consultation with DESE and the Michigan Department of Education.

Vanessa Bilello



Principal, Lawrence School

- Was Principal of Hopkins Elementary School in Hopkinton, MA for the past seven years, earning the Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Education Award for Exemplary Performance in U.S. School in 2019.
- Ms. Bilello first taught at PSB as an Assistant Teacher and Special Education Intern for Lawrence and Lincoln Schools while pursuing her M.Ed. at Boston College.

Robin Fabiano



Director of Special Education, BHS

- Previously served as Head of Student Services for Westwood Public Schools since 2012. Ms. Fabiano was also the Co-Director of Elementary Student Services at Newton Public Schools, in Newton, MA.
- She also serves as an adjunct professor at Lesley University and co-hosts a podcast titled *A Special Education Teacher, Administrator and Lawyer walk into a bar.*

Dr. Jodi Fortuna



Deputy of Teaching and Learning

- Formerly served Boston Public Schools as Academic Response Team Director, Academic Superintendent as well as other roles. Also served as Superintendent of Hudson Public Schools in Hudson, MA from 2014 to 2017.
- Dr. Fortuna brings experience in curriculum development, academic performance, coaching and mentoring.

Claire Galloway-Jones



Senior Director of Educational Equity

- Previously served as the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging with Milton Public Schools in Milton, MA.
- Prior to Milton, Ms. Galloway-Jones was the METCO program director with Sharon and Bedford schools. Claire has a special connection to Brookline through her older sister who was also one of the first students to join the METCO program when it launched in 1966; Claire was also a METCO student, travelling by bus from Mattapan to attend Lincoln Public Schools.

Emma Gardiner



Vice Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Most recently served as the Assistant principal at Chelsea High School
- Has 20+ years of teaching experience including special education, wellness and as a track and field coach.

Dr. Susan Givens



Deputy of Administration and Finance

- Previously served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the LABBB Educational Collaborative and as Superintendent for Newmarket School District in Newmarket, NH.
- Dr. Givens brings over 30 years of educational administration experience to her new role. She also currently serves as a Undergraduate Applicant Interviewer for the University of Pennsylvania.

Jen Martin



Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Grades 9-12

- Has previously served at BHS in a variety of roles since 2005, including Summer School director, program coordinator for advisory, teaching mentor, and teacher of Ancient, Modern, and World History.
- Dr. Martin is currently working to update the African-American History curriculum for Primary Source, a Professional Development organization based in MA.

Rebecca McCabe



Director of Special Education, Heath, Lincoln, and Runkle

- Previously served as the Early Childhood Coordinator at Dedham Public Schools in Dedham, MA, and as the Out of District Coordinator at Burlington Public Schools in Burlington, MA.
- Has 12 years of of special education classroom teaching experience, including certification as an Orton-Gillingham practitioner for the treatment of dyslexia.

Marianne O'Grady



Vice Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Previously served as the Director of the Lower School at the Acera School in Winchester.
- Has 11 years of leadership experience serving non-profit organizations both domestically and abroad.

Saeed Ola



Interim Principal, Baker School

- Since 2015, Mr. Ola served as Vice Principal at the Ruffin Ridley School since 2015. He has also taught middle school math and social studies at Runkle and served as a METCO aide.
- In 2018, Mr. Ola helped led the FRR School renaming process, including the vetting and support of student selections within the nominations committee.

Chad Pelton



Vice Principal, Runkle School

- Has previously served as the middle school science teacher at Runkle.
- In 2011, Mr. Pelton was one of six teachers who managed to explore the Norwegian Arctic as a Grosvenor Teaching Fellow.

Tham Tran



Director of OSP, Central Office

- Joined PSB in October of 2022, from Lowell Public Schools where he served as a systems database administrator and assistant business officer.
- He holds a Bachelors in Finance and enjoys camping, hiking and exploring the great outdoors.

Candice Whitmore



Interim Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Previously served as principal for Hale Elementary School in Boston, MA and also as assistant principal in Watertown Public Schools.
- Has six years of administrative experience and nine years of teaching elementary grades in Nashville, TN, Baton Rouge, LA, and Madison, WI. During her tenure at Watertown, Ms. Whitmore was a member of the district's equity team and launched their Parents of Color Advisory Council.

Summer Williams



BHS Dean of Students, Grades 10 and 12

- Served as a interim Dean of Students for the past two years; Has been involved with the BHS faculty since 2004 teaching drama and other performing arts.
- Co-founded the Boston's Company One Theatre in 1998 and most recently directed a performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Boston College in Spring 2022.

The school health team is excited to be back at school welcoming new and returning families. Updated health protocols were shared in our back to school letter and are available on our [PSB Health Services Website](#).

PSB health services continues to have a strong partnership with the Brookline Department of Public Health. We have collaborated on current Health and Covid protocols, which include isolation for 5 days if testing positive for Covid-19; and adhering to the mitigation strategies of staying home when ill, good handwashing, testing when symptomatic, utilizing our air filters and staying up to date on flu and Covid vaccines.

Health Services Updates

Flu Clinics

The Health Department is offering several flu clinics, at which our PSB nurses will provide support as needed. The clinics are available to Brookline residents, students and staff. **Registration is required.**

Dates:

- Wednesday, October 4th, 4:30-6:30 pm Baker School
- Sunday, October 15th 9:00 am-12:00 pm BHS
Schluntz gym
- Tuesday, October 17th, 4:30-6:30 pm at FRR

COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be offered when the new vaccine becomes available.



YRBS Parent and Guardian Forum

- Please join us on September 27th from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m at BHS to learn more about the results of the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).
- The YRBS was administered in May to Brookline students in grades 6 to 12 and measures:
 - Emotional health and well-being
 - Nutrition and physical activity
 - Technology use
 - Use of nicotine, alcohol, and other drug use
 - Behaviors related to sexual activity and healthy decision-making
 - Behaviors related to intentional injury
 - Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries



YRBS Parent and Guardian Forum

September 27, 2023

7-8:30PM

Brookline High School

During the event,

- An introduction will be provided by Liza O'Connell, Interim Deputy of Student Services
- Dr. Matt DuBois, Senior Director of Clinical Services and Social Emotional Learning, will provide a summary of YRBS Results.
- Attendees will have an opportunity to ask panelists questions. The panel will include:
 - Dr. Erik Von Hahn, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician, Tufts Medical Center
 - Rachael Hennessey-Crowell, LICSW, MSW, MBA, Clinical Director of Outpatient Treatment, Brookline Center
 - Sigalle Reiss, MPH, RS/REHS, Director, Public Health & Human Services
 - The Brookline Police Department
 - Tricia Laham, MEd, RN, BSN, Coordinator of School Health Services
 - Carlyn Z. Uyenoyama, K to 12 Coordinator for Wellness Education

Special Education: Extended School Year (ESY)

BEEP (Ages 3-5): <u>37 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Erin Hurney	<p>To ensure that children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), all IEP teams, including parents & guardians, consider whether or not a child with special needs requires extended school year (ESY) services.</p> <p>With the purpose of minimizing substantial regression, specialized services provided help each child maintain the progress made towards IEP goals.</p>
K-8: <u>212 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Lindsay Strauss	<p>Special education services may include: specific skill remediation, behavioral and/or therapeutic support, speech & language, occupational & physical therapy, orientation & mobility, adaptive community engagement, etc.</p>
9-Age 22: <u>35 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Liza Casal	<p>Non-academic activities may include: music therapy, outdoor activities, swimming, therapeutic animal events</p> <p>Locations: BEEP, Ruffin Ridley School, Brookline High School (Greenough)</p> <p>Dates: 4 weeks (7/11- 8/4/22); 5 weeks (7/11- 8/11/22)</p>

