



BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP

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

Chief Executive Officer Report

Jeremy Chiappetta

April 26, 2021

Key Highlights:

- BVP continues to offer more seats for in-person instruction for those who want it. With the new RIDOH/RIDE regulations allowing increased bus capacity and reduced classroom distancing, we anticipate many more scholars coming in over the next couple of weeks. We have also seen a number of families who are Distance learning, but came in for RICAS, and have since changed their modality preference.

School	Status	% In-person	Change from 3/29 Report
ES1	Reopened Tuesday 1/19	68%	+ 12%
ES2	Reopened Tuesday 1/19	67%	+ 9%
ES3	Reopened Tuesday 1/19	67%	+ 14%
UES	Reopened Tuesday 2/23	66%	+ 6%
JHS	Reopened Tuesday 2/23	70%	+ 10%
HS	Reopened Tuesday 2/23	65%	+ 2%

- BVP continues partnered with RIDOH and RIDE to launch BinaxNOW on-site rapid COVID-19 testing: approximately 90% of our community has opted in to testing.

Total Tested	3582
Total Positives	9
Rate	0.25%

While testing has largely helped us identify several asymptomatic cases, we have also had some concerns regarding testing. Specifically, a staff member who within 48 hours had a negative BINAX, a negative PCR, and then at school had a

“faint” positive followed by another negative BINAX and negative PCR was still considered a positive case and the class and the person had to isolate/quarantine. The consensus of our nursing team is that the “faint” was a false positive, yet the impact was significant and RIDOH would not release the quarantine.

- Close to 90% of BVP staff have received at least their first shot of a COVID19 vaccine, well over half of those now fully inoculated.
- The BVP Virtual Art Show launched this past week!
<https://sites.google.com/view/bvpartshow/> Please check it out!
- On Friday, April 16, after 12 years of excellent service, Colleen Colarusso resigned her position as Chiefs Schools Officer. We wish her nothing but the best, Head of School Sara Tucker and Chief Academic Officer Sarah Anderson led a phenomenal send off on the 15th, and, in her honor, we had permanently named the ES2 Main Office “Regis College”, Colleen’s alma mater, in her honor.
- College admissions are here, and College Signing Day will be May 21! While we have a few waitlists to still be processed, this year’s acceptances include:

Anna Maria College
Assumption University
Barry University
Bentley University
Boston College
Boston University
Bridgewater State University
Bryant University
California University of Pennsylvania
Case Western Reserve University
Central Connecticut State University
Clark University
Colby-Sawyer College
College of the Holy Cross
Community College of Rhode Island
Curry College
Dean College
Eckerd College
Emmanuel College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Southern College
Framingham State University
Franklin Pierce University
George Washington University
Gordon College
Goshen College
Howard University

Indiana University-Purdue University
Indianapolis
Iona College
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University
(Providence)
Keene State College
Keuka College
Lasell University
Lesley University
Loyola University Maryland
Manhattan College
Marist College
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and
Health Sciences
McDaniel College
Merrimack College
Mount Holyoke College
New England Institute of Technology
North Carolina A & T State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Pace University (New York City)
Pace University (Westchester)
Plymouth State University
Providence College

Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Salve Regina University
Seton Hill University
Simmons University
Southeastern University
Spelman College
St John's University (New York)
St. Thomas University
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Trinity College
University of California (Berkeley)
University of California (San Diego)

University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii at Hilo
University of Houston
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland (College Park)
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
University of Massachusetts (Boston)
University of Massachusetts
(Dartmouth)
University of New Hampshire (Main
Campus)
University of New Haven
University of North Georgia
University of Pittsburgh (Main Campus)
University of Rhode Island
University of Scranton
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St Louis
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Talent

- Teacher and staff postings for next year are active and we are actively considering some ESSER funded roles to specifically support return to school in the post-COVID era, including Leadership Fellows, Transition Coordinators, additional building substitutes and teaching fellows.

Key Data

- **Current enrollment** is 2,116 (down from 2,118 at our last meeting). Recent withdrawals related to moving out of state.
- **Attendance:**

Year-to-Date

School	Attendance Percentage	On-Time Percentage	Chronically Absent Percentage
Elementary School 1	94.41 %	98.34 %	18.31 %
Elementary School 2	94.60 %	98.12 %	16.55 %
Elementary School 3	92.83 %	99.22 %	24.44 %
High School	92.65 %	96.23 %	25.69 %
Junior High School	94.90 %	94.42 %	16.49 %
Upper Elementary	95.50 %	97.26 %	14.16 %
zOut-of-District	100.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
District Total	94.24 %	97.33 %	18.95 %

- *Attendance has been strong overall, slightly improved from last month (94.24% vs. 94.22% last month; 18.95% Chronically absent vs. 20.54 last month).*

Development

- We are actively pursuing some major investments for the BVPHS expansion.
- We continue to actively push support for the BVP Social Worker Fund. Thank you!
- Join us in supporting Teacher Appreciation Week:
<https://blackstonevalleyprep.org/product/teacher-appreciation-week/>

Media and Advocacy

- 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. Moreover, we are working together with the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools regarding specific legislation that would impact charter growth and our funding.
 - Specific legislation that we are tracking closely includes a bill that would scoop back the PPP loan, changes to nursing certification requirements, charter expansion (does not directly impact us), and any potential changes to the funding formula.

Facility Updates

- With the return to more families choosing in-person instruction, but with the limitations to transportation, we continue to challenge our roadways and our neighborhoods with more cars than any of us would like. We are hopeful that potential changes in bus guidance will bring fewer cars to our campuses.
- **Current portfolio:**

- **291 Broad St. (ES1):** N/A.
- **52 Broad St. (ES2):** N/A.
- **3 Fairlawn Way (UES):** N/A.
- **909 Lonsdale Ave. (JHS):** Investigating potential capital investments to support an estimated 50 additional scholars enrolling in a year and a half (the final wave of larger enrollment from ES3, currently in 5th grade)
- **3357 Mendon Rd:** Investigating potential HVAC system upgrades in response to COVID using ESSER funds.
- **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.