



**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**

### **January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

#### **Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- Happy New Year and Happy Snow Day! I hope all of our Buzz staff and families enjoyed a wonderful winter break. We had a great first week in 2022 at Buzz Aldrin. Our staff worked diligently to prepare both virtual and in-person lessons for the students. I would like to publicly thank our Buzz faculty for working so hard to minimize disruption to our students while allowing parents instructional options for the first two weeks in January. Thank you to the Buzz staff for doing such a wonderful job implementing remote and in-person instruction with such short notice! Thank you to the Buzz families for your patience and cooperation during these trying times.
- The pooled testing contract for the district expired in December 2021. However, beginning today, the Montclair Public School district will be providing Covid-19 testing to all staff and students for three consecutive Fridays, January 7, 14 and 21, from 4-6pm. All testing dates will be held at the Annex Atrium at 141 Park St. with parking in the rear on North Fullerton Avenue. If applicable, please remember to bring your insurance card and ID. There will be no out-of-pocket cost to families and staff members.
- **Remote & In-Person Updates:**
  - As a reminder, students cannot be opted in and then out of virtual and in-person instruction. Staff and teachers have been asked to be extremely flexible in accommodating all families and structuring thoughtful lessons that serve the needs of both students in class and at home. We are all tasked with being considerate of their hard work and efforts. The family decision you made for your child will remain from now through January 19<sup>th</sup>, which would be 10 business days. Thus, the last day for remote instruction is January 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you opted for remote learning, your child must remain in remote learning until the 20<sup>th</sup>. Attendance will be marked accordingly.
  - If you opted for in-person learning, your child must remain in-person until the 20<sup>th</sup>. Attendance will be marked accordingly.
  - In order to be marked as present, each student on remote instruction must be visible on camera for the duration of the lesson. Teachers will

mark students absent if their cameras are not on or if they leave class early.

- Physical education teachers will post asynchronous work for remote students on Google Classroom. Please make sure your child checks Google Classroom and completes the assigned work.
  - Students who have selected the remote option and those who were marked absent on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will have their attendance updated by Central Office. Please be patient during this process.
  - When teachers are absent and unable to teach remotely, asynchronous work and an attendance question will be posted on Google Classroom for students to complete.
  - If your child tests positive for COVID-19, this information must be shared with the school nurse and administration regardless of whether he/she/they is in-person or remote.
  - All remote instruction requests and COVID-related absences or directives must be approved by administration and the nurse. Please note that there is a 24-hour turnaround period for students who require remote instruction due to COVID-related reasons.
  - If you have any COVID-related questions, please email Ms. Gandhi, Ms. McGorry, and me. Please do not request links from teachers. Teachers will reach out after prior-approval is granted.
- As stated previously, we are not granting schedule change requests for elective courses. The scheduling team worked hard over the summer and during the beginning of the school year to ensure that the elective courses were as balanced as possible. Given the COVID-19 numbers, we cannot imbalance the class sizes. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.
  - **PTA Updates:**
    - Thank you to our fantastic PTA for providing our students with CPR classes. The classes will run Monday through Friday in Room 105 next week. Please note that students had to pre-register in order to participate.
    - Tomorrow, our PTA is hosting a free ice-skating party at Clary Anderson Area, located at 41 Chestnut Street. The event will run from 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm. This event is for Buzz Aldrin students only. Masks are required at all times and helmets are strongly encouraged. Please register your child using the link: <https://signup.com/go/montDcP>. It will be a wonderful time!
    - On Friday, January 28th, our PTA will host the BAMS 20222 Casino Fundraiser from 7 pm to 11 pm at the Montclair Art Museum. We hope to see you there! It will be the biggest PTA fundraiser event this year!
    - Please see the attached STEM Girls flyer for various stem-related opportunities.
    - Please see the message below from our PTA:
      - Every school year, students at Buzz Aldrin Middle School gather in the auditorium on a regular basis. They attend school assemblies, presentations, musical theater, band performances, dance

performances, and poetry slams in this space. It is a focal point of the BAMS community. We know that COVID has disrupted some of these activities, but this will not last forever.

- Unfortunately, the passage of time has caught up with the equipment in the auditorium. Our students (and teachers and parents) deserve a quality, high functioning experience when they participate in the programs in our auditorium. We are hoping to support the school administration by contributing a state-of-the-art sound system, a projector, and a projection screen, something that is simply not within the school or district's budget. It will not be cheap, but it's important, and we are hoping for support from the BAMS community. This goal will be the primary focus of our fundraising efforts for the remainder of this year. We are looking to raise \$50,000!
- **Thanks to a VERY generous donor, 100% OF CASINO NIGHT PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL!!!**
- The evening will feature:
  - Blackjack, Poker, Roulette, and Craps tables
  - Delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, including beer and wine
  - Music and a photo booth
  - Festive Attire is requested!
  - [Advance Tickets \\$75 \(\\$25 for teachers and staff\)](#) on sale through January 26<sup>th</sup>
  - COVID vaccination/negative test required for entry
- **Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!!**
  - ALL ticket holders are automatically entered into the drawing to win a **PlayStation5** or an **XBox**! In addition, anyone who donates \$75 or more towards our fundraising goal, will also be entered into the drawing. And lastly, EVERY ADDITIONAL \$50 donation (above \$75) buys you an additional entry into the drawing! Even if you can't attend, you can still participate - we need everyone's support!
- **Tickets and Donation Options:**
  - \$75 general admission tickets (you can also make a donation)
  - \$100 tickets for one person PLUS "sponsor" a teacher/staff member (you can also make a donation)
  - \$25 teacher and staff tickets (you can also make a donation)
  - No-ticket donations (Thank you!)
- Purchase your tickets and/or make your donations today at: <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store>
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**
  - You've been saying all year you want to help out: now's your chance! To volunteer for a 30-minute shift, click here: <https://signup.com/go/CrvULkz>

- MFEE is continuing its [PEEPs program](#) and still has space for new students. If you are interested in having your child participate, please click on the link above.
- If the pandemic has caused a loss of income that makes it difficult for you to pay your rent and/or utility bills, consider applying for relief through the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**. An eligible household may receive assistance for up to 18 months of home energy costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020. Applicants are required to prove loss of income or employment, or financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must also demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability such as past due notices, rent notice or eviction notice, etc.
  - **Please be sure you have all of the below information in order to submit your application:**
    - Personal ID for the applicant and all household members
    - Lease agreement or rental agreement signed by your landlord
    - Income information for all household members older than 18 (Paystubs, Unemployment benefits, Bank statements showing direct deposits, SSI or SSDI statements)
    - Information about unpaid rent and utilities (Statements, Bills, etc.)
    - In order to receive assistance, you must submit an application.  
**[CLICK HERE To APPLY!](#)**
- We are no longer issuing loaner Chromebook devices to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop offs for any items other than Chromebooks.
- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**
  - Please remind your children to be careful with our district-issued Chromebooks. We have many students who are placing requests for damaged devices.
  - As the cooler weather continues, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor conditions. This means wearing a coat, sweatshirt, hat, or any other clothing that allows for students to be comfortable during the day and for outdoor lunch/recess.
  - When students have indoor recess, they will be in the auditorium. Since there will be classes running in the auditorium during this time, it is important that students bring their own books to read or something to work on independently. While it is their free time to unwind and relax, we must also be mindful of our dance classes.
  - Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. Parents should not text or call their children during school hours.
  - Masks are required at all times while in the building. 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.
  - Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day.

- Students are required to bring their fully charged Chromebooks and are encouraged to bring their Chromebook chargers to school each day.
  - 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 school communications, this is still a problem. Please abide by the school's rules.
  - **Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day.** We will not accept materials dropped off while school is in session. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering the building.
  - 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 health forms are not completed in time, students 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 when not in use. We do not have enough extras to provide loaners for all those who forget.
  - 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.
- **After School Clubs & Activities Protocols:**
    - Students are not permitted to leave the building and return for afterschool activities. They must remain in the building until the program/club has ended.
    - Students are responsible for their own transportation home from all clubs and activities. Please pick your children up in a timely manner.
    - Club advisors and staff members cannot participate in arranging carpools or parent pick-ups after the club ends.
    - Students must report directly to the designated club meeting room or location immediately after the dismissal bell rings.
    - Students are to report to their lockers at dismissal then to the club meeting with their belongings. They will be dismissed straight from the designated club room.

- Students are not permitted to go to their lockers or roam throughout the building after a club or activity is dismissed. This is a safety issue. If this occurs, a student may be removed from the club or activity.
- Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now on sale! To order your copy of the yearbook please visit <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/students-and-parents/about-yearbooks>, or reach out to Mrs. Mintz (jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.
- Please note that Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> will be an “F” Day. We will not skip the day as previously done.

### **Next Week’s Schedule of Days**

- Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> - F Day
- Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> - A Day
- Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - B Day
- Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> - C Day
- Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> - D Day

### **Please mark your calendars:**

- Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - District Closed
- Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> - Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

**“Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end.”**

— Roy T. Bennett

**“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”**

—Theodore Roosevelt