

Greetings BHPS Families,

This letter is to inform families about a shift in our curriculum delivery model for students entering Grades 1-5 starting in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year. The delivery model is set up with five teachers in the AM and four teachers in the PM of each school day.

In the AM portion of the school day, students will be placed in homogeneous grade groups and engage in learning activities that focus on literacy and numeracy. Mrs. Nelson will be with the Grade 1 students, Ms. Eldstrom will be with the Grade 2 students, Ms. Becker will be with the Grade 3 students, Mrs. Kuperis will be with the Grade 4 students, and Mr. Donauer will be with the Grade 5 students.

In the PM portion of the school day students will be in blended grade groups and engage in **Experiential Based Learning Activities** connected to the Social, Science, Health, Arts, and Phys. Ed Curriculums. The blended grade groups will consist of Mrs. Nelson & Ms. Becker with the groups of Grade 1 & 2 students, Mrs. Kuperis with a group of Grade 3 & 4 students, and Mr. Donauer with a group of Grade 4 & 5 students.

Our school team involved with the Experiential Based Learning model is currently collaborating and planning for the fall. We have focused on learning about the research that supports this model, unpacking the curriculum outcomes to align with the play based learning centers, and working through the logistics of the program in our physical space. Here are a few highlights we taken from our learning:

- play is a powerful motivator for students, and students are deeply engaged in learning
- the teacher is an active play partner with the curriculum in mind and leads the learning necessary for each student
- the environment fosters independence and resilience in our students as they are active problem creators, and solvers
- the power of conversation in play is remarkable - students learn a lot of rich language (i.e. the teacher uses rich vocabulary like "remarkable" instead of "great" when engaged in conversation with students and then the students begin using the same language)
- the environment deepens and strengthens the relationships created in the classroom which allows students to feel safe while taking risks in their learning
- the efficacy rate of students learning together with students of different ages is significant.

We also are excited about this model because we recognize students are fatigued from learning at their own desk all year. With the hope of a return to normalcy this fall, students will be able to shift from a restrictive learning environment with covid protocols into one that allows students to engage in learning through play based themed centers in groups of 3-5 students.

We are aware this is something new and with change there are always going to be questions. Please contact Mr. Batiuk and Mr. Michalchuk on June 28th or 29th if you have feedback to share.

With that, we hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again at school on Thursday September 2nd!

Yours in Education,
BHPS Experiential Based Learning Team