

August 16, 2017

Dear Families,

Summer is a special time of year in NH and we hope you are enjoying days of fun and adventure with family and friends. At BES we are making the final preparations for our first day of school on August 30th. We look forward to once again filling our classrooms with excited children.

The SAU 67 Vision Statements are:

Care for each person every day
Learning is our focus
Teach to touch the future

At Bow Elementary School we find that the children constantly remind us of the importance of caring. The children care and respond so strongly to the care we show them. There is a wonderful self-energizing caring reaction! Over the years we have subtly shifted our focus from instruction to learning as we have found that by attending to the learning of individual children, we force ourselves to use the best teaching practices possible. To help our children be ready for the future we create healthy doses of opportunities to develop communication, collaboration, persistence, creativity and problem-solving. We do not really know what future our children will experience, but we do know that these skills will carry them far.

This letter includes information to help you prepare for the upcoming school year. Feel free to use this as a reference in the coming weeks.

Links to Vital Information:

Infinite Campus: <https://campus.bownet.org/campus/portal/bow.jsp>

Pick Up Patro (app for phones too!): <https://app.pickuppatrol.net/pages/login.aspx>

Bus Routes: [BES & BMS Bus Routes](#)

Lunch Menu: <https://sites.google.com/a/bownet.org/food-services/menus>

School Supplies: <http://bes.bownet.org/about/archive---what-s-happening/what-s-happening/schoolsupplylists>

Family Back to School To Do List:

1. Login to the Parent Portal to review your contact information for accuracy. Please make any necessary corrections.
 - a. If you do not remember your password, please email Roy Bailey at rbailey@bownet.org and he will help you login.
2. Pickup Patrol: Please check your email for a Welcome message from Pickup Patrol.
 - o Pickup Patrol is used to track your child's end of day schedule. This information is sent directly to the office, the teacher and the after school program or bus that is needed each day. The initial entry from you should be for your child's default schedule (the schedule that is the "typical" plan for each day.) **Parent entries for default plans must be in prior to August 29th. Thank you!**
 - o When your child has a change to their end of day schedule you will login to PUP, click on the date of the change and enter the change. Entries must be in no later than 1:00PM (11:00AM on early release days).
 - o If your child participates in an after school activity, click on the first date of the activity, then choose the repeat option to click on the dates that apply to the activity. This allows you to set it

up once and then it will fall back to the default schedule once the activity is completed! Easy Peasy!

- If your child is going to be absent, you can login to PUP and click on the date of the absence and choose the Attendance option from the drop down menu. Type in the reason for the absence and enter. Please have all attendance entries in before 8:00AM.
- Please be sure to enter your child's first day of school plan in the **Pickup Patrol** system if it will be different from the default schedule. We want to ensure that all students head in the right direction at the end of the day. Thank you!

3. Be sure that your child's most recent physical and immunization records are on file with our nurse.

Open House

We invite you to our annual Open House on Tuesday, August 29th from 4:00PM to 5:30PM. Please join us to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom and greet new classmates. This is a time to see the school and make that first introduction to your child's teacher. There will be a bus out front for our youngest children to climb in, hear from the bus driver and take a ride around the campus. The PTO will be on hand to add a festive flare and sell pizza, drinks and cookies on the playground behind the school. The PTO will have a volunteer sign up station. We may even see tables for the Scouts and Bow Recreation. The PTO, Scouts and Bow Recreation will move the the cafeteria if it rains.

Start and End of Day

The official start time at BES is 7:45AM. At 7:45AM we will welcome children into the classrooms to be ready to start the day. We ask that students are here and in the building by 7:45AM. The bus schedules are under construction and you will notice that many buses are scheduled to arrive after 7:45. If your child arrives on a bus after 7:45, they will not be marked as late.

If you drive your child to school, please drive single file into the parking lot until you reach our staff members. Our staff will help your child out of your car (we ask that children sit on the passenger side of the car) and you can drive around and out never leaving the driver's seat. If you are new, enter our BMS and BES campus from Bow Center Road, cross the big parking lot while aiming a bit left. Pass the "Bus Traffic Only" sign and turn right into the parking lot at the first "One Way" sign. If you have never been here, you may want to drive through during off hours to see the setup; it will be CRAZY BUSY on the first day of school.

We implement a staggered dismissal beginning at 2:15PM. We dismiss children going to home in a car, Bow Youth Center and then the buses. If you come to pick up your child, line up in the parking lot and your child(ren) will be brought to your car. We started this procedure less than a year ago and it works very well if everyone is patient and follows the steps. Here are the detailed steps for afternoon car line:

When picking up students, please arrive around 2:20 but no sooner than 2:17. Pull into the parking lot and get in line. Stay in your car. While waiting, please put your car in park and/or turn it off so it does not roll while we are loading. Please write your child(ren's) name(s) on a piece of paper and display on your dash with the name(s) facing out. BES staff will direct your child(ren) to your car. Please have your children load on the passenger side of the car. When you are loaded and there are no cars in front of you, pull away slowly. If you arrive and the car line is over, park and come in to the office to pick your child up. If the line backs up into the BMS parking lot, please leave an opening for the buses to enter the bus loop.

Family Involvement

Our partnerships with families are very important to us. We have many valuable volunteers who accept a variety of roles, from weekly visits to once a year events. All help make BES a better place! Please check out the letter below from Heather Wood, our volunteer coordinator. And, always feel free to contact us should you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

Family Directory

Many families would like to contact the families of their children's friends from school. In the past, we have had families work with their child's classroom teacher to receive a friend's list from that class. This year, our wonderful PTO would like to develop a whole school directory through an online application. This will be password protected, sortable and searchable.

To do this, we need your permission as we will not share contact information without parent or guardian permission. Look for a sign up procedure and more information at Open House so the PTO can get this ball rolling. We LOVE our PTO!!

Focuses for the 2017-2018 School Year

We constantly work to improve and adapt our school to better serve our students. We learn better ways of working with children, better ways to promote learning, better ways to give feedback and more logical skills to teach in order to prepare our students for the 21st Century. All our focuses overlap and complement other focuses. Some of the more prominent ones are:

- Social and emotional learning to include:
 - Self awareness
 - Self management
 - Social awareness
 - Relationship skills
 - Responsible decision making
- Grit, perseverance, and communication.
- Instructional design to support all learners.
- Options on giving feedback to families regarding student progress.
- Competency-based instruction.

Allow us to elaborate on Competency-based instruction. Competencies help to inform what students know, understand and are able to do as a result of their learning. Competencies help make the learning visible. Competencies require a competency statement, a performance task (or more) and an assessment rubric. For instance, an example of an opinion writing competency is:

I can independently write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information across all content areas.

Notice how this captures a variety of skills (reading, understanding what was read, gaining evidence from text and other sources, developing a written piece in the topics of reading, math, science and social studies) all in

one statement? A great amount of teaching goes into bringing a child to the point of showing competence on this competency. We would ask the child to develop opinion pieces and give feedback based upon a shared rubric. A rubric is a set of criteria that the child would need to meet.

Over the last two years we worked in teams to develop competency statements and we expect to continue this in the coming year. With this work we develop performance tasks and rubrics. At some point we will be ready to share them with you! To be clear, we are not changing what we are teaching, we are working to integrate what we teach, which leads to more authentic learning! We are excited with this work.

Health Class

As we have grown by three homerooms over the last two years we need to increase our offerings for Integrated arts, or specials. We have traditionally offered Art, Music and Physical Education in a three day rotation for grades 1 through 4. In kindergarten we combine those disciplines into one class, Integrated Arts and one teacher, Mrs. Ricciardi. This year kindergarten won't change but 1st through 4th will.

First through 4th graders will have a Health class mixed into the Art, Music and Physical Education rotation. Rather than 60 classes each of Art, Music and Physical Education, children will have 51 or 52 classes of Art, Music and Physical Education and the rest will be Health. Or, each child will have 26 or so Health classes a year. We will focus on wellness (personal wellness, healthy eating, healthy body and mental health) all geared to elementary children.

New Staff

We have many new staff members to share:

- Sue Kurtz will be our new REACH teacher
- Brigit Durell will be a Paraeducator in preschool
- Melanie Kenney will be our new 4th grade teacher
- Carole Kenney will be a Paraeducator in kindergarten
- Rachel Hunton will be our new 1st grade teacher
- Lindsay Levasseur will be our new Preschool teacher
- Erin Taylor will be a Paraeducator in 4th grade
- Teresa Zahn will be a Paraeducator in kindergarten
- Jill Pelletier will be our part-time Health teacher
- Jennifer McDaniel our part-time Library assistant
- Mary McGregor will be a Paraeducator in kindergarten
- Kellie Denoncourt will be a Paraeducator
- Amanda Winch will be our Occupational Therapist
- Tim Vasconcellos will be our Assistant Principal
- Long term sub for Roxanne O'Connor is Catherine Vanderbok
- We still have a couple of Paraeducator positions open

Closing

BES is the place to be! We have had over 36 new students join BES over the summer and we will welcome over 525 students on August 30th. We were at 491 to start last year and at 441 to start the year before. We are happy all the new families chose Bow, what a compliment!! We will endeavor to impress!

You are all valued members of our BES community and help make our school so great. We are excited to see the children return ready for a great, new, exciting year.

Enjoy the final days of summer!! Be sure to get the children out to play :) We hope to see you at Open House on August 29th. Be sure to scroll down to see a special Note from the Nurse and Heather Wood's letter.

And, welcome to the new school year!

Sincerely,

Kurt Gergler and Tim Vasconcellos
Principal and Assistant Principal

A Note From The Nurse

Every year we have lots of questions about how the school handles food allergies. Here is a review of the current policy:

ALL CLASSROOMS AT BES ARE NUT "AWARE" .

Please do not send peanut/tree nut products for snack. No peanut/tree nut products may be consumed in our classrooms.

If you make something at home to bring to school as a class treat, please label as "peanut/tree nut free" or it will not be allowed into the classroom. Peanut and tree nut products are allowed during lunch because we have a peanut/tree nut free table in the cafeteria for students with allergies.

We understand that this involves more work for parents in packing snacks, but it is important to provide a safe environment at school for children with food allergies. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please contact me by phone or email with any questions.

Thank You,

Shannon Donahue R.N.
225-3049 x505
sdonahue@bownet.org

Dear Parents,

Hello my name is Heather Wood and I am the Volunteer Coordinator at Bow Elementary School. I have three daughters attending Bow Elementary this year.

We are grateful to have such dedicated volunteers in the BES community and welcome interested parents who are able to help.

There are many events throughout the year where volunteer help is needed. Some events may only require an hour or less of your time. Other times we need donations of supplies or bake sale items. Please look for future email messages for the upcoming fall events.

Last year volunteers helped with many school events including picture days, Invention Convention, Scholastic Book Fair, and the Senior Luncheon. Volunteers also helped with PTO sponsored events including the craft fair, ski and skate sale, the Father Daughter Dance, and Movie & Bingo nights.

Bow Elementary School will host an open house on August 29, 2017. You will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and sign up for volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to the address below or sign up at Open House in your child's classroom. Email is the main way I will communicate with volunteers about various opportunities to help out within the school.

The volunteer program has always been an invaluable part of the educational experience at Bow Elementary. Some events may only require an hour of your time so please consider joining our email list if you have any interest in helping.

I am looking forward to a successful school year. Please show your spirit and enthusiasm by volunteering! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at heatherwood.bow@gmail.com

Respectfully yours,

Heather Wood