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Newsletter
Survey

THE DISTRICT Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

August 2025



Dear BPS Community,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we're making together. Student outcomes across Bernalillo Public Schools continue to grow—and that's a direct result of the focus, energy, and heart our educators and families bring every day.

We're proud to be recruiting exceptional talent into our schools—people who believe in our students and are committed to their success. At the same time, we continue to coach and support high-quality classroom instruction that is aligned with our state standards and designed to meet the needs of every learner.

And it's not just about academics. We are expanding and enhancing extracurricular activities at all of our schools—athletics, clubs, arts, leadership programs, and more—so that every student has a chance to explore their interests, build community, and grow in confidence.

This is what it looks like when a district is moving forward. Thank you for being a vital part of it. Let's keep working together to make BPS the place to be.

Best,

Matt

Welcome
Back to
School!

Message from School Board President, Paul Madrid

Dear BPS Community,

When I was a kid, my grandpa used to tell me a story while we sat out on the porch watching the sun dip behind the Sandias. He'd say:

"Boy, there was an old cowboy who set out across the mesa to find the best place to build his ranch. He asked the land, watched the weather, and listened to the wind—but more importantly, he stopped at every fence line to talk to his neighbors. He knew that a ranch doesn't just survive on hard work and grit—it thrives when it's built with the voices of those around it. Folks who've been there, lived it, and care about the future too."

That story stuck with me. And it's the same spirit we're carrying forward here in Bernalillo Public Schools.

We're listening—really listening—to the voices of our community: our parents, our students, our educators, our tribal partners, and our neighbors. Because when we bring those voices together, we build something stronger—a school system that doesn't just get kids to graduation, but puts them on a path to lifelong success.

Whether it's in the classroom, on the ball field, in the arts, or through cultural knowledge passed down like my grandpa's stories, our goal is clear: help every student rise with purpose and pride.

Thanks for riding alongside us. We're just getting started—and we're heading in the right direction.

With gratitude,

Paul

Personal Use of Electronic Communication Devices by Students, J-3150
Adopted by the BPS School Board: 28 MARCH 2024
English
<https://5il.co/2t8ej>



The Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education
Paul Madrid, President, District 5
Cordy Chavez, Vice-President, District 4
Christine Suina, Secretary, District 1
Mike Archibeque, Member, District 3
John Gurule, Member, District 2





Bernalillo Public Schools

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority.

Bernalillo Public Schools is proud to introduce enhanced safety measures across all campuses to ensure a secure and welcoming learning environment for everyone.

One key improvement is the implementation of the Verkada electronic visitor check-in system. All visitors are now required to check in using the iPad located in the front lobby of each school. This quick and easy process—taking just about a minute—requires a valid state-issued ID. After checking in, visitors will receive a printed badge that must be worn while on campus.

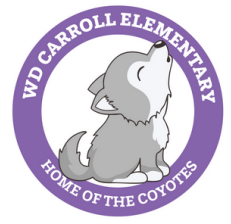
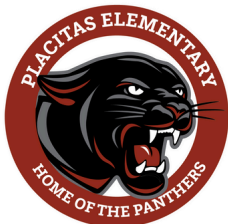
Thank you for supporting our ongoing efforts to keep our schools safe and secure.

🎉 Start the Year Strong with Great Attendance! 🇺🇸

We're off to an exciting new school year, and the best way to stay on track is by coming to school every day — on time, ready to learn! Consistent attendance helps students build routines, stay engaged in learning, and build strong relationships with classmates and teachers. Let's work together to make this year the best yet by showing up every day!

2025-2026 School Bus Routes

Please note: Bus routes are subject to change. If any changes occur, families will be notified promptly.



Click on the school logo
to view the bus route



Clear Backpacks FAQ: A Step Toward Safer Schools

Dear BPS Families,

At Bernalillo Public Schools, the safety and well-being of every student and staff member is our top priority. As part of our continued efforts to provide a secure and welcoming learning environment, we are introducing a clear backpack policy across grades 4–12. This policy applies to all students at BPS schools, regardless of disciplinary history.

Clear backpacks are part of a layered approach to safety and security that includes strategies such as security cameras and locked entrances. Taken together, these layers of security help our students and educators stay focused on learning. We understand that no single action can guarantee complete safety, implementing clear backpacks—alongside our other safety practices—is another important way we can build a culture of preparedness, prevention, and protection.

We'd like to take a moment to answer some questions we've been hearing and share more of the thinking behind this decision:

1. Safety Through Transparency

Clear backpacks help school staff see what's inside without needing to single anyone out for a bag search. This simple, non-invasive protocol helps prevent students from accidentally or intentionally bringing unsafe items—like vapes, alcohol, or other prohibited materials—onto campus.

2. Focusing on Prevention

Across the country, many school safety concerns involve items that students brought to school, either intentionally or accidentally, in their backpacks, such as vapes, alcohol, or other prohibited items. By switching to clear backpacks, we're taking a proactive approach—stopping potential risks before they happen instead of reacting after the fact.

3. Faster Emergency Response

In the unlikely event of an active threat to student safety, clear backpacks allow school safety officers and first responders to act more quickly and effectively. Clear backpacks allow our safety teams and first responders to act quickly and effectively, keeping students safer when every second matters.

4. Supporting Our Layered Safety Measures

Just like our use of security cameras and locked entrances, this new backpack policy is part of a broader effort to maintain a secure school environment. It reflects our commitment to protecting your students each day. When students and educators feel safe and secure on campus and in their classrooms, they are able to focus on learning and growth.

5. What's Still Allowed

Students may continue to carry small pencil bags, purses, and athletic equipment bags as needed—these do not need to be clear/see-through. These items are permitted as they support daily school needs and extracurricular participation.

6. Reassuring Our Families

We know you entrust us with your students each day, and that is a responsibility we take seriously. This policy is just one of many ways BPS is working to ensure our schools remain safe places to learn, grow, and thrive.

We recognize that clear backpacks alone are not a complete solution. But as part of our broader safety efforts, they serve as a meaningful and practical step toward reinforcing our commitment to student safety. Together, with your continued support, we are building a stronger culture of awareness, prevention, and protection across all BPS schools. We appreciate your understanding and partnership as we continue to prioritize the safety of every child in our care.

With appreciation,

Thomas Maes, Jr.

Director of Safety and Security

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools

tmaes@bernalillops.org



Algodones Elementary

Welcome Back, Mustang Families!

We're rearing to go for a fantastic new school year, and here's everything you need to know to get started:

School Hours:

Doors open at 8:10 AM -- please don't drop students off before then.
The school day runs from 8:15 AM-3:30 PM.
Students must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

Important Reminder:

No student-checkouts after 3:00 PM--we're wrapping up the day and making sure every Mustang finishes strong!

Open House Alert!

Gallop on over for our Open House Night
Thursday, August 7th
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

We can't wait to see our Mustangs back on campus. It's going to be an amazing year!

Ms. Amber Bright, Principal

abright@bernalillops.org



Bernalillo Elementary

Welcome Back, Lil' Spartans

School Hours:

The school day runs from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM.
Students can be dropped off after 8:15 am and
must be picked up no later than 3:35 pm.
Students can not be checked out after 3:00 pm.

Student Meet and Greet - Friday, August 8th 2:45 pm to 4 pm
Come tour the school and meet your teacher.

First Day of School is Monday, August 11th.

We're so excited to welcome our Lil' Spartans back to campus!
Get ready for a fun and fantastic year ahead!

Dr. Bernadette Hall- Cuaron, Principal

bhall@bernalillops.org

Ms. Monica McNeely, Asst. Principal

mmcneely@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to view our website





Bernalillo High School

School Hours:

The school day is from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm

Students can not be checked out after 2:00pm.

Students can be dropped off after 7:15 am and must be picked up no later than 2:50 pm.

All student driving on the BHS campus must have a BHS Parking Pass. This will be available from security within the first week of school. All drivers must be licensed and have valid registration and insurance.

All visitors must bring a valid state ID and check in at the front office. Safety first for our Spartans!

BHS is a CELLPHONE FREE campus. Students should not have cell phones out during the school day 7:30- 2:30. For a copy of our Electronic communication policy please click links below

[ECD English](#) | [EDC Spanish](#)

BHS Dress Code Policy

[Dress Code English](#) | [Dress Code Spanish](#)

Important Links

[Main Office Information](#)

[Bell Schedule](#)

[Important Dates](#)



Welcome Back, Spartans

Ms. Alyssa Sanchez-Padilla, Principal
alysanchez@bernalillops.org

Ms. Karen Cameron, Asst. Principal
kcameron@bernalillops.org

Mr. Walter Walker, Dean of Students
wwalker@bernalillops.org

Ira Harge, Athletic Director
iharge@bernalillops.org

Jennifer Jaramillo, Activities Coordinator
jejaramillo@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to view our website



Cochiti Schools Welcome Back, Families!

We are excited to welcome everyone to the 2025-26 school year at Cochiti Schools!

Here are a few important reminders as we kick off a great year together:

School Hours: 7:25 am – 2:25 pm

First Bell: 7:25 am

Tardy Bell: 7:30 am

Student Drop-Off: After 7:15 am

Early Check-Out: No check-outs after 2:00 pm

Students must be picked up no later than 2:45 pm

Cochiti Middle School Jumpstart Day

Thursday, August 7th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Transportation will be provided.

Students can meet teachers, explore the school, and meet new staff.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning, friendship, and growth.
Thank you for partnering with us to make this year a success!



Let's make 2025-2026 our best year yet!

Ms. Genevieve Sosa, Principal
gsosa@bernalillops.org

Mr. Benito Levario, Jr., Asst. Principal
blevario@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to view our website.



La Escuelita Preschool

La Escuelita Newsletter

August 1, 2025



Back to school preparations are underway as we strive to ensure a very successful start to the upcoming school year. If this is your first time to experience public education, we want you to feel supported and welcomed. We are proud of our school and school district. We hope that you will be also.

The beginning of the school year looks a little different for Preschool. We do not start school until August 19th and our teaching staff will do a home visit to get to know you and your child prior to school beginning. Be on the lookout for a phone call on August 7th to make arrangements for a home visit. We can not wait to meet you and your student!

Dinner Conversations

Are you excited to make new friends?

Listen to your teachers, they want to help

I can not wait to see you after school to hear all about your day.

From the Health Office

If your child has a health plan or medication that requires admission during the school day, please come visit with Dominique Chavez, our health assistant.

Upcoming Dates:

- August 11-14: Home Visits
- August 19: First Day of Preschool 8:00 am
- September 1: Labor Day No School

School Hours & Contact

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

(505) 404-5585

Ms. Jessica Kettler, Principal
jkettler@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to view our website



Placitas Elementary School

Welcome Back, Panthers!

First Day of School: ● Grades 1–6: Monday, August 11, 2025, ● Kindergarten: Monday, August 18, 2025

Kindergarten Families: Your child's teacher, Ms. Raelynn Mora, will be reaching out to schedule a one-on-one Meet & Greet and beginning-of-year assessment between August 12–14. She will also host an optional Kindergarten Jump Start Morning on Friday, August 15th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Lunch will be provided; however, transportation will not be available for this event. The first official day of school for kindergarten students is Monday, August 18, 2025.

Procedures and Important Times Arrival Procedures: **School arrival time is from 7:45 to 8:00 AM.** For the safety of all students, please do not drop off your child before 7:45 AM, as staff will not be available for supervision prior to this time.

Parent Drop-Off: Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles during drop-off to ensure student safety and maintain traffic flow. Students should exit their vehicles from the passenger side door closest to the sidewalk to avoid stepping into the flow of traffic. All K–6 students will enter the school building through the Office/Kindergarten hallway and proceed to their classrooms. PES staff will be on duty at the drop-off area and throughout the school to assist students.

Once students arrive, they will hang their backpacks and personal items on designated hooks outside their classrooms. From there, staff members will escort students to the morning recess locations, either the back playground or the gymnasium depending on the weather. Parents are welcome to walk with their children to hang up items before the children join the designated recess area. At 8:00 AM, teachers will gather their students from the recess area and escort them to the classroom to begin breakfast.

Bus Drop-Off: Bus riders will enter the school through the north side entrance. PES staff will be stationed at the bus drop-off area each morning to greet and assist students. Just like students dropped off by parents, bus riders will hang up their belongings and be escorted to the designated morning recess areas. Teachers will pick up students at 8:00 AM and walk them to class for breakfast.

Morning Bell Schedule: The **first bell rings at 8:00 AM.** All students in the recess area will be gathered and escorted to their classrooms at this time. The **tardy bell rings at 8:05 AM.** Students arriving between 8:00 and 8:05 should go directly to their classrooms. Any students arriving after 8:05 AM must be signed in by a parent or guardian at the front office.

Breakfast Schedule: Breakfast is provided free of charge to all students and is served in classrooms from 8:00 to 8:25 AM.

Lunch and Recess: Students in grades K–3 will eat lunch in the cafeteria at 10:45 AM, followed by recess from 11:05 to 11:25 AM. Students in grades 4–6 will have lunch at 11:45 AM, followed by recess from 12:05 to 12:25 PM.

Dismissal Procedures: All students will be dismissed at 3:00 PM. PES staff will be on duty at both the parent pick-up area and bus locations to help ensure a smooth and safe dismissal.

Parent Pick-Up: Parents are again asked to stay in their vehicles during pick-up. Students will be encouraged to enter vehicles through the passenger side door closest to the sidewalk to avoid walking into traffic. We kindly ask that all students are picked up by 3:15 PM, as staff supervision ends at that time.



Committed to Learning, Dedicated to Greatness – Go Panthers!

Rachel Lopez, Principal
rlopez@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to visit our website



Santo Domingo Schools

Welcome Back, Trojans!

School Hours:

Elementary – 8:15 am – 3:15 pm

Middle School – 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

Students can be dropped off after 8:00 am and must be picked up no later than 4:00 pm.

Students can not be checked out after 2:30 pm.

Santo Domingo Elementary School

Meet Your Teacher

Thursday, August 7th 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm**Santo Domingo Middle School**

6th Grade Jump Start

Parents of 6th-grade students will join their students and rotate through their daily schedule, meeting all their child's teachers.

Thursday, August 7th 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Dr. Teresa Little-Gardiner, Principal
tgardiner@bernalillops.org

Ms. Laura Corral, Asst. Principal
lcoral@bernalillops.org



Click [here](#) to visit our website.



Spartan Learning Academy

Welcome Back, Spartans!

We're thrilled to begin the 2025–26 school year with all of you at Spartan Learning Academy!

As we start this exciting new year together, please keep the following important reminders in mind:

School Hours: 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

Students can be dropped off after 7:15 am and must be picked up no later than 2:50 pm.

Students can not be checked out after 2:15 pm.

7th Grade Jumpstart DayThursday, August 7th

8:00 am to 10:00 am

Meet your teachers and find your classes.

Mr. Anthony Jaramillo, Principal
ajaramillo@bernalillops.org

Ms. Anita Apodaca, Asst. Principal
aapodaca@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to visit our website



WD Carroll Elementary

Welcome Back, Coyotes!

We're excited to kick off the 2025–26 school year with all of our Coyotes!

As we begin this fun and adventurous new year together, please take note of these important reminders:

School Hours

8:25 am – 3:15 pm

Students can be dropped off after 8:10 am and must be picked up no later than 3:25 pm.

Students can not be checked out after 2:50 pm.

First Day of School Grades 1–3

Monday, August 11th

Kindergarten Assessments – Teachers will contact parents to schedule

Tuesday, August 12th – Thursday, August 14th

Meet the Teacher – Grades 1–3

Thursday, August 14th 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Kindergarten Jumpstart Day

Friday, August 15th – 9 am to 12:00 pm

Ms. Sarah Armstrong, Principal
sarmstrong@bernalillops.org

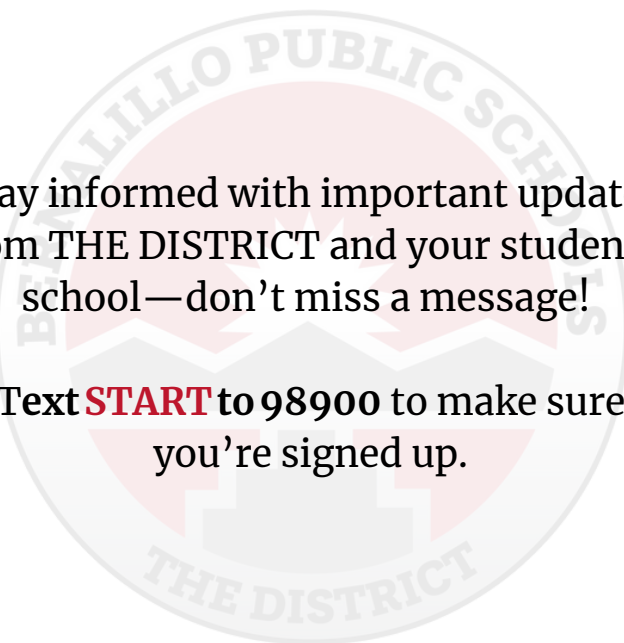
Mr. Shane Lawson, Asst. Principal
glawson@bernalillops.org

Click [here](#) to visit our website



Stay informed with important updates
from THE DISTRICT and your student's
school—don't miss a message!

Text **START** to 98900 to make sure
you're signed up.



Superintendent's Advisory Committees

Be a part of the Superintendent's Advisory Committees! We're looking for parents, students, and teachers who want to share ideas, provide feedback, and help shape the future of our schools.

Join the Parent Advisory, Student Advisory, or Teacher Advisory Committee and make your voice heard. Scan the QR code to apply today!



Parent Advisory



Student Advisory



Teacher Advisory



These committees meet monthly and play a key role in shaping district priorities by providing input on important initiatives, programs, and policies. It's a meaningful way to stay informed, ask questions, and make a difference for our students.



Bernalillo High School Alumni Corner

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

Welcome Back, Dr. Emily Avila-Teeguarden!

Math Teacher, Bernalillo High School (BHS Class of '93)

Bernalillo High School is delighted to welcome home alumna Dr. Emily Avila-Teeguarden—a proud Spartan turned world-traveler whose journey began right here in our hallways.

After falling in love with chemistry (and raising chickens and rabbits for 4-H), Emily earned dual degrees in Animal Science and Biology at New Mexico State University. Her curiosity carried her to Michigan State University for graduate work in Cell & Molecular Biology, where she forged friendships with scholars from around the globe (and discovered how much cold a New Mexican can truly bear!). She later completed her Ph.D. in sunny Southern California and launched a career in research—until a part-time role at a community college revealed her true calling: teaching.

For more than a decade, Dr. Avila-Teeguarden inspired California community-college students, but the lure of red and green chile—and the desire to serve her home community—never faded. The pandemic became her cue to come home.

Today, Emily brings world-class scientific expertise, a passion for student success, and a deep love of New Mexico's rich culture and food back to BHS. In her math classes she challenges students to stay adventurous, persist through tough problems, and “keep trying even when you feel a little lost.”

Please join us in giving a warm Spartan welcome to Dr. Emily Avila-Teeguarden—teacher, scholar, and proud Bernalillo graduate. We're thrilled you're home!

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.

Board Member Spotlight: Championing Education and Culture

Christine Suina, District 1

I am a life-long resident of New Mexico and an enrolled citizen of Pueblo de Cochiti. I graduated from Colorado College with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Southwest Studies. Throughout my career, I've focused on expanding access to higher education for Native American students, working in areas such as recruitment, admission, enrollment, and retention.

Since 1998, I've been involved with *College Horizons*, starting as a volunteer and working in roles including Secretary of the Board of Directors, Small Group Leader, Office Manager, and Program Coordinator. *College Horizons* is a national non-profit dedicated to supporting Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian high school and college students through college-access and pre-graduate programs. We partner with 60 colleges and universities, as well as expert counselors and Native educators, and we're proud of our outcomes—95% of our high school participants are admitted to four-year institutions, and 85% graduate within four to five years.

Before joining *College Horizons*, I worked with New Mexico-based organizations such as the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos' Educational Talent Search (TRIO) Program, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and The Daniels Fund – New Mexico Office.

I also actively support Colorado College professors and students by hosting Anthropology and Religion classes in my home on the Pueblo. Over the past 25 years, my family and I have welcomed more than 500 students—many of whom had never visited a Pueblo—offering them an immersive educational experience. I've helped facilitate classes such as AN 321 *Rio Grande - Culture, History and Region*, AN 242 *The Anthropology of Food*, and RE200 *Religion and Colonialism*. I currently serve on the Colorado College Counselor Advisory Board and was honored to be the first alumna invited to join.

I'm a proud Yale Mom—my daughter will be entering her senior at Yale University. Her journey inspires and deepens my commitment to education and equity for all students. As a member of the Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education, I represent **District 1, which includes Cochiti Lake, Pueblo de Cochiti, San Felipe Pueblo and La Madera**. I strongly support our heritage language programs, which help preserve and celebrate the culture and traditions of our students. I'm an advocate for College and Career Readiness and support the continued expansion of safety and security initiatives throughout the district to ensure that all students and staff feel protected and supported in our schools.

Christine



AUGUST



August 5 th	BHS Student Council Year Planning Workshop – BHS – 1pm-4pm
August 6 th	BHS Drive Thru Registration/ Schedule Pick up-9th & 10th Grade- 9am, 11 th & 12 th Grade- 10:30am
August 7 th	BHS 9th grade and New Student Jumpstart – 8am-10am
August 7 th	SLA 7th Grade Jumpstart – 8am-10am
August 7 th	CMS Jumpstart Day – 8am-10am
August 7 th	AES Open House -3:30pm-5:30pm
August 7 th	SDES Meet Your Teacher – 5pm-6pm
August 7 th	SDMS SD 6th-Grade Jump Start – 6pm-7:30pm
August 7 th	PES Open House – 5:30pm-7pm
August 11 th	First Day of School Students Grades 1-12
August 11th-15th	Kindergarten Assessments and Family Meetings
August 11 th	Native American Educator and Parent Advisory Committee (NAEPAC) – District Office Boardroom -5:30pm-7pm
August 13 th	SLA NJHS Food Distribution – SLA Auxiliary Gym - 12:30pm-2:30pm
August 14 th	WDCES Meet the Teacher for 1st-3rd Grade - 5pm-6pm
August 14 th	Bernalillo Public Schools Work Session Board Meeting – Boardroom 5:30pm
August 15 th	PES Kinder Jumpstart Day- Optional – 9am-12pm
August 15 th	WDCES Kindergarten Jumpstart Day – 9am-12pm
August 18 th	First Day for Kindergarten Students
August 19 th	First Day for Pre K Students (3Y & 4Y)
August 20 th	Cochiti ES/MS Open House – 5pm-6:30pm
August 21 st	SLA Open House – 4pm-6pm
August 27 th	BHS FFA Colt Conference – BHS -9am-3pm
August 28 th	Bernalillo Public Schools Regular Board Meeting Boardroom – 5:30pm
September 1 st	Labor Day – No School



Spartan Showdown **CORNHOLE** Tournament

Double Elimination Tournament
Benefiting the Spartan Booster Club for Bernalillo Athletics

Sunday
August 17, 2025 at 1:30pm
Town of Bernalillo
Rotary Park

Entry Fee: \$50
per team (2 people)

Cash Prizes

1st Place: \$300
2nd Place: \$200
3rd Place: \$100

Food Trucks
Music
Silent Auction
Kactus Brewery
50/50 Raffle

Show & Shine Car Show



Register Now!
linktr.ee/spartanboosterclub

For more information, email: spartanboosterclub25@gmail.com

Bring your own chairs & shade

No outside food and drinks