THE DISTRICT
Bernalillo Public Schools

www.bernalillo-schools.org

February 2026

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From The Superintendent's Desk



Dear BPS Community,

As we move through this school year, I continue to be inspired by the momentum building across Bernalillo Public Schools. In recent months, you've heard us talk about growth—growth in student learning, growth in leadership, and growth in our collective belief in what is possible for our community. That momentum is real, and it is visible every day in our classrooms, hallways, and school communities.

We are also seeing that momentum take shape through meaningful upgrades to many of our facilities. These improvements are more than construction projects—they are investments in environments that reflect the pride, culture, and aspirations of our students and families. Safe, welcoming, and modern learning spaces support engagement, creativity, and joy, and they signal to our students that they are worthy of the very best we can provide.

At the same time, our focus remains firmly rooted in instruction. Facilities matter, but great teaching and learning are what truly drive student success. As we modernize our buildings, we are equally committed to strengthening curriculum, supporting educators, and ensuring every student has access to high-quality, culturally responsive instruction aligned to grade-level expectations. Together, these efforts—strong instruction paired with thoughtful investment in our schools—are moving Bernalillo Public Schools forward. Thank you for being part of this shared work and this exciting moment for our district.

Best,

Matt

Message from School Board President, Paul Madrid



Howdy BPS community,

Around these parts, we've always believed that you don't fix the fence just to make it look good—you fix it so it holds strong when the wind kicks up. That's a little bit of the thinking guiding Bernalillo Public Schools right now.

You may have noticed some fresh paint, new roofs, upgraded classrooms, and works-in-progress across our district. Those improvements matter. A good barn, like a good school, needs a solid foundation. When our buildings are safe, welcoming, and cared for, our students and staff can focus on what really counts.

But here's the cowboy logic part: a shiny saddle doesn't make a good rider. The heart of our work is still teaching and learning. While we're investing in our facilities, we're keeping our eyes on instruction—strong lessons, high expectations, and the belief that every student can ride toward a bright future with the right support.

Momentum doesn't come from one big move; it comes from showing up every day, doing the small things right, and pulling together when the trail gets rough. I'm proud of the way our community—students, staff, families, and leadership—continues to work side by side. We're fixing the fences, tending the herd, and keeping our sights set on the horizon. That's how you build something that lasts.

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

Thank you!

$1 Million Awarded for Cochiti Schools Multicultural and Technical Center



New Mexico Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez recently presented Bernalillo Public Schools with a $1,000,000 federal appropriation to support the Cochiti Schools Cultural Center. This funding will help strengthen culturally responsive learning opportunities and preserve the rich traditions and heritage of the Bernalillo Public Schools community. THE DISTRICT is grateful for Congresswoman Leger Fernandez's continued support of our students, families, and community.

Click here to read the full story

Anya Castro-Ramirez, a senior at Bernalillo High School, was invited to spend the day at the New Mexico Roundhouse with Senator Cindy Nava. During her visit, Anya had the opportunity to observe the legislative process firsthand, engage in meaningful conversations, and gain insight into public service and leadership at the state level.



Board Member Gurule and Board Member Archibeque were officially sworn in during the Board Meeting on January 22, 2026. We look forward to their continued service and leadership on behalf of our students, staff, and community.



Board Member John Gurule
District 2

Congratulations

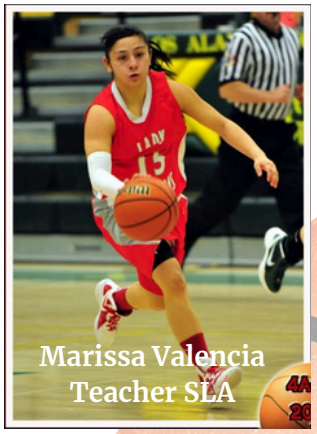


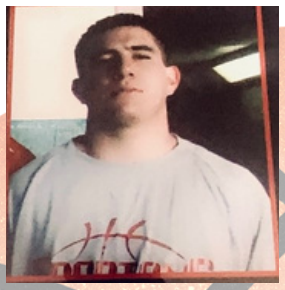
Board Member Mike Archibeque
District 3

From BHS Athletes to BPS Employees — Serving the Schools That Shaped Us.

Basketball Winter Sports




Marissa Valencia
Teacher SLA

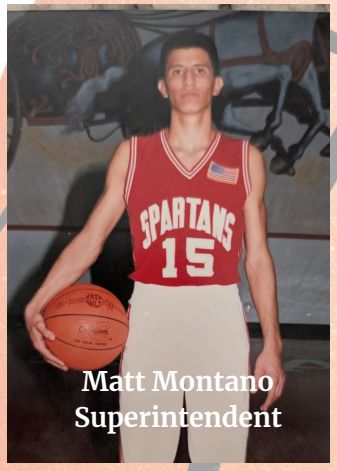

Josh Mares
Teacher BHS



Nicole Lepre
Teacher WDCES



Paul Madrid
Board Member



Matt Montano
Superintendent



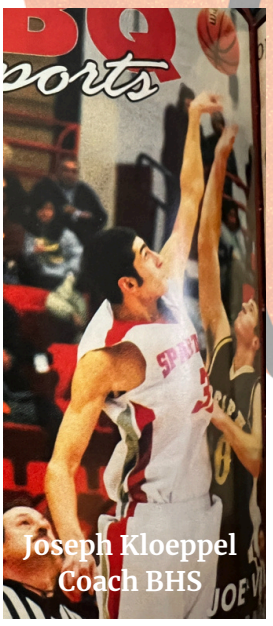
Samantha Garcia
Director of Finance



Floyd Jaramillo
Crossing Guard BES



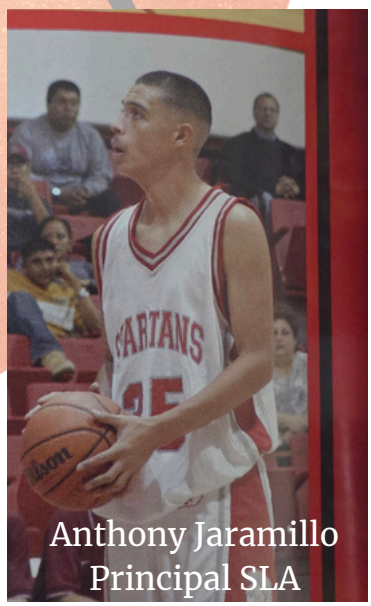
Nicholas Rinaldi
Teacher BES


Joseph Kloeppel
Coach BHS



Manuel Montano
Teacher SD


Cordy Chavez
Board Member



Anthony Jaramillo
Principal SLA

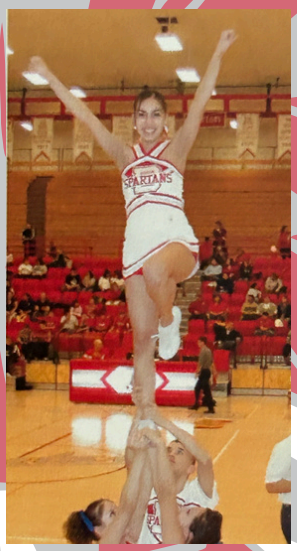
From BHS Athletes to BPS Employees — Serving the Schools That Shaped Us.

Cheer



Priscila Rivas-Delgado
Elementary Ed Fellows SLA

Jennifer Jaramillo
Activities Coordinator BHS





Emily Avila
Teacher BHS

Business Professionals of America (BPA)



Marching Band



Susan Duncan
Social Worker BHS

Wrestling

Mike Archibeque
Board Member





Student Council



Priscila Rivas-Delgado
Elementary Ed Fellows SLA

Behind the Scenes

Making Technology Work for Students, Staff, and Schools.

Working behind the scenes to keep schools connected and systems running smoothly. Their work supports classrooms, offices, networks, and devices, making sure staff and students have reliable technology for daily learning and operations.

IT by the Numbers

Over 300
Wi-Fi access points installed across the district

Over 7000
Student and staff devices managed by the IT Department across the district

14,000
Emails sent and received districtwide in a single school day

28,301
Cybersecurity threats blocked every day

2,500
Email threats blocked every day

ACCESS DENIED

Total data usage across all district Wi-Fi networks each week

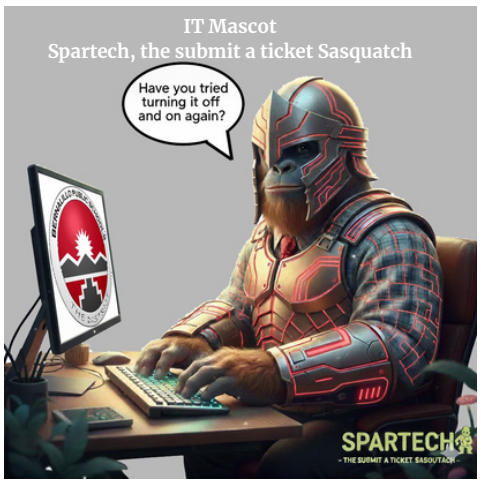
6000 GB

31
Help Desk tickets resolved per week

Total passwords across all staff and student accounts

3,800

50
miles of network cable connecting all our schools in the district



Algodones Elementary

Our Quarter 2 Assembly was a blast!

We celebrated student growth, achievements, and perfect attendance, while recognizing the incredible efforts of our staff.

A special shout-out to Ms. Serrato, our Teacher of the Quarter, and Nurse Amanda, our Staff Member of the Quarter. Students and teachers faced off in fun Minute-to-Win-It games, bringing lots of laughter and school spirit. Ms. Uhl's class earned the Moose to display in their classroom after demonstrating the most growth in Amira/Istation.

Ms. Serrato's class also won the December Perfect Attendance competition and enjoyed a cookie-decorating celebration. After winter break, students returned eager to learn and ready to launch their rockets, wasting no time diving back into learning. We can't wait to see what Quarter 3 brings! 🚀







Blast Off to Brilliance: A Day in the Life of a Mustang

https://youtu.be/z6ZXyoB3bQI?si=sizRGfRuyL52FGuu.





Click here to view our website

Cochiti Schools

Second semester is underway—welcome back, Cougars!

Cochiti Elementary and Middle School to Welcome a Special Visitor and Celebrate Federal Investment

Cochiti Elementary and Middle School is honored to welcome an extra special visitor this Monday, January 26th, as our school community celebrates an important milestone. On this day, we will officially receive a financial award from the Federal Government to support the renovation of our old gymnasium into a vibrant multi-cultural space that will serve students, families, and the greater Cochiti community.

This funding represents a meaningful investment in our school and our future. The renovated space will be designed to support cultural activities, educational programs, community gatherings, and student enrichment, creating a place where tradition, learning, and collaboration can come together. By transforming the former gym into a multi-cultural center, Cochiti Elementary and Middle School will gain a space that honors our heritage while supporting growth and opportunity for future generations.

The award presentation will be made to Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, whose support has been instrumental in securing this federal funding. Her visit highlights the importance of investing in schools and communities like ours and recognizes the value of preserving culture through education and shared spaces.

Cochiti Elementary and Middle School is deeply grateful for this support and looks forward to the positive impact this renovation will have on our students and community for years to come.

An Outstanding Middle School Basketball Season for the Cochiti Cougars

This middle school basketball season has been an exciting and rewarding journey for the Cochiti Cougars. Our boys and girls teams have shown tremendous growth, skill, and heart, while consistently demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship. Our student-athletes proudly represent Cochiti Middle School both on and off the court, earning praise not only from our own school community but from other schools as well.

The Cougar Creed is clearly exemplified every time our teams step onto the court. Respect, responsibility, and pride are evident in the way our players compete, support one another, and interact with opponents and officials. These values have been just as important as the wins this season.

Our success is reflected in our records. The middle school boys' basketball team remains undefeated, while the girls' team has had only one loss, showing resilience and determination throughout the season. A major highlight came this week when the Cochiti Cougars swept the West Las Vegas Roadrunners, earning strong victories both on the road and in the Cougar Cave.

As we look ahead, our middle school teams are preparing to face the Anton Chico Tigers at home. With the Cougar Cave full of energy and support, our players are ready to bring their focus, teamwork, and competitive spirit to the court. We are incredibly proud of our student-athletes and coaches for making this season one to remember. Let's roar, Cougars!

Placitas Elementary School

Holiday Traditions at Placitas Elementary

While the holiday season has officially passed, the joy and memories made at Placitas Elementary are still shining bright. Our halls glowed with student-designed farolitas, guiding families through campus and leading them to our Winter Musical performance, where we were thrilled to welcome a full house of families, friends, and community members.

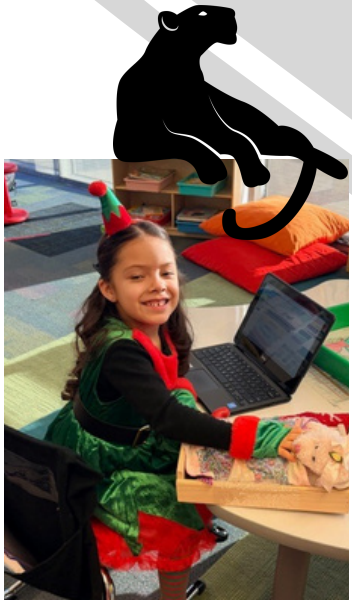
Our students filled the stage with music, confidence, and heart—showcasing not just their talents, but the sense of pride and togetherness that makes PES so special.

And of course, a very special visitor made his way through our school, bringing smiles, laughter, and a little extra magic to every classroom-and trust us, our students were definitely all on the Nice List! 😊

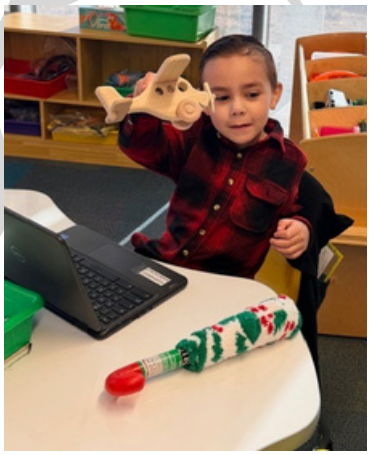
These traditions are more than just celebrations—they reflect the warmth, creativity, and strong community that define Placitas Elementary. We are so grateful to our families and staff for helping make this season so meaningful for our students.











Click here to visit our website

Santo Domingo Schools

Governor Aguilar Visits SD School for Quarterly Awards Assembly



This month, our students had the honor of welcoming Governor Aguilar to SD School during our quarterly awards assembly. Governor Aguilar spoke to students about the importance of hard work, respect, and pride in their education and community. His encouraging words inspired everyone in attendance.

During the assembly, Governor Aguilar also helped present awards to students who demonstrated outstanding achievement and positive character. It was a proud and meaningful moment for our students and their families.



We were also pleased to have Lieutenant Governor Garcia, several Tribal officials, and Travis Atencio join us. Each speaker shared thoughtful messages about leadership, cultural values, and the importance of continuing to strive for success both in school and in life.

Governor Aguilar's visit and participation strongly support our school's Roots & Wings mission. By nourishing the roots of our students' cultural identity and honoring the resilience, spirituality, language, and traditions of the Kewa Pueblo, our leaders help reinforce the foundation that keeps culture at the center of all we do. At the same time, their messages encourage our students to develop the "wings" they need for academic success, college and career readiness, and ultimately giving back to their community.

We are deeply grateful for the support and guidance of our Tribal leaders and community members. Their presence made this awards assembly truly special, and our students will remember this experience for years to come.

After-School Enrichment & Tutoring Program Now Underway

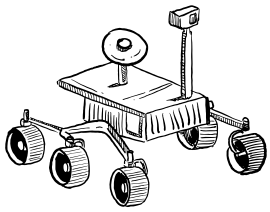
We are excited to announce that our After-School Enrichment and Tutoring Program officially began this month! This program gives students engaging opportunities to build new skills, strengthen academic performance, and explore their interests in a safe, supportive environment after the school day ends.

Students can participate in a variety of enrichment activities, including Robotics, Keres Enrichment, Tennis, Cheer, Kewa Traditions, Games Galore, and Chess Club. These offerings are designed to promote teamwork, creativity, and leadership, while also strengthening students' connection to their language, culture, and community.
In addition to enrichment, the program provides targeted math and reading tutoring to help students grow academically and gain confidence in the classroom. Our goal is to ensure that every student has the support they need to succeed both during and after school.

This program is a powerful reflection of our Roots & Wings mission. By offering culturally grounded activities like Keres Enrichment and Kewa Traditions, we are nourishing the roots of our students' cultural identity, honoring the resilience, spirituality, and sense of community of the Kewa Pueblo and our ancestors. At the same time, the academic tutoring and enrichment opportunities help grow the wings students need for college and career readiness, empowering them to achieve their dreams and give back to their community.



We are grateful to our dedicated staff and community partners for making these opportunities possible. We look forward to watching our students learn, grow, and thrive through this exciting program.



Click here to visit our website.



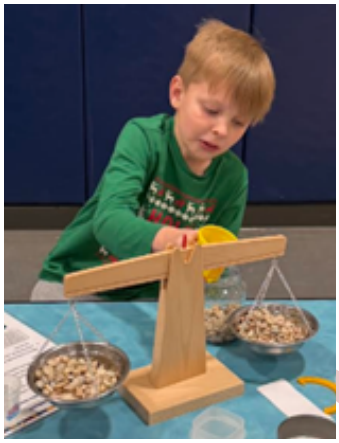
WD Carroll Elementary



Sandia Family Math Night



Sandia Family Math Night, hosted by Explora, was a huge success at W.D. Carroll Elementary! Families explored a variety of hands-on math activity stations at their own pace, creating opportunities for collaboration and shared learning. It was inspiring to see students and their families working together and enjoying math in such an interactive and meaningful way.



CharacterStrong Assembly



During the month of January, W.D. Carroll Elementary honored students who exemplified the five CharacterStrong traits emphasized during Semester 1 at each grade level. These traits—Respect, Responsibility, Gratitude, Empathy, and Perseverance—are central to fostering positive school culture and student growth.

The CharacterStrong curriculum integrates life skills and behavioral support with academics. CharacterStrong, in alignment with BPS, believes that every student deserves (a) safe, predictable, and kind learning environments; (b) healthy, supportive relationships with educators and peers; and (c) opportunities to develop skills that help them meet the demands of both school and life.

During the CharacterStrong Assembly, students were also recognized for outstanding growth in AMIRA math, AMIRA reading, and AMIRA Lectura. Additionally, Attendance Certificates were awarded to students who have maintained perfect attendance since the beginning of the school year.



A huge thank you to Sandia National Laboratories, Explora, and all of our W.D. Carroll students, staff, and families for making Sandia Math Night and the CharacterStrong Assembly such meaningful and successful events!



Click here to visit our website

Bernalillo High School Alumni Corner

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

Marissa Navarro-Dominguez - Class of 2008
A dedicated educational leader advancing equity, inclusion, and student success.



Marissa Navarro-Dominguez, was born and raised in Bernalillo, New Mexico—a community she is proud to call home. She has lived here for over 35 years and feels incredibly fortunate to now serve the same district that helped shape who she is today. She married her husband, Antonio Dominguez, and together they are raising their three wonderful children: Amoriah, Antonio IV, and Azekiel. Their children attend Bernalillo Public Schools, and as both an educator and a parent, Marissa values the strong sense of community and support our district provides.

A 2008 graduate of Bernalillo High School, Marissa was actively involved in academics, athletics, and service programs. She participated in Advanced Placement classes, was a member of the National Honor Society, worked with the D.A.R.E. program, and competed in varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball. Her love for softball earned her a full-ride scholarship to Luna Community College, where she balanced academics, athletics, and work while earning an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education.

Marissa continued her educational journey at New Mexico Highlands University, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 2012 while also coaching junior varsity and varsity softball. After graduating, she returned home to Bernalillo with one clear goal—to give back to the community that gave her so much. Marissa began her teaching career in Pre-K, where she quickly discovered her passion for working in full-inclusion classrooms alongside both general and special education students. Those early years confirmed that education, advocacy, and inclusion were her true calling.

While teaching full time, Marissa earned her Master's Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood from Eastern New Mexico University in 2016. As she continued to grow professionally and personally—marrying and starting a family—she knew her learning was not finished. She later completed both the Educational Diagnostician Program through the University of New Mexico and the Administrators Leadership Development Program through the Cooperative Educational Services (CES) in December 2024.

Today, Marissa serves as an Educational Diagnostician for Bernalillo Public Schools, working district-wide. She is deeply passionate about advocating for children and families and feels honored to serve the community that helped shape her into the educator she is today.

When she's not working, she can often be found cheering on her kids—or keeping up with Azekiel, who's already well on his way to becoming a cowboy.

Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan

The Spirit of Outstanding Service Award

THE DISTIRCT 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 January award winners:



Anya Castro-Ramirez
12th grade students, BHS
Students of the Month
Sponsored by Circle B Ranch



Obdulia Uhl
Teacher, Algodones Elementary
Teacher of the Month
Sponsored by Ashley Duran Insurance Agency



Luciana Welch
Registrar, SLA
Operational Support of the Month
Sponsored by Wire Nut Electric



Carlo Druand
SPED EA, Spartan Learning Academy
Instructional Support of the Month
Sponsored by J & M Printing



Jessica Kettler
Principal, La Escuelita
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

Follow Us On Social Media

@bernalillops

@bernalillops

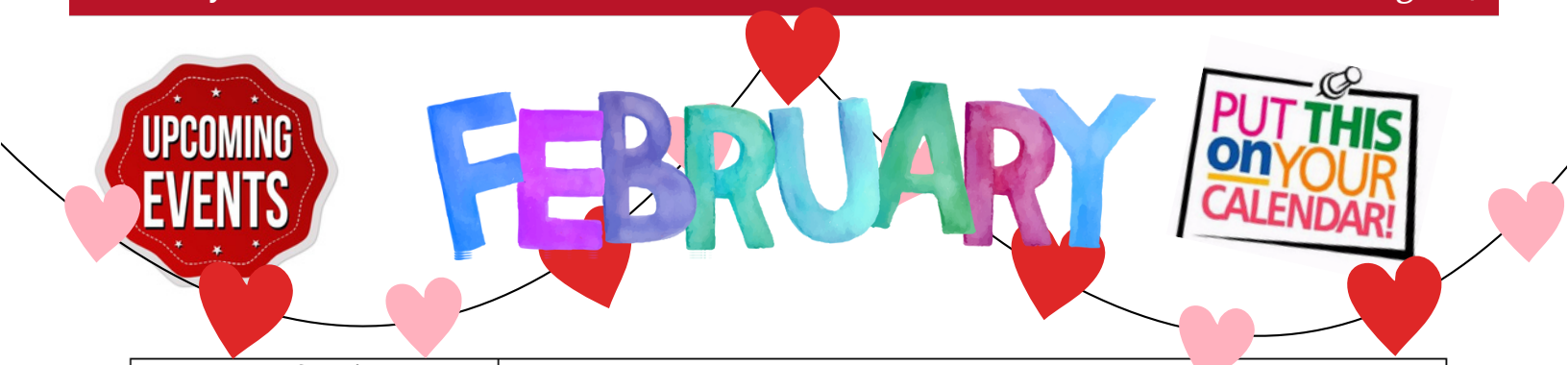
@bernalillops

Visit Our Website!

www.bernalillo-schools.org

Download the App!

Bernalillo Public School... OPEN
Education



February 2nd – 6th	School Counseling Appreciation Week
February 4th	GEAR Up FAFSA Night – BHS Library 5:30pm
February 9th	Native American Educator and Parent Advisory Committee (NAEPAC) – SLA 5:30pm-7:00pm
February 10th	The Who, What, Why, Where, and How of an Individualized Education Program Parent Training - BPS District Office or Virtual 9:30am-11:00am Meeting link is listed below.
February 11th	NJHS Food Distribution – SLA 12:30pm-2:30pm
February 12th	BPS Work Session Board Meeting – District Office 5:30pm
February 12th & 13th	8th Grade Transition Visit to BHS 8:00am-2:30pm
February 15th	National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day
February 18th	BHS Spartan Booster Club Meeting – BHS Gym 6:00pm-8:00pm
February 24th	National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony – SLA 5:30pm
February 26th	BPS Regular Board Meeting – Bernalillo High School 5:30pm
March 2nd - 5th	School Social Workers Appreciation Week
March 6th	Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day

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.

📄 The Who, What, Why, Where, and How of an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

📅 **February 10, 2026**

Click here to access the meeting

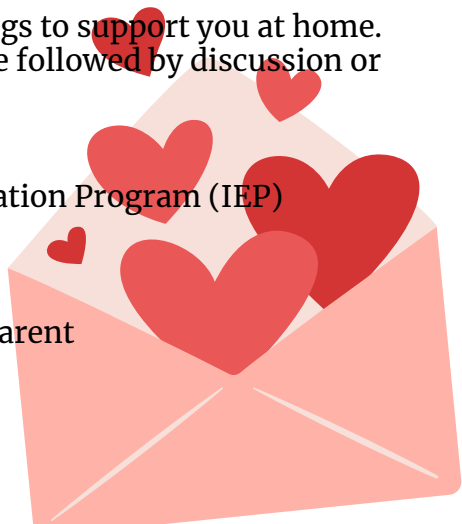
🤝 Key Components of an IEP Through the Lens of a Parent

📅 **March 10, 2026**

Click here to access the meeting

All families are welcome!

SPECIAL EDUCATION
BERNALILLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Library Programs

MONDAY

February 9TH
4-H Meeting at
6 pm

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

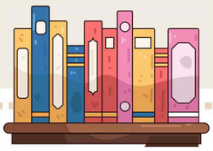
February 19th
BioPark Animal Adaptations
3:30 pm

FRIDAY

February 13TH
Teeniors at 11 am

SUNDAY

February 22TH -
Coronado Lecture Series
at 2 pm



Children/Family Program
Young Adult Programs
Adult Programs

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

WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday -Tech Help for Adults 10 am

February 4th
Paintbrush Hour for Adults 5 pm

February 11th Explora!
3:30 pm

February 11th
Basic Sewing for Adults/Valentines Day Banner 5 pm

February 18th BioPark
Toddler Storytime
10 am

TUESDAY

Every Tuesday -
Aprenda inglés 11 am

Every Tuesday -
Shakespeare Reading Group 1:30 pm

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

February 10th & 24th
Toddler Storytime at
10am

SATURDAY

Every Saturday -Art Studio 10:30 am

February 14th
Valentine's Day Party
10 am

February 21th
Ranger Read & Learn
10 am

February 21st Yarn Club
10 am (all ages)

February 28th Family
Movie Day: Aladdin
10 am

February 28th
Route 66 Lecture Series
11 am

Martha Liebert Public Library
Town of Bernalillo

YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL

Sandoval County is committed to starting a feeder program for local youth to partake in youth Tackle Football programs to benefit the entire community.



SIGN UP YOUR CHILD TO PLAY OR CHEER!



CONTACT COACH TONY: (505) 903-0093

FREE Off-Season Workouts have already begun! Come be a part of the Success Story!

NM Pop Warner Tackle Football program! **Sandoval County Spartans are seeking football players [Ages 9-11].** No experience necessary.





Lexi Hargrave, Kindergarten student at WD Carroll Elementary



For more information contact:
Richard Maestas
505-328-4907
rmaestas@projectfirebuddies.org
Project Fire Buddies, Inc.
Bernalillo Chapter

OUR MISSION

We are firefighters who offer support to children fighting critical illnesses. Their battle will not be fought alone!

Project Fire Buddies is a beacon of hope for every family we have the honor to serve.

HELP US CREATE GOOD DAYS.



OUR STORY

In 2016, Project Fire Buddies was initiated based on Kurt DeGroot's vision while serving at a fire department in the south suburbs of Chicago. With the collaboration of Ryan Ballard, steadfast support from his wife and children, and the dedication of other team members, the organization's influence has expanded significantly, driving its ambitious goals.

WHAT WE DO

Project Fire Buddies brings joy to kids struggling with critical illnesses. We believe that no child should fight their battle alone. Since it's inception PFB has been steadily growing and expanding.

From 2023 to 2024 alone, the organization grew by 500%. New chapters are committing to the mission every day and helping us to bring joy to even more children.

OUR CHAPTERS



Our chapters prioritize cultivating connections with their Fire Buddies. Members of PFB pay visits to Fire Buddies at their homes, often times arriving in a parade of fire vehicles with flashing lights and blaring sirens. They bring presents for birthdays and holidays, engage in games, offer tickets to concerts and special occasions, and participate in significant events in the children's lives. PFB has also assisted families in obtaining essential medical equipment and supplies. Fire Buddies even drop by the firehouse occasionally for meals with the crew, station tours, and to see the rigs.



Do you know a child who is struggling with a critical illness and in need of a reason to smile? Project Fire Buddies is here to help. While healthcare privacy laws are crucial, they can make it challenging for us to reach the children who require our support.

Visit our website today to complete our contact form and help Project Fire Buddies make a positive impact on a child in your life.

GET INVOLVED

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As of 2024, Project Fire Buddies has expanded to include more than 100 chapters spanning nine states. Check out the Chapters section on our website to discover if a fire department in your area is affiliated with Project Fire Buddies.

Follow Us!

Project Fire Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of kind donors. We welcome cash and check donations throughout the year, and you also have the option to donate through our website.

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.