



# Booth Hill Elementary School

Shelton Public Schools

544 Booth Hill Road

Shelton, CT 06484

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## From the Principal

September 2017 – Welcome Back

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), and the Booth Hill Elementary School Community,

Welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year. I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back to learning and growth. As many of you are aware – last year, BHS was deemed a School of Distinction by the State Department of Education as a result of high growth and high performance. This honor is given to schools in the top 10% of achievement and other factors in which we are judged. We are excited about this and realize it is due to our collective work as educators and parents.

For those who are new to the school – and to our returning families and students – please remember we are a mission driven school. In the beginning of the year, it is always great to review our mission with our families. Each day we remind our students of our behavior and character pillars – *Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Your School, Take Care of Each Other*. However, our mission states – It is our mission to provide a safe and supportive learning environment with high academic standards for all students. In partnership with staff, parents, and community, we are committed to educating each child academically, socially, and culturally. The faculty and I take this mission with seriousness and great responsibility. Please let us know how we are doing and hold us accountable for making sure each child who comes through our doors is educated appropriately. Our partnership will determine each child's progress and growth.

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of Booth Hill School's staff. For the entire school directory, please navigate to our website at [www.sheltonpublicschools.org](http://www.sheltonpublicschools.org). There you will find the most up to date information.

- Mrs. Nancy Burns – Reading Consultant
- Mrs. Linda Casella – Speech/Language Pathologist
- Mrs. Lori McKeon – Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Stephanie Millo – Special Education
- Ms. Alicia Nardella-Page – Building Substitute
- Ms. Christina Potts – Special Education
- Dr. Brittany Little – School Psychologist
- Mr. Tyler Zielinski - Tutor

Some other staff changes of which you should be aware:

- Mr. Chavez has moved from grade two to grade three this year.
- Mrs. McKeon has replaced Mrs. Brotherton. She has been a great asset to the school already and I am sure you will find her knowledgeable and helpful at Booth Hill School.

#### Building changes and additions:

- Whitson's is the new lunch program provider. They are taking the place of Sodexo who provided school lunches in the past few years. Both Joy and Dawn will remain at Booth Hill School in the cafeteria.
- Our Word of The Week program for the Shelton Public Schools will continue this year. Words will be thematic and that theme will be careers and occupations.
- Teacher assignments for returning students were sent home on the last day of school last year. New students will receive their class placement after their registration is complete. Class assignments have been finalized. If you have not heard from me personally, it has not changed.

#### Opening day/week of school:

- Busses, as per tradition, will pick-up and drop-off at the front of the building. Parent drop-off remains at the side entrance. Doors open at 8:50 A.M. for drop-off. For the safety of the children in this process, we ask that you do not park and/or exit your vehicle upon drop-off. Please pull-up to the entrance and have your child exit from that side of the car. I appreciate your support in this protocol.
- There will be an emergency drill (fire) within the first week of school. Teachers will prepare their students within the first few days. Safety is of utmost importance and initiating this drill early on allows our students to learn new evacuation routes from different areas of the building and how to respond in different situations.
- If you have not received it already, your classroom teacher will send a welcome letter with other details soon. Class supply lists are uploaded to our website for grades K through 3.

#### Student Assessment:

- A few parents have inquired about Smarter Balanced testing that has taken place for grade three and four students last year. As soon as score sheets are generated from the State Department of Education, they will be sent home. I continue to be equally excited by the results and about how we will move forward in continually improving outcomes and school experiences for our students.
- During the month of September, your child will take part in a variety of screeners and assessments in order for us to gauge levels of understanding in particular skills and standards. These assessments are administered three times throughout the year to assess progress. Please inquire with your child's classroom teacher if you are interested in results.
  - K – 2: AimsWeb Math and Language Arts Assessments
  - 3 & 4 – AimsWeb Math and Language Arts Assessments; NWEA Math; Reading Inventory (RI).

#### Instruction

- Our program of study for each grade includes: Reader's Workshop (90 minutes), Writer's Workshop (45 minutes), Math Workshop (60 minutes), Science/Social Studies (40 minutes) (alternate each day); a special each day (media studies, physical education, art education, and music education); a lunch and recess block (25 minutes each) and a block for Academic Support (30 minutes) each day. I hope you will find the academic course of study rigorous and at a level that will help each child succeed.
- Our curricula are always being reviewed each year to make it better and meet the rigor and challenges of the new world in which we live. This year has been no different. Many teachers have spent countless hours this summer preparing our curricula to meet our students' needs.
- As a public school, the Common Core State Standards are addressed in our curriculum and lead our students to be better thinkers, readers, writers, mathematicians, and people.

Before I close – I must personally thank each parent and student for their participation in our Parent Teacher Organization. This year the BHS PTO was able to purchase an addition to our playground. I'm certain students will enjoy the new structure during recess. Moreover, the BHS PTO was able to improve our technological infrastructure by purchasing a new set of classroom Chromebooks and document cameras. These additions will augment our school's instructional program and lead to better teaching and learning.

I'm looking forward to meeting our newest kindergarten class (the class of 2030) on September 1, 2017 at 9:30 AM for Bus Safety Day. Moreover, I look forward to welcoming back our returning first through fourth grade students on September 5, 2017. Please see the attachments for September's calendar and Parent-Teacher Organization information.

I hope to see you at our BHS events and at school throughout the year. BHS is a great place to learn and a great place to be. I am honored to be a part of this school community and I look forward to our collaboration in the future. BHS has a vibrant parent community and I respect all the ways you become involved in your child's education and in our school.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have a question, concern, or information to share. My email address is: [JZavodjancik@sheltonpublicschools.org](mailto:JZavodjancik@sheltonpublicschools.org). You may also call the school at 203-929-5625 and leave a message. I will be certain to respond to all inquiries.

Here's to a great school year!

P.S. – From Mrs. Burns (Reading Consultant):

Please encourage your children to keep up with their summer reading. As a part of this valuable activity, bookmarks (passed out in June, printed from the SPSS website, or a piece of paper) are to be filled out listing all books read or listened to over the summer. Each child that returns the list, signed by their parent, and given to their teacher by September 15 will be invited to celebrate their accomplishment at the first ever BHS Backyard Beach Party. Our goal is to have all students involved...but your child(ren) must return their summer reading list! Who knows...if all students return a Summer Reading List, some of our staff may even sing a beach song! Boys and girls won't want to miss out!

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Lastly, for the most up-to-date information and postings, please *follow me* on Twitter @BoothHillSchool

*Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of your school!*

Sincerely,



James Zavodjancik  
Principal

...From the Booth Hill School

Parent Teacher Organization

# BHS PTO MEMBERSHIP

Dear Booth Hill School Families,

Welcome Back to School! I would like to invite you to become a PTO member for the 2017-2018 school year and support the wonderful and enriching programs offered throughout the year. Becoming a member does not obligate you to attend meetings or chair events. This is a contribution that directly benefits the students at Booth Hill School. Below you will have the opportunity to choose from a tiered level of PTO Membership which will help support our school's PTO for future events.

Sincerely,

Michele Jansen  
Membership Chairperson  
203-215-2704 [michele.jansen@att.net](mailto:michele.jansen@att.net)

Please make checks payable to **BHS PTO** & send to the **Attn: PTO Membership c/o Zachary Jansen (Gr.3-Douglass)**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child	Teacher	Grade	Room #

As an incentive, the BHS PTO will be holding several raffles throughout the year for \$25 gift cards to all families who become a member of the BHS PTO. To be included in the first drawing that takes place in October, please have your membership forms/payments submitted by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**I would like to support the BHS PTO in the following tax-deductible\*\* way:**

\_\_\_ **GOLD LEVEL \$25 membership dues**

Receive 5 Raffle Tickets into every drawing

\_\_\_ **SILVER LEVEL \$15 membership dues**

Receive 3 Raffle Tickets into every drawing

\_\_\_ **BRONZE LEVEL \$5 membership dues**

Receive 1 Raffle Ticket into every drawing

\_\_\_ **Yes! I am interested in volunteering** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* By supplying your email above, you are also opting in to receive BHS PTO email blasts. You will receive PTO related emails pertaining to fundraisers, events, school happenings, etc. This is part of the PTO's Go Green effort. If you are already receiving emails, no changes will be made.

\*\*The BHS PTO is a valid 501c3 organization. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

# FUNDRAISING OPT-OUT PROGRAM

This school year, we are implementing an Opt-Out Program which is optional. Throughout the school year, students participate in a variety of fun and exciting activities that help support the educational process and foster the "Booth Hill School experience" that makes their time here special. Our opt-out program is designed for families who are looking for an alternative to traditional fundraisers.

We would like to take this opportunity to convey information to the parents regarding BHS PTO fundraising. The BHS PTO relies on the support of all our parents for fundraising efforts throughout the year. We do our best to limit the number of fundraisers we coordinate, so active participation by all of our parents is important so we can continue to provide these educational and exciting activities to our children. The PTO estimates that continuing to provide these activities cost approximately \$53.00 per student for the 2017-2018 school year. The Booth Hill School PTO is a registered 501c3 Organization. All donations made to the PTO are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

*Due to phenomenal fundraising efforts over the years, we raised enough money to provide the school with 30 Chrome Books (\$5,500), 18 HoverCams (\$3,732), Playground (approximately \$10,000) for this 2017-2018 school year.*

Your PTO dollars help each and every student at BHS. Just to name a few, the PTO funds provide the following....

- Assembly Events
- Author Visits
- Fourth Grade Celebrations/Activities
- Teacher Appreciation
- End of the Year Family Picnic
- Junior Achievement

Please note, unfortunately there is no way to stop sending home fundraising packets to the families who contribute to this opt-out program. This program will also not replace traditional fundraising as we know not every family can participate.

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Please send your check, payable to *BHS PTO*, along with this form, in an envelope marked "*Opt-Out Program*" to the main office.

Family's Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name	Teacher
Child's Name	Teacher
Child's Name	Teacher
Child's Name	Teacher

# of BHS Children: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$53.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

Thank you for participating. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sara Widomski at [sarawidomski@gmail.com](mailto:sarawidomski@gmail.com)

**\*This program is different from the PTO Membership Program.\***

Thank You for supporting BHS PTO.