

Division of Student Support Services

CONNECTING THE DOTS

DR. TONJA M. WILLIAMS

Associate Superintendent's Message



Greetings! I am excited about the KICK-OFF of the Buffalo Public Schools, Student Support Services Division's First **'CONNECTING THE DOTS'** Newsletter!!! It has been a long time coming. We will share the good work of our division monthly.

As we approach the holiday season, I want us to all consider: "What does self-care really mean?" Self-care is filling your cup before it's empty so that you have enough to give! Self-care includes giving yourself time to do the things you enjoy, and planning ahead, so you don't feel as stressed or rushed. Sometimes it's going for a walk or leaving work on time, and other days, it is simply giving yourself a 15-minute brain break. Finally, it's important to have fun. Surround yourself with people who make you happy and plan activities that brighten your day.

By taking care of yourself, you will become more resilient when challenges arise. Hopefully these self-care practices are ones that you can carry forward, so you can continue pouring energy into what you love!

Dr. Tonja M. Williams

CONTENTS

Associate Superintendent's Message 1

Division Introductions 1, 2

Division Organizational Chart 2

Social Emotional Wellness and Supports 3

Department of Student Support Services 4

Office of Parent and Family Engagement 4

Department of Guidance and Counseling 5

Student Placement and Registration 6

Upcoming Dates/Events 6

DIVISION INTRODUCTIONS



Dr. Sharon Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services

I am excited to join the talented Division of Student Support Services under the leadership of Dr. Tonja Williams! While I am new to the Division, I am not unfamiliar to the Buffalo Public School District where I have proudly served the students and families for over 20 years.

The Division of Student Support Services is comprised of five departments and several offices with caring staff who strive each day to connect the dots to offer programming, resources, and strategies that will empower and support students and families to thrive in every area of their lives.

The Organizational Chart outlines each department within the Division of Student Support Services. Please contact a team leader should you have questions or wish to share NEW ideas. We look forward to connecting with you!

Division of Student Support Services Leadership Team:

Dr. Tonja Williams, Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services
Tmwilliams@buffaloschools.org

Dr. Sharon Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
Sebrown@buffaloschools.org

Ms. Kelli Daniels, Director of Student Placement and Registration
Kdaniels@buffaloschools.org

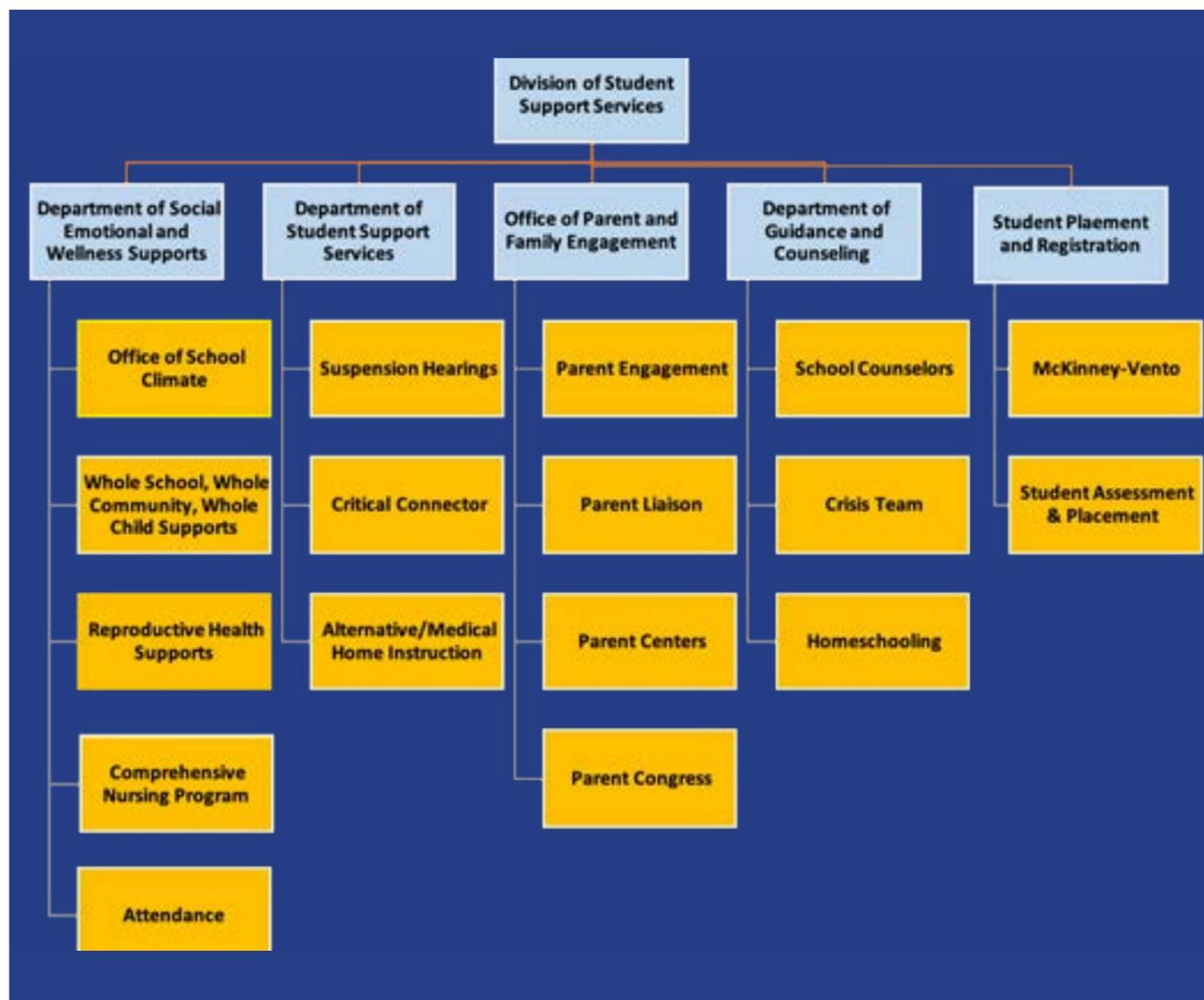
Heath Frisch, Director of Student Support Services - Pupil Personnel
HhFrisch@buffaloschools.org

Mai Nguyen, Director of Social Emotional and Wellness Supports
Tnnguyen@buffaloschools.org

Mr. Paul O'Grady, Temporary Director, Student Support Services - Pupil Personnel
Po'grady@buffaloschools.org

Dr. Ramona Reynolds, Instructional Specialist III, Office of Parent and Family Engagement
Rreynolds@buffaloschools.org

Ms. Martha Younger, Director of Guidance and Counseling Services
Myounger@buffaloschools.org



Department of Social Emotional and Wellness Supports

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
COLLECTIVE CARE CAFE'!

Free Yoga For Classroom card sets for participants! While supplies last

Brought to you by the
Division of Student Support Services

You can't pour from an empty cup...
Need support?
Need an outlet?
Learn and share some self-care tips.

Nov. 6th 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Nov. 12th 8:15 am - 8:45 am
Nov. 18th 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Nov. 24th 8:15 am - 8:45 am
Nov. 30th 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Via Microsoft Teams

Click the meeting date above for access to the Teams Link
For more Information Please contact Aundrea Sanders Asanders@buffaloschools.org

You can't pour from an empty cup... need support...need an outlet? Learn and share some self-care tips. Our November dates are open to all BPS staff. The December dates (TBD) are available to parents and caregivers.



Immunization update: All BPS students must have up-to-date immunizations submitted by November 11, 2020. After this date, in accordance with NYS Public Health Law 2164, students will be excluded from instruction.

In case you missed it... Check out the **Anti-Bullying Month October Calendar!** Thank you to our schools for their participation in Red Ribbon Week, celebrated the last week of October. Check out some of our school staff as they wore red to show their support! **BPS Goes Red**



"Each of us deserves the freedom to pursue our own version of happiness. No one deserves to be bullied."
Barack Obama

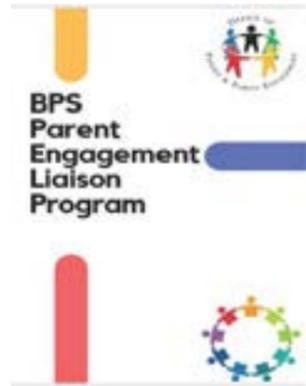
“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”

Jane D. Hull

Office of Parent & Family Engagement

The Office of Parent and Family Engagement supports families in partnership with parents, district staff, and community. These strong collaborative structures have engendered resourceful programs and resources for families.

Click the link to read about the tremendous benefits of the BPS Parent Engagement Liaison Program and BPS Virtual Parent Centers. [PARENT LIAISON PROGRAM](#)



Department of Student Support Guidance and Counseling

EIGHTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE: VIRTUAL

The Department of Guidance & Counseling, and the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department sponsored the eighth annual Buffalo Public Schools High School Showcase for current 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their families, held the week of October 13, 2020 to October 16, 2020, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday October 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., virtually via facebook. The Showcase was a highly valuable and interactive event for our families who are looking for the right fit in a high school/program.

There was a consistent stream of viewers for the entire virtual event. We were able to reach 10,080 viewers and counting through the virtual platform. Viewers were able to interact by submitting questions into the chat box. The enthusiasm of our presenters from each

school, including school administrators, school counselors, teachers, and student ambassadors, was clearly evident as they discussed the many exciting and challenging programs in our BPS high schools.

The Showcase was a highly effective way for students and parents to learn about the different high school options available. Families were able to gather information, ask questions, and understand the entrance requirements and the application processes for all high schools. Special Presentations were provided by the Special Education and the Multilingual Departments to inform parents and students of the placement process for our diverse population of students. Videos can be viewed on the [Guidance Department](#) and [CTE Department](#) websites. Parents and students are en-

couraged to contact their school counselor for further assistance.

We wish to thank everyone for their overwhelming support and collaboration that made the Virtual High School Showcase, the success that it was.

“We must start utilizing school counselor abilities and skills to help students succeed while limiting the tasks that pull them away from providing direct services to students”

Michelle Obama

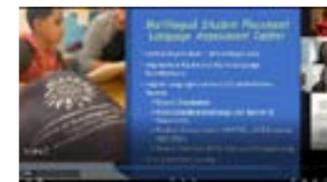
Department of Student Support Services



THE CRITICAL CONNECTOR PROGRAM

is excited to announce its partnership with New York State Mentoring Program to expand creative mentor relationships with students to ensure that they are positively supported for leadership and success! We know and believe that children can and will succeed despite overwhelming personal, economic and social obstacles with the support of caring mentors.

Details are forthcoming!



Department of Student Placement & Registration

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the launch of 2021-2022 High School Ahead Application Process. As a result, Student Placement & Registration is in its final stages of finalizing a timeline to ensure families have ample time to research and apply to the schools of their choice once the application process begins.

One may ask, what can I do in the meantime? Please click on the picture to view the High School Ahead Application Process PowerPoint.

If you have any questions, please email bpsschoolchoiceapplication@buffaloschools.org or call 716-816-3717 for assistance



“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.”
Albert Einstein

DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES UPCOMING EVENTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL and WELLNESS SUPPORTS

Restorative Practices Training Dates for November:

- 11/2 & 11/16 4:30-7:30
- 11/3 & 11/17 4:30-7:30
- 11/5 & 11/19 4:30-7:30
- 11/7 & 11/21 8:30-11:30
- 11/9 8:15-3:30

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE and COUNSELING:

- **November 4, 2020 2:00 PM**- Virtual Presentation for Parents: **College Bound – Understanding the Process (Intended Audience: Parents, Caregivers & Students, Grades 9-12)** Presenters: Maureen England & Kathleen Sciolino, College & Career Coordinators
- **November 18, 2020 5:00 PM**- Virtual Presentation for Parents: How to Find Money for College: **Financial Aid – What’s the process? How to find scholarships & other free Money for your child to attend college** Presenters: Maureen England & Kathleen Sciolino, College & Career Coordinators
- **November 5, 2020** – Deadline for registering for the December SAT Test Administration
- **November 20, 2020** – Afternoon PD for Counselors Presentation from NYSED on NYS Graduation Requirements.
- November 7, 2020 AM-SAT – Test Administration at various Testing sites chosen by the student
- **December 5, 2020** AM – SAT Test Administration at various sites chosen by the student