

Bel Pre Elementary School

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/belprees/>

Message from Principal D. Brooks

Every child, every day is finding a way to feel **connected**;

Every child, every day knows they have a **champion** they can turn to;
and

Every child, every day is being **challenged** by new learnings and experiences.



Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Bel Pre Elementary School (BPES), which continues to be “**A beautiful place to learn and grow!**” We look forward to seeing all of our returning students and want to extend a very special welcome to our kindergarten students and new students who will be joining the Bel Pre community for the first time.

We are looking forward to returning safely back in person with our students this year! As always it is important to keep lines of communication open between home and school so that

together we are able to ensure a safe learning environment for all of the students at Bel Pre. Our first day of school will be **Monday, August 30, 2021**.

Successful student learning thrives with open communication and an active parent-teacher-school partnership. It is our sincere hope that we will continue to be collaborative partners in assisting our students’ safe return back to the brick-and-mortar learning environment. We encourage all families to participate in our school activities and events throughout the year, with safety precautions in place. We look forward to another successful school year.

In this newsletter and the “Back to School” tab on our website you will find important information that will help families in planning for the upcoming school year. As mentioned, I encourage parents/ families to become a member of our fantastic Bel Pre/ Strathmore PTA as we embrace our motto “**Two Schools...One Community.**”

Warmest Regards,
Dara Brooks
Principal, Bel Pre Elementary

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While our executive leadership members put the finishing touches on reopening procedures, I want to share Dr. Monifa McKnight's vision for her first 100 days as interim superintendent. PROSPER 100 aligns with the system's strategic priorities and highlights the commitments MCPS must make to students, staff and the community in its efforts to provide students with the educational experience they deserve.

MCPS **PROSPER 100** **STUDENTS FIRST!**

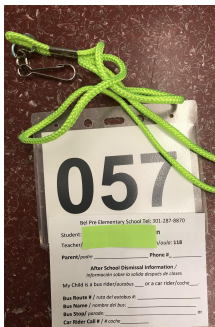
PROSPER 100 entails:

- P-Putting Students First
- R-Renewing Relationships
- O-Opening 5 Days a Week for In-Person Instruction
- S-Supporting Staff to Meet Student Needs
- P-Preparing for Our Future
- E-Educating for Equity
- R-Reestablishing the Culture of Respect

Monifa McKnight-
Acting Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Kindergarten Orientation and Back to School Night:** As a result of the Board of Education's decision to **restrict the number of adults in our school buildings who are not employees** on August 24th, adjustments have been made to our fall **Open House/ Take a Peek at Your Seat & Back to School Night** events. We have been asked to restrict these events to virtual experiences for families. However, we will provide an **in-person experience for our students!**



Kindergarten Back to School Night will now take place in two stages:

Stage 1: Thursday, August 26th, between 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, our teachers will provide teacher-led student tours for in-coming Kindergarteners. Two tours will take place beginning at the All-purpose room (APR) Door at **6:30 p.m.** and again at **7:00 p.m.** The purpose of the tour will be to provide our in-coming Kindergarten students with the opportunity to: meet their teachers; get a feel for the building; and hear 1st day classroom and procedures.

While our Kindergarten students are taking the "Take a Peek at Your Seat" tour with their classroom teachers, parents will be able to engage with our non-classroom based staff while visiting stations staged for materials distribution, beginning of year paperwork, and Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) membership and Spirit Wear.

Stage 2: Then on Friday, August 27th beginning at 3:00 p.m. parents are invited to a Virtual Overview Meeting. Our Kindergarten teachers will provide individual classroom information for their families via Zoom. Please look for communication from your child's teacher for Zoom links.

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- ❖ **Open House/ "Take a Peek at Your Seat": 1st & 2nd Grade Open House** will now take place during three (3) tour sessions on **Friday, August 27th between 1:00 p.m. and 2:50 p.m.** These student tours will take place at the following intervals:
 - **Session 1:** 1:00-1:30pm
 - **Session 2:** 1:40-2:10pm
 - **Session 3:** 2:20-2:50pm

Students will be greeted by their classroom teacher, who will walk them to their classroom to have a sneak peek at their seat. Likewise, our parents are invited to pick up important information at the mitigated spaces below, while their children are visiting their classrooms:

- 1st Grade Entrance-Gym Door
- 2nd Grade Entrance-Walker Door

While our 1st & 2nd Grade students are taking the "Take a Peek at Your Seat" tour with their teachers, parents will be able to visit tables to pick up pertinent materials, complete all necessary paperwork, and join our Parent/ Teacher Association (PTA).

- ❖ **Individual Student Picture Day** will take place on **Tuesday, October 21, 2021.**

**Please visit the MCPS website for system-wide calendar events, early dismissal days, school closing at other important dates. Adjustments to this calendar may be made during the year and you will be notified of them. The MCPS website is <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/>.

Bel Pre's New Mission Statement

Throughout the summer, our purpose-driven instructional leadership team (ILT) and I spent quality time asking ourselves, ***Who do we want to be for our students as we reopen for the 2022 school year?*** Our work this summer included the completion of a new mission statement as we prepare to welcome our students back to a brick-and-mortar learning environment.

First Day Arrival

On **Monday August 30**, all students must wear his/her name badge with a green lanyard. To ensure the safety and health of our students and staff, it is vitally important that all students wear masks before entering the building. Our kindergarten and first grade students will enter through the main entrance doors while our second grade and PreKindergarten students will enter through the walker doors. Upon entering the building students will be given hand sanitizer.

Bel Pre's Mission Statement (est. 2022)

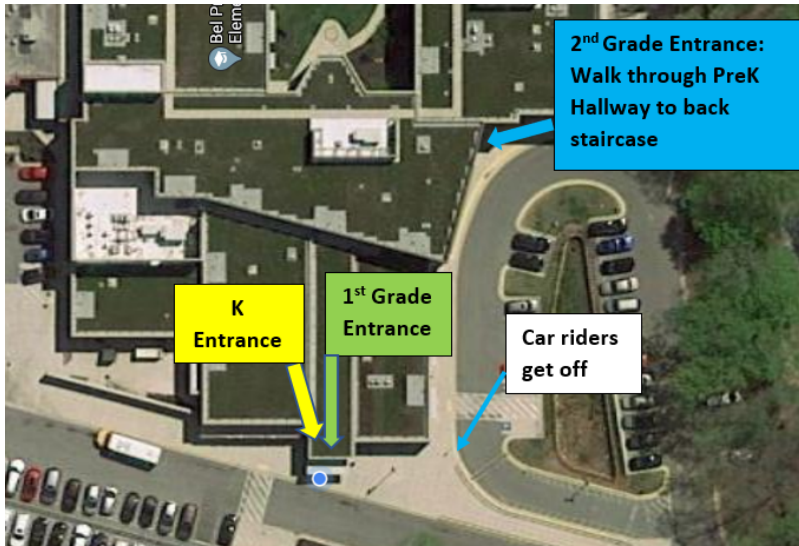
The mission of Bel Pre Elementary School is to provide culturally responsive and differentiated instruction which enables our students to develop a genuine love of learning and ensures all students are seen, heard, and valued, which promotes their overall academic success and social/emotional well-being.

We strive to build trusting relationships with families and community that foster a socially and academically safe learning environment and allows each student to become an independently critical thinker.



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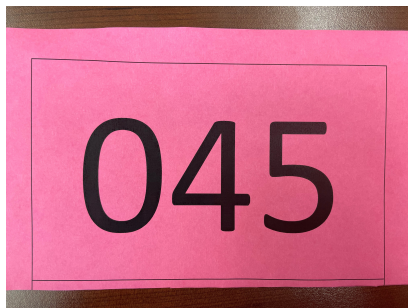
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Transportation

If you are eligible for bus transportation, please review the [Transportation Letter and Routes report](#). All students who will be taking buses to school should do so on the first day to get accustomed to the bus routines and procedures. Our staff members will be riding the bus together during the first week to support our students on the bus and share our safety expectations. Any questions about bus schedules should be directed to transportation (Randolph Depot) at 240-740-2600. You will need the route number when calling.

Dismissal



Dismissal begins at **3:25 p.m.** In the afternoon, our regular car riders and walkers will be dismissed from the double doors on the right side of the building (see aerial map above), where cars will be able to line up around the sidewalk for pick up. Parents will be asked to display the walker door call number card on the front windshield for our staff to see. Students will have the same number card on his/her name badge and need to remember his/her number.

Bus riders are dismissed from the main entrance depending on the arrival time of the bus. Parents who would like to pick up a child who normally rides the bus are asked to call the office before 2:50 pm or send a note to their child teacher, and come into the building to sign their child out. It is very important that the school is aware if a child who normally is a bus rider is being met by a parent. Children may not go home in an alternate manner or alternate bus without written parent permission or the parent actually coming to the school to pick the child up. Please do not hesitate to call the school for any clarification that may be needed.

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Emergencies

Please complete the [Student Emergency Information form \(Yellow card\)](#) and student name card inside the name badge holder. Return both documents to your child's teacher during Open House or on the first day of school.

Please develop a plan with your child that will cover the following emergencies:

1. No one is home when the bus arrives after school.
2. School is closed early due to weather conditions.
3. Unexpected needed pick up of your child due to illness or other emergency.

Your support to provide for your child in the event of an emergency is greatly appreciated.

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Student Supply Lists

Though each grade level team ordered student supplies for students in early June, based on current supply demands we have provided the suggested supply list for each grade level below or on Bel Pre ES web page under [Back to School Packet](#) -Supply List ([English](#), [Spanish](#)).

KINDERGARTEN

- School box, plastic, 8 ½" X 5 ½"
- Box of 24 crayons (Crayola preferred)
- Box of Washable Markers (Crayola preferred)
- Box of Dry Erase Markers, various colors
- #2 Pencils
- Erasers
- 2 Composition books, wide ruled
- Jumbo glue sticks (at least 4)
- Scissors, (blunt tip)
- Headphones (no earbuds)

GRADE TWO

- School box, plastic
- Box of crayons (48 count)
- Box of Dry Erase Markers, various colors
- #2 Pencils (2 dozen)
- Erasers
- 1 Composition book, wide ruled
- Glue sticks (at least 5)
- Scissors (2 pairs)
- 2 Pocket Folders
- Headphones (no earbuds)

GRADE ONE

- School box, plastic
- Box of crayons (48 or less)
- Box of Dry Erase Markers, various colors
- #2 Pencils
- Erasers
- 1 Composition book, wide ruled
- Glue sticks (at least 4)
- Scissors, (blunt tip)
- 2 Pocket Folders
- Headphones (no earbuds)

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Main Office and School Hours

The Bel Pre main office staff are excited to support our students, families and staff members this year. Our office phone number is 301-287-8870. You can also reach our office team, Ms. Rebecca Williams and Ms. Nydia Blake. Please do not hesitate to contact the main office for any reason!

School Hours	9:00 AM - 3:25 PM
Teacher Hours	8:20 AM - 3:50 PM
Students Enter the Building	8:40 AM
Instruction Begins	9:00 AM
Morning Pre-kindergarten classes	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Afternoon Pre-Kindergarten classes	12:55 PM - 3:25 PM

- ❖ In order to maintain the safety and security of students, students should not be dropped off before 8:40 AM. There is no supervision provided before this time.
- ❖ The late bell rings at 9:00 AM. Students arriving to school after this bell rings MUST report to the main office to order lunch and get a late pass to class.
- ❖ Dismissal begins at 3:25 PM.

To ensure the safety of all children, please do not drive in the bus loop or park along the entrance driveway and bus loop.

We will also close the door promptly at 9:00 am every day and parents will need to walk children to the front door after this time. Parents will need their phones with them and should be ready to scan the QR code to complete the late entry form.

Late Arrival QR Code: If your child arrives late, parents will be asked to sign in using the QR code. This sign will be posted at the door.

1. Use your camera to take a picture of the code.
2. Open the link.
3. Complete the form.
4. Do not come into the building with your child.



We encourage parents to **send students on the bus beginning the first day of school** so we can accurately determine transportation needs and dismissal procedures. Please remember there is no supervision for students prior to 8:40 a.m. In order to support the prompt opening of the instructional day at 9:00 a.m., children should arrive at school between 8:40 and 8:55 a.m. It is critical that families support their children's timely arrival at school. Arriving on time to school is one important example of teaching students to honor time frames.

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Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) Application

Based on the exceptional circumstances of the ongoing public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended several waivers through the end of the school year 2021-2022. This means that all students may receive meals at no charge this school year. However, district funding (Compensatory Education and Title I) relies on FARMS data. Eligibility for programs that benefit many families, such as [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\)](#), will also use current year FARMS data.

Families may now complete and submit the application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals by visiting www.MySchoolApps.com. Families must reapply each school year. The online application and instructions will be available in various languages.

2021-2022 Report Card and Interim Dates

2021-2022 Report Card and Interim Dates					
Marking Period	# of Days	INTERIMS	REPORT CARDS		
		Interims Distributed ¹	End of Marking Period	Report Card Available in Synergy ²	Report Cards Distributed ³
1	45 for traditional 75 for innovative	10/14/21	11/03/21	11/11/21	11/12/21
2	46	12/15/21	01/21/22	01/31/22	02/01/22
3	46	03/06/22	03/31/22	04/08/22	04/11/22
<i>Traditional</i> 4 (Grade 12) 4 (K-11)	45	05/08/22 05/18/22	06/15/22	06/23/22	06/24/22

Notes:

¹ Both elementary and secondary interim grades will be available on StudentVue/ParentVue. Also, interims will be mailed home to non-activated ParentVUE households.

² Schools will also have access to the electronic copy of report cards in Synergy.

³ Report cards will be mailed centrally according to the schedule above.

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Home/School Communication

As we get closer to the start of the new school year, you can expect to receive communication **directly from your child's teacher via a phone call and postcard** during the week of August 23rd. The communication will include specific information regarding opportunities to connect with the teacher, and to share contact information to begin to build community among the families of the students in each classroom. In addition, **weekly ConnectEd messages from Bel Pre Elementary will come from Rebecca Williams, our administrative secretary, "on behalf of Dara Brooks, Principal."**

Attendance and absences

Whenever your child will be absent or tardy, please email his/her teacher and copy the attendance secretary, Nydia Blake, by 10:00 am. A note explaining any absence must accompany your child upon his/her return to school. If you know ahead of time that you will need to pick up your child early, please send a note or email your child's teacher and the main office. If you need to make any last-minute changes to your child's dismissal plan or come to pick up your child early please contact the main office by phone before 2:50 pm. We will not dismiss students between 3:15 and 3:25 except in the case of an emergency, as it is too disruptive to the classroom. Thank you for understanding how hectic this time of the day can be in the main office.

Visitor Policy

All Montgomery County Public Schools have access control systems (ACS) to enhance school-based security. The ACS consists of a surveillance camera installed at the school's main entrance. Signs will direct a visitor to push a button to alert main office staff of your arrival. A remote locking system, controlled from the main office, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' morning arrival times and afternoon dismissal times. When a visitor arrives during these times, they will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. Office staff will communicate with the visitor and provide controlled entry into the school. All visitors will be instructed to report to the main office to sign in. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the ACS, all other entrances to the school building will remain secured at all times.

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Bel Pre /Strathmore Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope you'll consider joining the Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA. Joining the PTA is a great way to be involved in your child's education, and you can do as much, or as little as you want. The PTA is also a great way to meet and get to know those in the Bel-Pre/Strathmore area that will soon be the parents of your child's new friends and

classmates. The PTA membership cost is only \$10/person for the year. This year the PTA plans to continue to support families in need and provide resources on virtual learning and screen free activities and ideas.

Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA Board Members:

Open, President:

Kyle Stearns, Vice President Bel Pre: stearns.kyle@gmail.com

Sara Foraker, Vice President Strathmore: saraonit@yahoo.com

Katina Georgallas, Treasurer: katina.georgallas@gmail.com

Open, Recording Secretary:

Amy Alipio, Corresponding Secretary: amyalipio@gmail.com

LaMonte Scipio, Fundraising coordinator: l.scipio74@gmail.com

Katina Georgallas, Fundraising coordinator: katina.georgallas@gmail.com

Stella Harrison, Bel Pre Staff representative: Stella_E_Harrison@mcpsmd.org

Felice Erdeim, Strathmore Staff Representative: Felice_W_Erdheim@mcpsmd.org

Dania Reyes, Spanish language liaison: daniareyes8882@yahoo.com

Judith Recinos, Spanish language liaison: judithrecinos11@gmail.com

Open, Boxtop Coordinator

Open, Bookfair Chair

Open, Volunteer coordinator

The PTA Board is looking for parents or members who are interested in filling the vacant positions. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Kyle Stearns or Mrs. Sara Foraker or email at belprestrathmorepta@gmail.com

A PTA table will be available during our *Kindergarten Orientation & Back to School Night* on Thursday, August 26th and *Open House* on Friday, August 27th. Please stop by the table to sign up for a membership form and to purchase a Bel Pre T-shirt to support our PTA.

We are excited and optimistic about the beginning of this new era of teaching and learning at Bel Pre Elementary School. We look forward to partnering with you and supporting you as we all navigate this new landscape together.

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Staff Updates

Over the summer we said farewell to a few Bel Pre family members who will be transitioning to exploring new opportunities. We are sad to see them go, but we wish them the best in their new journeys. Nevertheless, we are happy to welcome some new additions to our staff. Please join me in welcoming them to the Bel Pre family.

We say farewell to the following BPES staff members who retired, relocated to different states, or to explore new opportunities closer to home:

Simon Baek, Building Services

Sylvia Maranon, ESOL

Chris Ricchini, Physical Education

Donna Willems, Paraeducator

David Bauckham, PT Music

Josie Biles, Kindergarten

Cassandra Brady, Academic Intervention

Pam Creed, ESOL

Kim Jenkins, Kindergarten

Kymisha Johnson, School Counselor

Joy Medley, 1st Grade

Darnell Myers, BSW

We are excited to welcome new and experienced staff members to the BPES family:

Marie Mencher, PT Music Teacher

Chris Corvelli, PE Teacher

April Wright, 2nd Grade Teacher

Lillian Braga-Flores, Kindergarten

Brittany Myers, Kindergarten

Katerina Triantafillou, Special Education

Lori Dodson, ESOL Coach

Lara Paek, School Counselor

Nydia Blake, Attendance Secretary

Heather Holmes, Math Content Coach

Aliyah Krall, Restorative Justice Coach

Michael Le, Building Services

Branden Thomas, Building Services