

# Heart of BREARD

A Publication of Brevard Public Schools



Winter 2019

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# Heart of BREVARD

Heart of Brevard is a publication of Brevard Public Schools.

## Superintendent

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## School Board Members

Misty Belford, District 1

Cheryl McDougall, District 2

Tina Descovich, District 3

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Katye Campbell, District 5

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Assistant Superintendent: Matt Reed

Editor in Chief: Nicki Hensley

Graphic Designer: Daniel Jankowski

Copy Editor: Linda Gibson

## BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educational Services Facility  
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way | Viera, FL  
32940-6601 | 321-633-1000

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# From the Editor



It's hard to believe another holiday season is upon us. As a parent of two, it seems like once the kids started elementary school life jumped to warp speed; likely because everything we do and plan is so closely tied to the

school calendar and all of the milestones, celebrations and obligations in between.

In all the hustle and bustle that comes with this time of year – whether it be completing college applications, studying for mid-term exams, preparing for science fair, contributing to school fundraisers, planning class parties, attending winter concerts and office gatherings, shopping, cooking, entertaining and everything in between (whew!), it's important to take a pause and regain perspective on what should matter most... spending quality time with the ones you love and giving back to those less fortunate.

We are excited to bring this winter edition of *Heart of Brevard* to our families and community, and to share stories that aim to warm your heart and feed your soul.

Inside this issue you will learn about:

- The generous contributions of our Brevard community and the role our partners play in supporting our schools and elevating student success;
- How the Brevard Schools Foundation is aiding our most vulnerable students; and

- How community action poverty simulations are providing valuable insights into the lives and struggles of low-income families.

Gifts of kindness and altruism come in many shapes and sizes. It could be a simple gesture of donating canned goods and non-perishables to restock a community food pantry, or a donation of old blankets and towels to an animal shelter, or participation in an office angel tree project to ensure a child has a gift to open at Christmas.

You can encourage the kids to collect loose change for a local charity, or get the whole family involved by signing up to help pack meals at the Children's Hunger Project. Organizations such as Support Our Troops are looking for items to fill care packages to send to our active duty service men and women who won't be home during the holidays, and our local seniors in memory or assisted care facilities love receiving deliveries of cards, candy-grams or carolers this time of year.

The commitment of time or money does not need to be great, as it is the act of helping others that makes a difference and matters most.

Wishing you and yours safe and happy holidays, a restful winter break, and all good things in the coming New Year.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicki".

Nicki Hensley, Editor-in-Chief  
[Hensley.Jennifer@brevardschools.org](mailto:Hensley.Jennifer@brevardschools.org)





# “Hope to Dream” Event Provides 50 Brevard Children the Gift of Sleep



Ashley HomeStore believes that every child should have a bed to call their own. The furniture giant’s “Hope to Dream” program has provided more than 90,000 beds to children in need across the U.S. and Canada since its inception in 2010.

50 deserving Brevard County kids from not only Jupiter, but Mims and University Park elementary schools, as well as Clearlake’s VPK program, were selected and treated to an afternoon of fun at Kennedy Space Center followed by a surprise bed reveal. Each child received a twin mattress, bed frame, pillow, sheets, a comforter and other fun items to help foster a happy sleep. For most of these kids, this was the very first real bed they’ve ever slept in or called their own.

To learn more about the day and the Hope to Dream program, visit <https://www.ahopetodream.com/media/news>.

Jenifer Clarke, a Head Start family advocate at Jupiter Elementary, submitted the names of some of her deserving students on the Hope to Dream web site. As a result of her nomination, a total of



# Brevard's Giving Spirit

By: Nicki Hensley

Throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season, our schools and thousands of deserving BPS families experience the spirit of giving that is the heart and soul of the Space Coast.

With more than 2,000 students considered "in transition" -- meaning they don't have a home to call their own -- and more than 50-percent who qualify for free and reduced lunch, the needs of our community run deep throughout our schools, but the goodwill runs deeper.

*The saying "it takes a village" couldn't be more true, as it requires many hands and open hearts to help fulfill our district's mission of serving every student with excellence as the standard.*

There are hundreds of non-profit organizations across Brevard County dedicated to supporting families, and more specifically, children, in need.

2-1-1 Brevard helps connect residents to important health and social service resources when they need help with a household bill payment, food assistance, or counseling for suicide prevention. Eckerd Connects guides vulnerable youth to a better path in life through fostering and adoptive care, workforce development, and transitional services. The Children's Hunger Project provides weekend meals for more than 2,300 BPS students and the Brevard Schools Foundation's Supply Zone for Teachers gives away 2,000 backpacks filled with necessary supplies at the start of each school year.

Our students are supported at the school level in countless ways, from donations of food, personal care products, clothing, school supplies, household products, toys, and other items, to the funding of field trips, activity and testing fees, transportation to and from important school meetings, club t-shirts and more.

Volunteers serve tens of thousands of hours helping to pack meals or restock the shelves in our school markets and clothing closets. They read to our littlest learners and mentor our soon-to-be graduates. There are organizations such as Tied Together, whose members visit middle and high schools to teach our young men the basics of being gentlemen, and e-Angels, that works to ensure every child has the opportunity to fully participate in their educational

experience regardless of socio-economic status.

It's difficult at best to capture and calculate the magnitude of support our schools and programs receive from individual donors and volunteers, businesses large and small, civic groups, feeder schools and faith-based organizations. Whether it be in the form of grants, financial or in-kind donations or through the lending of time and expertise, all share a common responsibility and commitment to our community and our kids.

It's often said that "Brevard takes care of Brevard." There's no greater evidence of this than in our schools.

This holiday season, we give thanks to the individuals and organizations working to ensure that every student has an opportunity, and a desire, to succeed. For there is no greater gift than to feel valued.

## The Strength of Community

These are just a few of the hundreds of partner organizations that Brevard Public Schools is proud to work alongside in supporting and strengthening our underserved communities with the shared goal of providing every student the opportunity to succeed.

### North Area Youth Mental Health Task Force

Formed in 2017 to address youth mental health in the community, to decrease the suicide rate, and to reduce the stigma associated with teens seeking mental health care. The task force is comprised of business leaders, community health and human service agency representatives, BPS representatives, and individuals interested in improving mental health of our youth.

**Years supporting BPS community:** Nearly 3 years (since program's inception)

**# of students/families served:** While the Task Force does not provide direct services to families, member organizations have forged programs that have reached hundreds of Brevard County families including Sources of Strength, an anti-bullying and suicide prevention program that is active through Brevard County Schools.

**Type of support throughout the year:** Community education, establishing a recommended list of social-emotional programming for primary grades, and endorsement of the Sources of Strength peer led suicide prevention program. The Task Force facilitates opportunities for community leaders to "Start the Conversation" about mental health, hosting community workshops and promoting the CDC model for preventing suicide and advocates for mental health services with legislators.





**Years supporting BPS community:** 9

**# of students/families served:** 2,343 students in 46 elementary schools

**Type of support:** Weekend food packages (items vary from time to time depending on availability).

[thechildrenshungerproject.org](http://thechildrenshungerproject.org)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 31

**# of students/families served:** 1,033 children (current). (Number changes as new children are removed from their homes and other children find their permanent homes.)

**Type of support:** Supports children who have been removed from their home due to abuse, abandonment and neglect by funding clothing, beds, bikes, computers, diapers, school supplies, luggage, holiday gifts, duffle bags and other items not provided by government agencies.

[friendsofchildrenofbrevard.org](http://friendsofchildrenofbrevard.org)



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Brevard County, FL Inc.

**Years supporting BPS community:** 25

**# of students/families served:** 1,500 member grandparents equating to 3,000 grandchildren. (There are 8,700 children in Brevard County being raised by their grandparents.)

**Type of support throughout the year:** Support groups, help at Christmas, Thanksgiving dinners, backpacks, legal support and information, assistance with ACCESS Florida.

[grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org](http://grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 15

**# of students/families served:** Approximately 1,500.

**Type of support:** Foster care, adoption services and independent living assistance for youth aging out of foster care, and prevention-based programs.

[brevardfp.org](http://brevardfp.org)



Lifetime Counseling Center

- Embrace Growth -

**Years supporting BPS community:** 20+ years.

**# of students/families served:** 1,200+ Brevard youth and their families.

**Type of support:** Individual, group, and family therapy services to BPS students on site in the schools and at LCC office locations across the county; contracted social work/mental health support to 16 schools.

[lccbrevard.org](http://lccbrevard.org)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 40+ years

**# of students/families served:** 2-1-1 specialists log approx. 35,000 contacts annually for Brevard County with 50% related to basic needs such as housing, food and utilities.

**Type of support:** Provides emotional, financial and community crisis and suicide intervention, as well as information and referrals to community resources, 24 hours a day via telephone and online database. Offers free child development screenings and ongoing support for families with children up to 8 years old.

[211brevard.org](http://211brevard.org)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 22

**# of students/families served:** 3,000

**Type of support:** Backpacks/school supplies, field trips, glasses, hygiene supplies, activity and testing fees, shoes, uniforms, lunch fund, transportation, character education.

[e-angels.org](http://e-angels.org)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 19+ for counseling services, 30+ for targeted case management.

**# of students/families served:** approx. 350 in counseling and 200+ in targeted case management.

**Type of support:** individual, group and family counseling; targeted case management for Medicaid recipients.

[chsfl.org/locations/space-coast](http://chsfl.org/locations/space-coast)



**Years supporting BPS community:** 22

**# of students/families served:** Some 3,000 children in the last three years

**Type of support:** District-wide (school-based) substance use education and awareness events for students and families; grants, financial and in-kind donations; tutoring services, housing assistance referrals, ELC child care and aftercare referrals, transportation and other services. Student advocacy for shelter, medical care, mental health, food pantries, behavioral services, as well as Department of Children & Families and aftercare follow-up services.

[www.eckerd.org](http://www.eckerd.org)

# STAY CONNECTED WITH BPS



## District & School Websites

Visit [www.Brevardschools.org](http://www.Brevardschools.org) then visit the "SCHOOLS" tab at the top right.



## Text & E-mail Alerts

Download the BPS Mobile app from the App Store or Google Play for district and school events and emergency notifications.



## Social Media

Facebook @ [facebook.com/BrevardPublicSchools\(official\)](https://facebook.com/BrevardPublicSchools(official))

Twitter @ [brevardschools](https://twitter.com/brevardschools)

LinkedIn @ [Brevard Public Schools](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Brevard-Public-Schools)



## Access to Parent Portal

Check grades, attendance, school event calendars and more! Download the Focus app in the App Store or Google Play. Access code...



## Become Informed and Get Involved

Watch monthly School Board meetings live streamed live on Spectrum 496 or the BPS YouTube Channel.

Submit A  
Tip Online



## School & Community News and Events

Peachjar removes the clutter from your child's backpack and provides school and community-centric information in an electronic format found in the District's mobile app or at [www.peachjar.com](http://www.peachjar.com), where you can sign up.



**FORTIFYFL**

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL

## Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.





## Profile on Lorraine Dierkes, Executive Director,

**e-Angels Inc.**

[www.e-Angels.org](http://www.e-Angels.org)



When Lorraine Dierkes' children were in elementary school at Sea Park back in the 90s, she was an active parent volunteer, serving as a classroom parent and the school's PTO president. One day, she was approached by a teacher asking if the PTO could buy dictionaries for his class, as a few students could not afford to do so. They were a small PTO and couldn't fund a project like that in full, but Lorraine knew she could, at the very least, help those few children. In speaking with other teachers and parents, she learned that there were always students who couldn't afford field trips, expenses for class projects, activity fees, and other costs that come up from time to time in a given school year. In those cases, the teachers themselves often reached into their own pockets to help. Believing there was a better way, she started a project she called "e-Angels."

Dierkes and fellow volunteers would gather the e-mail addresses of people who expressed interest in helping assist students in need. People would

make tax-deductible donations to the PTO, and the organization would in turn write a check to cover the cost of a needed item or payment. The program continued long after her children went on to middle and high school. In the years that followed, she established and ran the same program as part of Sunrise Elementary's PTO and was tremendously successful. Finally, in 2013 she decided to grow the concept to affect more children and established e-Angels as a non-profit organization. As its mission statement states, e-Angels "helps children fully participate in a rich educational experience regardless of socio-economic status."

The organization has assisted thousands of deserving Brevard children to date by seeking financial

contributions and in-kind donations that aid in the purchase of such items as graduation caps and gowns, calculators for testing, shirts for a high school chorus, hygiene kits and school supplies. They have established partnerships with businesses such as Lens Crafters to cover the cost of student eye-glasses (e-Angels funds the eye exams), and negotiated free dental check-ups. They've cover fees associated with field trips and proms, testing and certifications, organized community-wide fundraisers to support school programs and arranged for transportation to and from parent-

teacher conferences, IEP meetings, and other school-related appointments.

The success of e-Angels has had an immeasurable impact on our schools and community here in Brevard; so much so that Dierkes is currently in negotiations to bring the concept nationwide. Proof that a big idea can only be outshined by an even bigger heart.



# Introducing Brevard Public Schools' 2020

Congratulations to our 2020 Teacher and Employee of the Year finalists. These 11 individuals have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to helping strengthen the quality of public education in Brevard County. A winner from both categories, as well as our 2020 Volunteer of the Year, will be announced Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the annual ABC Awards to be held at the King Center in Melbourne.



**Kathy Hamilton-Brown**  
Pre-K – 6 Teacher  
Endeavour Elementary



**Laura Maggio**  
Media Specialist  
Stone Magnet Middle School



**Amanda Benoit**  
Bookkeeper  
Riviera Elementary



**Todd Brackett**  
Technology Associate  
W.J. Creel Elementary



**Ann Marie Givens**  
Instructional Assistant (ESOL)  
Lockmar Elementary

**ABC Awards – Applauding Brevard's Champions**

**January 29, 2020 – King Center, Melbourne**



# Teacher and Employee of the Year Finalists



**Lainey Newell**  
Literacy Coach  
Columbia Elementary



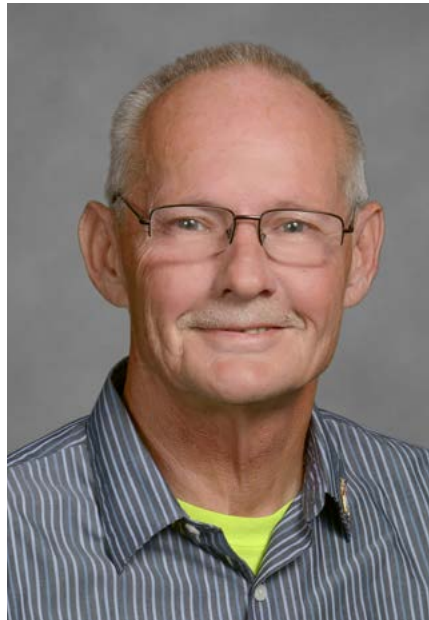
**Sydney Willand**  
6th Grade Teacher  
Fairglen Elementary



**Eryn Worcester**  
Media Specialist  
Edgewood Jr./Sr. High



**Maria Morales**  
Office Clerk  
Palm Bay Elementary



**Ed Rac**  
Custodian  
Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High



**Laura Saenz**  
Media Assistant  
Rockledge High

**Recognizing Our 2020 Teacher of the Year • Employee of the Year  
• Volunteer of the Year • Emerging & Rookie Teachers of the Year  
• Principal of the Year • Assistant Principal of the Year**

# Two of Brevard's Best Earn State-Sponsored Professional Learning Opportunities

Congratulations to Eau Gallie High ceramics instructor and 2019 Teacher of the Year, Shannon Kraeling, and Rachael Breckenridge, ESE resource teacher at Imperial Estates Elementary. Both educators have earned the unique opportunity to participate in year-long state-sponsored professional development programs offered in partnership between the Florida Department of Education and the New Teacher Center, a nationally recognized leader in teacher development.



Kraeling will participate in the Florida Teacher Lead Network (FTLN) -- an elite group of innovative and accomplished educators. FTLN provides educators with superior one-on-one coaching. Beginning with coaching on

their own instructional practices, members focus on four key areas: culture of learning, essential content, academic ownership, and demonstration of learning. This is accomplished through lesson planning, coaches zooming virtually into the classroom, coaching calls, and guided reflection. The second phase of the one-on-one coaching is focused on participants developing the skills to mentor colleagues with the goal of positively affecting classrooms beyond their own.

"I am so honored to be part of this phenomenal group of educators and am beyond excited to have the opportunity to learn with and from them," said Kraeling. "They inspire and challenge me to stretch my teaching skills in ways I never knew or believed were possible. What I am most excited about is the opportunity to refine my mentoring abilities so

I can be more helpful and effective. I am learning skills and techniques that will help me be a better listener and communicator."

Kraeling hopes to bring what she's learned back to Brevard County and start a program here modeled after these mentoring principles and philosophies, with the goal of having trained mentor teachers in every school.

Breckenridge will be joining the High Impact Teacher Corps (HITC), comprised of high performing teachers who have demonstrated the ability to have a positive impact on student achievement with significant results for



students in some of Florida's most struggling schools. Those selected for the HITC receive support and coaching to develop the skills necessary to assist other teachers in achieving the kinds of results they are getting for their own students.

"It is the highest honor I have ever received -- to be recognized as part of the High Impact Teacher Corps for the State of Florida," said Breckenridge. "The amazing team that has been put together from across the state is able to collaborate, grow, and learn from each other. Then, we have the opportunity to bring all of those skills we have mastered, and new skills acquired, back to our campuses and communities to help our local teammates extend their professional learning and personal development."



Hundreds of dads and father figures across Brevard County made a special effort to take their child/children to school on September 25th in recognition of Florida's "Dads Take Your Child to School Day." The Florida Department of Education promotes this annual initiative to highlight and support fatherhood engagement in education. Research indicates engaging dads, brothers, uncles, father figures, other significant male role models, and male mentors, increases student success in numerous ways.



Palm Bay Elementary



Pinewood Elementary



Longleaf Elementary



South Lake Elementary



Roosevelt Elementary





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support  
Brevard  
families*

Violette,  
Brilliant Smiles Orthodontics'  
Teaching Tooth Fairy

*Brilliant Smiles Orthodontics*



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[www.brilliant-smiles-orthodontics.com](http://www.brilliant-smiles-orthodontics.com)



**Offices in Titusville Merritt Island Satellite Beach Melbourne Palm Bay**



# Poverty Simulation Offers a Window into the Lives of those Less Fortunate

*Ginny Gleason and Gevonne Blum, Parent, Family & Community Engagement*

Many of us think we understand what it might be like to live in poverty but do we really? Brevard Public Schools delivers a simulation that provides participants with an experience many will never forget. During the Community Action Poverty Simulation, participants are provided an opportunity to role-play the lives of low-income families. The simulation depicts what it might be like to live for one month trying to meet all responsibilities of a household struggling financially.

Single parents making ends meet while battling the challenges of transportation, grandparents juggling work, school registration and simply feeding their family. It becomes painfully clear as the role-play unfolds that transportation is one the greatest burdens. This experience allows participants to see and most importantly feel the frustration and overwhelming emotions that so many of our families live every day.

The power of this experience is the debrief. After the simulation is completed participants gather

into a circle and share their thoughts and feelings. The impact of the simulation is often heard in the descriptive words and emotions expressed by participants. The ultimate goal of the simulation is to change personal practice. It can be as simple as seeing your students and your families through a more compassionate lens. The participants begin to understand that a parent who had to ride a bus to the parent conference may not be able to attend any other school events. Understanding a parent's lack of communication may not be a lack of caring.

We need to move away from making negative assumptions about our families and our community until we have a better understanding of the journey they take each day.

Brevard Public Schools has provided this training to 18 schools and two community organizations. We are beginning to see the change in practice and growth in compassion. The training team is currently booked through 2020. It is inspiring to see the interest and enthusiasm around this impactful simulation.



# Brevard Schools Foundation: Helping Kids Cross the Finish Line

*The starting line is not at the same place for all kids. For some, the circumstances of their lives puts them at a distinct disadvantage and makes it difficult, if not impossible, to reach the finish line.*

*That's where Brevard Schools Foundation (BSF) comes in – to bridge the opportunity gap for the most vulnerable students so that they have a way to reach their goal.*



*The Foundation, established in 1987, helps fill educational funding and opportunity gaps at all of Brevard's 84 public schools, covering more than 73,000 students and nearly 5,000 teachers by supporting innovation, engaging communities and changing lives.*

Here are just a few ways BSF helps:

## **Supporting Innovation: Bright Ideas**

The renowned poet William Butler Yeats once said, "Education should not be the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." That's just what the BSF Bright Ideas Classroom Grant program does in schools across Brevard.

Each year, teachers in all 84 schools can bring their bright ideas to life with funding that otherwise would not be available. This year alone, 45 teachers in 32 schools were awarded Bright Ideas Classroom Grants totaling \$46,277. The results are engaged, motivated students who are eager to learn and enthusiastic teachers who are excited to teach!



**Brevard Schools  
FOUNDATION**  
INVESTING IN YOUNG MINDS



## Engaging Communities: Supply Zone for Teachers

Our community has lots of heart when it comes to students. There is no better example of that than the support that the Supply Zone for Teachers has received since its inception in 2014. A continued, outpouring of generosity from individuals, businesses and civic organization across Brevard keeps the Supply Zone stocked and thousands of students supplied with the tools they need to be successful.

The Supply Zone for Teachers allows educators in our highest poverty schools to get free supplies and hygiene products for their students, while relieving the burden of digging into their pockets to help fill these needs. Operating as a “free store,” teachers from 26 high-poverty schools can “shop” for school supplies for their students all year long.

Support from the community ensures that every student has the chance to learn and succeed in school.

## Changing Lives: Take Stock in Children

The mission of Brevard Schools Foundation Take Stock in Children Program (TSIC) is to break the generational cycle of poverty by providing mentoring, education, and hope to motivated at-risk students in Brevard Public Schools. Beginning in middle school and through high school, students receive mentoring, academic planning, advocacy, college preparation, and upon successful completion of the TSIC program, a two year Florida Pre-paid scholarship. Currently, there are 229 students enrolled in Brevard County TSIC. With a graduation rate of 98 percent, the Take Stock in Children program is truly changing lives!

## Investing in Students and Teachers

Aside from the programs listed above, there are many other ways in which BSF supports students in our community including the funding



of scholarships for graduating seniors and Destination Space, a program that introduces all 6th grade students to the rich history of space exploration. But the Foundation’s work would not be complete without a commitment to supporting and recognizing the work of our outstanding teachers.

BSF applauds excellence in education by hosting the ABC Awards. This annual event showcases the Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year, Emerging Teacher of the Year, as well as Employee of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The event highlights the best and the brightest in our education community.

*Brevard Schools Foundation is there to address the ever-changing needs of students and teachers because education is a marathon not a sprint. Every student deserves a victory lap.*

If you are inspired to help students reach the finish line, reach out to Brevard Schools Foundation to volunteer or donate. Your contributions of time, talent and treasure can change lives for students right here in Brevard! Email [info@bsf.brevardschools.org](mailto:info@bsf.brevardschools.org) or call 321-633-1000 ext. 11756.



**Know an educator or someone at BPS who made a difference in your life or the life of a student? Email <http://gotheart@brevardschools.org> and let us know! Your story may be shared in a future edition.**

# 30 Brevard Schools Recognized by USF for Behavioral Intervention Programs

By Rene Rains, BPS District Contact for PBIS

Brevard Public Schools currently has 43 schools implementing Tier 1 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) at their schools.

There were 39 BPS schools implementing PBIS and as a result of their commitment to providing a positive school culture for all, 30 schools are being recognized as Tier I Model Schools. This means that 77 percent of all Brevard PBIS schools are being recognized as Model Schools for their exemplar implementation efforts.

Model Schools undergo a rigorous process to achieve one of these prestigious awards. A Model School is one that exemplifies best practices and fidelity of implementation of the PBIS Tier 1 process.

We are extremely proud to announce that 13 PBIS schools have met the Gold Level Model School Criteria. (see list below).

These Schools will be receiving banners and certificates from the University of South Florida's Positive Behavioral Support Project and will be honored at the first PBIS Point of Contact meeting at the Educational Services Facility. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support is being implemented nationally in over 26,000 schools and in approximately 1,900 schools across the state of Florida. We are very proud of the 30 Brevard PBIS Model Schools along with all the PBIS schools in Brevard for continuing to work towards supporting a more positive social climate through their PBIS implementation efforts.

For more information about the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support process, please contact Rene Rains at [rains.rene@brevardschools.org](mailto:rains.rene@brevardschools.org) or call 321 633-1000 ext. 11429

## Gold Level

Atlantis Elementary  
Brevard Virtual  
Cape View Elementary,  
Cocoa High  
Eau Gallie High  
Golfview Elementary Magnet  
Heritage High  
Lyndon B. Johnson Middle  
Jupiter Elementary  
Longleaf Elementary  
Pinewood Elementary  
Sabal Elementary  
Sunrise Elementary



## Silver Level

Jackson Middle  
Apollo Elementary  
Cambridge Elementary Magnet  
Coquina Elementary  
Croton Elementary  
Imperial Estates Elementary  
MILA Elementary  
Sherwood Elementary  
Jefferson Middle



## Bronze Level

Challenger 7 Elementary  
Endeavour Elementary  
Fairglen Elementary  
Harbor City Elementary  
Hoover Middle  
James Madison Middle  
Mims Elementary  
Oak Park Elementary





# BPS Cafeterias Rocked National School Lunch Week

The National School Lunch Week 2019's theme was "School Lunch: What's on Your Playlist?" which spotlights the wide variety of flavors, dishes, delivery options and tastes that can be customized in today's school lunch. Our Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) teams showed so much creativity in bringing their musical themes to life for students and staff. Bright colors, bold shapes and tasty treats were on full display as our schools celebrated all of the ways our FNS staff support some 33,000 students each day.



Cambridge Elementary



Manatee Elementary



Sunrise Elementary



Gemini Elementary

# A Guide to Golf Cart Safety

By Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization

Low speed vehicles and golf carts are a great way to enjoy local communities and natural spaces. But it's important to know the differences between these vehicles and the laws that apply to each.

## Low Speed Vehicles vs Golf Carts

A *low speed vehicle* (LSV) is a vehicle with a top speed greater than 20 MPH, but not greater than 25 MPH. LSVs must be registered, titled and insured with personal injury protection (PIP) and property damage liability (PDL) insurance. Any person operating an LSV must have a valid driver license. LSVs may only be operated on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 MPH or less. LSVs must also be equipped with operating head lights and tail lights.

Golf carts are defined in section 320.01(22), Florida Statutes, as "a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 MPH." Golf carts may be operated on roadways that are designated for golf carts with a posted speed limit of 30 MPH or less.

- Golf carts operators may **NOT** cross any U.S., State, or County road unless the agency that has jurisdiction over the road has approved the crossing and properly signed the location.

## Golf Cart Fast Facts

- You must be at least **14 years** old to operate a golf cart
- You do **NOT** need a driver's license to drive a golf cart. However, the same vision requirements needed for safe driving are also necessary for golf cart operation.
- You may only operate a golf cart between sunrise and sunset, unless otherwise determined by your local community. If your community association determines a golf cart can be operated outside of those areas, your golf cart **MUST** have: headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and a windshield.

# SIMPLE STEPS: GOLF CART SAFETY

Make your safety a priority



## 1 DRIVE RESPONSIBLY

Legs and arms should remain inside the vehicle and if your golf cart is equipped with them, seat belts should be worn at all times.



## 2 YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

Always yield to pedestrians and bicyclists, they have the right of way.



## 3 SEE AND BE SEEN

Make sure your golf cart has warning devices on both the front and back made of red reflective material that meets state standards.



## 4 AVOID DRIVING DISTRACTIONS

Focus solely on operating the golf cart at all times. Avoid texting, eating, using your cell phone, and using ear buds.



## 5 OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS

While operating a golf cart, obey all traffic laws. Stop at traffic lights, use signalized crosswalks, and yield to pedestrians.



## 6 KEEP UP MAINTENANCE

To safely operate your golf cart on designated roads, it must have:

- Properly operating wheel brakes, steering wheel and inflated tires with good tread
- Rear view mirror



## Q&A with School Board Vice Chair

# Matt Susin

### What teacher inspired you the most growing up and why?

Mrs. Blankenship. She was my 10th grade English teacher at Jupiter High School in Palm Beach County. English was not a class that I loved, because many of my teachers did not value my extracurricular non-stop movement and natural interpersonal communications skills. Mrs. Blankenship cared enough as a teacher to see my assets and let them shine in ways that made me feel like I contributed positively to the class. I got straight A's all throughout her class and her style became my model for when I eventually taught. Differentiated instruction with collaboration and student led class discussions are what is the bedrock of education today and Mrs. Blankenship was doing it in her class 30 years ago! Hats off to my favorite teacher who inspired me to be great!

### Of the important initiatives you've been a part of, which do you feel has had the greatest impact?

I am most proud of our Mandatory EKG testing for student athletes, which has already identified 12 students who may very well have been statistics had they not been screened. A close second, however, is the expansion of our trades programs to include a new aviation program at Eau Gallie High, a manufacturing center at Bayside High, a welding program at Astronaut High, and a construction program at Cocoa High. I am proud to say Brevard Public Schools has the largest jobs program in the state of Florida!

### What is your favorite quote?

Luke 6:37: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

### Tell us your favorite Heart of Brevard story.

There are so many to choose from. Whether it be our incomparable teachers or dedicated staff, the most generous business and community partners, or our families who give of their time to volunteer in our schools; the outpouring of support for Brevard's public schools is incredible and humbling. I do, however, find myself smiling most when we recognize our students



for their hard work and achievements. I love to see the sense of pride on their faces and that feeling of being on top of the world, because that's when it all comes full circle and you realize how much heart it takes to affect a student's success and ultimately, their future.

*Matt Susin is the District 4 school board representative.*



Wishing you and yours  
*Happy Holidays*  
From all of us at BPS

# Navigating a Disability Diagnosis Successfully

Maleka Campbell, BPS PreK School Psychologist

*When my son was first diagnosed at the age of 17 months as Developmentally Delayed and Language Impaired, I was thankful to have someone else confirm my “mother’s intuition”. As time went on, I was determined to do whatever was necessary to help him “catch up”. -Mrs. Turner, parent and educator*

When parents find out that their child has a disability and need special education services, they are typically shocked, dismayed, confused and often feel helpless. They may go through periods of disbelief, denial, and even depression before finding acceptance. Even when parents feel relieved to finally have a diagnosis, they are often unfamiliar with resources that can help them to cope with this newfound and life changing information.

*At first, I prayed a lot. I wasn’t sure how or what to share with family and friends about what was going on. Once I shared with family, they were supportive. I was very thankful for the therapists that worked with him (and us)! -Turner*

It is valuable to remember in this difficult time of transition to:

## Seek Support from Others

When they are ready, it is important for parents to access social supports from individuals who can relate to what they are going through. Many schools have parent to parent support groups. There are community support groups and online/social media support groups to help parents cope with the unique demands of parenting a child with special needs.

## Make a Plan

Receiving information about your child’s disability can affect the entire family. Educate yourself and your family about the specific needs, challenges and rewards that your family may face in this journey. Familiarizing yourself with your rights, accessing services to assist you and your child, as well as, carving time out for your family unit can be helpful in finding and maintaining balance as your family adjusts.





Some disabilities require extra therapies and services which can put a financial strain on families. Time spent driving to therapy appointments, doctors' visits and school meetings can interfere with employment and family time. Familiarize yourself with your insurance benefits, as well as community and free services.

### Empower Yourself and Your Child

A diagnosis of a disability, while often devastating, can also lead to amazing opportunities on your parental journey. Remember that a "disability" doesn't negate the many wonderful traits and skills your child possesses. Continue to appreciate the things that make your child unique and happy. Have suitable, realistic high expectations of your child and make decisions based on helping your child to be as independent as possible.

Be an advocate for your child, no one knows him or her better than you! If appropriate, equip your child with an understanding of their disability and the correct language to relay their limitations and gifts to others.

### Professionals are Here to Help

*Although I know the school psychologist was involved with his re-evaluations, I didn't have much contact with him/her, until he was entering middle school. Our first meeting with his home school for 7th grade was less than disappointing. But, when the school psychologist reviewed my son's IEP, he was instrumental in getting the school on board with providing the appropriate placement for my son. -Turner*

Your BPS School Psychologists are specially equipped to assist parents, students and all those involved with your child, with understanding and navigating the challenges that will exist throughout this journey. Don't hesitate to contact your school psychologist with questions regarding problem solving, understanding reports and assessments, appropriate developmental milestones and community mental health resources.



### References

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Nashville (n.d.) Parenting a Child With a Disability [Pamphlet]. Retrieved from <https://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/assets/files/tipsheets/parentingtips.pdf>

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# BREVARD ADULT EDUCATION

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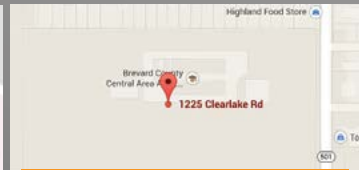
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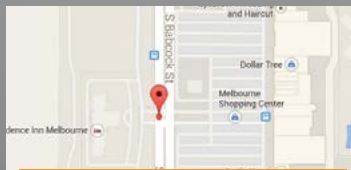
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