



Bridgeton Public Schools

April 25, 2022
Volume 2, Issue 29

Superintendent's Spring Edition Bulldog Briefing

Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools

Happy Monday Bulldog Team!

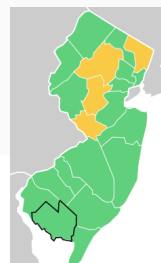
I hope everyone's Spring break was rejuvenating and enjoyable! I am sure you all are aware that self care which includes exercise, healthy eating, time off, and sleep are vital to our success and productivity. Now that we are recharged, I hope the final quarter of our academic school year is smooth, and we can close out the year and celebrate our students' and staff's accomplishments and perseverance during this very challenging period in our nation's history.

I am happy to announce that at our last Board meeting, Bridgeton Public Schools welcomed and swore in its newest Board Member, Dr. Colleen Wright Turner. Dr. Turner is no stranger to Bridgeton Public Schools. She graduated from Bridgeton High School in the top 10 of her 1993 class. She also graduated from Montclair State University, received her Master's degree with honors in School Business Administration from Rowan University and earned her Ed.D. from Walden University. Dr. Turner was employed as Senior Childcare Director of the Cheryl Chadwick Early Learning Center in Bridgeton for 15 years, and currently serves as Gateway Community Action Partnership's Director of Operations for Early Head Start and Head Start in Atlantic and Cape May counties.



Cumberland County, NJ

Updated on April 24



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COMMUNITY LEVEL ⓘ
• **LOW**

VACCINATION PROGRESS

Weekly new reported cases
• **95.6** PER 100K

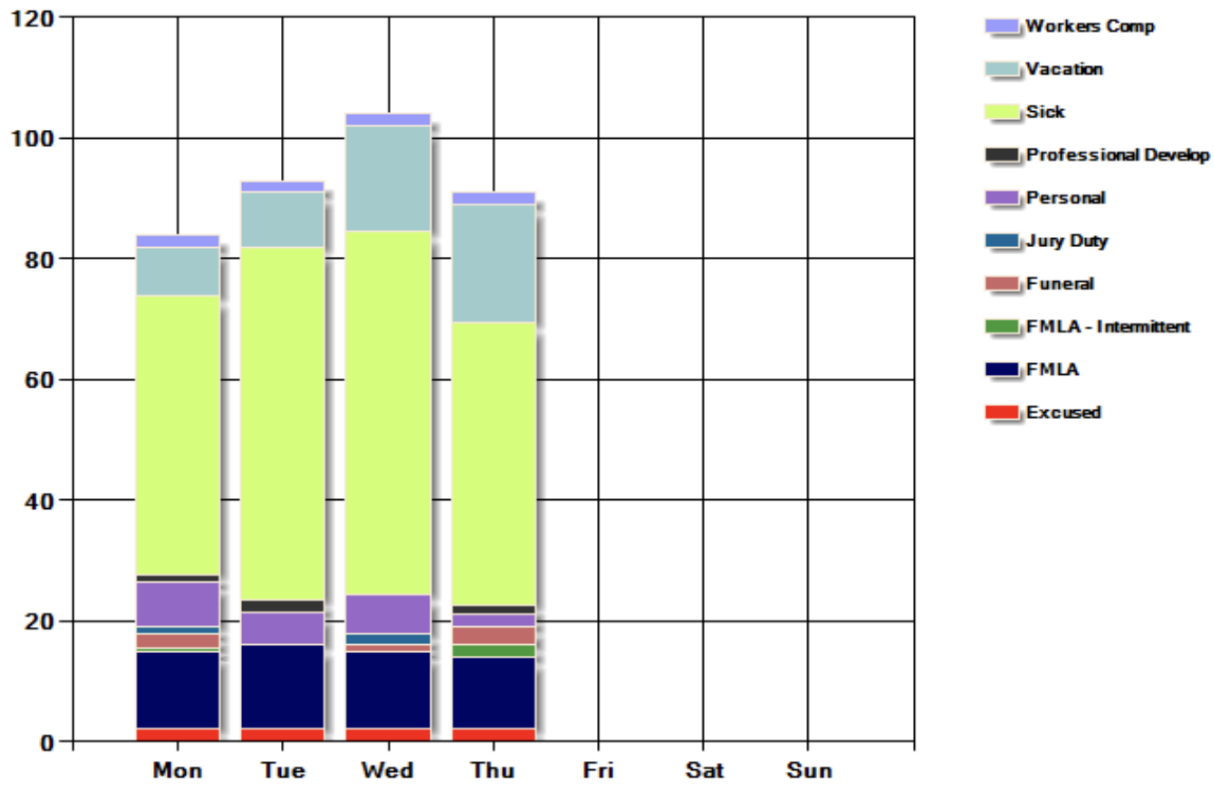
Weekly COVID admissions
• **0.0** PER 100K

Patients w/ COVID
• **3.0%** OF ALL BEDS

% Vaccinated
66.8% 1+ DOSE

Ready, Set, Read!

Apr. 11th – Apr. 14th Staff Attendance



Apr. 11th – Apr. 14th Fill Rate – 48%

Meetings/Community Engagement April 11 - April 14

- ◆ Individual Check-ins with the School Business Administrator, the Executive Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services, and the Director of Student Services.
- ◆ Cabinet Meeting
- ◆ April Board of Education Meeting
- ◆ Great School New Jersey Meeting
- ◆ April Administrative Council Meeting
- ◆ Evaluation meetings with Principals and District Administrators are ongoing
- ◆ Conversations and negotiations meetings with Association leadership, Business Administrator, Board members, and attorneys are ongoing.
- ◆ Conversations with the Board President, Vice President, and other Board members are ongoing.

Upcoming Dates/Events

- ◆ April 27 - Administrative Professionals Day
- ◆ May 2-6 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ May 3 - Board Meeting and Budget Hearing
- ◆ May 12 - Early College High School Commencement Ceremony



BHS's JROTC Earns 1st Overall Team Honors

The Bridgeton High School's Air Force JROTC Drill team recently traveled and competed in the 2022 Piscataway High School's Open JROTC Drill Competition.

After the 5 AM departure time, the cadets were victorious by earning First Overall Team Honors. The team placed in the top three in 12 out of 13 categories. Each event was highly competitive and required hours of practice after school and on Saturdays.

- ◆ 1st Overall Armed Champion
- ◆ 1st Armed Solo Exhibition (Jose Orellana)
- ◆ 1st Armed Dual Exhibition (Victor Garcia and Jose Orellana)
- ◆ 1st Armed Regulation C/Jose Orellana
- ◆ 2nd Armed Inspection C/Pedro Garcia
- ◆ 2nd Armed Exhibition C/Victor Garcia
- ◆ 3rd Armed Color Guard C/Habib Lopez
- ◆ 1st Unarmed Dual Exhibition (Jenaya Cruz and Emily Perez)
- ◆ 2nd Unarmed Inspection C/Pedro Garcia
- ◆ 2nd Unarmed Exhibition C/Daysia Powell
- ◆ 3rd Unarmed Regulation C/Esmeralda Torres
- ◆ 3rd Unarmed Color Guard C/Quesly Sumano
- ◆ 3rd New Cadet Unarmed Basic C/Dulce Ruiz

Bridgeton High School will be hosting their 12th Annual JROTC Open Drill Competition on Saturday, April 30th from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.



BHS Students Participate In County Teen Arts Festival

Members of the BHS Visual and Performing Arts Department traveled to the Levoy Theater in Millville on Wednesday, April 6, to take part in the Cumberland County Teen Arts Festival. The decades old festival celebrates the arts in all mediums and brings together young artists to showcase their work, learn from one another and take part in workshops led by industry professionals. Students of Mr. Matthew Brenner and Ms. Alexandra Ronces (instrumental music), Mrs. Karen Johns (vocal music), Mrs. Tara Sherman and Ms. Elizabeth O'brien (visual art), Mr. Phillip Blandino (photography), Ms. Jennifer Shaw, Ms. Tammy Hall and Ms. Sarah Rivera (dance) sponsored students to the day long festival.



Seventy-five students from BHS were adjudicated in the areas of visual art/photography, dance and vocal and instrumental music along with nearly 500 students from all over Cumberland County. All students had excellent showings and received awesome feedback from the adjudicators.

Additionally, several BHS students were selected to move on to the state level and have their works showcased with their peers from all over the state of New Jersey. Students moving on to the state festival are:

- ♦ **BHS Jazz Band:** Jorge Cruz, Diana Cruz Lopez, Robert Garrison, Danae Harris, Lisbeth Lino, Alexandra Marroquin Espinoza, Vianey Matias, Yair Nicolas Bravo, Estefania Ramirez, Jennifer Ramos, Ignacio Ramos Preciado, Orlando Romero, Aldair Victoria Galinda
- ♦ **BHS Visual Art:** Carla Morales Chavez, Mariana Perez
- ♦ **BHS Dance: (solo)** Nayda Camero
- ♦ **BHS Dance: (duet)** Nayda Camero and Jennifer Ramos
- ♦ **BHS Dance: (group)** Tayor Bailey, Asia Butler, Ny'Azsha Jones, Kamille McClendon, Zy'Anah McKenzie, Dej'Mera Mosley, Onjah Owens, Destiny Soto, Kadija Williams





Cherie Douglas is a Literacy Leader!



Ms. Douglas is a Pre-Kindergarten teacher and has been an educator in Bridgeton for fourteen years. Her preschool classroom is alive on any given day with busy, smiling students engaged in learning. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing her students grow and develop into incredible children.



As a preschool teacher, Ms. Douglas believes it is her responsibility to set the tone for learning, and part of that is educating the whole child. Ms. Douglas loves to see the students make independent

decisions when they use the interest centers in her classroom.

Allowing students to express their feelings appropriately is essential to Ms. Douglas, and she teaches this skill through music, dance, dramatic play, and storytelling.

During her read-aloud Story Play, she loves to use her favorite story, The Gingerbread Man, where the students come alive and are excited to reenact parts of the story. She notes that repetitiveness allows students to memorize certain parts of

the book, which helps increase language development and literacy knowledge about stories that they demonstrate during the Story Play.

She also loves to involve her students in journal writing; yes, journal writing in preschool! Her students “write” for two minutes a day. Ms. Douglas also utilizes the Dual Language practice of Gomez and Gomez and teaches to the top 25% of the class.

She says encouraging the students to work at higher levels makes a difference! Her advice to new teachers is to get students excited about reading and writing in all content areas.

Cherie Douglas

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District Offers Free Employee Assistance Program

HOW DOES THE EAP WORK?

Getting the help you need is simple. Call the EAP 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to reach a professional counselor via our toll-free number or log on to our website to access other benefits.

MORE BENEFITS FOR YOU

Your EAP provides access to more problem-solving solutions and life enhancement benefits than any other EAP. And nearly 99% of those who use the EAP are satisfied with the experience.



COUNSELING BENEFITS

Many complex issues are best resolved with counseling assistance from a behavioral health professional. You will want to consider calling for help if you encounter problems such as:

- Relationship and family issues
- Depression, stress, or anxiety
- Grief or loss of a loved one
- Eating disorders or substance abuse
- Workplace difficulties

When you call, you connect immediately with a counselor. Each of our experienced counselors has a Masters or Ph.D. level of training. Should you need to be referred to a local counselor for personal visits, we have more than 40,000 providers available to ensure that you will have a counselor near your home or workplace.



WORK/LIFE BENEFITS

Help for personal, family, financial, and legal issues is available for your everyday work/life problems, including:

- Debt counseling and restructuring
- Legal problems not related to employment or medical concerns
- Childcare and elder care assistance
- Financial information
- Caregiver help and resources
- Real estate and tenant/landlord concerns
- Interpersonal skills with family and co-workers
- Pet Help Center

SELF-HELP RESOURCES

Access thousands of tools and informative articles covering virtually every problem you might face. You can call or log on to the website to access these benefits. Resources include:

- Behavioral Health - information on everything from alcohol abuse to personal stress
- Financial - articles and tools to help answer your questions and learn money management
- Legal Information - topics ranging from adoption to wills
- Tools for Tough Times - resources to help you do more with less in difficult financial times

PEAK PERFORMANCE COACHING

Personal and professional coaching is available from senior-level ESI coaches. Get one-to-one telephonic coaching and support, as well as online self-help resources and trainings.

Coaching is available for:

- Certified Financial Coaching
- Balancing Life at Work and Home
- Resilience
- Effective Communication
- Home Purchasing
- Student Debt
- Yoga & Relaxation for Beginners
- Workplace Conflict
- Retirement (Practical & Emotional Aspects)
- Succeeding as a Supervisor

EDUCATOR RESOURCE CENTERS

Our online Resource Centers offer educators specific tools, links, and articles on hot-button issues, challenges and opportunities facing you and your students, such as:

- Budget Boosters for Educators: Money-Saving Tools and Tips
- Parental Challenges
- Social Networking for Educators
- Managing the Classroom
- Cyber-Safety Resource Center

LIFESTYLE SAVINGS BENEFITS

Your Lifestyle Savings Benefits include thousands of specially negotiated ways to shop, travel, entertain, and improve your health and your quality of life. Explore deals, discounts, and perks from your favorite national brands.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING BENEFITS

Our online training includes more than 8,000 eLearning courses, trainings, and videos to help you boost your personal and professional growth. Balance your work, life, and career objectives with the help of tutorials, exercises, and worksheets.

WELLNESS BENEFITS

The EAP wellness benefit allows you to access information and resources to improve you and your family's overall wellness including stress reduction, fitness, diet and smoking cessation.

- Online Wellness Center
- One-to-One Wellness Coaching from certified coaches for nutrition, weight loss, fitness, reducing stress and quitting tobacco.



The district is pleased to announce the addition of a new free benefit for you and your family members: the Educators' Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Your EAP tools offer a broad array of services. To access your EAP, call 1-800-252-4555 or 1-800-225-2527 to talk with a counselor or coach, or visit your EAP online at www.EducatorsEAP.com for thousands of problem-solving resources and self-help tools.

Technology Update

The district technology department is constantly working to improve connectivity for all stakeholders. Over the last several months, we in the technology office have been attempting to locate the source of the issues with the district WiFi and hard-wired networks. We are pleased to report that the team has found several problems that caused the massive slowdowns over the past months. These issues have a combined effect of decreasing performance for an enterprise-level network. As our network grows and becomes more advanced, so do the challenges. This past year, we have sought to upgrade the district to the latest WiFi standards. Unfortunately, global supply chain issues and the pandemic have delayed this upgrade. We are currently preparing to work with equipment that is not standard between the different schools. Our current equipment still functions as expected. However, given the number of new systems needing to use the equipment, we sometimes exhaust available resources. Rest assured that we are fully aware of the needs and issues of each building regarding the district network. We expect to have all new identical equipment for each school as the global supply chain allows. We thank everyone for their continued patience and understanding.

- Bridgeton Public Schools Technology Team



Our Board Members



Kenny Smithbey Jr.
President



Tyrone Williams
Vice President



Angelia Edwards
Member



Dionne Edwards
Member



Albert Morgan
Member



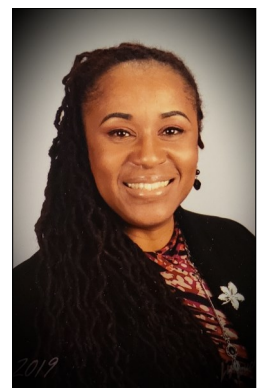
Erica Mosley
Member



Mary Peterson
Member



Ashlee Todd
Member



Dr. Colleen Turner
Member