

What's
New!
2024/25

Back to School



Established 1915
BROWARD
County Public Schools

August 6, 2024



Message from Superintendent



Welcome to the 2024/25 school year! We are proud to be an “A” rated District by the Florida Department of Education. This is a tremendous accomplishment for which we can all be proud. I commend our teachers, administrators and staff for their commitment to our students’ learning; our students and families for their drive and determination to succeed; and our School Board for its continued support and guidance.

Our focus is always on providing students with excellent educational opportunities in safe and secure environments. I encourage you to explore all that our schools have to offer as we prepare for another productive and engaging school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Howard Hepburn, Superintendent, Broward County Public Schools



Keeping Parents Informed Via Focus

This year, the District is launching a new student information system called Focus, which replaces Pinnacle and Virtual Counselor. Focus is an all-in-one access point, providing parents and guardians with an easier way to stay up-to-date on school information, student schedules, attendance and grades.

To register for the Focus Parent Portal and download the BCPS Connect App, visit browardschools.com/focus.



Pass-Through Metal Detectors

High school students across the District will see a major new security measure in place when they arrive at school, as BCPS continues to roll out pass-through metal detectors. The new metal detectors will be located at each student entry point – with school administrators and security staff to assist with the screenings. The metal detectors provide an additional safety layer for our schools and enhance security protocols and measures already in place.

For more information about the new metal detectors and answers to frequently asked questions, visit browardschools.com/metaldetectors.



Wireless Devices Policy: Disconnect to Reconnect

Wireless communication devices (including cell phones and headphones) must be turned off or placed in airplane mode during the entire school day, including passing periods and lunchtime.

For more information about the wireless communication devices policy and answers to frequently asked questions, visit browardschools.com/wirelessdevices.



What’s New on the Menu

The BCPS Food and Nutrition Services Department is cooking up healthy, nutritious and tasty meals for the new school year. Every District school will provide students with breakfast and lunch meals at no cost.

Below are new menu items for this school year:

New Items for Breakfast:

- Fresh Watermelon
- Waffles – Blueberry Bash
- Chocolate Chip French Toast Sticks

À la carte

- Muffins

New Items for Lunch:

- Fresh Cantaloupe
- Beef, Pepperoni/Turkey, Ham and Cheese Strombolis
- Shredded Rotisserie Chicken

To learn more about school cafeteria menus (available as of August 12, 2024), special diets and reporting food allergies, visit browardschools.com/foodservice.



Expanding STEM and Computer Science Learning Opportunities

BCPS is a national leader in offering innovative and engaging STEM and Computer Science learning opportunities. Below are new initiatives from the Applied Learning Department.

- The District is excited to be awarded the College Football Playoffs Foundation Grant to bring mixed reality learning to more District schools.**
 The grant supports virtual and augmented reality learning by providing Meta Quest headsets to 10 schools over five years, with the first school being Millenium 6-12 Collegiate Academy. The high-tech headsets allow students to increase their math, science, and Career and Tech skills via a fun, unique, virtual environment. As part of the grant, each of the selected schools will also receive a media center refresh.
- STEM Learning Expands with Drones**
 Learning to design, build, code and fly drones continues to be popular among middle and high school students, and beginning this school year, elementary students are joining the high-flying action! Drone programs are now expanding to elementary schools with funding for coaches, professional development, equipment and student competitions.
- It's Game On for Elementary Esports**
 The District is proud to announce the popular Esports program is expanding to elementary schools. The elementary-level competitions will use Minecraft to support STEM learning while the competitions foster team building and leadership skills.



To learn more, visit browardschools.com/STEM.



Exploring Career Options

Preparing Students for Their Futures

The Career, Technical, Adult and Community Education (CTACE) Department is launching a new industry certification option this year. The Ducks Unlimited Ecology & Conservation Management Certification is available through Agriculture and Environmental Science courses. This certification provides students with hands-on experiences in responsible land and water use, and conservation methods to prepare students for future environmental science and agriculture careers.

Middle Schools Turn Up the Culinary Heat!

Six BCPS middle schools are opening new culinary programs this year. The schools include Apollo Middle School, Attucks Middle School, Deerfield Beach Middle School, Margate Middle School, Pines Middle School and Silver Lakes Middle School. Through the culinary program, students earn the Food Safety and Science Certification, which signifies an in-depth knowledge of food safety procedures and standards.

In addition, CTACE is working with middle schools and centers with existing culinary programs to revamp and update their kitchens to provide students with top-of-the-line culinary experiences!



Fast Fact

In 2024, BCPS middle and high school students earned more than 17,400 industry certifications.

Learn more at browardschools.com/backtoschool.

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