



# THE DISTRICT

## Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

February 2024

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### From The Superintendent's Desk



Embracing Our Vision for Vibrant Learning at THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools

Dear Bernalillo Public Schools Families,

As the Spring semester is in full swing, I remind you about the vibrant instructional vision that defines the essence of THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools.

At the heart of our district's mission is an unwavering commitment to establish a learning environment that goes beyond the traditional boundaries of education. We envision a space where curiosity is sparked, creativity is nurtured, and every student is empowered to thrive not just in the classroom but also in life.

Our instructional vision is more than just a set of principles; it's a promise to provide a holistic education that prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities of the future. We believe in fostering an enthusiastic learning atmosphere where each student is encouraged to explore, question, and discover their unique strengths.

To achieve this, we are dedicated to:

**Engaging Learning Experiences:** We strive to create dynamic and interactive learning experiences that captivate the minds of our students. From innovative teaching methods to hands-on projects, we are committed to making education a journey of excitement and discovery.

**Holistic Development:** Beyond academics, we aim to nurture the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our students. Our goal is to equip them with the skills and resilience needed to navigate life's challenges with confidence.

**Inclusive Community:** We celebrate the diversity within our school community and believe that every student brings a unique perspective to the learning environment. Inclusion is not just a goal; it is fundamentally who we are.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** We recognize the importance of collaboration between educators, parents, and the broader community. Together, we can create a powerful support system that enhances the educational journey of our students.

As we increase our momentum, let us unite in our commitment to making THE DISTRICT a place where the curiosity and creativity of our students is always affirmed and validated, where the joy of learning is contagious, and where every student can thrive academically and beyond.

Thank you for being an integral part of our educational community. Together, let's make the rest of this semester a transformative and enriching experience for each and every student.

Best,

Matt



Newsletter  
Survey



# La Escuelita Pre-School



**Dual Language Parent Information Meeting**— La Escuelita parents and families, if you would like to learn about THE DISTRICT’s Dual Language Program, please join us at La Escuelita on **Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

At this meeting you will

1. learn more about the opportunities for your student in THE DISTRICT’s bilingual education program, and
2. have the opportunity to pre-register your child in Kindergarten Dual Language for the 2024-2025 school year.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



# Algodones Elementary



**AES students model good attendance and leadership** —Algodones Elementary hosted a student recognition breakfast to celebrate students with perfect attendance during Quarter 2, and students who demonstrate leadership in the classroom. Teachers presented awards to their students and enjoyed breakfast with students and their families.

We would like to thank the families for their support and dedication in making sure students are coming to school regularly.



# Santo Domingo Elementary-Middle



Santo Domingo Scholars are recognized for their academic achievement and attendance in the second quarter.

We are proud of the gains our students are making.



Santo Domingo Security Officers discuss security in schools and gun law legislation with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham at the All Indian Pueblo Council Meeting.

BPS has made security a top priority in response to parent feedback and current events.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

If you do not have a **PowerSchool Parent Portal account**, or you need your password reset, please email the BPS Data Team at [BPSPowerSchoolSupport@bernalillops.org](mailto:BPSPowerSchoolSupport@bernalillops.org).



# Spartan Learning Academy



**Spartan Learning Academy Ski Club**— Spartan Learning Academy's Ski Club has started hitting the slopes once again. After 3 years of hiatus, students were able to enjoy sun, fresh powder and learn some skills while Skiing/ Snowboarding. Currently, we have 17 students that are participating in the program. Out of those 17 students, 14 are snowboarders and 3 are skiers. Every year, Santa Fe Ski area opens the program to Bernalillo Public Schools. We have been fortunate enough to once again take part. In the past, Bernalillo has had the high school, various middle schools, and elementary schools join in the fun. Students take one day for 5 weeks, and hit the slopes. The ski area has each student pay a one-time fee. This fee covers 5 lessons, lift ticket for each trip, and equipment rentals. You can not beat the price, and students become involved, and they step out of their comfort zone. If you were to ask any of the students about their experience, it would be one of excitement. The smile on their faces are priceless.

Mrs. Van Hoose, Sponsor



**SLA Boys Basketball**— This year has been an amazing season for the rebranded (Bernalillo Middle School) Spartan Learning Academy Boys Basketball team. One of the highlights is the 8th grade winning the Striking Eagle Tournament at UNM. They started off with a dominating win over Shiprock 68-2, and defeated Cuba 36-24 in the 2nd round. Then, in the championship game they defeated a great Laguna team 34-30 to win the tournament! Elias Valencia and Christopher Pena received all tourney team honors and Elias Rodriguez was awarded tourney MVP. Head Coach Kevin Joe, Assistant Coach Barry Calloway, and Athletic Director John Cobos made sure the team was ready and able to bring home the 1st place trophy this year by setting the tone and standard for success going forward. Congratulations Spartans!



**SLA Girls Basketball**—This year's Striking Eagle Tournament was a rollercoaster of ups and downs. Going into any tournament after winning the championships 2 years in a row can bring pressure to any team, yet for the most part our girls took care of business. While we lost in the championship to Laguna Middle School, our girls never stopped fighting.

In the first round they dominated Cuba Middle School despite how rough they were, and moved on to blow-out NACA the next day. The championship game went back and forth and while Laguna did prevail with the win, the Lady Spartans left no doubt that they will be back next year to win it all. The second place trophy we received is only a reminder on what our true goal is for the next season. We had two of our girls make the All-Tournament Team - Savannah Micklos and Angelyne Duran. We could not be more proud of these girls! Congratulations Lady Spartans for demonstrating what it is to play with desire, hustle, and pride!



“School attendance is the most crucial prerequisite for quality education—students cannot learn if they are not at school.”

~NZ Ministry of Education, February 2020

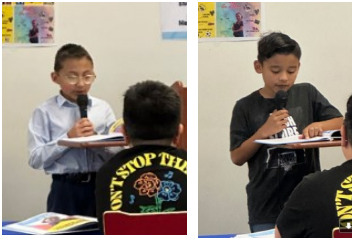


# Bernalillo Elementary School

**BES recognized by the New Mexico Public Education Department**— The New Mexico Public Education Department is recognizing Bernalillo Elementary for its Bilingual Multicultural Education Program. The recognition will occur in Santa Fe on February 9, 2024, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. during the Bilingual Education Day at the NM State Legislature.

Bernalillo Elementary strives to provide quality bilingual education in the Dual Language (English and Spanish) and our Keres Heritage Programs. The BES Multilingual Language program serves 174 students in fourth through sixth grades. The Keres Heritage program now serves Santa Ana and San Felipe pueblos.

The recognition is a rigorous selection based on academic proficiency data in both languages and qualitative measures such as cultural experiences and family engagement opportunities. We are so proud of our teachers and students being recognized. Congratulations! ¡Felicidades!



Book presentation at Martha Liebert Public Library by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students

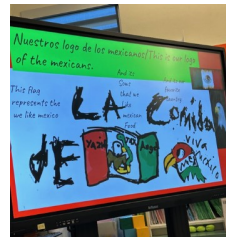


Scan the QR Code or Click Here!



<https://bit.ly/3OrezM8>

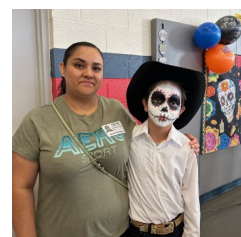
Listen to the Student's Podcast



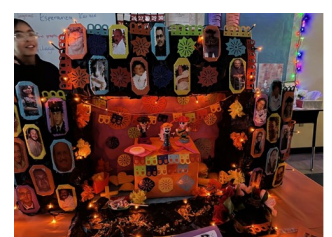
Business Plan Project Presentations



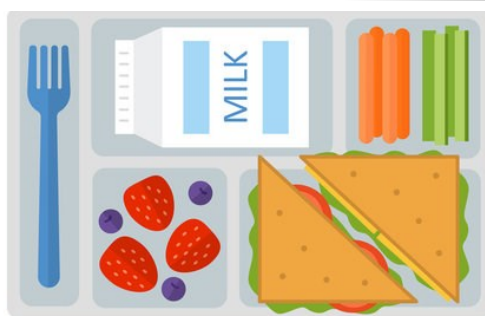
Spelling Bee in Spanish at BES & State Competition at the Hispanic Cultural Center



Family Engagement Event



Dia de los Muertos and Keres Presentations



## BPS Student Nutrition Meal Menus February 2024

Click Here to View: <http://tinyurl.com/5cusfwmz>



## W.D. Carroll Elementary School



### Great things are happening at W.D. Carroll—

- Mr. Cervantes and his 3rd grade class got the recycling club up and running this month. Our Coyotes are excited to help reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- We celebrated staff and student of the month! Staff and students received gifts and praise all around campus!
- We continue to promote attendance and our classes with top attendance received pickles this month!
- Staff SEL contest winner received a brand new Keurig machine!

Great job Coyotes!



## Bernalillo High School

**BHS Students at the Round House—** Ms. Miranda Apodaca teaches Advanced Placement (AP) English Language & Composition and AP Seminar at BHS. On Wednesday, January 31, 2024, Ms. Apodaca and her students were invited by the AP College Board to attend AP Day at the New Mexico State Capitol. Students in the AP Seminar class were given the opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss BHS, promote funding for AP programs, and to share their experiences in their Advanced Placement courses. Students also had the opportunity to watch a Senate Congressional meeting followed by lunch at Bull Ring Steakhouse in Santa Fe.

It was an honor our students were selected to participate in this informative and educational experience. It was also an honor that our students had a voice at the table with decision makers that influence the direction of Advance Placement in New Mexico Public Schools.





# Spartan Learning Academy Continued



**WIDA testing has begun at SLA!** WIDA is an English Language proficiency assessment taken annually by English learners. To kickoff our testing sessions, students were invited to a Pep Rally/Pep Talk to get them excited about their upcoming tests. Teachers, a Liaison, one of our counselors, and District personnel spoke to students about taking these sessions seriously and about how proud we all are of their language efforts that have been evident in their academics so far this year. Students also participated in a raffle and were told about upcoming testing incentives and reminded to get a good night's rest!

Congratulations to our students. We are proud of your academic accomplishments and how you always do your very best. Keep up the great work!



# Spartan Learning Academy Fab Lab



**SLA Fab Lab Grand Opening**— What exactly is a Fab Lab you ask? It is a digital fabrication laboratory where students can play, create, mentor, and invent. It is a place for learning and innovation. The SLA Fab Lab will provide our students with access to the environment, the skills, and the advanced technology to expand their learning and their imagination.

SLA will be hosting a **Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, February 22, 2024, and an Open House on Saturday, March 2, 2024.** For more information please see the attached flyers on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter.



# Bernalillo High School



**NM Governor's STEM Challenge 5X State Champs**— Mrs. Acantilado, Ms. Jones, and 10 BHS students participated in this year's NM Governor's STEM Challenge at UNM and won for the 5th year in a row! This Year's project titled, "Aromatic Guardians: Investigating the Efficacy of Lavender and Lemongrass Extract against Termites" competed against 6 other schools in the Statewide STEM Showcase. A total of \$5000 (\$500/student) is awarded to winning teams and is sponsored by NM STEM employers. Winning teams had the opportunity to present to companies, sponsors, and other STEM teams.

Thank you to the students and sponsors for your hard work and dedication to making your project a success. Also, congratulations and thank you for finding a safe way to extract termites! We look forward to what the future holds for this team!





DATE	Event	
February 3, 2024	<b>BHS Winter Ball</b>	
Location: BHS Aux Gym Time: 7:00—10:00 PM		
February 4, 2024	<b>Valentine's Day BINGO</b>	
Hosted by the SLA Cheer Team		
Location: BHS Cafeteria Time: 4:00—6:00 PM		
February 7, 2024	<b>BHS Gear Up FAFSA Night</b> —Students and their families can receive assistance submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	
February 8, 2024	<b>Algodones Elementary—Grandparents Valentines Dance</b> 4:30—6:30 PM in AES Cafeteria	
February 13, 2024	<b>Bernalillo Elementary—6th Grade Valentine's Day Dance</b> Location: BES Gym Time: 1:30—3:00 PM	
February 14, 2024	<b>Ride the Bus Day!</b> Please have your student ride the bus on this day. Thank you. *See page 10 for more information.*	
February 15-16, 2024	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	
February 19, 2024	<b>President's Day—NO School</b>	
February 22, 2024	<b>Spartan Learning Academy- Fab Lab Ribbon Cutting Ceremony</b> Location: Spartan Learning Academy Time: 1:00—2:00 PM	
February 22, 2024	<b>Bernalillo Elementary—Science Night at Explora Science Center &amp; Museum</b> Location: 1701 Mountain Rd NW Albuquerque Time: 5:00—7:00 PM	
February 27, 2024	<b>La Escuelita— Dual Language Parent Information Night</b> 5:30—6:30 PM *See page 2 for more information.*	
February 29, 2024	<b>Bernalillo Elementary Career Day-</b> Community members will speak to students about their careers. Location: BES Gym Time: 9:00 AM—3:00 PM	



# The Spirit of Outstanding Service Award



**THE DISTRICT of BPS** — To honor the diligence and dedication to our students is a privilege. Through the employee and student of the month award, employees and students are recognized for their efforts in making Bernalillo Public Schools one of the best educational institutions.



**Aubrey Aguilar**  
Student, Spartan Learning Academy  
*Sponsored by Circle B Ranch*



**Lorlei Chavez**  
Social Studies Teacher, Santo Domingo-Middle  
*Sponsored by Ashley Duran Insurance Agency*



**Gerred Prairie**  
Operation Support, Bernalillo High



**Darva Randolph**  
Instruction Support, Santo Domingo Elementary



**Dr. Eric James**  
Administrator, District Office  
*Sponsored by MA Strategies*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

If you would like to nominate someone please use the link or QR code below. Thank you!



<http://bit.ly/3YJbpqi>





# THE DISTRICT'S Indian Education Office



**Hello BPS Community, Families, and Students!!**

We hope that your year has started off well, and we look forward to continuing working for and with you all! Please don't hesitate to reach out to Indian Education, and we look forward to seeing you at any of our upcoming events!


**Tribal Education Summit**

The Indian Education Department will be hosting its annual Tribal Education Summit for our Pueblo Leaders to engage with BPS administration to discuss our programs, initiatives, and vision for our Native American students in BPS. Our District Administrators will be presenting about their departments, and we are asking all School Sites to provide a brief presentation about their schools. We are asking Principals to provide an overview of their school, share successes (and challenges), and their initiatives that pertain to serving Native American students. This will be an interactive, two-day event, and we invite administrators, parents, students, and teachers to take part with us. The event will be held at the Bernalillo High School Library. The date and time is to be determined. It will be posted on THE DISTRICT'S website and social media platforms.

**Native Parent Advisory Committee**

The Indian Education Department will continue hosting our monthly Native Parent Advisory Committee meeting every 2nd WEDNESDAY of the month. The next meeting will be held on February 8, at San Felipe Community Library, from 5:30-7pm. Refreshments will be provided. We will be discussing the NPAC by-laws and election of Committee officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer). Community, educators, families, parents, and students from all of our Native communities are encouraged and welcome to attend. Although this is San Felipe, this event is for all Native American parents and stakeholders throughout the BPS district.


Any questions, please reach out to Francis Vigil, [fvigil@bernalillops.org](mailto:fvigil@bernalillops.org), Indian Education Director. Thank you.





Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!


## Attendance Matters!

Students with good attendance...









<p><b>Elementary</b></p> <p>...increase reading, math and foundational skills.</p>	<p><b>Middle School</b></p> <p>...develop meaningful relationships and communication skills</p>	<p><b>High School</b></p> <p>...gain essential life skills needed beyond graduation</p>	<p><b>College/Work</b></p> <p>...are successful at their jobs and/or earn degrees</p>
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**Students at all levels experience less stress with good attendance!**



## Spartan Learning Academy

# Save the date!

The **Spartan Learning Academy** will be hosting two events. The first is a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. The second is an open house where guests can experience the lab itself.

We ask that you mark your calendar and join us for each of these events. For more information, please see the flyers below.

You're invited to the

# GRAND OPENING

*Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting*

**Spartan Learning Academy  
Fab Lab**

**Thursday,  
February 22nd  
1-2pm**

*Spartan Learning  
Academy*  
485 Camino don  
Thomas  
Bernalillo, NM

**A place to:**  
**PLAY**  
**CREATE**  
**MENTOR**  
**INNOVATE**  
**LEARN**



# Spartan Learning Academy

## Fab Lab

# Open HOUSE

Immerse in a STEM experience like no other as we proudly unveil our highly anticipated Fab Lab.



### WE ARE ALL MAKERS

**SATURDAY**

2 MARCH 2024

**TIME**

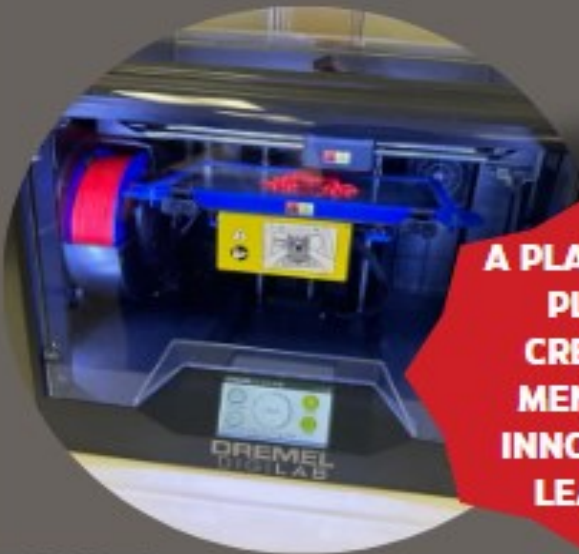
11AM -2PM



11 AM STEM ACTIVITIES, PLAZA

12PM LUNCH & LEARN, CAFETERIA

1 PM FAB LAB TOURS



**A PLACE TO:  
PLAY  
CREATE  
MENTOR  
INNOVATE  
LEARN**



(505)867-3309



[www.bernalillo-schools.org/o/bms](http://www.bernalillo-schools.org/o/bms)



485 Camino Don Tomas  
Bernalillo, NM 87004



# Ride the Bus Days



## February 14, 24

### Why Ride the Bus On These Days?

These two snapshot days are what the NM Public Education Department uses to fund the **ENTIRE** BPS Transportation Department.

This funding allows the BPS Transportation Department to continue to provide bus service to students and families for:

- To-and-from school transport
- Fieldtrips
- Athletic events
- All other before & after school activities.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLEASE  
HAVE YOUR STUDENT RIDE THE BUS  
ON THESE DAYS. THANK YOU!**