



**Bridgeton Public Schools**

May 23, 2022  
Volume 2, Issue 33

# Superintendent's Spring Edition **Bulldog Briefing**

**Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools**

## **Happy Monday Bulldog Team!**

I hope everyone had a good weekend and enjoyed the sunshine! I would like to begin this briefing with big kudos to the seven 8th graders who participated in this year's 8th grade student dialogue. It was exciting to see that all but one of the students interviewed from Cumberland County this year were from Bridgeton. Click [here](#) to see what our students had to say about their experiences with virtual learning, the staff who inspired and motivated them, and their thoughts on going to high school. Students represented their schools and our district well! Please congratulate these students when you see them: Alan Matias-Velasquez from Buckshutem Road, Alexander Robiero from Indian Avenue, Christian Morales from Quarter Mile Lane, Max Velazquez-Luna from West Avenue, Khazir Lane from Cherry Street, Leslie Reyes-Bravo from Broad Street, and Lizdet Santiago-Cruz from ExCEL.



On the COVID front, later this evening, our parents and school community will be provided the following update:

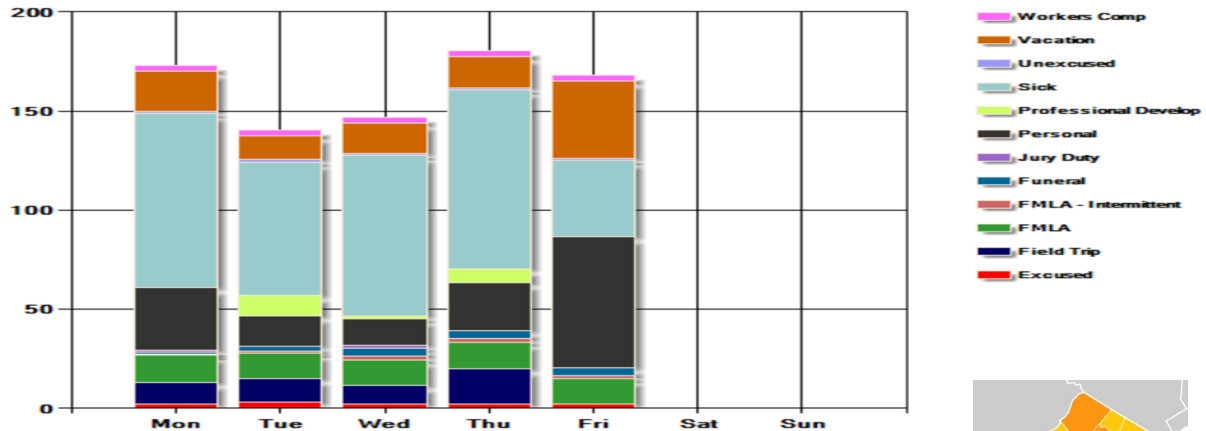
Effective Monday, May 23, 2022, Bridgeton Public Schools will begin notifying families of COVID cases in our schools weekly rather than daily and on our Bridgeton Public Schools website rather than through our phone blast system. For the most up-to-date information, families may also visit <https://covidactnow.org/> and search Cumberland County or <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/> for COVID reports by region.

While masking is currently optional across Bridgeton Public Schools, and COVID rates continue to fluctuate, the vast majority of our school community have continued to wear their masks inside our school buildings. For the past two weeks, Cumberland County has sustained a low or medium community transmission rate while our surrounding counties are currently high. As temperatures rise as we approach summer, please encourage your students to continue to wear their masks throughout the school day as much as possible. Until further notice, masking will continue to be highly encouraged, but not required.

Additionally, our district is offering and will continue to offer "as-needed" on-site COVID testing at all of our schools in our nurses' offices for any student or staff member experiencing COVID-like symptoms. A consent form must be signed and on file for all students and staff to be tested. Please visit our website or contact your school nurse for a consent form.



## May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup> Staff Attendance



May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup> Fill Rate – 31%

## Cumberland County, NJ

Updated on May 22

COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL ⓘ  
● **MEDIUM**

Cases >



● **232.7**

Weekly new reported cases per 100k

Admissions >



● **0.0**

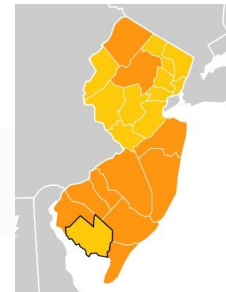
Weekly COVID admissions per 100k

Patients >



● **2.9%**

Patients with COVID of all beds



## Meetings/Community Engagement May 16 - May 20

- ◆ Individual Check-ins with the School Business Administrator, the Executive Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services.
- ◆ Community meeting with parents entitled "An Equity Conversation"
- ◆ Annual Purchasing Training/Meeting
- ◆ Led Leadership Team Meeting
- ◆ May Administrative Council
- ◆ Visits to school sites: Cherry Street
- ◆ Meeting with staff to discuss personnel matters
- ◆ NJASA Spring Leadership Conference
- ◆ 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

- ◆ May 26 - Senior Prom
- ◆ May 26 - Jeans For Troops Fundraiser Casual Dress Day
- ◆ May 27-31 Memorial Day Holiday
- ◆ June 1 - Wellness Wednesday
- ◆ June 2 - Senior Breakfast

## African American Club Meets Actress on Trip to D.C. Museum



*Members of BHS's African American Club pose with actress Tisha Campbell during the club's recent trip to the National Museum of Culture and History in Washington, DC. Tisha Campbell is best known for her role as Gina Mason on the hit comedy show of the 90s, "Martin". Club advisor is Ms. Jackie Gentry. Approximately 35 students participated. Ms. Gaye Davis, BHS Counselor, and substitutes Ms. Barbara Wheaton Ms. Savanna Simpson also attended as chaperones.*

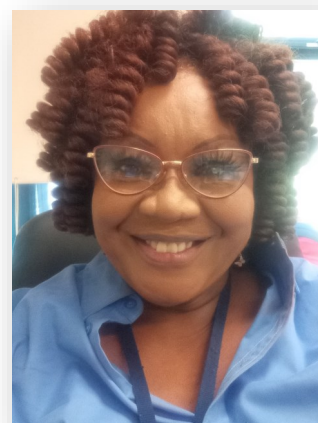
## Alumni Return as Long-term Subs Mitigating Staffing Shortage



**Nedra Furtek**  
Dr. GOF ECC



**Javier Ruesga-Diaz**  
ExCEL



**Dora Scurry**  
Cherry

**Not Pictured**

**Howard Johnson**  
Indian







## Lauren Clark is a Literacy Leader!

Mrs. Lauren Clark has worked in the Bridgeton Public School district for nine years as a Kindergarten teacher. She says she is blessed to be a Kindergarten teacher because she gets to experience so many “firsts” for her students. Mrs. Clark develops her little readers through guided reading, where she can build on their strengths and watch them go from recognizing a few letters to reading words. She especially loves watching her students bloom into little readers, and says it is the greatest gift of teaching!

Mrs. Clark contributes her students’ reading success to the Reader’s Workshop framework for

teaching. She works diligently throughout the year to build the students’ reading stamina. Mrs. Clark spends a lot of time discussing how to be a book lover with her students! In her classroom, you will often find her students “book shopping” for books from the classroom library to add to their personalized book boxes for independent and partner reading. The students often pretend to be Mrs. Clark when they are reading with one another, modeling her read-alouds, like one of her favorites from the Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems.

Mrs. Clark also utilizes the dramatic play center to extend the learning. Some of her favorite dramatic play centers included a bakery shop from the story The Gingerbread Man, a mailroom during February that complimented books on friendship, a construction site during a unit on forces of motion, and a veterinary center when reading about community helpers.

Mrs. Clark’s love of literacy is so infectious that even her former student teacher caught the literacy bug and wrote to several authors asking for book donations for their classroom. One author not only sent books but also signed them all! Mrs. Clark’s advice to new teachers is to focus on one goal at a time, start small and keep building!

*Mrs. Clark develops her little readers through guided reading, where she can build on their strengths and watch them go from recognizing a few letters to reading words. She especially loves watching her students bloom into little readers, and says it is the greatest gift of teaching!*



# 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**