
PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

132 1st Ave SW

https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs_departments/parent_community_outreach

T: (406) 338-5025

The Parent Community Outreach Program spent the last few weeks wrapping up the school year and setting the stage for the 2019-2020 school year.

CHILD CARE

The child care served a total of #16 children this past academic year. Of these, five children were those of teen parents and the other eleven children were of BPS employees.

We are licensed to serve a total of #22 children, with eight being under the age of 2 years. Our goal for next year is to recruit more teen parents to enroll their children in childcare. We feel this is an amazing opportunity to positively impact two generations of our current and future students.

We are very excited to see the maintenance crew hard at work to make our Center a safer environment for our infants and toddlers. We are also extremely happy to see the new security cameras placed in our Child Care classrooms. All of the improvements to our Center will assist our staff in providing a welcoming, safe and engaging space for our youngest students.

TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

This academic year, BPS enrolled at least 18 teen parents. I say “at least” because those are the ones that I am definitely aware of having been in the teen parent program for the 2019-2020 academic year is to accurately identify 100% of our teen parents. Identifying this population of students relies on the BHS and WBHA staff, as well as the Blackfeet Pregnant/Parenting Team.

We also have a significant population of teen parents who have already dropped out of school two years. Another of our goals is to reach out to each of those students and encourage them to enroll in BPS or pursue their Hi-Set through our program.

June 26, 2019 BPS School Board Report for PCOP



UPCOMING EVENTS

“EVERY BRILLIANT THING”

July 30, 2019 at Napi Elementary Gym, Showtime at 6:00 PM

The BPS PCOP is partnering with Grandstreet Theatre to present the Montana tour of Every Brilliant Thing, a hilarious, powerful and timely play that shines a light on all the things that make life worth living.

HI-SET SUMMER HOURS

Monday-Thursday

8:00 AM- 12:00 PM

HI-SET

This past academic year, our Hi-Set program served #38 students. We did not have any students test this year; however, we learned that one of our former clients from last year (who had re-located), did receive his Hi-Set. We are also in the process of assisting one of our current clients, who is a Veteran, in receiving an honorary Hi-Set from OPI.

We are continuing to find innovative ways of meeting the needs of our Hi-Set students in order to remove their barriers to receiving an education. One of our goals for the 2019-2020 academic year is to reach out to recently dropped out students to encourage them to either re-enroll with BPS, if this is a practical option for them, or enroll in our district's Hi-Set program.

The Hi-Set program continue to explore our options to expand into an Adult Basic Education Center. This would allow us to offer even more career planning and basic skills workshops for individuals 16 years and older.

ĀISSĀOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ • Ā

I met with each of the Principals to reflect on how they felt our program served their building this past year. We discussed what worked and what needed improvements for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Clothing Closets~ Based on Principal feedback, we will continue to support the clothing closets established at KW/Vina, BES, BMS, BHS, WBHA and Babb. The clothing closet at Napi poses an interesting dilemma because we know the students are in need of clothes, but they are too “shame” to visit the closet. This is completely normal behavior for this age group. In order to address their need, Napi staff will bring them to the PCOP clothing closet (located alongside the BES closet) where they can “shop” for clothes in a more discreet manner, apart from their peers.

We have also decided to re-integrate the original BES clothing closet as a “one stop” for our larger families, unaccompanied homeless youth, and grandparents raising grandchildren. There are two separate rooms in the BES clothing closet. The first room will be exclusively for BES students, accessible by BES staff. The second room will have a variety of sizes for our families to visit, accessible when accompanied by PCOP staff.

Food Pantries~ Also based on Principal feedback, we will continue to support the MFBN backpack program for grades PreK-6th, as well as the Food Pantries located in BMS, BHS, WBHA and Babb.

Up until this point, we have relied entirely on grant funding (primarily Town Pump) to support our Food Pantries. A few years ago, our district staff was invited to donate, via payroll deduction, to support this project. We would not only like to invite new BPS staff to donate, we would also like to invite all other community organizations to establish a similar payroll deduction to support our pantries. At some point, MFBN may “cut us off,” so we would also need these donations to continue to support the weekend backpacks.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

I am extremely excited to share that I will be chairing the Attendance Committee for the 2019-2020 academic year. The committee will continue the amazing work initiated by Tasha Siliezar last year, as well as incorporate a deeper focus on Dropout Prevention.

I recently attended the 2019 MBI Summer Institute where I had the opportunity to visit with Jacinda Goodwin, the Program Specialist for the National Center for Homeless Education. I also attended every one of her sessions on dropout prevention and serving homeless students. My intention is to bring this knowledge to every staff person at BPS through our Wednesday professional development opportunities.

Our district is doing some truly innovative work in order to support our students. Our intention with the Attendance Committee is to identify what attendance strategies are most effective in each building, support those strategies, and incorporate new strategies where needed based on best practices.

The final component is incorporating the Early Warning System into identifying those students at highest risk of dropping out.