



**Buzz Aldrin Middle School**  
**The STEM Magnet**

173 Bellevue Avenue  
Montclair, NJ 07043

[www.montclair.k12.nj.us](http://www.montclair.k12.nj.us)



**Principal's Bulletin**  
**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

We believe that all students can learn, achieve, and grow, in a safe and secure environment.

- Thank you to our families for the supportive emails highlighting the positive experiences of our children here at Buzz Aldrin Middle School. This was a great way to close out yet another wonderful week. Another special thank you goes to the students and staff for a job well done.
- National Hispanic Heritage Month is honored from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> every year, during which Hispanic Americans are recognized and celebrated for their contributions and influence in American history and its achievements as a nation. Every morning, Señora Pichardo makes announcements to provide our students with information and historical context about this special month. Thank you! Please stay tuned to the next bulletin which will provide additional information about specific activities and events related to Hispanic Heritage month.
- Thank you to Dr. Ben Brennan and his wonderful Peer Mentors, for hosting our 6th Grade Orientation meeting this week and for providing an informative experience for students and families to ask questions related to life at Buzz Aldrin Middle School. Thank you!
- Buzz Aldrin's Virtual Back to School Night (BTSN) will be on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. On Tuesday, I will release the Back To School Night information, including our Buzz Aldrin school video as well as a directory containing homeroom and teacher links. Our teachers are excited to meet all of you!
- Buzz Aldrin's School Picture Day is on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Picture Day order forms were sent home with students this week. Please contact the main office if you need another form. Also, please note that if your child does not have his/her/their picture taken on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, or during our Picture Day retake on November 9<sup>th</sup>, then your child's photograph will not appear in our school's yearbook. All students are encouraged to participate in School Picture Day and have their yearbook photo taken at no cost.

- On Thursday, September 23rd, Buzz Aldrin will follow an Abbreviated Day Schedule for Curriculum Thursday Professional Development. This means students are dismissed at 12:40 pm. Following dismissal, teachers will participate in professional development workshops provided by the school/district.
- Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:
  - Update for Music Guidelines: Please be advised that there have been changes to the Road Forward Reopening Plan, emailed on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chorus members are now permitted to sing in their classrooms, beginning Monday September 20th. All students must be properly masked with windows fully open. Band members will continue playing outdoors, but this outcome will change once bell covers arrive. When the bell covers arrive, band members will be allowed to play their instruments inside the classroom as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Ms. Gandhi or me.
  - Please make sure your child has a water bottle with him/her/them each school day.
  - Students are required to bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school each day. We are also encouraging students to bring their Chromebook chargers to school.
  - Please complete a free/reduced meal application if you would like to do so. The online form is available at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/> and hard copies are available in the main office. You may also visit the Department of Agriculture's website to access an application in a language other than English or Spanish (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>).
  - Again, please **DO NOT** drop off or pick up your child in the front of the building or in a location where they must cross the street. Grownups need to remain in their cars, and be sure not to block the staff parking lot while waiting for their children. Students should not cross the street at any location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children. This is a safety issue. Despite the number of times this is written in my communications, this is still an issue. Please abide by the school's rules.
  - Students are not permitted to leave school early and return on the same day. Please refrain from making appointments for your child during the school day.
  - **Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day.** We will not accept materials dropped off during the

school day. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering school for the day.

- The health forms must be completed by 7:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This must be done in order for students to attend classes. If students do not complete the health forms, they will need to wait in the auditorium until they can complete one themselves. This results in a loss of valuable instructional time.
  - There are no visitors permitted in the building at any time.
  - Please encourage your child to leave their desk shields (dividers) in their lockers. We do not have enough extras to provide loaners for all those who forget.
  - All students must have their masks on at all times. If possible, please send your child to school with an extra mask in case the original mask is misplaced or damaged. If students cannot follow the mask policy, they will be sent home.
  - Parents are not permitted to ask teachers for remote instruction without prior approval granted from building administration. Remote instruction can only be granted for COVID-related reasons.
- Side Door Announcement: Are your children looking for something to do on Fridays after school? Side Door is open beginning Friday, September 24, and there will be lots of outdoor activities and games, plus free food! It's located a short walk from Buzz Aldrin, on Cooper Ave. You don't have to register to go, and it's FREE! For more information or to pre-register your child, go to [sidedoormontclair.org](http://sidedoormontclair.org). Activities will be outdoors, but masks are required. Please see the attached student and parent flyer.
  - Did you know? The MPS website is multilingual! We have many families in Montclair for whom English is not their native language, and the administration wants everyone to be included and well-informed.

The MPS website can be easily and automatically translated into the following languages: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Russian, and Hindi. To use this function, simply go to <https://www.montclair.k12.nj.us/> and click on "Language"

- The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) is looking for parent liaisons who would like to be part of the committee. Please see the attached flyers for more information. To volunteer or if you have specific inquiries, please contact Jada Roman at [theromanempire416@gmail.com](mailto:theromanempire416@gmail.com).

- Please see the attached flyer regarding free bike helmets for MPS students, courtesy of Montclair Mutual Aide, the Montclair Bikery, and PTAC.
- Students have been or will be taking the Renaissance Learning STAR assessments in their Math and ELA classes. Renaissance Learning (RL) is a way for teachers to administer a norm-based diagnostic assessment to help guide instructional practices for each student and each class.
- Please see the attached STEM Update from Mr. Dan Taylor, our wonderful STEM coordinator.
- Please note the following additions to our leadership team here at Buzz Aldrin Middle School:
  - Assistant Principal - Nisha Gandhi
  - CST/LDTC - Marni Latman
  - House 1 - Stephanie Drozd
  - House 2 - Jacqueline Brower
  - House 3 - Tara Berger
  - House 4 - Jeff Gannon & Christin Perillo
  - House 5 - Maria McDonald
  - ELA Subject Matter Leaders - Atara Bernheim & Jeff Gannon
  - Math Subject Matter Leader - Kate Megdanis
  - Social Studies Subject Matter Leader - Frederick Reissig
  - Science Subject Matter Leader - Jacqueline Brower
  - Technology Subject Matter Leader - Shivan Persad
  - World Language Subject Matter Leader - Alexandra Woody
  - Physical Education Subject Matter Leader - Michael Santos
  - Related Arts Subject Matter Leader - Arin Leard

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact any of the staff members listed above. They are happy to help!

- The Yearbook Club is looking for members! Please join our Google Classroom for updates about our first meeting! The classroom code is lofsl2f.
- Wishing everyone a Happy International Day of Peace Day, otherwise known as World Peace Day, on Tuesday, September 21st. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations. This day serves as an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

### **Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, September 20 - A Day
- Tuesday, September 21 - B Day
- Wednesday, September 22 - C Day
- Thursday, September 23 - D Day

- Friday, September 24 - E Day

**“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”**

**—Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”**

**—Malala Yousafzai**