

Family Engagement Newsletter



P.S. duPont Middle School

Fall Edition

Volume 2, Issue 1

September, 2013

Letter From the Principal

Greetings P.S. Parent(s) and Guardian(s)!

Welcome Back! It's hard to believe that summer break is over and a new school year has begun. We are excited to have you and your child(ren) as part of the P.S. Family. Every staff member has been working hard to prepare for the return of our students. We have set very high expectations and made plans to guarantee that every student at P.S. will be successful this school year.

At P.S., your student(s) will receive the best education when you and our dedicated teachers work as a team. While you are not part of the teaching staff, you are just as important to your children's education. It is a parents' enthusiasm, support, and involvement that inspires children to do their best along with the teacher's ability to teach what they need to learn.

We believe that every student will learn to the highest level and we are prepared to offer more time and support to every student that needs it. I ask for your support and participation in this effort by sending your child to school every day, monitoring your child's homework, and asking your child to share what they learned at school each day.

In closing, thank you for your commitment to your child's education and I look forward to seeing you in the near future!

Sincerely,

Lewis Cheatwood, P.S. duPont Middle School Principal

It is the directive of the Board of Education that the Brandywine School District shall not discriminate in its employment practices or its educational programs and activities of students on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, domicile, marital status, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any legally protected characteristic. All policies, regulations and practices of the District shall be guided by this directive.

Education Corner

This section provides educational information for P.S. Families.



P.S. Panther Pride (Positive Behavior Support Program)

P - Perseverance, **R** - Respect, **I** - Integrity, **D** - Demonstrate, **E** - Excellence in Academics

Students receive verbal praise for displaying those expected behaviors of middle school students. Students can regularly earn blue **PRIDE CARDS** for displaying those behaviors. The students trade-in their PRIDE CARDS on Fridays in the “DEN” located in the PS duPont Cafeteria. Here they can buy items such as school supplies, locker items, special time with a teacher after school, or buy larger prizes such as PS gear, attending a swim party or, going up to the cupola and getting a picture of him/her self to prove it.

In order to run a successful program we hold two annual fundraisers. One is our spaghetti dinner held in the cafeteria scheduled for September 25th. The students of National Junior Honor Society would love to serve you and your family a complete spaghetti dinner including beverage and dessert. Come and enjoy dinner with your P.S. Family! Our second fundraiser is our annual Vendor Fair held in our gymnasium. Mark your calendar for Friday, November 22nd and do your holiday shopping at P.S. There will be over 60 vendors, food, drink, raffles and more! Come by and browse, socialize, shop and eat! Free admission for all.

Our active PBS committee is always looking for **parent involvement**. There are many avenues to explore such as attending a PBS meeting (generally 2nd Tuesday of every month from 3-4PM), chaperoning an in school PBS sponsored event, or helping out with the “Den” during lunches on Fridays. You can decide how frequent or infrequent your involvement will be. In order to improve and promote this program, we need your input. Please consider helping out this valuable program that reaches EVERY student here at P.S. DuPont Middle School.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact our program facilitator, Robin Collins RN at 762-7147.

District Moves to a 10-Point Grading Scale



The Brandywine School District is converting to a 10-point grading scale for students in grades 4-12, starting this school year. The new scale will frame the grade system to match the achievement levels and expectations established by the Common Core State Standards, which are very challenging and based on college-readiness skills. The change was recommended by the District's Grade Reporting Committee and approved by the School Board.

The new grading scale will in no way lower the rigorous standards presently found in the District's grade 4-12 classrooms. Teachers will continue to hold students accountable for mastering those standards, and students will be challenged to achieve at the highest levels.

"Right now is a perfect opportunity to transition to a 10-point grading scale because of BSD's adoption of the Common Core State Standards and the increased rigor associated with the standards," explained Dr. Michelle Kutch, the District's Supervisor of Curriculum. "Student proficiency and mastery of the standards will be accurately measured on a 10-point scale."

The District's research into the issue revealed that many other districts already use a 10-point grading scale. This put our students at a potential disadvantage when it came to competition or college admissions and/or scholarships because a student earning a 92 in another district would receive an A on their report card, while a BSD student earning a 92 would receive a B under our old grading scale. "Adjusting the grading scale to a 10-point scale will level the playing field for our students and ensure fairness and consistency," said Dr. Kutch. "In addition, the new scale will be aligned with the grading scale used by most colleges and universities. Grading consistency with college grading will lead to smoother transitions for our students when they enter college."

Brandywine School District Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59



Brandywine School District's Parent Resource Center

The Parent Resource Center, located at Claymont Elementary School, exists to provide parents and caregivers with resources and support as they work in partnership with schools to meet their child's learning needs. Our goal is to help families understand the important role they play as part of the educational team. For more information, please contact Marisa Wilson at 302.762.3847 or at marisa.wilson@bsd.k12.de.us.

The Parent Center is a place where you can...

- Find resources to help you increase your child's reading skills
 - Find resources to help you increase your child's math skills
 - Find resources to enrich your home life
 - Receive English Language Learner support
 - Participate in parent education classes and workshops
 - Learn how to navigate the BSD education system
 - Borrow books, access computer and fax services
 - Connect with community-based resources
 - Meet other parents / caregivers like yourself
 - Have your concerns heard and be valued as a parent or caregiver
- ...and much more, all at no cost to you!

Spring Schedule for Parent Resource Center

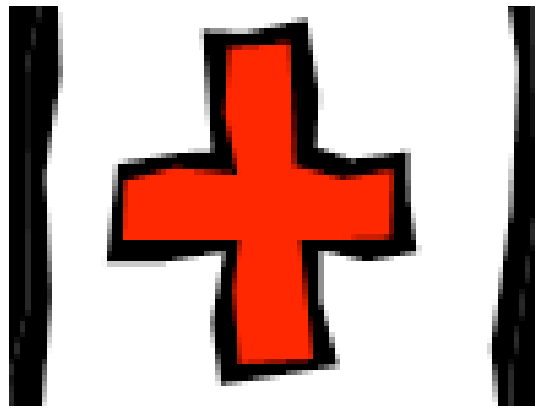
Hours of Parent Resource Center

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
(workshop nights)

Need to Know News

This section provides important information about activities for P.S. families.



From the Nurses Desk

I would like to introduce myself. I am Robin Collins, your school nurse. My nursing experience is not only in School Nursing, but also the behavioral/psychiatric aspect as well. My approach in dealing with your child will be one of patience as well as being an educator. In my opinion, when children have a better understanding of some of their medical concerns/questions, they often become their own teachers. If you have any questions or concerns, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you. I wish you and your child a very happy (and a healthy) productive year at P.S. duPont Middle School.

A few highlights from the Nursing Office:

Medications: must arrive to the nursing office in the original, pharmacy labeled container with a note completed by the parent giving me permission to administer the medication. Over the counter medication must be identifiable in its original packaging. No medication will be administered without either of the above in place.

Back screenings: I will be checking every child's back for scoliosis (a curvature of the spine). This will occur in gym classes early in September for the first semester and in late January for those students that have gym in the second semester. If I find any unusual findings or if I suspect a slight curvature, your child will be referred to a physical therapist that will be visiting the school early in 2014. I will send you a note closer to the time of the physical therapist's visit.

Vision/Hearing Screenings: all 7th graders vision and hearing will be tested in October/November. Parents/guardians will be informed if there were any difficulties/abnormalities with the screening results.

Sports Physicals: required for all students that are interested in trying out and/or playing any school sponsored sport. The physical needs to have been completed on or after May 1, 2013. A DIAA sports physical form is the only form accepted for school sponsored sports. It can be found on the P:S. website. Your child can have the physical performed by their primary doctor, a walk-in clinic or even here at P.S. on 9/4/13 after school. This is the only time we will offer this opportunity, so please take advantage of it if your child may be interested in playing any sport/ club. The cost is \$ 25.00 cash. In order for any student to partake in this physical, page 1, 2 and most of page 4 of the sport physical must be completed and signed by a parent and turned into the Nurse prior to 9/4/13. The student must turn in their money to the doctor on September 4th. I will not collect this money or be responsible for its safety.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 762-7147 or email at robin.collins@bsd.k12.de.us.

Box Top Collection



We need your help! Box Tops are all about the difference we can make for our school! Clip the Box Top from hundreds of participating products and send them to school with your student. They can be dropped off in Room 112. Each one is worth 10 cents when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Ask family and friends to collect for you as well! The limit per school is \$20,000--imagine if we even get close to that!

PTA Membership

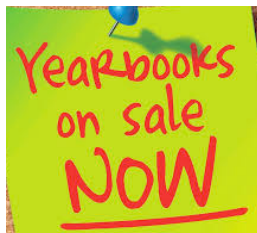


everychild.onevoice.

Whether you have a student starting, midway through or in the final years at PS duPont; or if you are a community member and supporter, your interest in PTA activities is appreciated. If you have not already done so, we invite you to become a PTA member.

Some of the programs our PTA provides and supports are Back to School Events, Family Fun Nights, Picture Day, Community Outreach, Positive Behavior System, Bully Awareness, 8th Grade Formal, Teacher Appreciation Events, Trip Scholarships, and Common Core Standards. PS duPont PTA program stands firm on building a strong sense of community between staff, students, parents and community leaders. Please stand firm with us at PS duPont PTA by participating in PTA activities, supporting teachers and staff in the classroom, or contributing your time and talent(s).

Yearbooks On Sale



Yearbooks are now on sale for \$25. Only pre-order yearbooks will be guaranteed. All yearbooks that are not pre-ordered will be \$30. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Pam Rada at pam.rada@bsd.k12.de.us.

After School Art Program: RAP



Respect through the Arts, also known as RAP, is an after school program designed to offer students to explore respect based themes while exploring the visual and technology generated art projects. The Respect through the Arts project is a collaborated effort between PS duPont Middle School and Connecting Generations. RAP originated two years ago through a grant from the Delaware Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Board. The project now in its third year is led by Pat Scarano local artist and Beverly Simmons-Jackson who use various artistic mediums for students to express their views, feelings and ideas without resorting to violence or aggressive behaviors. Classes will be offered after school on Wednesday from 3-4:20pm in room 107.

Career Art RAP Programs



Any student that has participated in the RAP program over the past years may join Mrs. Scarano and Mrs. Simmons-Jackson on Monday for the Career Art RAP program. Students will continue to learn about new art mediums, how to use an iPad for art purposes, attend art museum trips, and learn about different forms of art from guest speakers over eight consecutive weeks. This program will run from September 23rd until December every Monday after school from 3-4:20 pm.

If your child enjoys art and would like to participate in the RAP program please contact Mary Crowley at 302-762-7146 ext. 1144 or e-mail mary.crowley@bsd.k12.de.us. Flyers will be provided soon in the front office.

Sunday Academy



Building strong healthy relationships between teens and parents is a promising pathway for keeping communication open in the family. The Sunday Academy is a partnership between PS duPont Middle School and Child Inc. offering a “Healthy Relationship” curriculum to parents and students which was approved by the Department of Education for middle school students. The Sunday Academy will be scheduled over seven sessions from 2pm to 4pm beginning September 22nd and ending December 15th. Each week a group of students and their parent/guardian will be separated for group discussion on a new topic which will be adapted to the group to include current events and time for discussion. Topics to be covered include:

- 9/22 Communication Skills
- 10/6 Conflict Resolution
- 10/20 Gender Roles & Stereotypes
- 11/3 Media Literacy
- 11/17 Boundaries and Self Worth
- 12/1 Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships
- 12/15 Courageous By standing

Parents/guardian lessons will be restructured, as well as helping them to communicate and have conversations with their teenager about the “Healthy Relationship” topics being taught to their child. Once the session ends students and their families will regroup and enjoy dinner together to discuss what they learned. Dinner and child care will be provided for the families. If you are interested in attending this program on all the dates provided above please contact Mary Crowley at 302-762-7146 ext.1144 or e-mail mary.crowley@bsd.k12.de.us.

Media Matters- Video Program for 8th Grade Students



8th Grade students will meet right after school over a three week period beginning at the end of October. PS duPont Middle School collaborated with Connecting Generations to develop another after school program that will foster resiliency, social skills, and knowledge about media literacy. The instructor Scott Michels will provide exciting hands on training using technology, sound equipment, and computerized audio and editing equipment. Students will produce their own public service announcement at the conclusion of the program to be marketable in a school setting. Spaces are limited. If your child can attend all three weeks and is interested in this program please contact Mary Crowley at 302-762-7146 ext. 1144 or e-mail mary.crowley@bsd.k12.de.us.

P.S. duPont Food Pantry



P.S. now has a Food Pantry. P.S. duPont and the Food Bank of Delaware are teaming up to bring P.S. Families a Food Pantry. This pantry is available for all P.S. families who are in need of groceries. For more information, please contact Antonia De Luz-Roane at 302.762.7146 ext. 1158 or at antonia.deluz@bsd.k12.de.us.

Backpack Program



The Food Bank of Delaware's Backpack Program provides food to children in need for weekends and holidays when school is not in session and federal school meal programs are not available. They are distributed on Fridays or the last day before a holiday or vacation in a discreet manner at sites where children normally congregate after school. For more information, please contact Antonia De Luz-Roane at 302.762.7146 ext. 1158 or at antonia.deluz@bsd.k12.de.us.

P.S. Weekly Tutoring



Tutoring is occurring! Tutoring will be every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00-4:20pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lynn Scanlan at lynn.scanlan@bsd.k12.de.us.

P.S. DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR ORDER FORM

Turn in your order and payment to your homeroom teacher or Mrs. Fitzhugh, in room 207. All items come in adult sizes. (Checks can be made payable to P.S. duPont Middle School.)

SWEATSHIRTS: Circle color and size \$20 each

	Grey		Navy	
S	M	L	XL	XXL

ZIPPERED FLEECE JACKETS (SCHOOL APPROVED) WITH EMBROIDERED P.S. PANTHER \$25

Boys Grey	Boys Navy	Boys Green	Girls Grey	Girls Navy	Girls Red
S	M	L	XL	XXL	

BOYS: P.S. DUPONT T-SHIRTS: \$10 each (Color: Navy, Grey, Dark Purple, Bright Green, White)

COLOR _____ SIZE _____ COLOR _____ SIZE _____

BOYS: LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS: \$13 each (Color: Navy, Grey, White)

COLOR _____ SIZE _____ COLOR _____ SIZE _____

GIRLS: P.S. DUPONT T-SHIRTS: \$10 each (color: Navy, Grey, Dark Purple, Dark Pink, Bright Green)

COLOR _____ SIZE _____ COLOR _____ SIZE _____

GIRLS: LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS: \$13 each (Color: Navy, Grey, Pink)

COLOR _____ SIZE _____ COLOR _____ SIZE _____

NAME: _____ **Homeroom:** _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID: _____

3rd Annual P.S. Holiday Vendor Fair

The P.S. duPont Middle School will be holding its 3rd Annual P.S. Holiday Vendor Fair on Friday, November 22nd from 6pm – 9pm. The money received from the vendors, food and ticket sales will be used toward PBS sponsored events and activities for about 940 students at P.S. duPont Middle School.

We are seeking vendors to participate - all types of business and crafters are welcome. We are hoping many home-based businesses, as well as local businesses and crafters will join our fair. You are welcome to sell your products, book party shows or hand out information about your business. If more than one person from the same company (i.e. two Tupperware Consultants) contacts us, we will accept the registration that was received first.

The cost is **\$30** for an approximately 6' wide x 5' deep space. All vendors will need to provide their own tables and chairs. **Each vendor will need to provide a gift or gift basket for a raffle.** Vendor spaces are limited, so submit your registration with payment as soon as possible.

We are also in need of more donated items for our raffle. If you know someone who would like to donate an item, or you would like to donate from your business, please email Sabrina.Fitzhugh@bsd.k12.de.us .

If you are interested in being a part of our vendor fair as a vendor, please contact me as soon as possible. Your donated item can be brought the night of the vendor event. Limited spaces available, so act fast!!!!

CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES!

Sabrina Fitzhugh 762-7146 (P.S. Holiday Vendor Fair Chair) [/sabrina.fitzhugh@bsd.k12.de.us](mailto:sabrina.fitzhugh@bsd.k12.de.us)

We hope to see all of you at the Fair. It will be a great time catching up with friends and shopping for those wonderful holiday gifts. Help make this holiday event great, so that we can have a wonderful holiday tradition for years to come.

Important Dates to Know

			24-31	No School, Winter Break
August	21-23	Teacher Inservice Day	25	No School, Christmas Holiday
	26	First Student Day (6th Grade Only)	January 1	No School, New Year's Day
	27	All students Attend	16	Winter Jam: Steel Drums & Jazz Bands
	30	No School, Labor Day	20	No School, MLK Day
September	2	No School, Labor Day	23	End of 2nd Marking Period
	5	No School, Rash Hashanah	24	Staff Professional Work Day
	28	Family Fun Day	31	Report Cards Distributed
	30	Interims End		
October	2	Beat Back Bullying Workshop		
	4	No School, Inservice Day		
	7	Interims Distributed		
	16	A Step-by-Step Approach to a Meaningful IEP Workshop		For more important dates and information, please visit P.S. school calendar and website at www.brandywineschools.org/psdupont
	17	Parent Conferences		
	18	Parent Conferences		
	23	Suicide Prevention Workshop		
November	1	End of 1st Marking Period,		
	4	No School, Professional Day		
	6	Confident Parenting Workshop, Part 1		
	11	No School, Veterans Day		
	13	Report Cards Distributed		
		Confident Parenting Workshop, Part 2		
	20	Confident Parenting Workshop, Part 3		
	27	No School, Inservice		
	28-29	No School, Thanksgiving		
December	5	6th Grade Band & Choir Holiday Concert		
	10	7th & 8th Grade Band Holiday Concert		
	11	Interim Ends		
	12	7th & 8th Grade Choir Holiday Concert		
	18	Interims Distributed		