



BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP

Preparing every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Jeremy Chiappetta

October 5, 2020

Key Highlights:

- BVP reopened online on 9/14, in person to 5-12 MVPs on 9/22, in person to K-4 MVPs on 9/29, and in person to all kindergartener scholars who opted for in-person instruction on 9/29.
- BVP has had multiple scholars with positive cases for COVID-19 since reopening, though none are connected to in-person instruction.
- RI Interscholastic League sports have launched, and BVP standout junior cross-country runner, Lucy Noris, won the first meet of the season! Boys and Girls HS soccer have their first matches on 10/10. Athletes are required by the RI Interscholastic League to wear masks during competition unless more than 10 feet apart during the competition. (Lucy won by over 20 seconds, so she was likely maskless for much of her race!)
- BVP continues to work with *Facilitate Change* on our strategic plan and digging in deeply around issues of race and equity, led by BVP Associate Director Alyssa Fatal. BVP is also part of the *The Century Foundation Bridges Collaborative* which launches this coming week.
 - BVP's current "Diversity Statement" is:
Blackstone Valley Prep is committed to the academic success, social and emotional growth, and health and wellness of 100% of scholars in an intentionally diverse school that celebrates the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, and sexual-orientation differences of our scholars, staff, and families by
 - *actively engaging in courageous conversations about the value of peoples' differences;*
 - *raising awareness of self and society's structural inequities; and*
 - *empowering all people to engage in an open and honest dialogue with an active voice.*
 - I anticipate through our process that we will bring before the board a new statement that is likely more inclusive and more descriptive of our beliefs. I hope that we will be able to fully engage with the board on this topic this calendar year.

Talent

- We continue to have staff vacancies that impact our ability to safely reopen, including substitutes, a K special educator, a 4th grade teacher, and a secondary math teacher.
- We have had multiple staff call out for in-person instruction, at the last minute, due to “the sniffles” or the equivalent. Per [RIDE/RIDOH’s RI Playbook](#), all staff and scholars are mandated to take even mild symptoms very seriously and stay home. This impacts our ability to operate safely for in-person instruction.

Key Data

- Current enrollment is 2113 (down from 2151 at our last meeting). Most of the changes are a result of families moving out of the area, though some families are opting for local schools for a variety of reasons, including being more open for in-person instruction. This “September adjustment” is typical.
- Attendance:

Year-to-Date

School	Attendance Percentage	On-Time Percentage	Chronically Absent Percentage
Elementary School 1	96.31 %	99.98 %	9.71 %
Elementary School 2	97.06 %	98.41 %	8.78 %
Elementary School 3	95.84 %	99.78 %	15.83 %
High School	93.99 %	96.03 %	19.73 %
Junior High School	93.87 %	98.23 %	20.68 %
Out-of-District	100.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
Upper Elementary	95.08 %	97.44 %	14.44 %
District Total	95.47 %	98.29 %	14.29 %

- Attendance has been very strong overall, though slightly below our attendance levels in years past (about 1.5% below YTD attendance at this time last year). Please note that the chronic absenteeism percentages are quite off at this time of the year
- Any child out three or more days is calculated as “chronically absent.” With that said, there are several scholars who have been identified as struggling with attendance, and our school teams are focused on identifying and supporting those scholars and families.

Development

- BVP is working with RIDE to access COVID funds to support the safe reopening of schools. It is strongly suggested that funds be expended for safety measures, filtration, deep cleaning.

- BVP was recently awarded an unsolicited grant of \$25,000 from Rouse Company Foundation at the recommendation of their Executive Director, Heather Crosby.

Media and Advocacy

- BVP has had some positive press for scholar successes, though not necessarily connected to our work at BVP. See [this feature](#) on Emilia Ferretti in the Valley Breeze, and [this feature](#) on several BVP scholars, also in the Breeze.
- BVP is working locally with Achievement First and RISE Prep to continue to advocate for fair funding and investment of RI COVID dollars in support of schools. Excel Academies of Massachusetts has applied to be a mayoral academy and is also now meeting with our advocacy group.

Facility Updates

- We continue to work with RIDE and RIDOH to ensure our facilities are ready for the start of the school year. We have been told that each campus will be inspected prior to the start of the year, relative to the [Facilities Guidance](#). To be prepared, we have:
 - Multiple “deep cleanings” and the purchase of electrostatic sprayers for additional nightly cleaning
 - Completed training for all school-based operations leads and custodial staff on updated cleaning protocols to be followed during in-person instruction
 - Installed touchless sanitizer stations in each learning space and procured adequate hand sanitizer for all campuses
 - Installed plastic barriers for front office managers
 - Removed carpets from elementary classrooms
 - Spaced furniture in classrooms to allow for as much social distancing as possible based on 55% of families continuing to opt for distance learning
 - Upgraded to MERV11 filters, where possible
 - Added HEPA filter machines as well as window fans for outside air in several rooms that did not otherwise have 4-6 air circulation turns per hour
 - Acquired HEPA filter machines for each isolation room for each campus

Address	Normal Use	“Partial” Use	Air System Notes
291 Broad Street	ES1	ES1 K-2	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
52 Broad Street	ES2	ES2 K-2	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open

3357 Mendon Road	ES3	ES3 K-2	Windows Open, HEPA filters for each room, Window fans for each classroom
3 Fairlawn Way	UES	ES 3-4	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
909 Lonsdale Ave	JHS	Staff only	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
65 Macondray	HS	MVPs 5-12	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open

- **Current portfolio:**
 - **291 Broad St. (ES1):** N/A.
 - **52 Broad St. (ES2):** N/A.
 - **3 Fairlawn Way (UES):** N/A.
 - **909 Lonsdale Ave. (JHS):** N/A.
 - **3357 Mendon Rd:** N/A.
 - **65 Macondray Street (HS):** N/A
 - **7 Fatima Drive (Network Support Team):** N/A.
 - **Other:** We continue to pursue other real estate opportunities to best support our mission, within the budget constraints with which we are operating.