



**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**  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- Next week, from October 4<sup>th</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>, this marks the Week of Respect in schools throughout the country. The Week of Respect teaches students how to respect others, the school community, and ourselves as a way to promote a positive school climate and culture. This also helps prevent harassment, intimidation, and bullying situations. Buzz Aldrin will also participate in National Walk & Bike to School Day on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 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! Buzz Aldrin continues to celebrate and honor this month in various classes throughout the building.
- Our amazing PTA cordially invites you to our first Buzz Aldrin PTA Fall Social. This is a chance for Buzz Aldrin community members to come together and celebrate what makes Buzz Aldrin special. All Buzz Aldrin parents, caregivers, teachers and staff are invited to an outdoor Parent & Teacher Fall Social at the Montclair Bread Company on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm. RSVPs are requested for headcount and contact tracing purposes. The event is free but the Buzz Aldrin PTA is grateful for any donations to help cover the cost. Please see the attached flyer.
  - <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/519117>
- Next week, our students will participate in the Start Strong assessment. We will follow a delayed opening bell schedule for Tuesday through Friday. This means students will report to school promptly at 7:40 am and remain in homeroom to test for an extended time period. We will not accept Chromebook drop offs, shield drop offs, or items dropped off during the day. It is imperative that you send your child to school with his/her/their laptop fully charged each morning as well as headphones. The headphones must be wired headphones and not Bluetooth headphones. We are using the district-issued Chromebooks to

administer the Start Strong assessments. Additionally, please ensure your child has eaten a full breakfast and has a water bottle with them prior to sending he/she/they to school. Please see the testing schedule below for next week. Our ELL learners will test on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

### **Buzz Aldrin Start Strong Assessment Schedule**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>October 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>October 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>October 8<sup>th</sup></b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Graders - ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> Graders - Math 7 <sup>th</sup> Graders - Math	7 <sup>th</sup> Graders - ELA 6 <sup>th</sup> Graders - ELA	6 <sup>th</sup> Graders - Science 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders - Math

- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**

- 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 students fail to wear their masks in school, he/she/they will be sent home.
- 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.
- **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 every Friday for the month of October, 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".

- SEPAC: The next SEPAC General Meeting is scheduled for October 7th at 7:00 pm via Zoom. This meeting is open to all members and will include introductions of the Pupil Services Team - Dr. Goldblatt, Ms. Finnerty, Dr. Trim, and Ms. Perez. There will also be time for Dr. Goldblatt and the team to answer questions. Please use [this form](#) to send us any questions that you would like addressed during the meeting. Please submit your questions by October 4th at the latest, so the Pupil Services Leadership Team can have time to thoughtfully

reflect on their answers. A Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out next week.

- 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.
- Buzz Aldrin Club/Activity Announcements:
  - Yearbook Club - The Yearbook Club is looking for members! Please join our Google Classroom for updates about our first meeting! The classroom code is lofsl2f.
  - School Production: We are pleased to announce this year's Buzz Aldrin Musical Production is Disney's *The Little Mermaid Junior*. The production will be both exciting and a visual delight. The fairy tale about a mermaid living in an undersea country. The production is full of catchy songs and enchanted fairytale theater magic. *The Little Mermaid* is for anyone who enjoys all aspects of theater. We are looking for ALL students who want to be a part of this musical and join our theater family. We support students who part of other clubs/sports/extracurricular activities. Auditions will be held in mid-late October and our production is tentatively in April 2022. For more information or if you are interested in joining, please email Ms. Karen-Ann Panico at [kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us).
  - Model Congress/Model UN - Are you passionate about an issue that has a local, national, or global impact? Do you want to learn more about how our government works? Do you enjoy debating? At Model Congress and Model UN, students learn debating techniques associated with Parliamentary procedure. Model Congress is held in the Fall/Winter with a concentration on Congressional issues, and Model UN is held in the Spring, with a concentration on world issues. Students may participate in either club or both clubs. Our first Model Congress meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> in Room 215 after school from 2:15 to 3:15 pm. If you have any questions, please email club advisor, Mr. Joseph Turner at [jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us).
  - GSA - The GSA is an inclusive and confidential group that allows members of any gender or sexuality (allies encouraged!) to come together to discuss LGBTQIA+ community. This club provides a safe space for students to share their experiences, their questions, and concerns regarding gender and sexuality. Please join us and talk about your week, make new friends, and be a part of a larger cause! The first GSA meeting will be held on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 to 3:15 pm in Room 215. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact club advisors, Ms. Dana Glaser or Mr. Joseph Turner at [dglaser@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:dglaser@montclair.k12.nj.us) or [jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us).
  - Robotics - The Robotics club has begun and is accepting new and interested members. Students have a choice between two tracks; competition and non-competition. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:15 to 4 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Robotics club advisor, Mr. Daniel Taylor at [dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us).

- Science Olympiad – Students who have a love for STEM should consider joining the Science Olympiad team. There will be a Science Olympiad interest meeting on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 to 2:40 pm in Room 024. Please see or email Mr. Jeffrey Lawton at [jlawton@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jlawton@montclair.k12.nj.us) if you have any questions.
- Stage Crew – Stage Crew will meet on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 to 3 pm in Room 114. This meeting is for any student interested in joining Stage Crew. Please email Mr. David Buonocore at [dbuonocore@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:dbuonocore@montclair.k12.nj.us) if you have any questions.
- Greenhouse – Greenhouse students continue to work on improving the landscape of the front of the building. Later this month, students will plant native and pollinating species with the help of the NEEC. These plants will be placed around the Greenhouse in the pre-established flower beds. If you know anyone who is interested in helping us procure plants for the front of BAMS, please contact Mr. Daniel Taylor, at [dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us).

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

- Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – E Day
- Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – F Day
- Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – A Day
- Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – C Day

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

- Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Virtual PTA Meeting @ 7 pm
- Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education @ 7:30 pm
- Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Schools Closed, PD for Teachers
- Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – PTA Teacher/Staff Fall Social @ 6 pm
- Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Curriculum Thursday

***“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”***

**– Mahatma Gandhi**

***“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.”***

**– Bernard M. Baruch**