

THE BOLT

WEEKLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Dear Bridge Prep Families,

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals and families in many ways - physically, emotionally, financially, and educationally, and this impact will continue through the 2020-21 school year and beyond. While no one can predict all the challenges that may arise over the coming weeks and months, it is imperative that we plan for a safe and orderly return to school, that prioritizes ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and families. This presents us with many complex challenges:

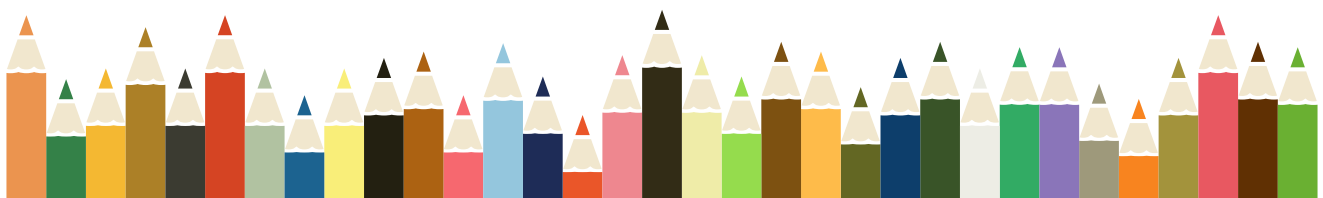
- Catching up on months of lost in-person instruction;
- Addressing the social and emotional needs of our community resulting from this catastrophe;
- Ensuring that any virtual learning offering provides our students with the ability to participate equitably, and that families were supported as much as possible;
- Complying with the many mandated guidelines, procedures and requirements presented to us.

All of our thinking and decision making continues to keep our mission of providing our students with educational equity at the forefront. We recognize that like our students, our families have a variety of needs and that one size does not fit all when it comes to reimagining the school experience.

We have been provided with many different guidance documents, protocols, and regulations over the past few weeks from the CDC, New York State Education Department, Department of Health and the New York City DOE- each of which have several layers of restrictions and mandates. We will continue to coordinate with these stakeholders around adherence to all health and safety protocols, given the frequent nature of regional health status and mandate changes.

We will continue to meet do our best with the scenario in front of us, within the structures that exist, to meet the challenge of this current time. We have done our best to use some of the leeway that exists to develop creative solutions for our unique community. We know that this is not forever. By partnering with our amazing families and committed staff - we will succeed and continue to be **BOLD, BRIGHT,** and **UNIQUE.**

Onward,
Mr. Castanza



Care Package Pickup

Summer Care Package Pickup will be on **Monday, July 27th** from **3:30 - 6pm**. You and your Bridge Builder are invited to pull up to our campus on Renwick Avenue to say hello to staff and receive your summer care package. In your care packages you will find:

- Supply lists for the school year
- Fun goodies and activities
- Bridge Prep swag items
- Any personal items that were left in the building.

Please note, for everyone's safety masks are required and no one will be permitted out of their vehicles. In the case of inclement weather, we will communicate changes via our social media accounts.

If your family is unable to attend, email our Family Association at bpfacharter@gmail.com to coordinate drop off by one of our neighboring family volunteers.

We can't wait to see you!

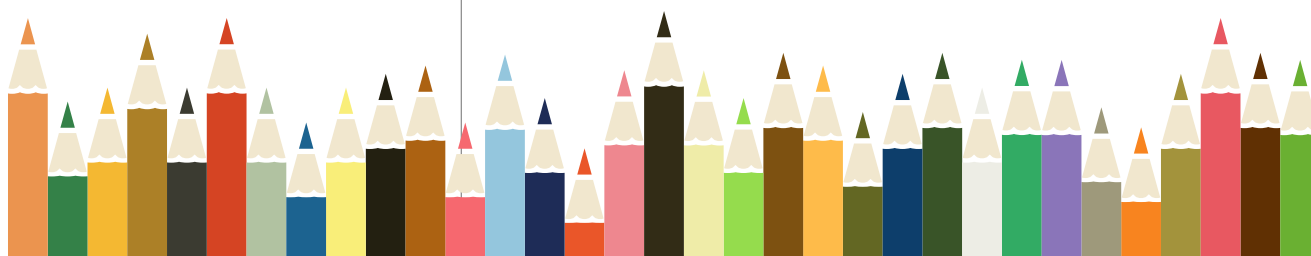
Fall Scheduling Family Survey

We are proceeding with the understanding that planning for school to re-open is not a one-time event. The final decision and approval to open for all schools in New York State will come from the Governor. This decision is expected in mid-August. We acknowledge the difficulty that the uncertainty of the current time brings and that you will have specific questions about various aspects of our planning. Our detailed reopening plan will be posted on our website beginning on July 31 and will be updated and adjusted frequently.

Our plan is built with the understanding from the State Education Department and Department of Health that students must remain socially distant (6ft apart) when in school. When accounting for our existing and newly created instructional space (more info on this to follow!) and the specific health and safety protocols needed, we are limited to having between 35-50% of our whole school capacity in our building at one time. Understanding these guidelines, and assuring that we are doing our best to keep students and staff safe, families will be allowed to choose 1 of 3 instructional schedules provided: An option that accounts for students remaining home for all virtual instruction (which we know that many families have expressed interest in) and 2 different "Blended Learning" scheduling options.

Blended learning is a combination of in-person instruction and virtual instruction. We will provide additional details around the schedule over the next few weeks but want you to know that any day that students are learning from home, we are committing to providing your student(s) with LIVE teaching in our CORE instructional content areas which include: Math, ELA, Guided Reading and Orton-Gillingham. We will be providing our LIVE virtual teaching via a special technology we have purchased called Swivl, which you can learn more about by clicking [here](#).

We ask that you make your selection no later than **August 6** by completing this survey: [Fall Schedule Survey](#). You will find more information about your scheduling options within the survey.





Family Self-Care Corner

Preparing Bridge Builders to wear masks is a major part of getting ready to go back to school. Check out these videos:

[We Wear Masks Social Story](#)

[Wear Your Mask Song for Kids.](#)

Throwback Thursday

Today we are throwing it back to Character Day when Ms. Ebanks dressed up as Princess Tiana. Did you hear? She's getting her own ride at Disney World. Splash Mountain here we come!



Virtual Family Focus Group

We value your input and feedback as we continue to plan our re-opening. Please join us on Zoom using this link: [Family Focus Group](#) on **Tuesday, July 28th** at **3-4:30pm** or **5:30-7pm**.

Welcome Mrs. Villani!

Dear Bridge Prep Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of Teaching and Learning. I come to this community with over fourteen years in education. It was not easy to move on from my previous school after spending eight successful school years as a founding staff member.

But, that all changed one day when I was walking through the mall and saw the advertisement that, at first, caught my eye as a mom looking for schools for my then Pre-K graduate. As I read about the Orton-Gillingham approach, and knowing how rare its inclusion in the core instructional program of most of our city schools, the school remained in mind throughout the year.

I followed the school on Instagram and read various news articles where I heard from you, the families, on just how much you cherish and trust Bridge Prep to educate your children. As a mom of two, that was all I had to hear to know that this place is truly special; a place that I must become a part of. I am honored and excited to start my new journey with you all and I look forward to getting to know every one of you deeply.

Enjoy your summer!

