



Hurricane Watch

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools

Fall 2020

Tradition. Pride. Excellence.



**Superintendent & CEO
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

The 2020-2021 school year has presented unprecedented challenges for our students, staff, and families due to the ongoing pandemic. Thanks to the determination, patience, and support demonstrated by our entire Hurricane Family, the Brooklyn City Schools have successfully made the necessary transitions to keep our students learning and engaged.

After beginning the year remotely on September 8th, the District made the decision to resume in-person learning on September 28th in our 4-day Hybrid Learning Format. In response to a recommendation from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBOH) and other county elected officials based on the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, all students in grades PK-12 shifted to Remote Learning beginning on November 30th through December 18th, which is the last day of classes before winter break. School will resume during the Week of January 4th, and the District will decide on the appropriate learning mode based on the county health advisory system designation and CCBOH recommendations. The District will continue to rely upon a strong partnership with our families to make the best decisions with the information available and help our students and staff to remain successful and safe.

Brooklyn Preschool Wins Bronze Award for PBIS Program from State Association

Brooklyn Preschool was recently recognized as a recipient of the 2020 Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) Bronze Recognition Award. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire Brooklyn Preschool community. More information about the Preschool's award-winning efforts can be found inside this newsletter.

New Quality Profile to be Released in Near Future

To highlight the importance of the comprehensive education offered by the Brooklyn City Schools, the District releases an annual Quality Profile as a community-oriented companion to the State's Local District Report Card. The forthcoming 2019-2020 edition will provide a detailed overview of the educational programs and initiatives provided by the District. In doing so, the district seeks to demonstrate that the educational value of public education goes beyond standardized test results. The District hopes that both parents and community members will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the high-quality education provided to every student in the Brooklyn City Schools. Look for future announcements on the District website and social media regarding the release of the 2019-2020 Quality Profile.

Enjoy the First Edition of the Hurricane Watch Newsletter!

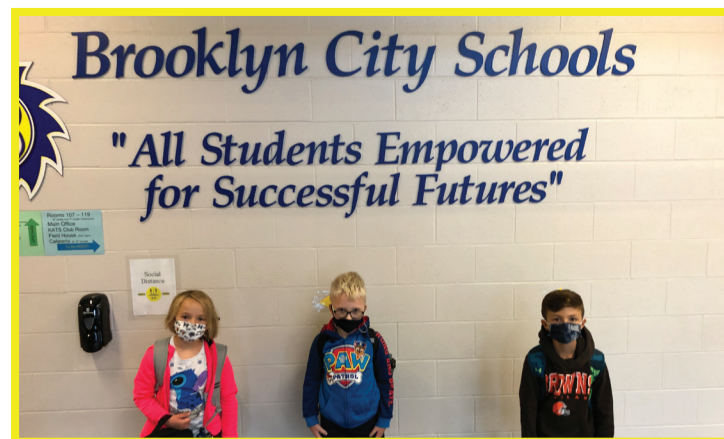
The Brooklyn City Schools is excited to share this first edition of The Hurricane Watch quarterly newsletter with the community. The new publication reflects the District's intent to keep the community posted with important updates throughout the year. Please take a few moments to learn more about a few examples of how our students are learning and achieving in a variety of creative and engaging ways. This edition of The Hurricane Watch also features an important update on the District's finances, including an introduction to the new District Interim Treasurer, Colleen Aholt. For additional information, please visit www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Brooklyn City Schools.

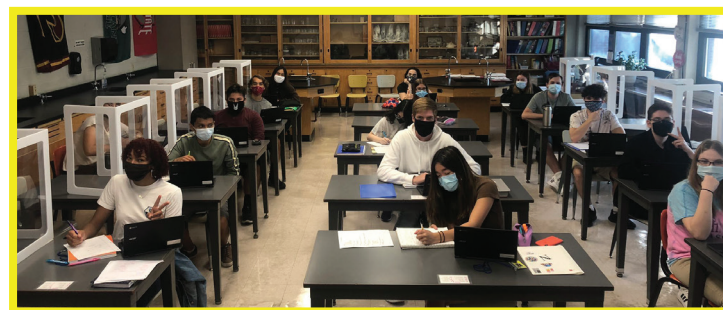
GO HURRICANES!

Dr. Theodore Caleris

Superintendent & CEO



Students had a successful return to the buildings in the Hybrid Learning Model on September 28th



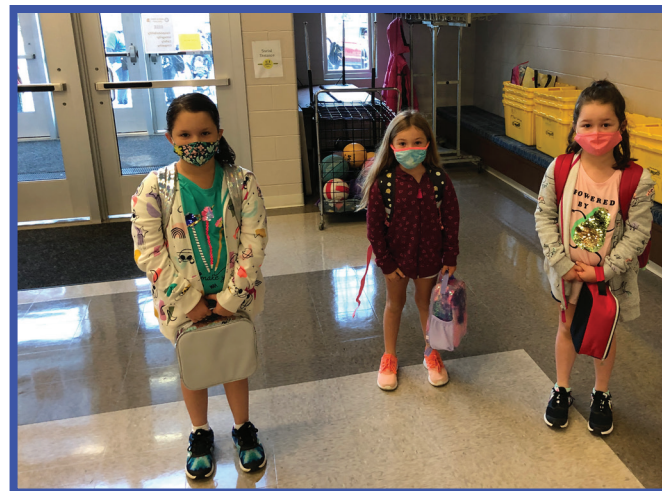
To ensure a safe return to the building, students and staff followed required health protocols such as wearing masks and maintaining social distancing





District Achieves Successful Return to In-Person Learning

After beginning the year remotely, Brooklyn teachers and staff welcomed back PK-12 students to the District for in-person learning as part of the Hybrid Model on Monday, September 28, 2020. As outlined in the District's Reopening Plan, ensuring the health and well-being of students, staff, and the community is the number one priority of the Brooklyn City Schools. All students and staff were required face coverings, maintained appropriate social distancing, and followed other important health and safety measures. In the Hybrid Format, PK-12 students receive daily in-person learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. On Wednesdays, Preschool students have no school, while PK-12 students engage in remote learning from home. Students enrolled in the remote model continue to receive instruction online. While the return to school looked different than past years, a sense of excitement and 'Hurricane Pride' was evident throughout the entire Brooklyn campus. With the shift to Remote Learning on November 30th, the district will decide on the appropriate learning model based on the county health advisory system designation and CCBOH recommendations, when school resumes on January 4th. Thank you to our families for their continued patience and understanding.



Students at all grade levels made a safe and successful transition to the 4-Day In-Person/Hybrid Learning Format



Brooklyn Preschool Wins Bronze Award for Positive Behavior Supports from State Association



To: Ted Calera, Superintendent, Brooklyn City School District

CC: Courtney Sernan

Re: 2020 Ohio PBIS Recognition Award Winner!

Congratulations from the State Support Team for Region 3 (Cuyahoga County) and the Ohio PBIS Network! Brooklyn Preschool is a recipient of the Ohio PBIS Bronze Recognition Award for 2020!

In this letter, you will also find a completed rubric designed by the Ohio PBIS Network to evaluate implementation of each Tier to which you submitted an application and binder. The SST-3 PBIS team used the binder you assembled and the rubric to guide your team's feedback for your PBIS framework.

You can pick up your binder between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio, 6300 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio on the 3rd floor reception desk any time after November 16, 2020.

The awards will be virtually recognized at the OLAC/PBIS Showcase Conference on December 15, 2020. Registration information can be found here: <https://ohioeducationpolicy.com/news-and-events/2020-act-on-forum>

Please submit a digital photograph (JPG preferred) of your PBIS team to Yvonne.Davis@escneo.org by November 11, 2020.

Regards,

Michele Gaski

Michele Gaski

Director

State Support Team 3

Kris Balazs

Kris Balazs

Consultant

State Support Team 3

Kathy Jilardi

Kathy Jilardi

Consultant

State Support Team 3

Congratulations to Brooklyn Preschool on recently being named a recipient of the Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) Bronze Recognition Award for 2020! For earning this highly coveted honor, representatives will be virtually recognized at the OLAC/PBIS Showcase Conference in December 2020 with other statewide recipients. The Ohio Department of Education annually recognizes and appreciates that many schools and districts devote a great deal of time and effort to fulfill the requirements of the PBIS Recognition System application process. Brooklyn Preschool was one of those schools that exceeded the criteria for recognition and was rewarded with a Bronze Star for their efforts. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, congratulations to the staff, students, and families of Brooklyn Preschool for earning Bronze Level Recognition!

Congratulations to the Brooklyn Preschool staff, students, and families on their award-winning efforts!



Marching Band Spreads Hurricane Pride with Community Parade

Hurricane Pride filled the streets of Brooklyn thanks to an impressive parade performance by the Brooklyn Hurricanes Marching Band and Hurricettes during the evening on Friday, October 9th. Led by the Brooklyn Police Department, the parade marched through the streets located directly north of the High School to help celebrate the start of the 2020 OHSAA Football Playoffs. Parents, students, and community members lined the route in a socially distant manner to wave as the parade moved throughout the nearby neighborhoods. Thank you to the Brooklyn community for supporting our students and congratulations to the Marching Band and Hurricettes on a fantastic performance!



The Hurricanes Marching Band and Hurricettes celebrated the start of the 2020 OHSAA Football Playoffs with a spirited community parade performance



BHS Students to Paint Community Mural in Partnership with City of Brooklyn and Sherwin-Williams

Students in the Mural Class at Brooklyn High School will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase their artistic talents and help to beautify their community by partnering with the City of Brooklyn and Sherwin-Williams to paint a mural on the wall located at the intersection of Ridge Road and Brookpark Road. The creative design process began at the start of the school year, as students were tasked with creating separate designs during remote learning. Upon return to in-person learning as part of the Hybrid Learning Format on September 28th, the class discussed and voted on key details of the forthcoming mural, including, background, color palette, font, and overall theme. Students worked in conjunction with the City of Brooklyn to arrive at a final design. Sherwin-Williams will be donating all paint to be used as well as fixing and priming the wall that will be transformed by the students' artwork. The National Art Honor Society will be extending support and helping to finalize the details of the mural. Formal work on the mural is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2021. The Brooklyn City Schools would like to thank the City of Brooklyn, Sherwin-Williams, and the National Art Honor Society for supporting this special opportunity for our students!



Final Community Mural Design Created by the BHS Mural Class



4th Graders Visit Stickney Creek



4th grade students enjoyed seasonably warm weather and a variety of hands-on activities during a recent field trip to Stickney Creek

4th grade students took advantage of the seasonably warm weather on Wednesday, October 14th with a field trip to explore Stickney Creek at Veteran's Memorial Park. The outdoor learning activity was organized by 4th grade teacher Lisa Kubinski and included four different stations aligned with grade level Science and Social Studies standards. For the Stream Monitoring station, students explored various creek features at work such as evidence of erosion, deposition, water quality, and physical characteristics, as well as pH level measurements. Students also examined the health of the natural habitat by catching and observing macroinvertebrates, which are organisms without backbones. For the Animal Habitat Hunt station, students searched for various examples of animal habitats in the area surrounding Stickney Creek.

The two remaining stations aligned with Social Studies standards, and included Cardinal Directions, where students studied and learned how to navigate using the four main compass points, and Landform Models, through which students created models of various landforms. Brooklyn's 4th graders greatly enjoyed the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning activities and explore the world around them.



Brooklyn Students Celebrate School Spirit

Brooklyn students had the opportunity to show off their school spirit and enjoy some seasonal fun in a wide variety of ways during the Week of October 26th. At Brooklyn High School, students and staff celebrated Spirit Week with a different daily theme, which included wearing an assigned grade-level color on Color Wars Monday, matching outfits with a classmate on Twin Tuesday, dressing up as their favorite celebrity for Talent Thursday, and finally, proudly wearing blue and gold on Brooklyn Spirit Friday. Students and staff alike had a blast showing off their creativity while displaying 'Hurricane Pride.' On Friday, October 30th, Brooklyn School students and staff had the opportunity to wear Halloween or fall-themed outfits. Many classrooms also celebrated with a variety of related games and activities. A big thank-you to all Brooklyn students and staff for making the first quarter celebration of 'Hurricane Pride' a success!



Students and staff across the district had a blast displaying their Hurricane Pride during Spirit Week



Brooklyn Athletic Department Holds First Ever Virtual Fall Awards Night

As a proud and safe way to recognize students who participated in the fall of 2020 sports season, the Brooklyn Athletic Department hosted its first ever Virtual Fall Awards Night on Tuesday, December 1st. The virtual presentation spotlighted the athletic and academic accomplishments by both individual students and teams. This was accomplished through a slideshow format featuring pictures and video highlights. Recorded remarks by Athletic Director Jim Verba and coaches were included as well. The first ever Virtual Fall Awards Night presentation can be viewed online at www.hurricanesathletics.com by the entire Brooklyn City Schools community.

Congratulations to all of our middle school and high school students, coaches, Marching Band and Hurricette Directors, event staff, custodial/cleaning staff, and families on an amazing season! Finally, a special thank you to Athletic Director Jim Verba, Athletic Aide Mrs. Kriausky and our Athletic and Music Booster Clubs for their continuous support. Go Hurricanes!



District Financial Update

District Welcomes New Interim Treasurer Colleen Aholt

The Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education officially named Mrs. Colleen Aholt as the District's new Interim Treasurer in June 2020. Mrs. Aholt comes to Brooklyn after having served in the position of Assistant Treasurer at Polaris Career Center for over six years. She holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business from Cleveland State University and recently renewed her treasurer's license for the next five years. Mrs. Aholt began her career in 2007 at the Ohio Auditor of State's office where she was responsible for preparing various financial reports for local school districts, cities, and counties. As District Treasurer, Mrs. Aholt is responsible for overseeing all fiscal operations of the school district, including preparation of annual financial budgets, forecasts and reports, payroll, accounting, and management of District inventory.

Mrs. Aholt greatly appreciates the community of the Brooklyn City Schools and seeks to demonstrate fiscal responsibility through thoughtful and consistent oversight of budget development. The Brooklyn City Schools proudly welcomes new District Interim Treasurer Colleen Aholt to the Hurricane Family!



**New District Treasurer
Colleen Aholt**

Brooklyn City Schools Remain Financially Stable Despite Financial Challenges Related to COVID-19

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant financial challenges for both public and private entities across Ohio and the nation, including the Brooklyn City Schools. In Fiscal Year 2020, the State of Ohio cut approximately \$216,174 from the District's Foundation payments. The District received approximately \$994,439.33 in various grant monies in Fiscal Year 2020 to supplement state and local funds expended for educational purposes. The Brooklyn City Schools also received \$460,100 in COVID-19 related funds in Fiscal Year 2021 for providing coordination of preparedness and response efforts, training, and professional development of staff, planning and coordinating during the long-term closure, and purchasing technology for students. In spite of the aforementioned challenges, the District remains financially stable and has a positive five-year financial forecast. The District is extremely grateful for the continued support of the Brooklyn community, including the passage of new operating funds in May 2019 and two renewal levies in November 2019 and April 2020, respectively. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, THANK YOU!

