



Bowers Bugle

Bowers Elementary School
141 Princeton Street
Manchester, CT 06042

www.mpspride.org

September 2015

Principal's Message

With many thanks to our amazing staff, incredible families and excited students, we are off to a great start! I look forward to getting to know our new students and their families and continuing our partnerships with our returning students and their families. Speaking of partnerships, that is our #1 goal this school year. At Bowers School, we pride ourselves in providing a welcoming environment to our school! Do we also welcome families into the learning process? We will strive to strengthen our partnerships with you in the learning process so that all of our students grow as readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, thinkers and problem-solvers across all curriculum areas including citizenship and social thinking. As your child's first teacher, we know that our strong partnership with you will maximize learning for your child this year! We also know that the best learning happens when there are supportive relationships that make learning challenging, engaging and meaningful! Please work with your child's teacher to make this happen and don't ever hesitate to contact me with your questions or suggestions to make our great school even better!

Sincerely
Mary Lou Ruggiero

Would you also like a paper copy of this newsletter each month?

For September, both paper and email copies were sent to all families. However, beginning with October, the Bowers Bugle will only be sent electronically on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Please send the attached form back to your child's teacher if you prefer a paper copy as well each month.

New Staff at Bowers

Pari Ghetia, Resident Principal. Through coursework at UCONN and on-the-job training with Dr. Ruggiero, Mrs. Ghetia is learning to become a principal. To that end, she will work with staff, students and their families in all areas of school administration.

Laura Becker & Bill McDougal - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Teachers

Amanda Rivers, long-term substitute teacher for Leigha Then's kindergarten class. Mrs. Then is expecting her 2nd child; **Anna Martinez**, grade 2; **Caitlin Gallager** and **Tracy Pietkevich**, grade 5; **Kendra Montstream**, Reading Specialist; **Nicole Caskey**, part-time music teacher; **Ken Garrison**, instrumental band teacher; and **Alyssa Ransom**, MELC Afterschool Program Manager. **WELCOME TO ALL!**

September Calendar of Events

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
Letters indicate specials rotation	A 1 6:30pm – PTA meeting	B 2	C 3	A 4 Spirit Day
7	B 8	C 9	A 10 Open House 6:00-K-2 6:45-3-5	B 11
No School Labor Day				
C 14	A 15	B 16 Early Dismissal, 1:17 pm	C 17	A 18 School Picture Day
B 21	C 22	A 23	B 24 Ice Cream Social, 6:00-7:15	C 25
A 28	B 29	C 30	A 1	B 2 Spirit Day



Above: Our school district provided the Class of 2028 t-shirts to all our incoming kindergarten students...let their dreams take flight as they begin their journey at Bowers. Special thanks to Landon A. and his mom!

Below: Singer/Songwriter, Les Julian, performs at our annual Back-to-School Assembly on Friday, Aug. 28. His performance began with our school song, ***We've Got the Power at Bowers***, followed by inspirational songs which encouraged us to Let Our Lights Shine, have courage and take responsible risks and be kind to one another!



Schoolwide Behavior Plan-PBIS

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. This means that at Bowers School, all staff are going to take responsibility to TEACH positive behavior expectations to students. All students at Bowers School are expected to abide by the following school rules in all areas of the school including the classroom, cafeteria, playground, hallway, bathroom and bus:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Please refer to the behavior matrix in the Family Handbook which outlines the expectations in all areas of the school. The Handbook is found on the school website, www.mpspride.org. Students who take responsibility to behave positively will be recognized and rewarded with Bowers Power Points. For every increment of 25 points earned, students will receive a certificate, have their name announced over the public address and receive a prize from the Principal's Prize Box. Once a child earns 100 Power Points, his/her picture will be added to our Behavior Wall of Fame.

Additionally, this year we will continue our focus upon the importance of RESPECT for others as we continue to strengthen the positive school climate at Bowers. All students, K-5, will be taught a social thinking curriculum. Your child's teacher will include more information regarding this in the classroom newsletter.

Thank you for your support as we continue to maintain our wonderfully safe and respectful climate at Bowers School!

All returning families to Bowers should be sure to go online to verify registration; updating all pertinent emergency information.

<https://secure.infosnap.com/family/message.aspx?code=actionprivate>

Call the school office, 860-647-3313, if you don't have your snapcode.

Just what is SRBI?

For the last few years, our staff have been working conscientiously to develop a systematic process to address student learning needs and differences. The Connecticut State Department of Education has required all school districts in our state to use what's known as the Scientific Research-Based Instruction and Interventions (SRBI) framework to help schools to focus on classroom instruction and interventions that are matched to student needs.

Every student at Bowers is actually already participating in SRBI because in the first level, or "tier", of the process all children are exposed in the general classroom to a high quality curriculum and to differentiated academic and behavioral strategies that address their learning styles. 80% of students should respond effectively to this high quality instruction. At Bowers, this threshold is usually met. When not met, we provide interventions to students who are not meeting the standards the Manchester School District believes are necessary for a success toward a high school diploma.

When a teacher has a concern about a student's learning in the general classroom, then a "student intervention team" is called together to plan for appropriate support and intervention. In tier 2, we employ an intervention team approach where school staff meet to review the child's progress and to tailor an individual academic or behavioral support plan that provides additional instruction to the child in his/her area of need. In tier 2, we provide short-term, small group, intensive support for those students in need of additional instruction. These interventions are typically applied for a minimum of 9- 12 weeks, using scientifically research-based materials, to allow the child to achieve the educational standards necessary for success as determined by our district benchmarks. Parents are an integral part of this intervention process.

Students in need of more individualized and intensive instruction receive tier 3 interventions. At this tier it may be necessary to alter the child's schedule and make some choices regarding subjects and provision of education services so that the interventions may occur. Tier 3 intervention provides an hour of daily instruction, which may be broken up into smaller sessions, typically for a minimum of 9-12 weeks. As you can see, to provide an extra hour of instruction daily might require schedule changes for the duration of the intervention. The intervention team will also be meeting to review the child's plan and progress throughout the duration of the intervention. The SRBI process may be helpful in providing information that leads to a special education identification for a student, but it is also possible that tier 3 interventions will result in positive gains for a student, making a special education referral unnecessary.

Should your child require tier 2 or tier 3 intervention, you will be notified in writing and receive a copy of the specific action plan for your child. Additionally, we will keep you informed of your child's progress, as well as of meeting times during the intervention.

We believe that we have the responsibility to help ALL children to be successful, and we will continue to do that one child at a time. We also believe that our Bowers families play a critical role in partnership with us to reach this goal. Working together will help us to assure a productive year of growth and accomplishments for all our Bowers students from kindergarten through fifth grade!

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding SRBI and tiered instruction and interventions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Tracy Clarke, Bowers Literacy Coach, Colleen Litwin, Bowers Math Coach, or principal, Dr. Ruggiero. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have!

Bowers PTA

September 1, 2015

A huge welcome back to all of our returning families and a special welcome to all of our new families! We hope you were able to visit us at our welcome table on the first day of school and enjoyed some of the delicious goodies prepared by fellow parents. The 2015-2016 PTA executive board is:

- President: Krista Tuohey
- Vice President: Amy Newman
- Treasurer: Michelle Clark
- Secretary: Shannon Savoy

Our very first PTA meeting is tonight, September 1st at 6:30pm in the library. Please consider joining us to learn about the PTA events, share your ideas, and meet other families. Yearly membership is \$10 per individual and \$15 per family. With a paid family membership you will receive a free Bowers car magnet! Everyone who attends the 1st PTA meeting will be entered in a drawing to win a Bowers t-shirt.

We have many exciting events planned for this year and we need your help! Our first big event is our Ice Cream Social/Family Fun Night on Thursday, September 24th from 6:00-7:30pm in the cafeteria. Please join us for a night of ice cream served by some of the Bowers teachers, as well as music and dancing in the gym provided by DJ Mario. Cost is \$1 per person.

Each month starting in October, there will be grade wide family nights. The first family night for Kindergarten will be Thursday, October 22nd from 6:00-7:30pm. Family nights are run by parents. Without a coordinator and volunteers, these family nights cannot happen. Please contact Krista Tuohey at bowersschoolpta@gmail.com or 860-550-3129 if you are interested in coordinating this event.

On November 2nd, the PTA will be holding our 2nd Annual Tastings & Treats at Adams Mill in Manchester. Tastings & Treats is a wine tasting & vendor shopping event with fabulous raffles and silent auction prizes for parents. Last year we successfully raised \$5,000 for our PTA! Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased via Paypal on our Facebook page, which is Bowers Elementary School PTA. Under the About section, you will find a secure link to purchase tickets. The event was so successful last year, we fully expect to sell out early. Please contact Krista Tuohey at bowersschoolpta@gmail.com or 860-550-3129 with any questions. Additional info will be going home soon!

Please like us on Facebook! **Bowers Elementary School PTA**