



# SUPERINTENDENT DR. KRINER CASH'S WEEKLY BRIEF



November 12, 2021

This past week was **National School Psychology Week (NSPW)** in schools throughout the United States. The objective of the week is to highlight the important work school psychologists and other educators do to help all students thrive. The pandemic has not been easy for our students, and a School Psychologist's role is tantamount to the healing that must be done. Below are facts about our own program.

**How many School Psychologists does the BPS have?** We have 76 psychologists in the district. They are a combination of Master's and Doctorate level professionals. 58 are in the schools on Student Support Teams, 2 are at Manifestation Determination Review (MDR), 12 are at Central on Special Education, 1 is at Adult Education, 1 is on the Crisis Team, and 2 are in the Office of Student Support.

## **What are School Psychologists regular duties?**

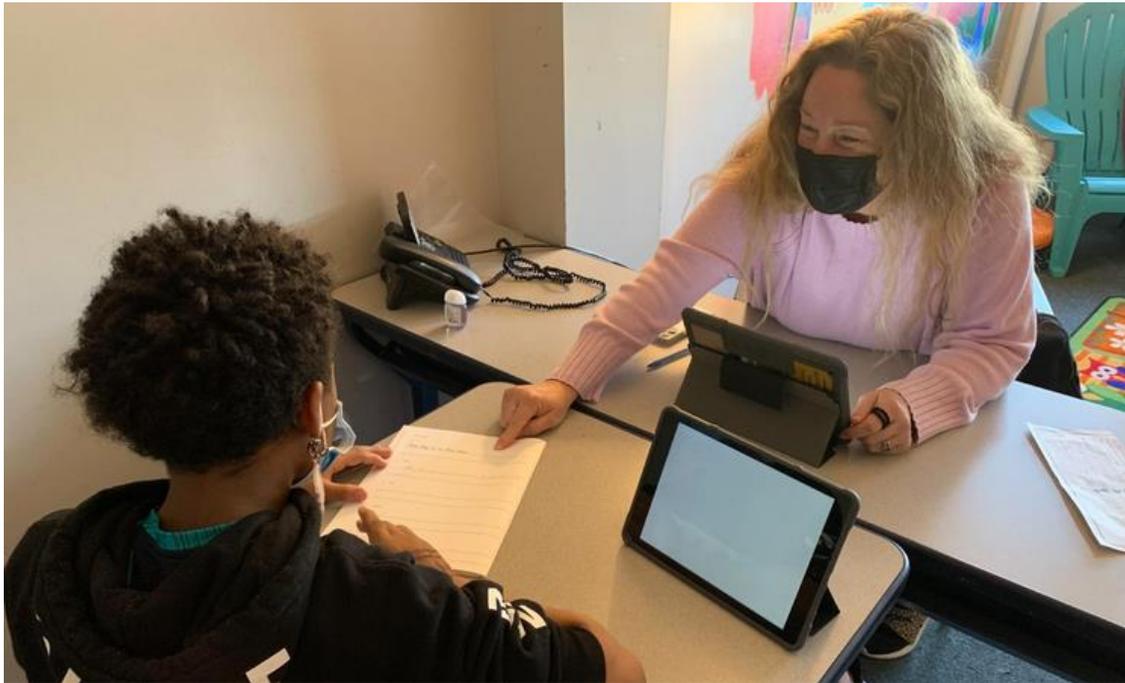
- **The Student Support Team psychologists** plan, organize, maintain, and implement the District's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support initiative for the buildings they serve. The psychologist works with general and special education students in classrooms and individually to provide both academic and behavioral RTI. They serve as mandated members of the Committee on Special Education and conduct mandated psychological testing, educational testing, and Functional Behavioral Assessments per District Policy and Procedures, in alignment with State and Federal regulations.
- **MDR Psychologists** hold manifestation determination meetings to determine if the behavior that resulted in suspension is a result of the student's disability
- **Central CSE psychologists** serve as mandated members of the Committee on Special Education and conduct mandated psychological testing, educational testing, and Functional Behavioral Assessments, per District Policy and Procedures, in alignment with State and Federal regulations.
- **All others** address social emotional needs and make sure students are receiving all the needed supports.

**What does a day-in-the-life of a School Psychologist entail?** It entails facilitating MTSS and implementing Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions, completing evaluations for CSE actions and working with all students to address all social emotional needs

**How do School Psychologists function in a crisis?** The psychologist jumps right in to support the student, staff and families in a crisis situation. They provide direct interventions as well as work with other members of SST to link families to outside resources.

**Is there a leader or spokesperson among them?** The Chair of the Department is Anita Pasquale.

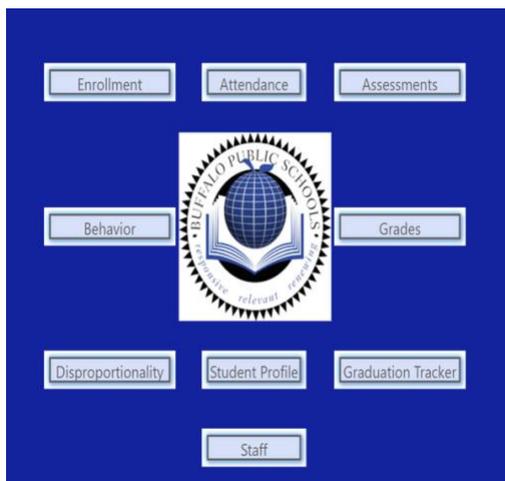
Of special note, this past week, Allison Keller from School #12 helped lead the NYASP (New York Association of School Psychologists) conference that was hosted virtually in Buffalo. She received the Presidential Service Award. Stacy Johnson, one of our bilingual School Psychologists received the Friend of Children Award. Our Board member Larry Scott received the Frank Plumeau School Psychologist of the Year Award.



*School Psychologist Richelle Tordoff working with a student at School #19.*

## DATA DASHBOARD

The Office of Shared Accountability, under the leadership of Chief Accountability Officer Ebony Bullock, rolled out the BPS Data Dashboard this week. The Dashboard is available for all District employees and can be accessed through the BPS Staff Resources link on the website. The main landing page includes a display of all data that is currently housed in the dashboard. The public facing Data Dashboard will be live on the BPS website on Monday, November 15, 2021. It can be accessed by choosing "District Data" on the BPS website. The landing page displays the data that is available to the public on the site. [Click here to see a letter from Chief Accountability Officer Ebony Bullock](#), explaining the dashboard's role and capabilities



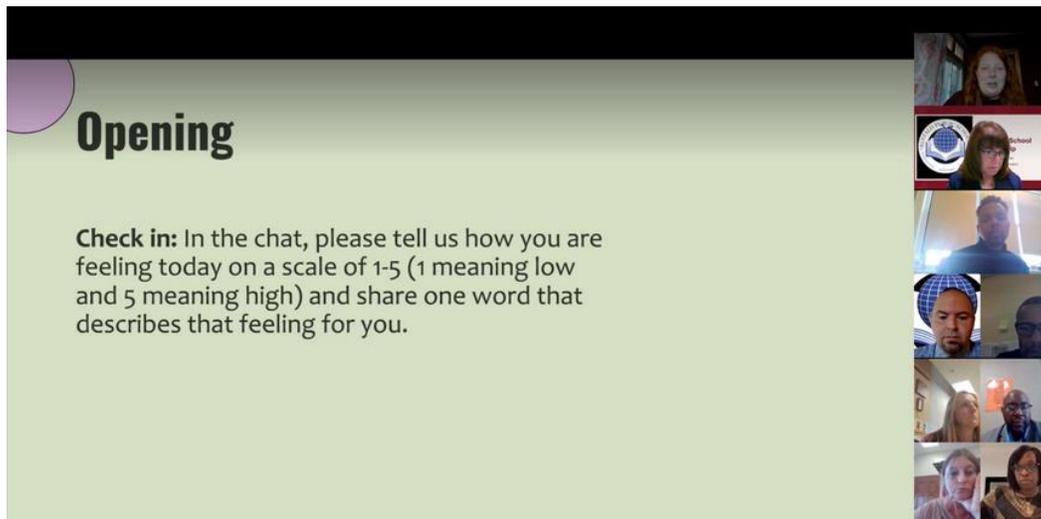
*BPS STAFF DASHBOARD*



*PUBLIC FACING DASHBOARD*

## PRINCIPAL MEETINGS

The secondary principals and assistant principals met this week on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. Both meetings were kicked off with a “mindfulness minute” using the tool Mentimeter to gather the thoughts of principals as they were asked, “what brought you professional joy in the last two weeks.” The responses created a word cloud and provided leaders the opportunity to stop and reflect positively. Chief Bullock for the Office of Shared Accountability presented an interactive activity to allow leaders to try the new features of the Data Dashboard and ask questions. This was very well received by the school leaders who see this as an extremely valuable tool to support their work. Dina Thompson, from Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ERJC) presented an overview of ERJC supports and how school leaders can further access them to develop restorative environments. Northland Workforce Training Center’s Director, Dr. Carolyn Storms-Stoltman, shared the opportunities available at Northland and how schools can connect students to this valuable resource. Devon Gadow from The New Teacher Project (TNTP) was in town working with identified schools doing instructional rounds, using the Coaching tool to unpack instruction with leadership teams. TNTP spent an hour unpacking a protocol on getting to the root cause of student obstacles to learning in order to support quality initial instruction. In addition, the Office of Student Support Services’ Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Sharon Brown provided updates on the COVID crisis. Our administrators are on track to keep our students on track!



## ELEMENTARY ACADEMICS

Lorraine Elementary is using the Workshop Model to meet the varying needs of our students. Teachers meet safely in small groups with students during the RTI and the ELA blocks. The Integrated Co-Teacher uses Specially Designed Instruction to meet her students’ individual needs. Both teachers use the Workshop Model to work on reading and writing skills. During this particular lesson, they were focused on identifying subjects and predicates and writing complete sentences. The teachers co-taught a mini lesson, and then students worked in areas to write complete sentences. Students cycle through areas, while teachers work with groups to give support. This Workshop Model has allowed teachers to focus on the needs of students and address any gaps in instruction.



**HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS & MORE**

Lafayette International Community HS #207 has been working on re-engaging and supporting the newly arrived ELL population to BPS, something particularly challenging in the post Covid-19 school closure era. The Saturday Community School program is back at #207, and so far this year everything from learning opportunities, to Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics to ENL classes, physical fitness/soccer/yoga/dancing training, and Shark Tank business competitions have been happening. In the picture below, students, including Afghan refugees, are learning about boat building along with the Buffalo Maritime Center in a workshop at Lafayette International. The students are learning how to apply physics, math and language skills, along with training to read blueprints and safely use multiple tools. They are in the beginning stages of building a functional boat they can launch into a local body of water. These project-based skills align to #207’s portfolio culture as part of the collaboration between BPS and the Internationals Network for Public Schools [INPS], all made possible through the Say Yes partnership under Dr. Cash’s Educational Bargain!



## ATTORNEY GENERAL TRINI E. ROSS

Today, an investiture ceremony was held at Hutchinson Central Technical High School for alumna Trini E. Ross, the Honorable U.S. Attorney General for the Western District of New York State. The Hutch Tech JROTC Cadet Color Guard opened the historic ceremony. A light reception immediately followed the ceremony at the Robert H. Jackson Federal Courthouse, 2 Niagara Square. Congratulations, and thank you for allowing us to host this historic event, and for being a champion of equity, AG Ross!



## **SECURITY RECRUITMENT**

Security guard interviews took place on 11/6/21 at PS#95 by invitation for qualified candidates. There were six interview teams consisting of a school administrator and current BPS security officers that interviewed 19 candidates. Successful candidates had professional conversation with department leadership. Following the interviews, 6 members of HR were present to provide support with applicant registration and coordination and transitional support during the interview process. Successful candidates were given civil service paperwork and received one-to-one support to assist with completing paperwork at home prior to submitting the required paperwork to Civil Service. Successful candidates were then provided with appointment dates to bring their paperwork to City of Buffalo Civil Service Office on November 9-10. We look forward to welcoming our new recruits!



## **SECTION VI CLASS AA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**

On Tuesday, Lewis J. Bennett Football coaches and student-athletes attended the Section VI Championship Media Day hosted at our Buffalo Bills Highmark Stadium. This was a valuable team learning experience for our student-athletes. Section VI opened with three presenters (Coach Jankowitz, Lancaster Hall of Fame Coach; Mike Masters, Cross Training Athletics; and Frank Wolf, WNY Athletics). They emphasized leadership, sportsmanship, and the importance for student athletes to remain in the moment and cherish this lifetime opportunity to compete on a professional NFL field.

After the presentation, our student-athletes and coaches had the opportunity to interact with local media outlets. Our Lewis J. Bennett student-athletes did an outstanding job communicating to the media--focusing on the team concept, their team goals, and all the work they have put in to excel as athletes.

### **Lewis J. Bennett Student-Athletes**

- #2 Antony Davis
- #4 Dominic Allen
- #7 Jayden Lewis
- #55 Jeaon Gwan
- #72 Rashard Perry

## **Lewis J. Bennett Football Mentors**

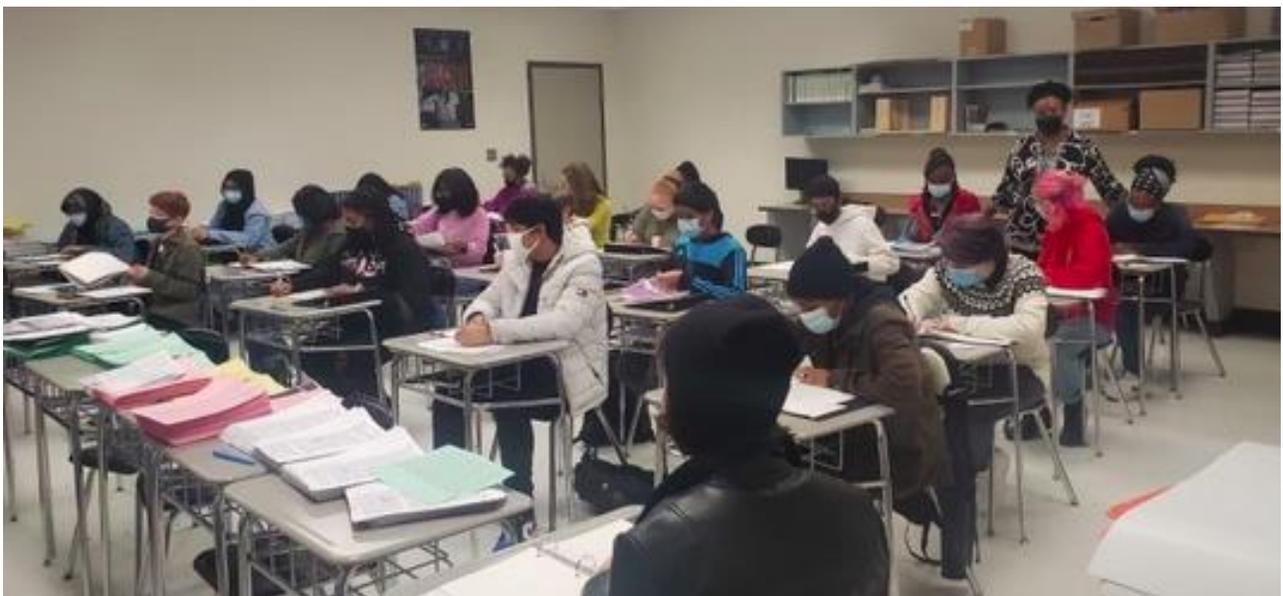
Head Football Coach, Stevenson McDuffie  
Assistant Football Coach, Khalil Cottman  
Assistant Football Coach, Patrick Foster  
Assistant Football Coach, Arthur Jordan  
Assistant Football Coach, Dajuan Todd  
Assistant Football Coach, Aaron Young  
Athletic Director, Michael House

On Saturday 11/13/2021, 6:30pm at High Mark Stadium, Lewis J. Bennett High School will take on Lancaster High School in the Section VI Class AA Football Championship. We wish LJB HS the best of luck!!



## **COMMUNITY SCHOOL SATURDAY ACADEMIES**

We enjoyed a high turnout last weekend for the Saturday Academy program at McKinley. 60 scholars representing MST, Research Lab, Burgard, City Honors, and McKinley reported to McKinley for a full day of Emancipation Curriculum lessons and research that focuses on the histories and lived experiences of African American, Indigenous, and Latinx history and culture. Culminating research will occur in April, when scholars will research and analyze their own historical stories and legacies, giving voice to intellectual brilliance and hidden narrations that are often untold!



## SATURDAY ACADEMIES 11-13-21

### November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

School	Theme	Time
#74	Fall Fest	10am-1pm
#99	World Kindness Day	10am-1pm
#208	Let's Give Thanks!	9am-12pm
#94	Give Thanks	10am-1pm
#50	Ready, Set, Go!	9am-12pm
#93	Indigenous Heritage	9am-12pm

Please join us if you can! Meanwhile, [enjoy this video of highlights of the MANY events offered](#) at Burgard High School's October 23rd Saturday Academy!

Enjoy your weekend!



Dr. Kriner Cash  
Superintendent