



Bogota Public Schools

Education is the Key to Success.

Spring 2021
District Newsletter

Bogota School District Expansion



Over the past few years, student enrollment numbers have steadily increased. In addition to the influx of new families moving into Bogota, the district has taken on the responsibility to offer preschool for

3 and 4 year olds through state funding, notwithstanding the new apartment developments by the Hackensack River opening up. Although a growing town is a good sign, the available educational space and facilities can become an issue without planning. Without adequate space, overcrowding in classrooms in larger grade levels can become an issue, impacting student learning. This was the looming issue that the school district faced: space. Covid-19 has had many impacts on education and locally, the pandemic forced St. Joseph's Catholic School to close Fall of 2020. That unfortunate closing however, did allow a possible opportunity for the public school to utilize the space to alleviate the space issue. Thus, the school district negotiated a 5 year lease to use St. Joe's space and facilities. In September of 2021, 6th and 7th grades will be attending school at the soon-to-be named school. Moving the 6th and 7th grades frees up space in all three public school buildings: Bixby, Steen, and the high school. Furthermore, the Masonic Lodge across the street from the high school went on sale and the district determined that a vacant building such as the Masonic Lodge across the street from the high school would be a prime opportunity to provide more space and possibly offer Career, Technical Education opportunities for students seeking to learn a trade.



We are proud to announce that Ashanti Caviness signed his National letter of Intent to play football at Monmouth University

Congratulations to BHS Junior, Vincent Ducut for obtaining a perfect score in the Math section of the SAT.



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What is Response to Intervention (RTI)?

Over the past two years, the school district has moved towards the Response to Intervention (RTI) model for supporting our academically struggling students. For many, the RTI model is still a mystery. Here are a few things people need to know about RTI to help clarify some misconceptions. **1. RTI is like seeing a doctor** In the

medical field, it's standard practice to screen all patients for key indicators and vital signs like cholesterol, BMI, blood pressure, and bloodwork. This wellness screener is conducted annually and everyone gets checked no matter if a patient is sick or healthy. If the results of the screening provide data that might prove the patient is at risk for a health condition, then further investigation and testing is warranted to figure out what is happening. Once a diagnosis can be determined, the proper treatment, medicine, and course of action can be taken to help the patient get back on track. Like medical wellness checks, RTI is a process that first involves a universal screening (usually in reading and math) of certain indicators and vital academic measurements to determine if students are at risk of academic support. If the data shows a student is at-risk for support, then further investigation helps teachers figure out what specific skills are needed for extra support. A specific action plan is developed with the appropriate academic instruction to help the student get back on track and thus reduce the risk of academic struggles. RTI usually focuses on the most critical grade level skills and standards to support. **2. Intervention instruction varies by student needs** A student who is at-risk based on the data from the universal screener receives more in-depth assessments to determine the exact skills and knowledge that needs to be provided. Students who qualify for RTI have differing needs and can already receive different amounts of RTI instructional time. There is no one-size-fits all approach to RTI. One student may need to work on multiplication fact fluency. Another student may need work on word problem solving skills. **3. RTI is not the same thing as Special Education services but are related** A student who receives RTI instruction receives a

targeted course of instructional support. If students progress sufficiently, they may exit out of the additional support and their RTI instruction is over. For others, they show improvement but need continued support in RTI. For a small percentage of students, RTI may not be intensive enough or appropriate and may need to be referred to special services. The two work hand in hand to help students but are not the same. The earlier the better. Although RTI can run in all grades, intervening and providing the right support earlier pays dividends and can actually prevent learning difficulties and academic confidence issues in later grades. Many studies, both in reading and math, show that identifying at-risk students early, is more efficient and more effective than waiting and trying to provide support later. **4. Conclusion** RTI is a model of supporting students so that the district can identify and close academic gaps that may exist. It is data-driven and clinical in nature with discrete benchmarks and objectives to help teachers monitor student progress. When RTI is working well, it remediates unfinished or unclear academic skills so students don't slip through the cracks year after year.

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ENERGY SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ESIP)

Our district is in the process of implementing an Energy Saving Improvement Plan (ESIP). This plan will assist the district in improving the overall energy efficiency of the district at no cost through the savings built into the plan. We plan on starting improvements in summer of 2021 and throughout 2022. This plan would include: LED lighting upgrades, boiler replacements, unit ventilator replacements, steam trap replacements, piping insulation, automated building management and control systems, low flow domestic hot water devices, rooftop unit replacements, and solar panel installations.



A reminder that **FREE Grab and Go Meals** are available at the Bogota Jr/ HS daily from 10:30 am to 1pm.

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