

Barre City Elementary & Middle School Newsletter

September 3, 2024

Message from Mrs. Waterhouse

We were so happy to see so many of our families at Meet and Greet. The enthusiasm for the start of a new year was fantastic and we look forward to seeing our families at a variety of events this year. Thank you to all of our families for helping prepare our students for that first day!

Our first few days of school have been fantastic! We appreciate everyone's patience with the parent pickup/drop off line and bus matters, as everyone learns slightly different routines. Each day we know it will get better (and it has) and we anticipate things working more smoothly with each day. Just a reminder that our students should not arrive before 8:45 AM. Everyone's support will keep our students safe, as we do not have supervision or care available before that time.

For those using our buses, please see the attached bus routes and schedule to determine the best time to be at the bus stops.

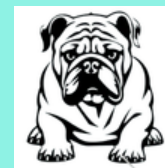
The weather is highly unpredictable and the building can be uncomfortably warm, even if the outside air temperature is comfortable. We encourage students to dress in **layers** and have **water bottles** (please put your child's name on their water bottle). Hydration is incredibly important for learning and managing the effects of heat.

We want to share our Student and Parent Handbook with families. This is also available on our website. Hard copies are available at the office or can be requested by contacting our office at (802)476-6541. The handbook contains a lot of information, so please do not hesitate to reach out to administration, school counselors and/or teachers if you have any questions.

Mark your calendar:

- Wednesday, **September 18** is **Picture Day!** More information will be sent out soon.
- Thursday, **September 19** is **Open House** from 4:30 - 6 PM. We will also have a **Family Event** from 6 - 7 PM...this month's topic is **seatbelt and car seat safety**. Please join us in the cafeteria. We will have door prizes.

With the start of the school year, questions may arise as you navigate new staff and grade levels. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s), school counselor and/or administrator. Our school counselors are: Martha Blaisdell (K-2), Emily Zorichak (3-4), Hannah Keenan (5-6) and Hannah Bedell (7-8). The Assistant Principals are Melissa Greenwood (PreK-4) and Jen Bisson (5-8). We are all here to support students and families, so do not hesitate to reach out. Please also feel free to contact me with questions at any time at bwatebce@buusd.org.



Brenda Waterhouse

Budget Information

BCEMS and the Barre Union Unified School District is trying to provide our community with the updated budget information in preparation for the **budget vote on September 17**.

Information is available on the district website. We want our community members to have the information available to them that will answer their questions. Please reach out to the superintendent, board members or myself, if you need any assistance finding the information you are seeking.

Genuine Foods - Our New Food Service

We are happy to announce our new food service provider, Genuine Foods. The goal of our new provider is to provide more scratch cooking and a wider variety of healthy meals for our students. All students have access to free breakfast and lunch. To see more about our food service provider, please see our [website](#) and to see the menu options specifically, please see the [Menus](#).

Many features are available, including Allergens, Dietary Preferences, and preferred language. To learn more about the features, a tutorial is available.

PTO

We are in the process of planning *Walk, Run, Fun* - an activity that has been on hiatus for the last couple of years. This amazing activity was a great community builder and support for our students. We are needing volunteers for this and future events, and would love to increase our parent engagement and voice to the planning of events.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, September 3 at 6 PM** in the cafeteria. If interested in joining PTO or helping with one or more events, please contact ptobce@busd.org or come to a meeting to learn more!

BCEMS PTO Amazon Wishlist: Many have asked how they can help, so our PTO has created a Wishlist to make it easy! We will be updating as we need to. Thank you for all the continued support! We couldn't support our students and staff without our community!

Please view our [PTO newsletter](#)!

Performing Arts Highlight

Students in grades 5-8 met with Mrs. Cechak, our middle school music director, to discuss the opportunity to join the middle school chorus, concert band, and the brand new 7th and 8th-grade modern band. If your student is interested in singing and/or playing instruments, they are welcome to participate with any or all of our performing groups! No previous experience is required for your student to participate.

Students who participate in our vocal music group will be singing unison and two-part songs. Our students who participate in the instrumental music group will be learning to play notes and rhythms on the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion instruments. In our new 7th and 8th-grade modern-day program, students can learn instruments such as guitar, ukulele, keyboard, vocals, horns, bass guitar, drum kit, and music production skills.

Students have the option to borrow school-owned instruments by having families complete our "Instrument Take Home Agreement," in which families agree to treat the provided equipment in a kind, safe, and responsible manner. There is also the option to have your student "rent" an instrument from local musical instrument vendors which can be delivered directly to the school. All ensembles or groups practice and rehearse during the school day, as well as reinforcing those skills through at-home practice. Students will present their hard work at annual public performances throughout the school year. If you have any questions regarding middle school music performance opportunities feel free to contact Mrs. Cechak at acehbce@busd.org.