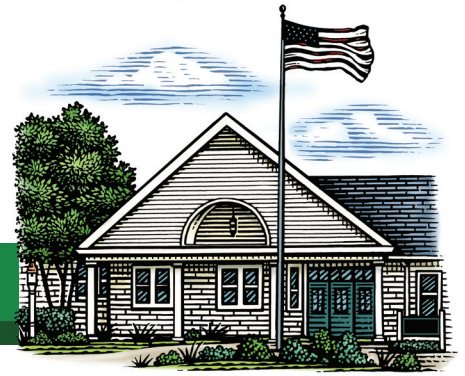


Bannockburn Bulletin

BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT 106

FALL 2018



A Natural Setting for a Classroom



Students complete school work in the courtyard under the fall sun.

Bannockburn School recently expanded the number of classrooms available for students without a building addition. Instead, the courtyard has been upgraded by adding seating areas and landscaping so that teachers can utilize the space for student lessons.

According to a recently published article from researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, students can actually pay better attention in class after being a part of an outdoor lesson. With that in mind, Bannockburn teachers are utilizing the courtyard for silent reading, writing, history simulations, group projects, performances of Shakespeare and art projects. The space also is used for sci-

ence projects as organic garden beds have been planted to allow students to study plant growth and insects. In addition, students also use the space to eat lunch.

The courtyard provides a larger space that is calming and more quiet for learning.

Teachers indicate that when the weather is favorable, the courtyard provides a larger space that is calming and

more quiet for learning. The courtyard has been described as a great learning space that can allow choice for students to work either inside or outside. For art classes, the space creates a relaxing learning environment where students can spread out and enjoy the fresh air while creating works of art.

"The upgrades to the courtyard provide an educational space with a wide variety of potential uses by our teachers in order to better reach our students," Principal Debbie Barnes says.



Students work on laptops in the courtyard.

Bannockburn Welcomes New Staff Focused on Student Success

Bannockburn School District welcomed seven new staff members this school year and each educator is focused on meeting the needs of students through varied and diverse approaches depending upon their role within the school system.

Chelsea Conzelman

First Grade Teacher

Despite being early in her career, Ms. Conzelman has experience at Bannockburn. She previously completed her student teaching at the school and then continued to teach in that same third-grade class to cover a long-term maternity leave. She also has experience as a pre-school teacher and substitute teacher.

Ms. Conzelman shares that her class is one where it is ok to make mistakes as part of the learning journey. She wants first grade to be a positive classroom environment where students feel loved and respected. She believes students would be most surprised to learn that she went skydiving for her birthday a few years ago.

Danielle Day

Physical Education Assistant

Ms. Day brings experience as a school counselor and coach to her position and shares that her favorite thing about Bannockburn School is truly being able to connect with all the students. "The staff are talented and committed to creating a mindful, eclectic and fun educational environment for students."

She wants the students to feel the energy in the physical education class



There are seven new staff members at Bannockburn District 106. Front row, left to right: Physical Education Assistant Danielle Day, Learning Behavior Specialist Sara Frank, Speech Pathologist Sarah Spigelman, First-Grade Teacher Chelsea Conzelman. Back Row: Director of Student Services Adam Mihelbergel, Director of Business Services Lisa Pease, Middle School Math Teacher Ian Taylor.

and know that she is always willing to jump into the games and activities with them during class. Ms. Day says students would be most surprised to know that she just moved here from Cleveland.

Sara Frank

Learning Behavior Specialist

Mrs. Frank brings 16 years of teaching experience to Bannockburn and plans to make a positive impact on the school while being a part of a team of educators focused on student success.

She instills a growth mindset on learning. "I want students to work hard and learn a lot in a setting where students know it is ok to make mistakes, because mistakes help our brains grow."

Mrs. Frank thinks students would be surprised to know that she is the moth-

er of two little boys that keep her extremely busy.

Adam Mihelbergel

Director of Student Services

Mr. Mihelbergel has been in education for 13 years and says he feels extremely fortunate to work with the students, staff and families at Bannockburn School. He has been impressed with the teaching and learning he has already seen in the classrooms.

In his role, he wants students to view him as fun, fair and consistent. Mr. Mihelbergel believes that the students would be most surprised to know that he played college football as a 235-pound middle linebacker and that he wakes up every morning at 5:45 a.m. to exercise.

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Bannockburn School Earns No. 1 Ranking from *Chicago Magazine*

Bannockburn School was named the top school in Lake County by *Chicago Magazine* in its annual rankings of schools across the Chicagoland area.

The magazine wrote that in order to rank the schools, it utilized the latest performance data for more than 2,000 elementary, middle and high schools in the city and suburbs from 2017. "The top finishers are some of the most innovative and academically rigorous places you'll find anywhere," the magazine wrote.

One of the reasons the magazine ranked Bannockburn as the top elementary or middle school school in Lake County was that in 2017, 100 percent of the students at Bannockburn

School passed Algebra 1, compared with just 30 percent in the county.

"It is a credit to our students, teachers, staff and families that Bannockburn School earned this prestigious honor," Superintendent Scott Herrmann says. "While test scores and academic rankings are just a small part of the full educational experience for our students, the honor is one we believe reflects the quality approach we have to reaching each and every student socially, emotionally and academically."

In addition to the *Chicago Magazine* ranking, Bannockburn School was recently informed it had earned an A+ ranking from Niche.com, ranking it among the best in the state.



According to the website, the 2019 Best School Districts ranking is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores and public school district ratings.

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Sarah Spigelman

Speech Pathologist

Ms. Spigelman has been working as a speech-language pathologist for the last two years since she finished graduate school. She also taught English abroad for two years.

"I am also proud to be involved in providing professional development training around the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) through the North Shore Special Education District (NSSD) as a member of their Integrated Technology Support Team," she says.

Ms. Spigelman says the biggest surprise for students would be to find out that she lived in Japan for two years and recently started taking Japanese classes to keep up with the language.

Lisa Pease

Director of Business Services

Mrs. Pease has more than 30 years finance experience with 21 of those working in school districts. She previously served as Business Services Director with Rondout School District 72.

She indicates that she most appreciates the friendliness of the staff. Mrs. Pease looks forward to building strong relationships with the staff and community in her administrative role.

Ian Taylor

Middle School Math Teacher

Mr. Taylor has three years experience teaching 7th and 8th grade math while in Oak Park District 97. He enjoys the smaller class sizes in Bannockburn that allow him to get to know all of his students on an individual basis.

He shares that students might be surprised to learn that he is equally into sports and music.

Mr. Taylor shares that he has high expectations for students and supports them to reach those expectations.



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Get Social with Bannockburn School

Want to keep up with the latest day-to-day news from Bannockburn School? Follow the school on Facebook and Twitter.

Followers will see the latest news and information that includes videos and stories. You can connect with the school by going to the district website at bannockburnschool.org and scroll down to the "Connect with Us" section where all social media links can be found. On Facebook, search for Bannockburn School District 106. The school's Twitter

handle is @Bannockburn106. The school YouTube channel is accessible from the district's website.

In addition, many of the teachers post information on their own social media channels. The website includes a listing of all the teachers who post information on social media about their classrooms. Teachers and the school typically use the hashtag #bsd106 to make it easy for parents and community to see the latest information from inside Bannockburn classrooms.



ON THE WEB:

bannockburnschool.org



ON FACEBOOK, SEARCH FOR:

Bannockburn School District 106



ON TWITTER:

@Bannockburn106

Bannockburn Bulletin Earns Statewide Honors

The *Bannockburn Bulletin* recently was named one of the best school newsletters in the state by the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association. Each year the organization judges school communications in many categories and honors the best in the state.

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Visit the Bannockburn School District 106 website at bannockburnschool.org to keep up with the latest updates and access the most recent information about the school district.