



**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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- Our Buzz Aldrin students had a fantastic start of the school year. It was a wonderful experience to meet and greet all of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders over the past two days. To kick the year off with a strong start and to review logistical information, each homeroom participated in a grade-level meeting on the first day. Then, Ms. Gandhi and I had an opportunity to visit many of the homerooms that were participating in SEL activities. A heartfelt thank you goes to our SEL planning committee for creating fun and meaningful activities for our students. Students were playing games to get to know one another and creating homeroom mascots and slogans. The homeroom teachers and buddies did a wonderful job touring our students around the school so they knew exactly where to go. When we visited the different classrooms, we had a few students who even managed to play jokes on us! Welcome back Buzz Aldrin! Below are a few testimonials from various students about their first week experiences.
  - *"Today was a good day. I love all my teachers already!"*
  - *"All of the teachers were really nice."*
  - *"I am happy to be back and see my friends. I missed my teachers too!"*
  - *"I had a great day today. I was so nervous coming to a new school, but it was much better than I thought."*
- I would like to extend my gratitude to our fabulous staff for doing such a magnificent job over the past two days. I cannot thank them enough for their hard work and their dedication to our students. Their excitement was contagious! A special thank you goes to Mr. Shivan Persad, our technology coordinator, for ensuring that our Chromebook distribution went so smoothly.
- Reminders for Parents/Families:
  - 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 other location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children either. This is a safety issue.
  - 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. Beginning next week, 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.
- Today, our students participated in a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of the victims and heroes of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Students were reminded about the bravery and heroism many Americans showed following the attacks.
  - Many thanks to our generous PTA for organizing a staff luncheon on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our staff members were extremely grateful and even said it was the best luncheon to date. Special thank you to Rick Muller for coordinating the order and taking such great care of our staff.
  - A special thank you goes to our PTA for planning the coffee and donuts event outside the building on the first day of school. The parents were buzzing with excitement and your thoughtfulness was appreciated.
  - 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).

## **Leadership Team Introductions:**

- Please allow me to introduce 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

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!

- Thank you to the many families for the warm welcome both Nisha and I have received as the leaders of Buzz Aldrin Middle School. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me at [mbjennings@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:mbjennings@montclair.k12.nj.us), and/or to Nisha Gandhi at [ngandhi@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:ngandhi@montclair.k12.nj.us).
- The Yearbook Club is looking for members! Please join our Google Classroom for updates about our first meeting! The classroom code is l0fs12f.
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their families are invited to join our 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation meeting on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- To all those who observe Yom Kippur, we are wishing you an easy fast.
- Wishing all of you a Happy Grandparents Day on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Monday, September 13 – C Day
- Tuesday, September 14 – D Day
- Wednesday, September 15 – E Day
- Thursday, September 16 – District Closed
- Friday, September 17 – F Day

## **Please mark your calendars:**

- Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – Faculty Meeting @ 2:20 pm
- Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Virtual Orientation Meeting @ 7 pm
- Thursday, September 16 – Yom Kippur, District Closed

**Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.**

— Barack Obama

**One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans' history. We'll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.**

— George W. Bush