



THE DISTRICT

Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

March 2026

From The Superintendent's Desk



Dear BPS Community-

As we move into the final quarter of the school year, there is a sense of excitement across our schools. This time of year is filled with important milestones—students preparing for the next grade level, seniors looking ahead to graduation, and many well-deserved celebrations that recognize the dedication and growth of our students and staff.

While we look forward to these moments, it is also a time to keep our momentum strong. The work we do in the final stretch of the year matters tremendously. There are only so many school days in a year, and every single one is an opportunity for our students to strengthen their learning, build confidence, and prepare for the future that awaits them.

Across Bernalillo Public Schools, I see classrooms where students are engaged, teachers are pushing learning forward, and school leaders are supporting the systems that help every child succeed. Because of this collective effort, our district is well positioned to make significant gains in academic achievement this spring.

Finishing strong requires focus from all of us—students, families, educators, and our community. Encouraging students to stay engaged, attend regularly, and continue putting forth their best effort will ensure they make the most of every opportunity before the school year concludes.

This is an exciting time for our schools, and the progress our students are making is something to celebrate. Let's keep our momentum going, work hard until the very last day, and capture the opportunities in front of us with energy and purpose.

Together, we can make this spring a powerful finish to a remarkable school year for Bernalillo Public Schools.

Best,

Matt



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Newsletter Survey

Message from School Board President, Paul Madrid



Dear BPS Community-

When you grow up around ranches and dusty roads, you learn a few things about leadership without anyone ever calling it that. My grandpa didn't use fancy words—he would just say things like, "Take care of your fence line before you worry about the neighbor's pasture," or "A good rider keeps an eye on the whole herd, not just the one closest to the saddle."

Serving as Board President has reminded me a lot of those lessons.

In a community like ours, running a school district isn't all that different from running a ranch. It takes patience, steady hands, and people who are willing to show up every day—even when the wind is blowing sideways. You mend the fence where it's weak, keep the gates open where folks need to pass through, and make sure everyone has a fair shot at good water and good grass.



Our teachers, staff, administrators, and families do that work every single day. They're the ones out on the range, so to speak—guiding students, solving problems, and making sure every child in our district has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

One bit of cowboy wisdom I've always liked is: "If you want the herd to move right, ride at the edge and keep things steady." Leadership isn't about riding out front just to be seen. It's about paying attention, listening carefully, and helping keep things moving in the right direction for the whole community.

As a board, that's what we aim to do—work together, ask good questions, and make thoughtful decisions that support our students and the people who serve them.

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in this work—our educators, families, community members, and especially our students. Around here, we know that when a community pulls together, we can weather just about any storm and still ride into better days ahead.

Best regards,

Paul

Personal Use of Electronic Communication Devices by Students, J-3150

Adopted by the BPS School Board: 28 MARCH 2024

English

<https://5il.co/2t8ej>



The Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education

Paul Madrid, President, District 5

Cordy Chavez, Vice-President, District 4

Christine Suina, Secretary, District 1

Mike Archibeque, Member, District 3

John Gurule, Member, District 2



Bernalillo Public Schools

Cochiti Schools has launched a partnership with the ALTO/Santa Fe Opera program dedicated to integrating the arts into everyday classroom learning. Through dance, theater, music, poetry, visual arts, and media arts, students deepen their understanding of academic subjects by engaging in the creative process.



We are excited to welcome Kathleen Kingsley, a dancer, choreographer, and educator with decades of experience in both performance and arts education.

As co-founder of several arts organizations and ALTO's residency program coordinator, Kathleen brings a wealth of expertise to Cochiti schools, guiding students to explore movement, creativity, and learning in new and meaningful ways.

Congratulations

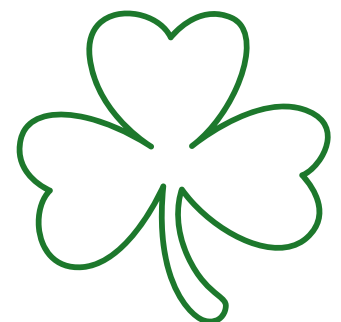


HOOVER
INSTITUTION

Stanford
University

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools is proud to announce that Lorilei Chavez, Native American Studies Teacher, has been selected to participate in the Future of Educators Working Group at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University.

For over a decade, Lorilei Chavez has inspired students in the Bernalillo School District. She empowers Native youth and cultivates Indigenous pride, championing culturally relevant learning at Bernalillo High and Santo Domingo Middle School. Lori's motto, "Teach with Love," guides her to show students the power of giving back to their land and community. Her dedication earned her 2025 BPS Middle School and District Teacher of the Year honors, as well as the distinction of being the first Indigenous New Mexico Teacher of the Year.





Bernalillo Public Schools At the Roundhouse



BHS FFA



BHS Spartan Indigenous Student Union



Governor's STEM Challenge - BHS Team Ecofriendly Fire Extinguisher





Cochiti Schools

Celebrating 100 Days of School Spirit!



This week, Cochiti Schools celebrated 100 Days of School with an exciting Spirit Week filled with creativity, laughter, and school pride. It was wonderful to see students of all ages participating, from our youngest learners' colorful 100th day projects proudly displayed on classroom walls to our older students enthusiastically joining in the fun.



Spirit Week brought energy to every hallway with twinning day, silly hair, wacky socks, dressing for different decades, and even dressing like a favorite centenarian. A special shout-out goes to Coach Aldaz, Ms. Aldaz, and Ms. Scarlott for absolutely rocking Decade Day with incredible spirit and enthusiasm.

The week was full of smiles, creativity, and positive community energy, making it a truly memorable celebration for everyone involved.



Cochiti Classic Tournament Brings Two Days of Excitement

Our students recently wrapped up an exciting two-day event at the Cochiti Classic Tournament. The tournament was filled with fun, energy, and incredible basketball action.

Over the weekend, our teams faced off against NACA and Santo Domingo, showing determination and teamwork in every game. Students played hard, demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, and gave their best on the court. Coaches, families, and community members cheered loudly, making the tournament an exciting experience for everyone involved.

This event was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the season. Our athletes not only showcased their skills but also learned the importance of collaboration, focus, and perseverance. The smiles on students' faces and the camaraderie between teams highlighted that the true reward of the tournament was the fun and memories created along the way.

We are extremely proud of our players for their effort, positive attitude, and teamwork. What a fantastic way to close out the season and celebrate the hard work of our basketball teams.





La Escuelita Preschool Developing Future Heroes

Our program just completed our “Everyday Helper” thematic unit. During this theme, children learn about the important roles of community helpers and how they make a difference in our daily lives. Through hands-on experiences, stories, discussions, and creative projects, students have been exploring how various people work hard to keep our communities safe, healthy, and running smoothly. Students learned about firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, farmers, teachers, postal workers, construction workers, bakers and more. Students discussed what each helper does, the tools they use, and how their work supports others. Students enjoyed role-playing different jobs in the dramatic play areas, creating thank-you cards for local helpers, and sharing about community helpers in their own families or neighborhood. The students also shared what they want to be when they grow up.



This unit helps children understand the importance of being part of a community and how they can help others. They build an understanding of responsibility, teamwork, cooperation and gratitude all while having fun. It has encouraged them to think about ways that they can help others at home, at school, and in the community. This theme was a fun way to explore our everyday helpers.

A special shout out to the Bernalillo Firefighters as they visited our school during this fun unit!



Click [here](#) to view our website



Placitas Elementary School

PES Panthers Explore Science!

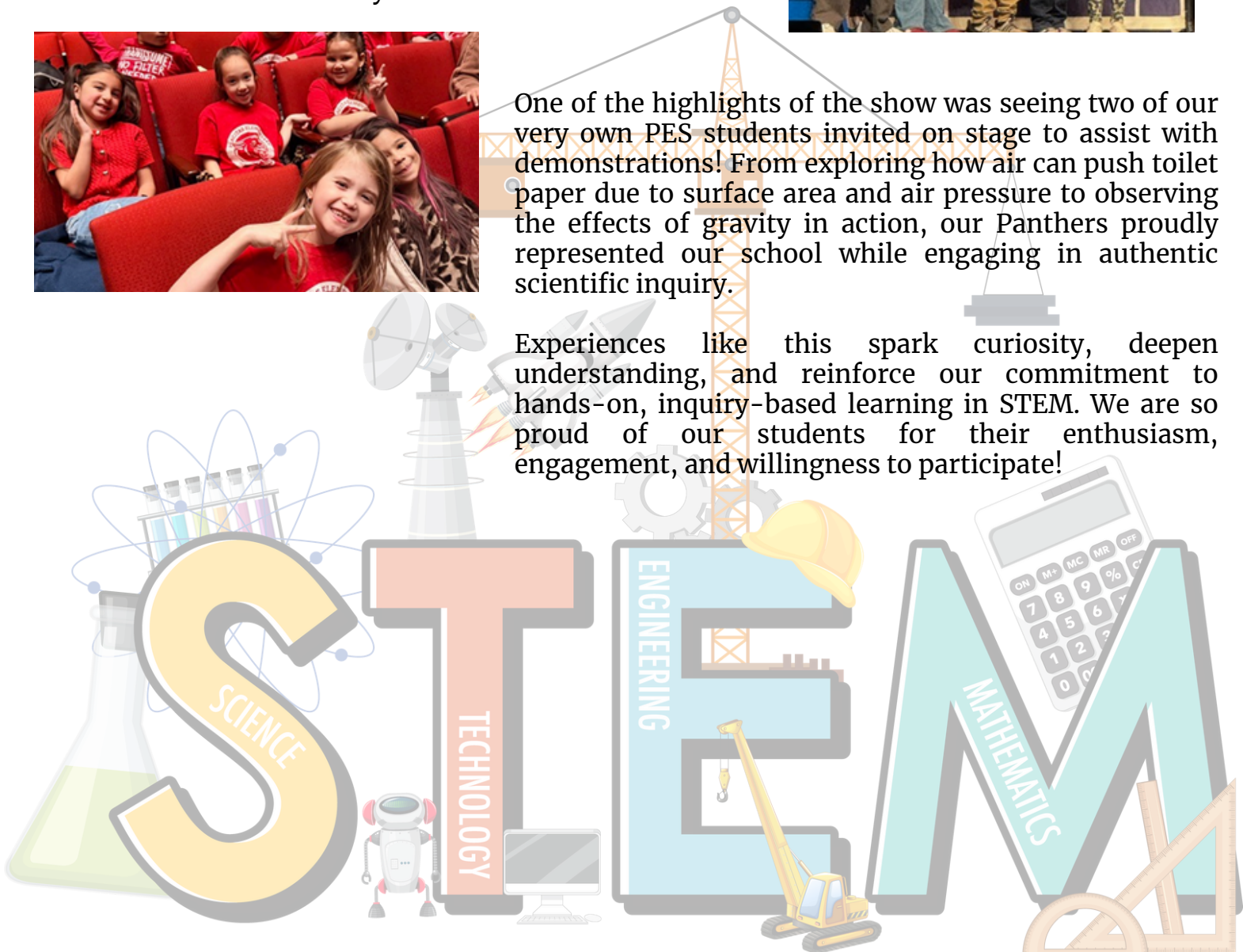
This week, our K-3 Placitas Elementary students attended the interactive “Let’s Go Science!” show at Popejoy Hall — and what an incredible learning experience it was!

This high-energy performance brought science concepts to life through hands-on demonstrations focused on forces, motion, air pressure, surface area, and gravity — all topics our students are actively exploring in STEM class. Watching these real-world applications unfold on stage helped students connect classroom learning to observable scientific phenomena in a fun and memorable way.



One of the highlights of the show was seeing two of our very own PES students invited on stage to assist with demonstrations! From exploring how air can push toilet paper due to surface area and air pressure to observing the effects of gravity in action, our Panthers proudly represented our school while engaging in authentic scientific inquiry.

Experiences like this spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and reinforce our commitment to hands-on, inquiry-based learning in STEM. We are so proud of our students for their enthusiasm, engagement, and willingness to participate!



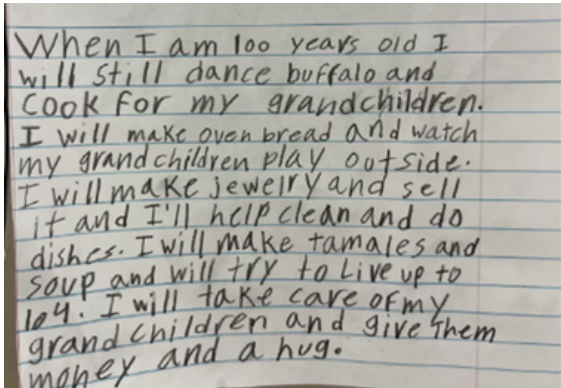
Click [here](#) to visit our website



Santo Domingo Schools

Building Strong Writers and Mathematicians Through Our Roots & Wings Mission

Our teachers continue to grow in their confidence and expertise with Bernalillo Public Schools' high-quality instructional materials. As a result, they are strengthening instruction across all grade levels with a strong emphasis on student writing and real-world learning.



When you walk through our school, you can clearly see the progression of writing skills from kindergarten through eighth grade. Our hallways are proudly filled with students' published work that reflects their growth, creativity, and voice. Students are learning and practicing the full writing process by using thinking maps to organize their ideas, drafting "sloppy copies," and participating in peer editing to refine their work and build confidence as writers. Consistent with our Roots and Wings mission, student identity is celebrated in their writing. Published works often include Kewa life and values.

At the same time, we are making powerful real-world and cultural connections in math. In 6th grade math, students recently explored a lesson titled "Pottery Designs: Kewa Pueblo Patterns and Combining Like Terms." Guided by the essential question, "How can we use the technique of combining like terms to describe, design, and share weaving patterns inspired by Kewa motifs?" students practiced algebra while honoring the rich artistic traditions of the Kewa Pueblo.

Students identified repeating shapes and symmetry within Kewa-inspired pottery and weaving designs. They labeled each shape with a letter and number, wrote algebraic expressions to count the patterns, and then simplified their expressions by combining like terms so their mathematical work was clearer and more efficient. Each student created their own design strip and contributed it to a collaborative class mural, which was later showcased during a gallery walk where students explained both the math and the cultural inspiration behind their work.



These math and writing activities directly support our Roots & Wings mission. By integrating the Keres language, Kewa culture, and traditions into academic learning, we are nourishing the roots of our students' cultural identity and honoring the resilience, spirituality, and sense of community of the Kewa Pueblo and our ancestors. At the same time, strengthening writing, math, and critical thinking skills helps build the wings students need for college and career readiness, empowering them to achieve their dreams and give back to their community.

We are proud of the dedication of our teachers and the incredible growth of our students as they learn, create, and thrive in ways that honor both culture and academic excellence.

Click [here](#) to visit our website.



Spartan Learning Academy

SLA Student Council



The SLA Student Council proudly represented our school this past weekend at the New Mexico Association of Student Councils State Conference (NMASC State Conference) held at Los Lunas High School. The conference brought together student leaders from across the state for a weekend focused on growth, collaboration, and inspiration.

Throughout the event, SLA students participated in a variety of leadership workshops designed to strengthen communication skills, teamwork, and effective service. These sessions provided valuable tools and fresh ideas that students are excited to bring back to our campus community.

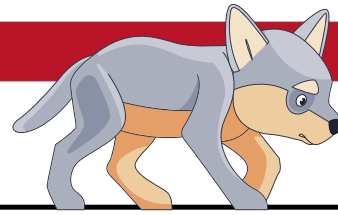
In addition to their active participation, the SLA Student Council earned 2nd place for their banner, showcasing their creativity, school pride, and dedication. Congratulations to our outstanding student leaders for representing SLA with excellence and enthusiasm!





WD Carroll Elementary

Igniting Curiosity: A Star Gazing Community Event



W.D. Carroll Elementary, in partnership with our PTO and the Albuquerque Astronomical Society, welcomed students and families for a special Star Gazing Event on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Families began the evening inside a portable planetarium set up in our cafeteria, where students explored constellations, learned how stars form patterns in the night sky, and discovered how astronomers study space. As students listened to the presentation, asked thoughtful questions, and shared observations, they strengthened important speaking and listening skills, as well as academic and domain-specific vocabulary—words like constellation, telescope, star, and planet—supporting language development aligned to ELA-LITERACY standards.



The experience also directly connected to elementary Next Generation Science Standards, including 1-ESS1-1, which focuses on using observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe predictable patterns. As students identified constellations and observed the night sky through telescopes, they engaged in scientific practices such as making observations and recognizing patterns in the natural world.

Identifying constellation patterns and recognizing shapes in the sky supported students' understanding of geometric concepts connected to MATH standards, which focuses on recognizing and drawing shapes with specific attributes.

Hot chocolate and great conversation made the experience even more memorable! Events like this bring classroom learning to life by integrating science, literacy, and math while fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and community engagement.

It was a wonderful evening of exploration, discovery, and connection for our W.D. Carroll families.

A special thank you to Ms. Edic, our PTO, and the Albuquerque Astronomical Society for providing this unforgettable learning experience for our students and community.



Bernalillo High School Alumni Corner

THE DISTRICT of Bernalillo Public Schools would like to honor alumni that are doing great things.

José Luis Monclova - Class of 2014

Bernalillo Roots, Inspiring Innovation in Medicine



José Luis Monclova was born and raised in Bernalillo, New Mexico and is a proud graduate of Bernalillo High School's Class of 2014. Raised in a family deeply rooted in the Bernalillo Public Schools community, he now serves as a postdoctoral research fellow at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. His research applies engineering principles to better understand injuries related to childbirth, building on his doctoral work aimed at improving outcomes for patients undergoing stroke treatment.

At Bernalillo High School, José was fortunate to learn from teachers who nurtured his growing love for mathematics and science through rigorous Advanced Placement coursework. Their encouragement shaped his academic curiosity and confidence in pursuing STEM fields. He also served in Student Government and National Honor Society while competing in football, wrestling, and track. As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Jose attended the University of New Mexico to continue his education in engineering.

After earning his degree in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering from the University of New Mexico in 2019, José gained research experience both on campus and at Sandia National Laboratories, studying biodevices. During this time, he also gave back to the community as an assistant wrestling coach at Bernalillo Middle School. He later participated in the NIH PREP program at Virginia Tech, where he studied the mechanical behavior of pelvic floor muscles. Jose then pursued his doctoral studies at The Pennsylvania State University, focusing on improving outcomes in ischemic stroke treatment, and earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering after defending his dissertation in October 2025.

Today, José's work bridges engineering, mathematics, and medicine to better understand injury and improve surgical care. In his current role at Northern Arizona University, he applies similar principles to study injuries that can occur during childbirth, with the goal of advancing patient care and supporting healthier outcomes for families. He hopes to continue his career in engineering at the collegiate educational level or in industry, helping to make safer medical devices. In this way, he hopes to continue developing his interest in STEM.

José credits his family for their constant encouragement and unwavering belief in the value of education, particularly the foundation he received through Bernalillo Public Schools. He is deeply grateful to the teachers and mentors who nurtured his curiosity and helped open doors he once only imagined. He hopes to honor their investment by giving back to the community and serving as a resource for students who are considering pursuing higher education in STEM fields.



The Spirit of Outstanding Service Award



THE DISTRICT of BPS — To honor the diligence and dedication to our students by employees is a privilege. Through the Employee of the Month award, employees are recognized for their efforts in making Bernalillo Public Schools one of the best educational institutions.

Congratulations to the February award winners:



Walker Hill
1st grade students, PES
Students of the Month
Sponsored by Circle B Ranch



Angelica Calabaza
Teacher, La Escuelita Preschool
Teacher of the Month
Sponsored by Ashley Duran Insurance Agency



Alicia Guevara
PM Foreman, BPS
Operational Support of the Month
Sponsored by Wire Nut Electric



Lupe Cervantes
GEAR UP, Bernalillo High School
Instructional Support of the Month
Sponsored by J & M Printing



Rosangela Montoya, Benito
Levario, Richard Harrid,
and Walter Walker
Admin Team, BHS
Administrator of the Month
Sponsored by MA Strategies

If you would like to nominate a BPS employee for the Spirit of Outstanding Service award, please complete the nomination form using the QR code or web address below. Thank you.



<http://bit.ly/3YJbpqi>

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www.bernalillo-schools.org

Download the App!



Bernalillo Public School...
Education

OPEN



MARCH



March 2 nd – 6 th	National School Breakfast Week
March 2 nd – 6 th	Read Across America Week
March 6 th	Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day
March 9 th	Native American Educator & Parent Advisory Committee 5:30p-7p at Algodones Elementary
March 10 th	Key Components of an IEP Through the Lens of a Parent – Parent Meeting 9:30a-11a Virtual or at District Office Board Meeting
March 11 th	NJHS Food Distribution – SLA 12:30p-2:30p
March 11 th	BPS Work Session Board Meeting 5:30p-7:30p District Office Boardroom
March 12 th	PES Quarter 3 – Spotlight Assembly 1:30p
March 13 th	End of Quarter 3
March 13 th	Parent Teacher Conferences
March 14 th	National Pi Day
March 18 th	Professional Development for Staff - Asynchronous Day (grades 7-12) and No School (grades K-6)
March 18 th	AES Food Distribution – AES 2p-4p
March 18 th	Spartan Booster Club Meeting 6p-8p BHS Main Gym
March 18 th – 21 st	BHS Skills USA State Competition
March 20 th	Beauty and the Beast: Presented by the PES Drama Club 6p-7:30p
March 26 th	Regular School Board Meeting 5:30p-7:30p Cochiti Elementary School
March 27 th	Sock Hop Dance at WD Carroll Elementary 3:30p-7:00p
March 31 st	Are You Smarter Than a Middle Schooler? 4p-6p SLA
April 2 nd	Educational Assistant Appreciation Day
April 3 rd	National School Librarian Day
April 3 rd – 10 th	Spring Break

Math Curriculum Review Opportunity (Grades 7–12)

Parents and community members are invited to digitally review High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) for math for grades 7–12 from four publishers. After reviewing the materials, please use the QR code to complete the feedback survey. Your input is important and will help inform the district's decision.

Click [here](#) to access the flyer.

The BPS Special Education Department is hosting a series of Parent Meetings to support you at home.

- 📍 All meetings will be held at the BPS District Office Boardroom and will be followed by discussion or virtually at the links below.

📍 Key Components of an IEP Through the Lens of a Parent



March 10, 2026

[Click here to access the meeting](#)

All families are welcome!



Library Programs

MONDAY

March 9TH
4-H Meeting at
6 pm

TUESDAY

Every Tuesday -
Aprendá inglés 11 am

Every Tuesday -
Shakespeare Reading
Group 1:30 pm

Every Tuesday -
Tutoring
3:45 to 4:45 pm

March 10th, 17th & 24th
Toddler Storytime at
10am

WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday -Tech
Help for Adults 10 am

March 4th

Paintbrush Hour for
Adults 5 pm

March 11th Explora!
3:30 pm

March 11th

Mosaic Tile Project
5 pm

March 18th BioPark
Toddler Storytime
10 am

Children/Family
Program
Young Adult
Programs

Adult Programs
*Must take both
classes.

For more information
call us or view our
website.
505.867.1440
bernalillolibrary.org



THURSDAY

Every Thursday
Tutoring
3:45 to 4:45 pm

Every Thursday
Let's Learn Spanish
3:30 pm

Every Thursday
Actors Studio
6 to 8 pm

March 19th
BioPark Animal
Adaptations
3:30 pm

March 19th
Science Spotlight
3:30 pm

FRIDAY

March 13TH
Teeniors at 11 am

*March 20th Safety &
Science of Freezing
6 to 7:30 pm

SATURDAY

Every Saturday -Art
Studio 10:30 am

March 14th Spring Crafts
10 am

March 21th

Ranger Read & Learn
10 am

March 21st Yarn Club
10 am (all ages)

*March 21st Home Food
Preservation: Freezing
9 am to 12 pm

March 21st Bird Fest
10 am to 2 pm

March 28th
Route 66 Lecture Series
11 am

SUNDAY

March 22TH - Coronado
Lecture Series at 2 pm

March 22nd -Shakespeare
Performance Series at 6
pm



**As of October 1st 2025 THE DISTRICT
of Bernalillo Public Schools requires that**

**ALL EVENTS hosted on Bernalillo
Public Schools property- including but
not limited to sporting events, festivals,
performances, and concerts- follow the
clear bag policy.**



**ALL bags and backpacks MUST BE
CLEAR to enter the event. Failure to
comply may result in denied entry.**

We appreciate your cooperation.