



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet
173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin

April 8th, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Advisory Information:** This week, our students participated in advisories to learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. Students discussed the difference between awareness and acceptance, and also ways we can be more inclusive and informed about Autism. Please see the conversation starters below you can try at home.
 - Why was Autism Awareness Month changed to Autism Acceptance Month?
 - What is one thing that you learned from this week's advisory?
- **Heritage Months:** We continue to honor American Heritage Month. This month was established in 2017 as a way to recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. There will be more information to follow.
- **CoGAT Testing Update:** Many parents have reached out regarding further information about the coGAT testing. The coGAT test is one component of the Gifted & Talented selection process. As we get more information from Central Office, we will share this with families. If you want to further understand the coGAT scores, this information can be found using the link:
https://www.montclair.k12.nj.us/departments/equity_curriculum_instruction/gifted_talented_education
- **Middle School Tours:** We are desperately seeking parent volunteers to help with our school tours on **April 12th from 6 to 8 pm**. Students will lead the tours, but we need parent volunteers to welcome our 5th grade parents, answer questions, and to help with general items. Spanish speaking parents/volunteers are welcome. Please sign up to help using the link:
<https://signup.com/go/NwcQeYv>
- **Career Day Planning:** We would love for any parents and community volunteers to participate in Buzz Aldrin's Annual STEAM Career Day! Career Day is an opportunity for community members to inform our students about various professions by sharing personal knowledge and experiences so our

students can learn more about the characteristics, skills, and talents required in different occupations. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Dan Taylor at dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us. Please see the details below.

- **Date:** Thursday, May 26th
 - **Where:** Virtual presentations given to students via Zoom
 - **Additional Information:** Please see the attached STEM bulletin.
 - **Sign Up:** If you are interested in participating, please complete the Google form: <https://forms.gle/Nd2jxopeVLMzyUvL6>
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- **NJHS Update:** This announcement is for 7th and 8th grade students who have been nominated for induction into the National Junior Honor Society. The community service log and two letters of recommendation are due by Monday, April 11th. Late documents cannot be accepted, so please be sure to upload all required documents into Google Classroom on time. Please email Ms. Perillo or Mrs. Megdanis if you have any questions.

 - **Message from Side Door:** Hey everybody! Side Door will be OPEN this Friday and masks are optional. There will be a ton of stuff to do outside plus things to do inside if you'd rather be inside. In addition to all the free food, we'll be selling snacks and pizza. Come have fun with your friends this Friday at Side Door!

 - **Montclair High School Information for 8th graders & families:**
 - On Thursday, the Montclair High School administrator and counselors visited Buzz Aldrin to schedule our current 8th graders for next year at MHS.
 - Montclair High School will host an Athletic Night on Tuesday, May 24th at 6 pm in the Montclair High School auditorium. All of our high school sports teams will be represented at this event. The event is intended for rising 9th graders through seniors who are interested in participating in athletics for the 2022-2023 school year. Parents/caregivers will be able to speak with our coaches and gather information about what they can expect when they get to the high school.

 - **Message from SEPAC:** On Sunday, May 1st, there will be a Montclair Disability Pride Parade held from 2 to 4 pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

 - **Important Information for Parents:**
 - Please speak with your child about his/her/their behavior both in school and uptown. Several local businesses located near the school have reached out urging parents to speak with their children about their conduct and behavior.
 - We are instilling behavior contracts for all three grade levels. Students must maintain appropriate behavior in school to be able to attend field trips/school events.
 - Please visit the district website for the updated COVID-19 guidelines. It is located on the homepage under COVID-19 School Year 2021-2022.

- **MFEE Update:** MFEE is gearing up for its next big community event: [ShowUS Montclair](#). In 2018, we hosted a **ShowDOWN**, a talent show with a competitive twist. In 2020, we decided to **ShowUP**, bringing us together virtually for a much-needed night of talent, laughter, and togetherness. And now in 2022, it's time to **ShowUS** all the talent that's been hiding right in our midst. On April 30th, we will be inviting the whole town to gather outside at Lackawanna Plaza for a fun evening filled with talented performers and storytellers.
- **District Devices:** We are no longer issuing loaner Chromebooks to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Chromebooks are the only items we are accepting for parent drop-offs. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop-offs for any items other than Chromebooks.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, April 11th – B Day
- Tuesday, April 12th – C Day
- Wednesday, April 13th – D Day
- Thursday, April 14th – E Day
- Friday, April 15th – District Closed

Please mark your calendars:

- Tuesday, April 12th – Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours (7 – 9 pm)
- Friday, April 15th – District Closed, Good Friday
- Monday, April 18th – Friday, April 22nd – District Closed, Spring Recess
- Thursday, April 28th – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

“I am different, not less.”

- **Temple Grandin**

“You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.”

- **Naguib Mahfouz**