



BENJAMIN TURNER ACADEMY



PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK



“Benjamin Turner Bulldogs are FOCUS’d on Success by being
Friendly, Organized, Curious, United, and Safe!”

2025-2026

Dr. Colleen Seivright-Crawford, Principal
Raissa Languaine, Assistant Principal
Kenneth Poka, SPED Supervisor

624 S 3rd Ave. Mount Vernon, NY 10550

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September 2025

Letter from the Principal

Greetings!

My name is Colleen Seivright-Crawford, and I was recently appointed as the Principal of Benjamin Turner Academy. It is truly a pleasure and honor to become a member of this great school community. I am equally excited at the opportunity to serve as your principal.

Before coming to BTA, my professional educational career began with New York City's Department of Education. I held the positions as First Grade, Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade Teacher, Math Coach, and Literacy Specialist. Upon my arrival at the Mount Vernon City School District, I served as the Reading Specialist at A.B. Davis Middle School (Steam Academy) and as an Assistant Principal on the high school and elementary levels. Through these opportunities, I have learned to hone my instructional skills while working collaboratively with school/community stakeholders.

As we approach the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, I look forward to the educational journey that we will take. As we get to know each other, you will see that my focus is simple and clear-to create an academic environment that supports exceptional teaching and learning.

Yours in education,

Dr. Colleen Crawford

Mission Statement

We at Benjamin Turner Academy will provide a positive environment to ensure that all students are achieving excellence through academic rigor. We foster relationships between parents and all members of the community to build our students' character.

Our mission is to help students develop into productive citizens who can compete globally.

Vision Statement

Our school supports and nurtures our scholars in discovering their best selves.

Benjamin Turner Bulldogs are **FOCUS**'ed on Success!

F-Friendly: Be kind to everyone

O-Organized: Keep your things in order

C-Curious: Ask questions and learn new things

U- United: Work together as a team

S- Safe: Make choices that keep everyone safe

School-wide Goals 2025-2026



Overall Goal: to increase student performance by 10%

1. Deliberate lesson planning aligned to student data.
2. Provide timely feedback to students via rubrics and conferencing.
3. Creation and delivery of engaging workshop series and school events.
4. Continuation of PBIS implementation with all staff and stakeholders.



2025-2026 NYS Testing Dates

2025–26 School Year Elementary- and Intermediate-level Testing Schedule

Operational Test	Administration Window	Make-up Dates	Scoring Dates	Final Dates to Submit Answer Sheets to Scanning Centers
NYSAA English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science	Monday, March 9– Friday, June 5	Make-ups must be given within the testing window	N/A	N/A
Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Grades 3–8 mathematics Grades 5 & 8 science	Monday, April 6– Friday, May 15	Make-ups must be given within the testing window	Completed by Friday, May 22	N/A
NYSESLAT Speaking	Monday, April 6– Friday, May, 22	Make-ups must be given within the testing window	Speaking is usually scored as it is administered.	TBD
NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing	Monday, May 4– Friday, May 22	Make-ups must be given within the testing window	TBD	TBD

Marking Periods 2025-2026

	Marking Period Begins	Interim Progress Reports	Marking Period Ends
MP 1	September 2, 2025	October 3, 2025	November 7, 2025
MP 2	November 10, 2025	December 12, 2025	January 30, 2026
MP 3	February 2, 2026	March 13, 2026	April 24, 2026
MP 4	April 27, 2026	May 29, 2026	June 26, 2026

Report Cards and Progress Reports:

Report cards and five-week reports are issued four times a year. Individual Parent/Teacher Conferences can be scheduled by parents or the teacher.





Parent-Teacher Association

"Nothing you do for your children is ever wasted."

Benjamin Turner Academy PTA provides vital support to all students and staff. PTA members volunteer in the school, raise funds for essential and extracurricular programs, and co-sponsor school and family events.

PTA meetings are held once a month at 6:00 pm via Zoom or in person.

PTA Officers 2025-2026

President:	TBD
Vice-President:	TBD
Treasurer/Teacher Liaison:	TBD
Secretary:	TBD

**The PTA of BTA invites all staff to become members.
For further information, contact:**



Upcoming Events:

Back to School Night Meet & Greet
September 18th, 2025, 5:00-7:00 pm

Dad's Bring Your Child to School Day
September 19th, 2025, 8:00 am- 9:00 am



Parent Involvement Day
TBD



Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on TBD



At BTA, parent/guardian involvement is very important to us. Please feel free to stop by the main office to sign up to be a “Parent Volunteer”. Assistance is always needed in the following areas:

Cafeteria	Field Day
Playground	Office Support
Concert Nights	School/PTA

We encourage parents/guardians to volunteer.

We believe at Benjamin Turner Academy that all parents/guardians and families want the best for their children.

Research shows that children do best when parents/guardians take an active role in their children’s learning. These include four key roles:

- ***Teacher** - Helping children at home.
- ***Supporter**- Contributing their skills to the school.
- ***Advocate** - Helping children receive fair treatment.
- ***Decision-maker** - Participating in joint problem-solving with the school at every level.

We recognize parents/guardians are full partners with educators and administrators to achieve the best possible learning experience for each child. A strong program of communication between home and school must be encouraged, continually evaluated, and maintained so the school and community are connected in meaningful and productive ways.



Homework Expectations:

- Independent reading daily (7 days) a week
- **K-2nd: 15- 20 minutes, 3rd-4th: 30-35 minutes, 5th-6th: 40-45 minutes.**
- Independent practice of previously mastered skills

Homework is a term applied by teachers to assist students with practicing skills/ concepts taught during the instructional day. Rather than set rigid time frames for homework at each grade, teachers will differentiate homework assignments to match students' ability levels and pacing. The goal is to make students successful as independent workers. Homework should be completed at home, and all questions related to homework should be addressed to the classroom teacher.

Parents/guardians and/or students are responsible for getting all missed assignments when students are absent.

Lastly, parents/guardians are expected to thoroughly check all homework before students turn in assignments.

At the top of the page, the "School Heading" should be written on all homework.

Assignments may be in various forms according to the nature of the subject area, the age, and grade of the child.

Homework should be meaningful to the child and should be corrected daily. It should be incrementally more challenging as students progress through the grades.

Parents/Guardians should oversee the child's homework. A special place and time should be set aside where the homework is completed.

Parents/Guardians may assist the child in the completion of the assignment and should review completed work. In addition, parents/guardians should sign all information sent to them from the teacher, which may include homework, tests, quizzes, and other communications.

Benjamin Turner Academy



Numbers To Know . . .

 School	914-665-5150
 Principal.....	ex. 2703
 Assistant Principal.....	ex. 2896
 Administrative Assistant.....	ex. 2701
 Nurse.....	ex. 7555
 Social Worker.....	ex. 5388/6976
 Psychologist.....	ex. 5558
 Speech Clinician.....	ex. 2488
 School Safety.....	ex.
 Food Services.....	ex.
 District Website	www.mtvernoncsd.org

Benjamin Turner Academy

Tentative Staff Assignments 2025-2026

Administration	Room Number	Extension
Dr. Colleen Seivright-Crawford, Principal	310	2703
Raisa Languigne, Assistant Principal	Main Office	2896
Gabby Fariello, Principal Secretary	320	2701
Lawonda Anderson, AP Secretary	Main Office	5217
Nurse		
Lori Blake	Nurse Office	7555
SPED Supervisor		
Kenneth Poka	320 (1)	5822
Attendance Teacher		
Lynise Blake		2364
Support Staff		
Evelyn Padilla-School Counselor	320 (4)	2796
Josephine Kirkland-Hudson-Social Worker	112	5388
Corane Farquharson-Social Worker	402	6976
Bianca Sorrells-School Psychologist	320 (2)	5558
Leandra Furchi- Speech	202	
Gabrielle Gilpin-Speech	216	2488
Courtney Sturm-Speech	320 (5)	
Emily Donleavy-Speech	316	713316
Jessica Pizzini- Resource	110	714601
Westchester Family Services	320 (3)	
Reading Specialists		
Maria Falco	203A	713203
Jayme Bollati	203B	
Vincenza Naclerio	415	713216
Math AIS		
Jeanne Casino	210	
ENL (English as a New Language)		
Luisa Marin	303A	713303
Michael Allen	303B	
Tech Link		
Muhammad Khan	Main Office	
Encore		
Joseph Ferretti (PE)	Gym	5143
Kristine DeRosa (APE)	Gym	5143
John Ciccone (PE/Health)	Gym	5143
Omar Lammie (Media)	Media Center	713100

John Maggart (ART)	212	713212
Stephen Coyne (Music)	Band Room	
Department/Grade	Class	Room Number
Kindergarten		
Nicole Giustino	KG	207
Grade 1		
Julianne Metz	1M	205
Pamela Orlovitz (8:1:2)	1O	213
Grade 2		
Doreen Furlong	2F	208
Kadeen Jarrett (8:1:2)	2J	206
Katherine Hambel (8:1:2)	2H	204
Grade 3		
Sarah Hershonov 3/4 (8:1:2)	3H	306
Susan Thornton-Smith	3T	304
Tonia Edmonds	3E	305
Grade 4		
Miguel Lugo	4L	315
Melissa Sansotta (8:1:2)	4S	312
Grade 5		
Nicole White	5W	313
Tashina Haywood	5H	314
Marbea Allamby (8:1:2) 5/6 Graded	5/6A	307
Grade 6		
Melissa Gleason	6G	411
Kimberly Wilson	6W	414
Danielle Ramirez (8:1:2) 5/6 Ungraded	6R	215
Grade 7		
Marybeth Szlos (French)	7-1	413
Andrea Walters (Math)	7-2	406
Shawnette Odindo (8:1:2) Ungraded	7-3	408
Kerry Macentee (ELA)		404
Diane Austin (Social Studies)		405
Nadine Jefferson (Science)		407

Ahret Ishan (ELA)		
John Ciccone (Health)		GYM
D'Wayne Miller (CFM)		405
Grade 8		
Kerry Macentee (ELA)	8-1	404
Diane Austin (Social Studies)	8-2	405
Nadine Jefferson (Science/Biology)		407
Marissa Wiley (12:1:2)	8-3	403A
Leah Watson	8-5	403B
Yasmin Harden-White (15:1:1)	8-4	412
Andrea Walters (Math/Algebra)		406
Ahret Ishan (ELA)		
Marybeth Szlos (French)		413
D'Wayne Miller (CFM)		406/404
Teaching Assistants	Class	Room
Asse, Anthonide	4S	312
Bannister, Ebony S	8-3	403A
Marshelle Blagman	7-3	408
Brown, Lauren O	5/6A	307
Cabrera-Lima, Deysi	3/4H	306
Cameron, Janette	3E	305
Campbell, Melvin	4S	312
Colace, Donna	2J	206
Duncan, Nazarene	8-4	412
Fitzroy Richards	10	213
Henry, Monica E	10	213
Hilton, Magdalene U	5/6A	307
Hilton, Magdalene U	5/6A	307
Howell, Natasha N	10	213
Hoyt, Lalisha M	8-4	403B
Hunter, Charlene	2J	206
Johnson, Robin	3/4H	306
Lovitt, Deja S	2H	204
Lowe, Jazmen	7-3	408
Manigault, Charissa	8-4 (½ Day)	412
Marsh, Chevon	2H	204
McIntosh, Anntonnette T	8-3	403A
McKenzie, Claudette M	3/4H	306
Moroni, Laurie A	2J	206
Richards, Fay	5/6R	215

Rose, Rhonda L	4S	312
Scipio, Tenefer C	5/6A	307
Scott, Nicole D	2H	204
Shipman, Terri	1O	213
Stanley, Adrienne T	5/6R	216
Welsh, Natalie T	2H	204
Rose, Rhonda L	4S	312
Scipio, Tenefer C	5/6A	307
Scott, Nicole D	2H	204
Shipman, Terri	1O	213
Stanley, Adrienne T	5/6R	216
Welsh, Natalie T	2H	204
Custodial Staff		
O'Neil Johnson	Head Custodian	
Patricia Little	Custodian	
Felicia Bent	Cleaner	
Dwight Hyatt	Cleaner	
Michael Ross	Cleaner	
Joseph Smoak	Cleaner	
School Safety		
Sharon Lewis		
Rodney Fowler		
Eustace Harrigan		
Jahmar McKenzie		
Shaquana Washington		
Lunch Monitor	Hours	
Joan Dunlap	10:00-2:00	
Velma Greene	7:30-2:00	
Kerone Hibbert	7:30-2:00	
Shantale Hughes	7:30-2:00	
Cynthia Smallwood	7:30-2:00	
Annette Dixon	7:30-2:00	
Sharde Williams	10:00-2:00	

Grades K-6th /Cohort Daily Schedule

2025-2026

Breakfast in the Classroom/ Morning Meetings	8:30 - 8:50 am
Period 1	8:50-9:20 am
Period 2	9:20-9:52 am
Period 3	9:54-10:24 am
Period 4	10:26-10:56 am
Period 5	11:00-11:30 am
Period 6	11:32-12:00 pm
Period 7	12:04-12:34 pm
Period 8	12:36-1:06 pm
Period 9	1:08-1:38 pm
Period 10	1:40-2:10 pm
Period 11	2:12-2:42 pm
Reflection	2:44-3:00 pm
Dismissal	3:00 pm

Grades 7th & 8th Daily Schedule

2025-2026

Homeroom	8:15-8:25 am
Period 1	8:26-9:08 am
Period 2	9:10-9:52 am
Period 3	9:54-10:36 am
Period 4	10:38-11:20 am
Period 5	11:22-12:04 pm
Period 6	12:06-12:48 pm
Period 7	12:50-1:32 pm
Period 8	1:34-2:16 pm
Period 9	2:18-3:00 pm
Dismissal	3:00 pm

BTA School Lunch Schedule 2025-2026

The lunch hours for the 2025-2026 school year are from 11:00 am to 1:32 pm. Listed below are the schedules for all grade levels in the building.

Time	Grade
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Kindergarten-3 rd
12:04 pm-1:04 pm	4 th -6 th
12:50 pm -1:32 pm	7 th & 8 th



Things to Know

Student Responsibilities/ Code of Conduct:

It is every student's responsibility, with the assistance of their parent(s)/guardian(s), to arrive at school on time. Listed below are several key items to remember regarding your child at BTA School:

- ✓ **Be Punctual.**
 - Elementary students (K-6) should arrive by 8:20 and are picked up by their teachers at 8:30 AM.
 - Secondary students (7th – 8th) should arrive by 8:00 AM and be in their respective homerooms by 8:15 AM.
- ✓ **Be Prepared.**
 - Bring all the materials that you need for your school day (paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, etc.)
- ✓ **Be Attentive.**
 - Follow the instructions of the staff the first time they are given.
 - Maintain a calm body
 - Look at the speaker
 - Participate in classes by asking and answering questions and sharing ideas.
- ✓ **Be Courteous.**
 - Show consideration to other students and staff.
- ✓ **Be Respectful.**
 - Respect goes two ways: we give and receive respect.
- ✓ **Be Proud.**
 - Our school is special, and so are you.
 - Take pride in every part of the building's appearance. (Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay for damages.)
- ✓ **Be Neat.**
 - Wear appropriate school attire.
 - Please Read the Districts Code of Conduct and Dress Code.

- ✓ **Be Yourself.**
 - Every student is important to our school.
- ✓ **At BTA, we follow the F.O.C.U.S. model:**
 - We are **F**riendly, **O**rganized, **C**urious, **U**nited, and **S**afe!
- ✓ **Use appropriate language at all times.**
 - Fighting is forbidden and will not be tolerated.
 - Allow adults to help you with disputes.
 - Students' hands belong to themselves at all times. Students do not have the right to put their hands on someone because they are angry.
 - Always seek assistance from an adult if there is a conflict.
- ✓ **We follow the PBIS model.**
 - PBIS is a proactive system in which all members of the learning community work towards universal expectations to achieve positive, academic, social, and emotional success.

Consequences/Code of Conduct:

We do not expect/anticipate inappropriate behavior at Benjamin Turner Academy. However, if inappropriate behavior should arise, the consequences will include:

- ✓ Student Conference
- ✓ Contacting the parents/guardians (written and/or by telephone)
- ✓ Parent/Guardian conference
- ✓ School Suspension

Please note that parents/Guardians may be required to attend a mandatory Parent Workshop before your child is readmitted from an Out of out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the Superintendent.



Please read the 'District Code of Conduct' For More Information
Regarding Student Discipline/ Student Consequences.
MVCSD.ORG

Breakfast:

Breakfast is from 8:20 to 8:45 AM.

Students are expected to clean up after themselves after eating breakfast.

Classroom Morning Meetings:

During the 2025-2026 school year, BTA staff members and students will engage in Morning Meetings beginning promptly at 8:50 am as follows:

Students in grades K–6 have been introduced to the daily concept of “classroom meetings.” These meetings take place in the morning before the start of the instructional day.

During each “classroom meeting,” three essential questions are asked of each student:

- What is your goal for today?
- How are you going to achieve your goal?
- Who can you go to for help with achieving your goal?

The “classroom meeting” is in line with the school-wide **PBIS** program. If you would like more information about the “classroom meeting,” please speak to your child’s teacher or administration.

Student Dismissal Procedures:

Students may **NOT** be *regularly* picked up before **3:00 PM**.

Early departures interrupt instruction and homework preparation.

School ends at 3:00 PM for grades K-8.

Parents/guardians should inform classroom teachers at the beginning of the school year about how student pick-up will be handled. (i.e., babysitter picks up student, student goes home by herself, etc.) and update any changes throughout the school year.

Late Pick-Ups:

Students are not allowed to wait outside the building to be picked up for any length of time.

All students who are not picked up at dismissal time will remain in the late pick-up room until 4:00 PM.

If you know you will be late picking up your child, please contact the school at **914-665-5150**.

Early Pick-up:

All individuals picking up students ***MUST*** be documented on the “**Emergency Contact Form.**” Photo identification is required to sign out any student.

Emergency Forms/ Family Custody Orders:

Please make sure that an updated emergency card is on file in the main office for your child with the numbers of every possible emergency contact person.

Also, if there are family custody orders from the family court in place, please make sure that the main office has a copy. This is very important because if we are not aware of custody issues/ concerns related to your family/child, a delay in child pick up or school information may occur.

Contacting Staff:

Parents/guardians will be able to call the main office number and leave a message for a staff member.

Teachers will not be interrupted during the instructional day.

You may contact a staff member via email or by sending a note with your child.

To contact a staff member via e-mail, please note that the staff member’s e-mail address contains the staff member’s first initial and last name, followed by mtvernoncsd.org.

Example: gfariello@mtvernoncsd.org

Meetings with staff are by appointment only. Please call 914-665-5150 or email a staff member if you would like to schedule an appointment to discuss your child’s progress. You can also reach us via email.

Cellular Phones:

The use of cellular phones by students during daily instruction is prohibited. Cell phones that are on and/or being used during the day will be confiscated by faculty and staff.

***All 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade students are required to turn in their cell phones for storage upon arriving at school in the morning daily.** Cell Phones will be signed in, locked, and stored in the cell phone locker located in the office next to the security desk.

*6th, 7th, and 8th-grade Students may pick up their cell phones once they are dismissed at 3:00 pm from security.

*6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students who do not have a cell phone must sign a NO CELL PHONE Agreement Contact daily (see below):

I acknowledge that I did not bring a cell phone or electronic device into the school building.

• If I am caught with one, it will be confiscated by security and returned to my parent/guardian.

• If there are multiple offences, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's code of conduct.

Please note: The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cellular phones. The school will not take the responsibility of locating or replacing cell phones.

Telephone Use:

Students may only use the school phone with the permission of the teacher or administration. Teachers will use their discretion when allowing students to make calls.

Policies for Visitors:

For safety reasons, visitors are not allowed to go to any room other than the main office upon arrival. Once a pass from the main office has been issued, visitors will be allowed to proceed. Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit their child's classroom as long as you do not use that time to conference with teachers.

Entering Classrooms:

In the morning, students must remain in their designated area until they are picked up by their classroom teacher unless other arrangements have been made by the classroom teacher. Students will be greeted by their teachers at 8:30 AM.

Attendance



Student Absence:

Parents/guardians should alert the school if their child will be absent. If students are absent, they must bring a note from home when they return to school. The note must be signed by a parent/guardian with the date and reason for absence. The student is responsible for making up missed work. The same type of note is also needed if a student is late for school.

Student Lateness: (Elementary)

To maximize instructional time, students must be at school by 8:30 AM. Any student who is not **in their classroom** at 8:50 AM will be marked late.

Student Lateness: (7th & 8th Grade)

To maximize instructional time, seventh-grade students must be at school by 8:00 AM. Any student who is not in their classroom at 8:15 AM will be marked late.

Parents/guardians should alert the school if their child will be late. If students are late, they must bring a note from home. The note must be signed by a parent/guardian with the date and reason for lateness. **The student is responsible for making up all missed work.**

Lost and Found:

If you believe your child has lost an article of clothing at school, please come in to check for it as soon as possible.



Please seek assistance from school personnel when trying to retrieve lost items.

Field Trips:

Students will be taking field trips this year. In order to be able to attend trips, students must demonstrate **BTA F.O.C.U.S.** behavior at all times and follow all school-wide expectations and policies.



If we feel that your child will be a safety risk for himself/ herself, your child may not be allowed to attend. A conference with the school administration and your child's teacher will be set up to discuss the matter before the trip.

Written, signed (by parent/guardian) permission slips are needed for all field trips.

School Closings and Delays:

Benjamin Turner Academy will follow all Mount Vernon School District decisions on school closings and delays unless otherwise notified. Please monitor local media outlets for school closings/delays. Lastly, please **make sure that we have a current/ updated telephone number for district-wide telephone alerts.**

In addition to providing, you with the Mount Vernon School District's yearly school calendar, reminders will be sent home when the upcoming days for students are nearing.

Dress Code:

- Headgear should be worn outside of the building. Upon entering the building, all headgear should be removed.
- Electronic devices such as iPods, iPhones, and all other electronic devices that play music should not be used within school. This also includes the use of headphones with these devices.
- All other questions/ concerns regarding dress code, please refer to our school handbook or the MVCSD Code of Conduct.

Personal Items:

Games, musical devices, video games, cameras, and cellular phones are distractions in a learning environment and should not be brought to school.

The school will not be responsible if these items are lost or stolen.

Books:

Textbooks and library books should be kept in good condition. Library books should be returned when completed or due. Students who do not return their books will not receive their report cards. Parents/guardians will receive a bill for any lost and/or damaged textbooks. Sixth-grade students will not be able to participate in any promotional activities if all the books are not returned.

****PLEASE SEE MVCSD WEBSITE REGARDING THE DISTRICT TEXTBOOK POLICY****

Fire Drills:

When the alarm sounds, students are to follow the instructions of the teacher, faculty, and staff members and exit the building in a quiet and orderly manner. If students are not with his/her teacher when the alarm sounds, the student is to exit the building with the closest adult or class. Under no circumstances is anyone to re-enter the building without clearance from an administrator or a fire official.

****Any person in the school building at the time of a fire alarm must exit the building immediately. By New York State law, we are required to complete 8 fire drills per year. ****



School Nurse:

The Benjamin Turner Academy School has one full-time nurse. All students should immediately report any injuries that occur while participating in any school activity to their classroom teacher, faculty, or staff member.

The staff member will send the student to the nurse's office.

Any medical attention that is needed to meet the immediate emergency will be provided. After this has been done, parents/guardians will be contacted regarding further medical treatment.

The school is not liable for doctor and/or hospital bills, EMS costs, etc., resulting from accidents of any kind.

Medication:

No medication of any kind can be dispensed by the office staff, classroom teacher, or other school staff.

The school nurse is designated to dispense all medication to students. Medication should be brought to the school in its original container.

Please appropriately label all medication with the pharmacy name or physician, the name of the student, the medication dosage, and the time to be administered.

Written permission by the physician and parents/guardians must be provided, requesting the school nurse to administer medication.

Only prescription medication, as indicated above, will be given at school.

Mount Vernon School District

2025-2026 Home-School Compact

Benjamin Turner Academy and the parents of students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the New York State Standards.

This Home/School Compact will be in effect during the 2025-2026 school year and will be reviewed annually.

School Responsibilities

Benjamin Turner Academy agrees to:

- To act in the best interest of safety and learning.
- To provide an appropriate curriculum that will allow students to reach their individual benchmarks.
- To create an environment for teaching and learning that brings the school community together effectively.

The Family agrees:

- To ensure the student(s) attend school consistently, on time, prepared and dressed according to the school dress code.
- To monitor the completion of assignments and notify the teacher of any obstacles that may hinder success.
- To be aware of what the student observes on TV or social media when at home.
- To make a concerted effort to attend annually scheduled parent/teacher conferences.
- To volunteer/assist in school-wide events.
- To ask for HELP when the need arises.

The Student agrees:

- To arrive at school on time, prepared, and dressed appropriately regularly.
- To do my best to hand in completed assignments and ask for help needed.
- To respect my teacher as well as fellow classmates.
- To show pride in my school, home, and community through my efforts to strive for excellence.
- To be mindful of the shows and content that I watch.

Please note that signatures are not required

Mount Vernon School District

Pacto entre el hogar y la escuela 2025-2026

La Academia Benjamin Turner y los padres de los estudiantes que participan en actividades, servicios y programas financiados por el Título 1, Parte A de la Ley de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (ESEA), reautorizada como la Ley de Cada Estudiante Sucede (ESSA), acuerdan que este pacto describe cómo los padres, todo el personal escolar y los estudiantes compartirán la responsabilidad por la mejora del rendimiento académico de los estudiantes y los medios por los cuales la escuela y los padres construirán y desarrollarán una asociación que ayudará a los niños a alcanzar los Estándares del Estado de Nueva York.

Este Compromiso Hogar/Escuela estará en vigor durante el año escolar 2025-2026 y se revisará anualmente.

Responsabilidades escolares

La Academia Benjamin Turner acepta:

- Actuar en el mejor interés de la seguridad y el aprendizaje.
- Proporcionar un currículo apropiado que permita a los estudiantes alcanzar sus referencias individuales.
- Crear un entorno para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje que reúna eficazmente a la comunidad escolar.

La familia está de acuerdo:

- Para asegurar que el(los) estudiante(s) asistan a la escuela de manera consistente, a tiempo, preparados y vestidos de acuerdo con el código de vestimenta de la escuela.
- Para monitorear la finalización de las tareas y notificar al maestro sobre cualquier obstáculo que pueda dificultar el éxito.
- Estar consciente de lo que el estudiante observa en la televisión o en las redes sociales cuando está en casa.
- Hacer un esfuerzo concertado para asistir a las conferencias anuales de padres y maestros.
- Voluntariar/ayudar en eventos escolares.
- Pedir AYUDA cuando surja la necesidad.

El estudiante acepta:

- Llegar a la escuela a tiempo, preparado y vestido adecuadamente de manera regular.
- Hacer mi mejor esfuerzo para entregar las tareas completadas y pedir ayuda cuando sea necesario.
- Respetar a mi maestro así como a mis compañeros de clase.
- Mostrar orgullo por mi escuela, hogar y comunidad a través de mis esfuerzos por esforzarme por la excelencia.
- Ser consciente de los programas y contenido que veo.

Tenga en cuenta que no se requieren firmas



Title 1-Parents Right to Know

Benjamin Turner Academy

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) states that as a parent of a student attending Benjamin Turner MS, receiving Title I funds, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers instructing your child.

Federal law requires the school division to provide you with this information in a timely manner if you request it.

Specifically, you have the right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact Benjamin Turner Academy's Principal, Dr. Colleen Seivright-Crawford.



Título 1-Derecho de los padres a saber Academia Benjamin Turner

La Ley de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (ESEA) establece que, como padre de un estudiante que asiste a la escuela secundaria Benjamin Turner y recibe fondos del Título I, usted tiene derecho a conocer las calificaciones profesionales de los maestros que instruyen a su hijo.

La ley federal exige que la división escolar le proporcione esta información de manera oportuna si la solicita.

En particular, tiene derecho a solicitar la siguiente información sobre cada uno de los maestros del aula de su hijo:

- Si el maestro cumple con las calificaciones estatales y los criterios de licencia para los grados y materias que enseña.
- Si el maestro está enseñando bajo estatus de emergencia o provisional debido a circunstancias especiales.
- La especialidad universitaria del maestro, si el maestro tiene títulos avanzados y el campo de disciplina de la certificación o título.
- Si los paraprofesionales brindan servicios a su hijo y, de ser así, sus calificaciones.

Si desea recibir alguna de esta información, comuníquese con la directora de la Academia Benjamin Turner, la Dra. Colleen Seivright-Crawford.

Board Policy-Parent Involvement



Adopted: July 12, 2006

Revised: March 2, 2011

Revised & Approved: September 15, 2020

The Mount Vernon Board of Education believes that positive parent and family engagement is essential to student achievement and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. The Mount Vernon Board of Education also believes that ongoing parental engagement is a responsibility that is shared by both the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. Parent and family engagement may take place either in the classroom or during extracurricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parent and family engagement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework "contracts" between parents and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program to encourage all forms of parent and family engagement.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Board of Education charges the school district staff and parents with the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a district-wide and individual school parent engagement program that encourages and support participation of parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects their children's education. Further, as further required by federal law, the Board of Education will ensure that all its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school-level parent and family engagement procedures.

Purpose:

This policy seeks to strengthen the partnership among parents/caregivers, the community, staff, schools, the Superintendent, and the Board by providing for parent and family involvement on multiple levels throughout the District. This partnership will be further strengthened by expanding learning opportunities that help individual parents support their children at home. Such learning opportunities shall be offered at, but not limited to, the Mount Vernon City School District Parent Teacher Association Council, school-based and community-based parent/family engagement teams led by MVCS D Parent Liaisons, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council, the Bilingual & English as a New Language Parent Advisory Council (BEPAC), and other parent groups. This policy outlines areas in which parents (families) can participate in local school and district-wide matters and is supplemental to the rights of parents guaranteed by the Board of Education policy and state and federal laws.

This policy in no way eliminates an individual parent's right to make his or her feelings known at any level in the District on any topic of concern, nor does it prevent the District from involving individual parents in appropriate situations.

The Mount Vernon Board of Education defines parent and family engagement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

- that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's learning.
- that parent and family members are full partners in their child's education and are included as appropriate, in decision-making and on committees to assist in the education of their child.
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in ESSA Section 1116.

The federal definition of the term "parents" refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person in parental relation (such as grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

District and school-level Title I (ESSA) parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under the law in a format and, to the extent practicable in a language parents understand.

As further required by federal law, parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the District's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to New York State Education Department. Additionally, parents and family members of students that attend a school that fails to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and is identified as a school in need of improvement will be provided the opportunity to participate in the process of developing a school improvement plan.

Parent and Family Participation in the Development of District-Wide Title I Plan

The Board, along with its Superintendent of Schools and other appropriate District staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family involvement in the development of the District-wide parent and family engagement plan:

- Meetings and parent workshops will be held during flexible times and at accessible locations within the District to provide greater access.
- The District will communicate with its families/stakeholders via phone, written notices, mail, e-mail and/or by posting on the District's website and/or social media periodically throughout the year.
- Parents and family members will be offered opportunities to participate in various committees at the schools and District-wide.
- The District shall work in partnership with the Mount Vernon PTA Council.

- Families will be surveyed at least yearly to determine the level of satisfaction with parent and family engagement activities.
- The District will develop both appropriate collaboration and roles with community-based organizations and businesses to support parent and family activities.
- The District will conduct the Annual District-wide Title I Parent Meeting.

Development of School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Plans

The Superintendent of Schools or other designated personnel will ensure that all District schools receiving federal financial assistance under the Title I, Part A, are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. Individual schools are encouraged to develop and maintain programs and activities to meet the needs of their parents and families.

As appropriate, to meet individual local needs, the Superintendent of Schools or designated personnel will:

- Offer parent and family workshops on literacy and math strategies for parents.
- Invite parents and families to celebrations and family activities.
- Provide consistent and accurate translated documents.
- Offer workshops by ENL staff on how to support first and second-language development in the home.
- Offer programs, activities, and procedures that will assist in training and supporting parents and families to increase engagement.

Each Title I school, in consultation with parents and family members of participating children, shall adopt the District-wide policy as its school-level policy or develop its own school-level policy in compliance with the requirements of ESSA.

Building Capacity for Parent and Family Engagement

To build parent capacity for strong parent and family engagement to improve their child's academic achievement, the District and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1) Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will:

- Offer parent and family workshops at both the school level and District-wide.
- Provide parents with a bi-annual progress report from their child's Title I support teacher.
- When requested and/or if necessary, offer parent-teacher phone conferences in addition to regular parent-teacher conferences.
- Provide informational materials and/or resources to assist parents in playing a role in their child's learning.

- Offer parents and family members training on how to access the parent portal, which allows them to view report cards in their native languages.
- Utilize the District's website.

2) Provide materials and training to help parents and family members work to improve their child's academic achievement. To achieve this objective, the District and/or its Title I schools will:

- Offer parent and family workshops at both the school level and District-wide.
- Assist parents and family members in supporting the instructional practices used in the schools at home, particularly in the areas of math and literacy.
- Forge community partnerships that will help support the school-home connection.
- Encourage parents and families to participate in library programs and to access books, articles, and other media to extend and enrich the District's core curriculum in literacy as well as the other content areas including math, social studies, and science.
- Post resources on the District website and/or social media as well as disseminate resources to parents, families, school principals, and the Mount Vernon PTA Council/ Parent Teacher Associations/Parent Teacher Student Associations.

3) Educate teachers, Student Services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value and utility of a parents' contributions and on how to:

- Reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners.
- Implement and coordinate parent and family programs.
- Building relationships between parents/families and the schools.
- Encourage parents and families to utilize the public library system

To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will work closely with parents and family members through a variety of means to provide support and assistance related to student academic/development progress.

4) Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and families of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

5) Provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities in accordance with this Policy as parents may request.

6) The District shall reserve one percent (1 %) of its of Title I allocation for the purpose of promoting parent and family engagement and shall distribute to Title I schools not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the one percent (1%) reserved goes directly to the schools.

Coordination of Parent and Family Engagement Strategies

The District shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements with early childhood program(s) currently within the District. The District will coordinate and share early literacy practices with preschool partners such as, Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and/or State-operated preschool programs.

The District will do this by:

- offering parent workshops at the school level and District-wide on topics such as literacy and math based on community needs.
- offering family engagement workshops on child development, mental health care, and stress management; and/or
- building and strengthening relationships among early childhood program(s) within the District, parents, and the public library system.

Review of District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Board, along with its Superintendent of Schools and other appropriate staff, will conduct, with the involvement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools. This review shall include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and families in activities under this policy, assessing the needs of parents and family members to assist in their child's learning, and determining strategies that will support successful school and family interactions.

To facilitate this review, the District will annually monitor through surveys and feedback, parent and family participation at school events the effectiveness of the District's Title I parent and family engagement policy. The survey shall be coordinated by the Office of School Improvement. The findings of the survey shall be reviewed and evaluated by the District and will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. Following the review, and if necessary, the policy shall be revised.

MT. VERNON CSD 2025-2026 School Calendar

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Independence Day (District Closed)

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	2 staff / 0 students					

27-28 Superintendent's Conference Day

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
	19 staff / 18 students					

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	21 staff / 21 students					

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	17 staff / 16 students					

- 1 Labor Day Holiday (District Closed)
- 2 Convocation AM
- 2 Superintendent Conf. Day (Staff Only)
- 3 Schools Open AM Students / PM - PD Staff
- 8 First Full Day for PreK / K
- 23-24 Rosh Hashanah (School Closed) 24-District Closed

- 2 Yom Kippur (District Closed)
- 13 Columbus Day (District Closed)

- 4 Superintendent's Conference Day
- 11 Veterans Day (District Closed)
- 26 Early Dismissal Day
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Recess (District Closed)

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
	15 staff / 15 students					

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	19 staff / 19 students					

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	15 staff / 15 students					

- 22-31 Winter Recess (Schools Closed)
- 24-25, 31 Winter Recess (District Closed)

- 1 New Year's Day (District Closed)
- 2 District Closed
- 1-2 Winter Recess (Schools Closed)
- 19 MLK Holiday (District Closed)
- 20-23 NYS Regents Period

- 16 President's Day (District Closed)
- 17 Lunar New Year (District Closed)
- 16-20 Mid-Winter Recess (Schools Closed)

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	19 staff / 19 students					

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
	19 staff / 19 students					

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	19 staff / 19 students					

- 30-31 Spring Recess (Schools Closed)
- 20 Eid al-Fitr (District Closed)

- 1-2 Spring Recess (Schools Closed)
- 3 Spring Recess (District Closed)

- 19 Budget Vote
- 22 School Closed 25 Memorial Day (District Closed)

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
	19 staff / 19 students					

Date: 3/12/25 Approved: *Kevin McCall*
 Date: 3/12/25 Approved: *Dr. Crystal Waterman*
 Date: 3/12/25 Approved: *Geneva Ba*

Total Days: Students: 180 Teachers: 184

**If we utilize a snow day the give-back day will be May 22nd
 6/23-6/26 Half day for students (K-8 only)
 6/26/Last Day for Student/ Rating Day 6/26 (High Schools only)

- 9-10, 17-25 NYS Regents
- 19 Juneteenth. (District Closed)

6/23-6/26 Half Day for Students (PreK-8 only) 6/26 Last Day for Students Rating Day 6/26 (High Schools)

**PLEASE
SIGN
AND
RETURN
ALL
THE
FOLLOWING
PAGES**

Benjamin Turner Academy Code of Conduct

2025-2026

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Teachers' Name: _____ **Class:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

I, the parent of _____ in class _____, have read the 'District's Code of Conduct' and I have reviewed it with my child. Both my child and I understand and agree to follow its content. I will address all questions to the school's administrators.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

*Please return it to your child's teacher on 9/26/2025
Thank you for your support.*

Nombre del estudiante: _____ **Grado:** _____

Nombre del profesor: _____ **Clase:** _____

Nombre del padre/tutor: _____ **Teléfono:** _____

Dirección: _____

Yo, el padre/tutor de _____, en clase _____, he leído el 'Código de Conducta del Distrito' y lo he revisado con mi hijo. Tanto mi hijo como yo entendemos y estamos de acuerdo en seguir su contenido. Dirigiré todas las preguntas a los administradores de la escuela.

Firma del padre/tutor

Fecha

Firma del estudiante

Fecha

*Por favor, devuélvelo al maestro de su hijo el 9/26/2025.
Gracias por su apoyo.*

Benjamin Turner Academy Handbook

2025-2026

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teachers' Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I, the parent/guardian of _____, in class _____, have reviewed the 2025-2026 Benjamin Turner Academy Handbook with my child. Both my child and I are aware of the policies, procedures, and expectations of Benjamin Turner Academy. I will address all questions to the school's administrators.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name

Class

*Please return it to your child's teacher on 9/26/2025
Thank you for your support.*

Nombre del estudiante: _____ Grado: _____

Nombre del profesor: _____ Clase: _____

Nombre del padre/tutor: _____ Teléfono: _____

Dirección: _____

Yo, el padre/tutor de _____, en clase _____, he revisado el Manual de la Academia Benjamin Turner 2025-2026 con mi hijo. Tanto mi hijo como yo estamos al tanto de las políticas, procedimientos y expectativas de la Academia Benjamin Turner. Dirigiré todas las preguntas a los administradores de la escuela.

Firma del padre/tutor

Fecha

Nombre del estudiante

Clase

*Por favor, devuélvelo al maestro de su hijo el 9/26/2025.
Gracias por su apoyo.*

Check List

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.... Did You.....?

- Did you review the Benjamin Turner Academy Parent & Student Handbook with your child?
- Did you **return** your Benjamin Turner Academy's Parent & Student Handbook form?
- Did you review the MVCSD “Code of Conduct”?
- Did you **return** your “Code of Conduct” form?
- Did you update your medical form?
- Did you update your address, email, and telephone numbers?
- Did you give us all your telephone numbers (in case of an emergency)?
- Did you **return** your emergency form?
 - Did you include every possible person and number in your child’s emergency card?
 - Did you remind any adult who picks up your child that they need to show photo identification?

****REMINDER: Your child(ren) cannot be signed out by anyone who is not on their emergency card, anyone without photo identification, or anyone under the age of 18 years old.***

Child’s Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Please return all forms to your child’s teacher.
Thank you for your support!