



# Superintendent's School Opening **Bulldog Briefing**

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



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## **Happy Monday Bridgeton Team!**

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On this past Thursday, a number of us had the opportunity to ride through the city and see the surprised and excited faces of students and their families. In that moment, I was reminded why I became an educator. Despite the current health crisis, in the eyes of each young person, I saw hope, innocence, and excitement for the new school year!

On Friday, the leadership team and I visited all schools as a team, and every teacher and staff member we met was preparing for students and excited to greet our young people on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for remote learning! Computers were being distributed, bulletin boards were being prepared, and classrooms were being arranged for optimal virtual learning.

Over the Labor Day weekend, as I reflected and prepared for my 18<sup>th</sup> start of the school year, I am reminded that despite the added challenges this year brings, we owe it to the students of Bridgeton to get this right!

### **What does an appropriate school opening look like?**

- ♦ Adults working together, focused on the success of each young person in our care.
- ♦ Our Board, Associations, community, and Superintendent working in harmony, all supporting the mission of Bridgeton Public Schools.
- ♦ Safe and clean buildings where students and staff can focus on teaching and learning.
- ♦ Technology, resources, and training in place to support educators in transitioning to a new way of developing our young people into lifelong learners.

We can accomplish all of this only if we work together! I challenge each and every employee to search deep and do what is best for children. I have no doubt that the educators and staff of Bridgeton Public Schools will answer the call to provide our students with a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. I saw evidence of that during last week's site visits!

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Meals for the Week of August 31st**

**Reported By  
Mr. DeShields**

**Students Served:  
3,220  
Meals Served:  
18,460**



### What we will continue to do (an accurate narrative)

- ◆ Be honest and transparent
- ◆ Foster open communication with Associations, individual employees, and special interest groups
- ◆ Honor doctors' orders and the orders of the Health Department when staff and students are asked to quarantine.
- ◆ Honor staff's requests for child care accommodations starting the third week of school (September 21st).
- ◆ Honor staff's requests for medical accommodations starting the third week of school.
- ◆ Establish and implement an accountability standard at every level of our organization.

In closing, I am here to work hard, to steward a strong organizational culture, to unite our various stakeholders and special interest groups, and to see to it that our students receive a quality education! I am also here to work together, to listen, to collaborate, and to ultimately, make decisions that will move us forward. With that said, and after careful consideration, we will continue with the phased approach outlined below with the underlined adjustment:

**Phase 1** – Central office staff and building-based 12-month staff reported safely this summer. (Completed)

**Phase 2** – All building-based 10-month and 10.5 month staff joined central office staff in reporting safely to their buildings, offices, and classrooms. (Completed)

**Phase 3** – Starting September 21<sup>st</sup>, staff members with childcare needs as well as documented and approved

medical accommodation requests will be allowed to teach from home, while maintaining sustained student engagement and remote support.

**Phase 4** – 25% of students return for face-to-face instruction (hybrid model) on October 13<sup>th</sup>; staff at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 are allowed to continue to teach from home as long as the current health risk persists.

**Phase 5** – 50% of students return for the hybrid model (date to be determined based on safety and health trends)

### Update from Business Administrator and Facilities Team

The cleaning of restroom facilities throughout the day will continue; clip boards were placed in restrooms to track the frequency of all cleanings. There are still floors being buffed and waxed throughout the district as well as a roof, locker project at the high school; MERV-8 filters are being upgraded district-wide to MERV-11. Work will continue in the evenings, on weekends, or by temporarily relocating staff, depending on the project. The floor tiling project at BHS has been suspended until the close of school for students in June.

In an effort to help in controlling airborne contaminants, we have installed Odorox Hydroxyl Generators in all of the school lobbies and nurse's offices. These units clean the air by killing germs, bacteria and viruses.

Click [here](#) to access a [brochure](#) that should answer any questions you may have. If there is additional information needed, please do not hesitate to contact the facilities team. These units should be on 24-7.

## Meetings/Engagements Aug. 31-Sept. 4

- ◆ Meeting with County Superintendent
- ◆ Individual meetings with the Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Technology, Director of Special Education, Director of ESL/Bilingual, and the Business Administrator.
- ◆ Meeting with Athletic Director, Business Administrator, and Director of Safety
- ◆ Meeting with QML staff and two principal finalists
- ◆ Agenda Review for September Board meeting
- ◆ Meeting with Association Leadership
- ◆ Conversations and meetings with the Board President, VP and other Board members are ongoing
- ◆ Meeting with SBYS (Teen Center)
- ◆ Walking meeting with each principal

## Upcoming Dates/Events

- ◆ Public Board Meeting to-night at 6 pm at BHS
- ◆ First District-wide Deep Cleaning Day – Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>; all school-based and central office employees work remotely.
- ◆ Employees-only Town Hall, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 4:30 to 5:30 pm to discuss:
  - ◇ American Disabilities Act
  - ◇ Return to work timeline
  - ◇ Accommodations timeline
- ◆ Bilingual Parent Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Buckshutem Road School
- ◆ Childcare and medical accommodations begin Monday, Sept. 21st