



THE DISTRICT

Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

March 2024

From The Superintendent's Desk

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Commitment to a Safe and Inspiring Learning Environment

Dear BPS Families,

As we move into the last quarter of the 2023-2024 school year, I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to providing a safe and enriching learning environment for our students at Bernalillo Public Schools.

A top priority is the safety and well-being of everyone within our educational community. We have implemented rigorous safety protocols and measures to ensure that our campuses are secure, fostering an atmosphere where students can thrive academically and emotionally. The health and safety of our students and staff remain paramount, and we will continue to adapt and refine our practices to meet the evolving challenges that may arise.

In addition to our commitment to safety, we are dedicated to delivering an instructional vision that not only meets but exceeds the expectations of our community. Our instructional approach is rooted in providing meaningful learning experiences that empower students to achieve their full potential. We are guided by a vision that maximizes opportunities for growth, exploration, and academic success.

Our educators and administrators are diligently working to create a learning environment that is both challenging and supportive. We understand that each student is unique, and we strive to meet their individual needs through innovative teaching methods and a curriculum that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and an ability to navigate a complex society.

At the core of our educational philosophy are high expectations for both our students and ourselves. We believe in the limitless potential of every student, and we are committed to nurturing their talents and abilities. By setting high standards for academic achievement, character development, and community engagement, we aim to prepare our students for success in an ever-changing world.

As we continue this academic journey together, I want to express my gratitude for the trust and confidence you place in Bernalillo Public Schools. Our commitment to your child's education and well-being is steadfast, and we look forward to finishing the year filled with growth, achievement, and shared success.

Thank you for being an integral part of our educational community.

Best,

Matt



Newsletter
Survey



Placitas Elementary School



On Valentine's Day, it was business as usual for Placitas 4th Grade STEM Sisters as they launched their Bottle Rockets. As part of the Engineering Design Process, the students built a prototype based on the solution to a problem. Under the watchful eye and guidance of PES STEM teacher, Mr. JC Jaramillo, the young engineers tested their prototypes. The next step will be for the girls to discuss problems with their designs and possible redesign solutions.

Great job STEM Sisters! Keep up the great work!



Bernalillo Elementary School



BES accepts the Dual Language Award in Santa Fe at the Roundhouse. Staff, students, and parents joined in the acceptance of this award.



6th grade students doing the electric slide at the Valentines Day Dance. They had a great time dancing, singing, and eating cookies with punch.



W.D. Carroll Elementary School

Our Kindergarten classes celebrated our 100th Day of School! There were hundreds of smiles as our Kinders sported paper vests in a walking parade!

We had lots of hearts and love to go around in celebration of St. Valentine! Ms. Torres' 2nd grade class invited families and performed!

With Read Across America week quickly approaching, Mr. Cervantes' 3rd grade class took a walking field trip to the Bernalillo Public Library!





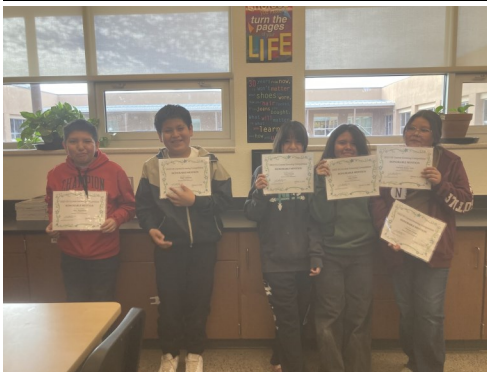
Algodones Elementary



Algodones Elementary Hosts a Valentines Day Dance—Algodones Elementary hosted its second annual Grandparents Valentine’s Day Dance. Grandparents and students danced the night away, enjoyed pizza, and took pictures at our photo booth. We are thankful for our grandparents and their participation.



Santo Domingo Elementary-Middle School



Santo Domingo 6th Grade Science Students Place in National Crystal Growing Competition -

In December, SD Science students parted with the crystals they had been growing in the science lab and shipped them to Georgetown University in Washington DC for judging. Riley Magdalena, Cierra Garcia, and Elijah Calabaza placed second in the quality division of the crystal growing competition and placed 15th overall. Chanden Chavez, Katy Abeyta, and Bailey Coriz placed 17th overall. We are proud of our scientists!



Santo Domingo Student Advisory Council Visits the Roundhouse -

On February 8th the SD Student Advisory Council observed our state legislators in action. Our students toured the Roundhouse, were introduced on the house floor, and visited with Charlotte Little, Representative of District 68, and former SD student.

Students: Riley Magdalena, Connor Garcia, Delisa Garcia, Lakiesha Quintana, Solei Pacheco, Tyrese Quintana, Logan Calabaza, Raelianna Garcia, Lorenzo Pacheco, Tyshawn Calabaza, Sponsors: Mrs. Barreras, Miss Chavez, and Mrs. Randolph.



Santo Domingo Elementary-Middle School Continued..



SD Kindergarten Students Celebrate 100th Day of School -

Day 100 was celebrated on January 30, 2024 by the kindergarten classes at Santo Domingo Elementary.

- Mrs. Sisneros' class wrote about their self-portraits to predict what they would look like when they are 100 years old.
- Mrs. Bentley's class made very special crowns celebrating being 100 times smarter than when they started kindergarten.
- Mrs. Fischer's class exercised 100 times using math to do sets of 10 different exercises.



Bernalillo High School

BHS CTE Classes collaborate to bring a new shed to the Student Council—The BHS Construction class and Electricity class collaborated to build this wonderful shed which they then donated to the Student council class/activities to store “All things” Activities! Mr. VanHoose and his team used this learning project to bring first hand building experience to the students at BHS.



Student Council Attends the 74th annual New Mexico Association of Student Councils State Conference at Rio Grande High School—18 students from BHS had the opportunity to attend the NMSC State conference, “Familia Leadership Fiesta”. Our team won 2nd place Judge's Choice for their service learning project, *Campus Clean-up*, and 1st place Delegate's Choice for their 4th annual Toy Drive. BHS has also maintained their platinum council status for the 7th year in a row! Congratulations and keep up the great work!





Spartan Learning Academy Fab Lab Open House



Spartan Learning Academy Fab Lab Grand Opening -

The construction of the Fab Lab at the Spartan Learning Academy is complete. A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Thursday, February 22, 2024, in the SLA plaza. THE DISTRICT's families and friends, the BPS school board members, governing council members, and other dignitaries were invited to tour the lab and be a part of the celebration.

Students at SLA were able to film a commercial with KRQE to showcase the new space. The commercial has begun airing on KRQE and its partner channels. Please click [HERE](#) to view the KRQE News 13 broadcast, "The sky is the limit at the Spartan Learning Academy".

We will also be hosting a community-wide Fab Lab Open House so mark your calendar. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Those in attendance will have a chance to engage in various STEM activities in the plaza, enjoy a Lunch and

Learn celebration in our school's cafeteria, and tour the amazing new FAB LAB. There will also be an opportunity to meet our three Nao robots that live in the Fab Lab.

This is a free event for all and we look forward to seeing you there!



Click [HERE](#) to read the article in the Rio Rancho Observer.





The Spirit of Outstanding Service Award



THE DISTRICT of BPS – To honor the diligence and dedication to our students by employees is a privilege. Through the Employee of the Month award, employees are recognized for their efforts in making Bernalillo Public Schools one of the best educational institutions.

Congratulations to the recent award winners:

Congratulations & Thank You



Amethyst Tenorio
Cochiti School
Sponsored by Circle B Ranch



Asako Strong
W.D. Carroll Elementary
Sponsored by Ashley Duran Insurance Agency



Guadalupe Chacon
Operation Support
Algodones Elementary



Edwina Tafoya
Instruction Support
Bernalillo Elementary



Debbie Trujillo
Administrator, District Office
Sponsored by MA Strategies

If you would like to nominate a BPS employee for the *Spirit of Outstanding Service* award, please complete the nomination form using the QR code or web address below. Thank you.



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

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Bernalillo Public School...
Education

OPEN



Bernalillo High School Students Give Back



I am not; wait, I can be a math person!

This week, 23 high school students from the Dual Language Program, acting as mentors, visited Carroll Elementary School. Their mission was to demystify mathematics, a task we undertake in the classroom starting as early as kindergarten. They led a mathematics activity in several classrooms, sharing a tale and demonstrating to K-3 students that mathematics can be enjoyable, tangible, accessible, and understandable. The mentors faced a challenge in explaining the concept of a cube, one of the Platonic Solids, to their elementary school peers, some of whom were their siblings or cousins. They eschewed complex formulas, instead using sticks and marshmallows to create a two-dimensional cube on the wall with parallelograms. This hands-on approach allowed the students to see how a cube can be constructed using three parallelograms following a pattern.

While building a cube, the most crucial activity was communication. The students had to work together, using discourse to complete the assignment. This collaboration was not just about constructing a part of the cube, but also about learning to work as a team. And, of course, there was fun involved. The students could use more than a marshmallow because, as we all know, marshmallows are delicious, and sometimes students eat them. The final product, a cube, with all its sides and faces equal to each other, offered the possibility to create a little mural with many cubes, made with the participation of all students in the classroom.

Through these activities, we aim to change students' perceptions of mathematics. We hope that they will start to see themselves as math people. After all, mathematics is as essential as any other subject in school. We need more students considering careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) because this field is the driving force behind the progress in our country.





THE DISTRICT's Student Nutrition Services Awarded a Grant to Better Serve Our Students



In October of 2023, the Governor's office, in collaboration with the Department of Finance and Public Education, announced a twenty million dollar grant funding opportunity for School Food Service authorities in New Mexico. Under House Bill 505, signed by Governor Lujan Grisham, \$20 million was appropriated for school kitchen infrastructure improvement projects statewide. The intent of this grant was to assist school food service authorities to upgrade kitchen infrastructure and/or equipment, allowing school food service authorities to enhance modern cooking technologies in their programs so that they could prepare healthier scratch cooked and freshly prepared meals. The grant required school food authorities to meet numerous funding categories and selected criteria. Food school authorities were required to articulate how the proposed project would meet the grant requirements.

I am pleased to announce that THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools Student Nutrition Services Department applied for the NM School Infrastructure Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,899,605.26 to assist us in increasing meal preparation time and product efficiency by preparing more scratched cooked and freshly prepared meals utilizing new and improved modern technologies for quality improvements.

On February 2, 2024, the BPS Student Nutrition Services Department received written notification by the Department of Finance that the Kitchen Infrastructure and Equipment Grant submitted in October 2023 met all grant requirements and that the grant would be funded in its entirety.

Receiving and administering this grant will make a significant investment in THE DISTRICT of BPS Food Service Program. Outdated equipment will be replaced with new and improved cooking intelligence. Staff will be able to prepare more freshly scratched cooked meals, increase production and time efficiencies, receive enhanced training, increase participation in our schools, surrounding communities and Pueblos and create state of the art standards in cooking technology and food safety initiatives.

School meals for all is a game-changer. The National School Lunch Program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946. School Food Service Programs did not just happen over-night nor even during the past decades. Preceding today's programs is a long history of more than a hundred years of development, of testing and evaluating, and of constant research to provide the best in nutrition, nutrition education, and food service for the nation's millions of children in schools. Food Service has come a long way! This funding will help us provide meals to our most vulnerable population our students and those children most in need in our surrounding communities and Pueblos. Enhancing our program through this grant will assist us in "providing healthier meals, ensuring every students is well-fed and focused on learning – setting them up for a successful educational journey."

Congratulations to our Food Service Director, Debbie Trujillo, and her amazing team for being awarded this grant to better serve our students. Also, thank you for all the love and care each of you put into preparing delicious and nutritious meals for our students. You are appreciated!



THE DISTRICT's Indian Education Department

Dear Students and Families,

Click below to access important and helpful resources!

[BPS Indian Education Website](#)

[Title IV Parent Advisory Committee Meeting flyer](#)





Bernalillo High School Lunar Luncheon

Happy Lunar New Year!

On Monday, February 12, 2024, the Bernalillo High School Food Service Team provided an array of Asian dishes to celebrate the Year of the Wood Dragon. Menu offerings consisted of; Kung Pao Chicken, General Tso, Sweet N’ Sour, Lemongrass, Mandarin and Spicy Sichuan Chicken. Sushi, Eggrolls, Spring Rolls, Pot Stickers, Asian Stir Fry Vegetables, Fried Rice and Lo Mein Noodles were offered as part of our Asian cuisine. BHS Staff created a new pizza for this lunar luncheon celebration, a pizza called “Dragon Fire Pizza.” The pizza was prepared using a whole grain crust, flavorful sriracha sauce, low-fat mozzarella cheese and Asian spiced chicken. Meals were served in pagoda take out boxes and chopsticks were given to complement and enhance the entire Asian experience.

Students complemented the food variety and complemented the pagoda style packaging some students went on to say that eating with chopsticks was a first time experience and it felt like they were dining at a real Chinese Restaurant. Good luck fortune cookies were handed out with every meal and a fresh mandarin orange rich in color to symbolize wealth was also given out as a treat. Great Job, BHS Team for making a positive difference in the lives of our students!



Bernalillo High School Alumni Corner

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools would like to honor alumni that are doing great things.



In this edition of the Alumni Corner, we would like to honor and recognize BHS Class of 1973 graduate, Hipolito "Paul" Aguilar. Paul Aguilar is the former Deputy Secretary, Finance and Operations at the New Mexico Public Education Department where he was charged with providing fiscal and policy oversight of Public School Support for school districts and charter schools statewide, including budgeting, budget management, audit oversight and the distribution of approximately \$4 billion in annual funding. He was further responsible for developing and implementing key policy initiatives, formulating legislative strategies to advance the Secretary's policy priorities, and promoting resolution of policy and management issues.

Prior to being appointed as Deputy Secretary, Paul served as Principal Analyst at the Legislative Finance Committee of the New Mexico State Legislature where he provided ongoing fiscal and policy oversight of New Mexico's Institutions of Higher Education, the New Mexico Higher Education Department, Public K-12 Education and the Public Education Department.

Paul began his career in education as a teacher and administrator in the Bernalillo Public School District. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and a Master's Degree in Education Administration, both from New Mexico Highlands University.

Paul has served as a trustee on the New Mexico Education Retirement Board, a member of the Public School Capital Outlay Council and as the State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. Mr. Aguilar served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era as Senior Gunner on the Chaparral Missile system and was responsible for the operations and training functions of his unit. Prior to entering the teaching profession, he worked in the public sector focused on military research, started a residential construction development company and managed a small private sector business.

Paul lives in Bernalillo, New Mexico with his wife Patty. Paul is unsuccessfully trying to be retired and has been trying to restore a Jeep for the last ten years. Good luck with that!! *"Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan"*

ALUMNI

Bernalillo High School

EST. 1948



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

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools is building a BHS Alumni Database. The intentions for this database include:

- To honor and recognize our alumni.
- To identify alumni that would be interested in mentoring, volunteering, or being a guest speaker.
- As we move forward with our continuous school improvement we want to hear the voice of our alumni regarding what Bernalillo Public Schools did well, but more importantly what we could have done better to prepare them for post-secondary life - college, career, or military.
- We have alumni that may feel like school was not a good fit for them. Maybe they left the district to attend another school, or maybe they quit school all together. We want to hear their voices. What programs, systems or supports could we have offered to keep them in school.

Please complete the **Bernalillo High School Alumni Intake Form** using the QR code or web address to the left. Thank you.



Save the Date

THE DISTRICT of BPS

SPRING

INTO WELLNESS FESTIVAL

20 APRIL 2024

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

BERNALILLO HIGH SCHOOL/FREE ENTRY

Food / Entertainment / Learning Activities
Crafts / Jewelry/ Farmer's Market
Games/Jumpers/2K Run or Walk
Health & Wellness Information Booths

Market/Crafts/Jewelry
Vendor Registration



<https://bit.ly/42ZDoGx>

Health & Wellness
Community Partner
Info Booth Registration



<https://bit.ly/4c276gQ>

2K Run/Walk
Registration



<https://forms.gle/NBuzBKY6xNgArQBz5>





March 6–9, 2024	BES Transportation 4th Grade Fieldtrip—Students will be learning about travel and transportation.
March 8, 2024	BHS Gear Up CNM Visit
March 8, 2024	BES PBIS Assembly
March 8, 2024	End of Quarter 3
March 12, 2024	BHS CTE Fieldtrip to Carpenter's Union Training Center Real world experience in the carpentry industry
March 13, 2024	Early Release—Students Only
March 13, 2024	BPS 2024 Title VI PAC Meeting 5:30 PM at Jemez Pueblo, to join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/BPST6PAC
March 20, 2024	BES Explora 5th Grade Fieldtrip Students will be able to apply what they have learned in Science.
March 21, 2024	Algodones Elementary Science Night —Sandia National Lab & Explora will be at AES from 4:30-6:30 PM to provide fun, engaging activities and experiments the whole family can enjoy! 2nd and 3rd grade students will also be displaying their inventions they created and we will vote for the best one! Don't miss out and join us on March 31st.
March 27, 2024	Algodones Elementary —Albuquerque Natural History Museum field trip.
March 27, 2024	BHS Gear Up College Visit—NMHU
March 28—April 5, 2024	Spring Break
March 30, 2024	Movie Night - Students, families, and community members are all welcome. Movie: Water Boy



2 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON 2 3 EDUCATION

A Powerful Must See TED Talk

“How Every Child Can Thrive by Five”

by Molly Wright

Please click below to watch this short video.



“Smartphones vs. Smart Kids”

by Dr. Jonathan Haidt

Please click below to watch this video.



Attendance Works

Attendance: A Community Imperative

Excused Absence + Unexcused Absence = Lost Learning Time

Learn More:



HIDDEN BRAIN

Finding Focus

Hidden Brain

Social Sciences

[Listen on Apple Podcasts ↗](#)

We spend more and more of our lives staring at screens. Our cellphones, smartwatches and laptops allow us to communicate instantly with people across the globe, and quickly look up obscure facts. But our digital devices are also altering our brains in profound ways. This week, psychologist Gloria Mark explores how our ability to focus is shrinking, and offers ways to protect our minds in a world filled with endless distractions.