



Braden River Elementary School of Innovation

6125 River Club Blvd., Bradenton FL 34202

Phone (941) 751-7012, Fax (941) 753-0911

www.manateeschools.net/bradenriverel

Twitter: @BradenRiverEl , Facebook: Braden River Elementary

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear BRE Families,

I welcome all our families back to BRE! I am Joshua Bennett and am proud to say that I serve as the principal of Braden River Elementary. We have begun the year in a uniquely profound way with many things to be proud about in this first quarter. We have been able to adjust to our student learning and parent needs to meet the demand of e-Learning, Hybrid and Brick and Mortar platforms. The three models have all presented different challenges but also different opportunities for our school staff and students to grow. We thank all parents for the continued support in these learning options. We have also been able to open the year with our school opening plan that provided step by step guidelines that minimize the risks related to COVID-19. Our plan is rooted in guidelines provided by the CDC, WHO, State Department of Education and the Manatee County School District. Our school's focus areas are these three safety principles:

1. Wearing a Mask (except during recess, P.E., lunch) and only switching to a face shield when social distancing is in effect.
2. Socially Distancing of 6 feet when possible.
3. Washing hands or using hand sanitizer multiple times throughout the day.

We know that these guidelines have been communicated and continue to be an emphasis throughout the year. We thank our parents for your understanding and adherence to these guidelines. We have been very fortunate that our parents have taken the daily survey seriously and, in many cases, out of the abundance of caution, have kept your child home if they were not feeling well or if they had an exposure to COVID-19. This team approach is what we will need to continue as we work together all year to minimize the effects of this pandemic at our school site.

During all this extra safety precautions I am glad to report learning is still a priority at BRE. Our teachers have focused on instructing the content under these new circumstances. Our teachers have committed to catch students up or accelerate learning, so students have what they need in the grade level they are assigned. We know this task is not easy, as it has taken a truly dedicated team of staff members to make this year as successful as it has been thus far. We will continue to work through the platform changes for quarters 2 and 3 to make the transitions as seamless as possible for all. If you have questions or concerns about your child's education, we encourage you to stay in touch with the teacher via phone, email, or the classroom app that the teacher might use. This constant communication should not go away or fade during these unique times. This is also a great time for parents to be informed and involved as part of our two active organizations: School Advisory Council and Parent Teacher Organization. These groups will be meeting monthly and talking about a variety of topics throughout this school year on a virtual meeting platform. Listen for the monthly call out messages for the invitation to join these meetings on Zoom. You can also check out our school's website for more information pertaining to the SAC and PTO. Being involved is what helps make our school great!

We end by welcoming everyone to 2020-2021!

Joshua Bennett

Meet the new BRE Staff



Mrs. Askew Kindergarten

How long have you been teaching?

I've been a teacher for 27 years .

Where did you go to school?

USF (Go Bulls!)

What was your favorite book as a child? Pippi Longstocking

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time with my family, read, boating .

Mrs. Cappiello 3rd Grade

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 7 years.

Where did you go to school?

University of South Florida

What was your favorite book as a child? The Rainbow Fish

What do you like to do in your free time?

Read and spend time with my dog and family.



Mrs. Dorigo Classroom Sub

How long have you been teaching?

I have worked in education for over 25 years! I have worked with students from Pre-k-12th grade, in New York and Florida. This is my first year working for the Manatee County School District.

Where did you go to school? State College of Florida

What was your favorite book as a child? Mary Poppins

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy hanging out with my three children who all live locally. We follow football (Go Bills) and enjoy pool parties together!

Mrs. Holland 5th Grade

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 15th year teaching.

Where did you go to school? USF

What was your favorite book as a child?

The Nancy Drew book series

What do you like to do in your free time?

Bike, read, cook, pool time with my grandkids, and shopping.



Mrs. Kil

4th Grade

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching 4th grade for 10 years, but I have been working with children of all ages since 1996!

What school did you attend?

I graduated with my Masters Degree from University of St. Francis in Illinois. I graduated with my Bachelors Degree from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois

What was your favorite book?

Miss Nelson is Missing!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend my free-time spending time with our two young daughters, Chloe (5) & Ellie (3). We love going to the beach, local parks, or exploring the local towns nearby.



Meet the new BRE Staff



Mr. McGuire
ASD
Paraprofessional

How long have you been in education?

I taught 38 years of PE and Health, as well as coached sports.

Where did you go to school?

Springfield College and Plymouth State University

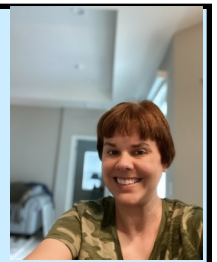
What was your favorite book as a child?

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Golf, go to the beach, and spend time with family.

Ms. Lengacher-Taylor
VPK Paraprofessional



How long have you worked in education?

I was an ESE teacher & guidance counselor in Manatee County for 13 years until 2006. This is my first year back working in education since then.

Where did you go to school?

My undergraduate degree is from USF & graduate degrees are from Nova Southeastern University & Argosy University.

What was your favorite book as a child?

Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys Mysteries series of books

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend time with my family and dogs.



Ms. Meiler
4th Grade

How long have you been in education?

I have worked for SBMC for 15 years. I have been teaching for 10 .

Where did you go to school?

University of South Florida

What was your favorite book as a child?

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend time with my family and enjoy outdoor landscaping/gardening.

Mrs. Parisey
Occupational Therapist



How long have you been at your position?

This is my fifth year with SDMC.

Where did you go to school?

I attended Ball State University in Muncie IN for undergrad and got my Masters in OT from Midwestern University in Phoenix AZ.

What was your favorite book as a child?

Charlotte's Web

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy traveling, spending time with my husband and dog, working out, and trying out new restaurants in my free time .

Meet the new BRE Staff

Mrs. Payne

Guidance Clerk

How long have you been at your position?

This is my first year in Manatee County. Before that, I worked in education for 12 years in Northern Virginia.

Where did you go to school?

Dickinson College

What was your favorite book as a child?

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy boating and going to the beach with my family and friends.



Mrs. Sheehan

Occupational Therapist

How long have you been at your position?

This is my first year working in education.

Where did you go to school?

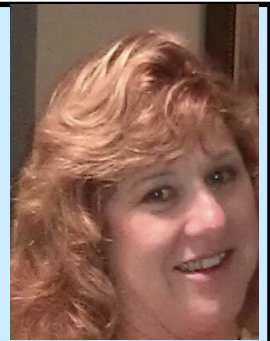
State College of Florida

What was your favorite book as a child?

I loved the Encyclopedia Brown series when I was growing up.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I help neighbors and take care of my grandchildren.



Miss Pendergast

Speech

How long have you been at your position?

I have worked in education for 4 years.

Where did you go to school?

I got my master's degree at Queen

Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland

What was your favorite book as a child?

Jillian Jiggs by Phoebe Gilman

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I design and create products for my Etsy shop.



Mrs. Wolken

ASD Paraprofessional

How long have you been at your position?

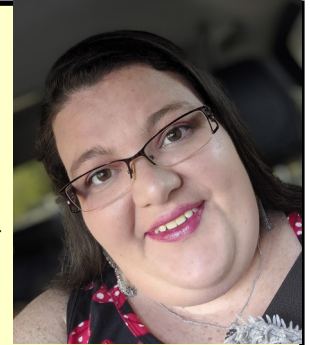
I have worked for SDMC for over 10 years, Over 6 of them I was a custodian. This is my 5th year as a paraprofessional.

What was your favorite book as a child?

Winnie the Pooh

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I like to paint and do arts and crafts.



Mrs. Woodworth

5th Grade

How long have you been at your position?

I have been in education for 5 years and this is my second year with SDMC.

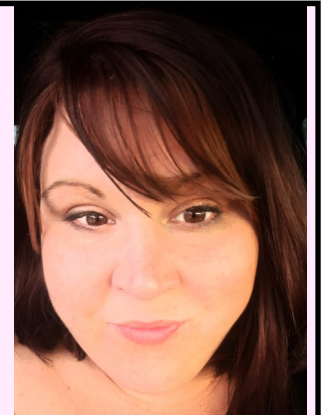
Where did you go to school?

I attended USFSM for my Bachelors and USF Tampa for my Masters. I will be attending USF Tampa for my Doctorate next Semester.

What is your favorite book? The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend time with my family. We love to go to the beach and watch movies. I also love to paint and do crafts.



Meet the new BRE Staff



Ms. Guerra
Physical Therapy
Assistant

How long have you been at your position?

I've worked for SDMC for close to 2 years.

Where did you go to school?

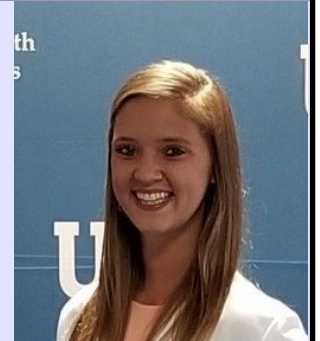
I attended State College of Florida.

What was your favorite book as a child?

My favorite book as a kid was the 1st book from the Lemony Snicket Series of Unfortunate Events.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to watch movies and go out to eat.



Ms. Zaprzal
Physical Therapist

How long have you been at your position?

I have been a PT for 1 year, and this is my first school year as a therapist working for SDMC.

Where did you go to school?

Undergrad- The University of Alabama (Roll Tide!)
PT School- The University of Florida

What was your favorite book as a child?

Junie B. Jones

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy running, trying new restaurants, going to the pool, and watching Alabama football games!

News from Mrs. Kushmer

Your students have been busy creating art with an emphasis on lines, shapes and/or patterns. We are hoping to participate in **Artsonia** again this year. This is a program where you or your child can upload their art to Artsonia's website to create an online art portfolio. You can then share their art with family and friends. You and those that you choose to share their art with can then view it online, leave comments and order keepsakes featuring their artwork.

To participate, you will need to upload the free Artsonia 6.0 app on your smartphone or iPad. All that you need to do is to take a photo of your child's art and follow the prompts to upload their art. Personal information and photos of your child are not allowed. Once uploaded, I will see it and be able to approve it before it is available online to view. Last year our students and families uploaded over 2100 artworks to Artsonia!

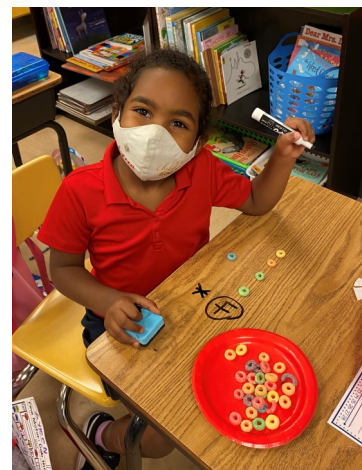
For now, when their art comes home, you or your child needs to photograph it so that it can be added to their online art portfolio which will be added to every year.

You will be getting an email from Artsonia regarding this amazing program and give permission for your child to participate. For more information you can go to Artsonia's website at www.artsonia.com for more information.

Thank you for your help in using Artsonia and creating an online art portfolio. Please display their art at home and view their art online and share it with family. This will help to build your child's self-confidence and encourage them to continue creating and growing their art skills.

News from Mrs. Comegno's Kindergarten Class

We had a fruit loop activity in math as a review for comparing numbers 0-10. We used fruit loops to compare numbers as we made two different groups with the fruit loops and we circled the numbers that were greater than and x-ed the numbers that were less than. The review worked as the class ALL aced their tests!



ATTENTION

Please have your child wear sneakers (no sandals, Crocs, heels, boots, etc.) on days that he/she will have P.E. Proper attire will help us keep your child safe. Students are welcome to bring water bottles to P.E., especially during the hotter months. Please send in a note or doctor's excuse if your child cannot participate in P.E. because of an injury or illness. This will help us monitor the situation and keep your child as safe as possible.

Safety Reminder for Students

Students walking to school—check your paths for safety, observe traffic signs, and cross the road inside of crosswalks.

Bike riders, don't forget: WEAR A HELMET! IT'S THE LAW!

1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

ALL A HONOR ROLL

Lailah Aljukic	Jaxson Hofius
Dylanger Appel	Jillian Kenney
Rosemary Aronin	Lillian Ploger
Aaron Attari	Isaac Rodriguez
Kalix Behringer	Anneliese Schroeder
Corbin Bennett	Harper Silliman
Wayne Comegno	Andrew Tromp
Madeline Cooper	Cassie Willett
Ariel Coyle	Mikenna Yermak
Parsiya Cyrus	Kara Young
Laylah Delk	
Milo Diehl	
Mason Durfee	
Cooper Eidson	
Audrey Haney	

3RD GRADE

Kaylee Antrim	Simona Mazzucco
Desmond Barfield	Austin Midkiff
Marla Brunner	Kaelyn Naumowicz
Sydney Burghardt	Avery Nolan
Elliot Conaway	Kinsey O'Neal
Davi Dos Santos	Daniel Philpotts Herrera
Calder Duff	Evan Sorrentino
Lucy Edmunds	Autumn Spence
Sophia Faircloth	Ava Sues
Vanya Graham	Colt Surline
Bentley James	Vivian Szekely
Phoebe Jessop	Logan Walker
Jackson Kubitz	McKenna Wilson
Chase Lovely	Viktoriya Yarmochenko
Justin Mauricio-Diaz	

A/B HONOR ROLL

ALL A HONOR ROLL

Leah Abrams	Steven Magedanz	Maya Tran
Noah Blair	Jasper Mulvihill	Daylon Vandermije
Tessa Buchek	Carmela Passalacqua	Sarah Vargas
Trinity Burden	Akshar Patel	Julian Williams
Hezekiah Coblentz	Gabriela Pisani	
Brady Denault	Declan Rzepa	
Gianna Gongo	Franchesca Simeon	
Chloe Hoeper	Ava Stambaugh	
Noah Holland	Ella Stephen	
Caden Hook	Thomas Sulkowski	
Trent Lucas	Timothy Sulkowski	

4TH GRADE

Jadyn Buinicki	Samuel Lucey
Colton Cahill	Ryland Neary
Cody Carter	Rylan Post
Brady Colcu	Ally Ridenour
Hunter Dragon	Kason Scarlett
Tyler Ebeling	Kelly Scher
Tamea Gibson	Stella Sladky
Charlie Gurski	Brody Withers
Emily Huynh	
Fedor Kuchmak	

A/B HONOR ROLL

1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

5TH GRADE

ALL A HONOR ROLL

Bailey Fulk	Sarah Sandwall
Brooklynn Hall	Luke Schroeder
Samantha Haney	Alyssa Sexton
Anh Hoang	Madelyn Silliman
Polly Jessop	Alexis Walker
Olivia Lin	Chelsea Weerappulige
Daniel Oh	
Gianna Platt	
Jonah Rademacher	
Brayden Ridenour	

A/B HONOR ROLL

Juliette Aronin	Kylee Francies	Owen Paoli
Garrett Boyd	Carter Gamm	Julio Perez de Lima
Grayson Boyd	Giavanna Giangrante	Alyssa Serrano-Feldleit
Ryelynn Brunner	John Hall	Nico Tambe
Zander Burden	Seneca Hawthorne	Reagan Vajdik
Tyler Cestero	Savannah Hoffman	Penelope Valentine
Austin Chavez	Charlie Kardos	Ashley Wilson
Eryn Connel	Caitlin Motherway	Hayden Yermak
Valeria Cruz	Kenley Naumowicz	Emma Zahniser
Chance Dougherty	Kara Nickens	

Students in 3rd, 4th & 5th grade can achieve honor roll by receiving all A's and B's and Satisfactory and above for Responsible Learner. Students are recognized each quarter in the newsletter and on the Honor Roll bulletin board in the cafeteria.

DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK

Tell your mom, dad, or caregiver before you come to school. Tell your teacher or an adult if you become sick at school.

OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:
fever, runny nose, diarrhea, feeling nauseous or vomiting, feeling tired, headache, and poor appetite

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

When in public, wear a mask over your nose and mouth.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Visitor Restrictions Reminder

BRE will not allow normal visitation to our campus until a full reopen date with no social distancing guidelines. Parents/Volunteers will not be allowed on campus for breakfast and lunch or other times.

The annual [2020-2021 Reading Scholarship](#) information has been received from Just Read Florida. This program is a state-run program for students in 3rd - 5th grade that are struggling with reading standards.

To be eligible for the 2020-2021 school year, FLDOE has developed **new eligibility criteria** due to the cancellation of all statewide assessments for the 2019-20 school year.

To be eligible for the \$500 stipend to cover reading remediation support one must fall into the following "priority ordered" categories:

1. Students in grades 3 through 5 who are enrolled in a Florida public school and scored a Level 1 or 2 on their most recent Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)-ELA, or in 2019-20 were identified with a substantial deficiency in reading based on their most recent available screening and progress monitoring assessment, **and are classified as an English Language Learner (ELL) enrolled in a program or receiving services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of ELL students;**
2. Students in grades 3 through 5 who are enrolled in a Florida public school and **scored a Level 1 or 2 on their most recent FSA-ELA or in 2019-20 were identified with a substantial deficiency in reading based on their most recent available screening and progress monitoring assessment;** (i.e: i-Ready)

Parents of students who meet any of the above requirements may apply using the attached form by going to the Step Up For Students website.

Parents who have additional questions may email reading@sufs.org, or call 877-735-7837.

Dear Families,

We thank you and your family for being our valued partners as we work together to educate the children at Braden River Elementary. We value input from our community – and we need to hear from your child or children! Students are important partners as we work to improve our communication, academic program and overall experience for everyone.

In order to learn more about student experiences at school, we will be asking for your child's feedback via an online survey they will be completing at school or through the eLearning platform between October 5th and 23rd. The survey should take no more than 10-20 minutes to complete.

We are asking that all 3rd through 5th grade students participate in the surveys, as their feedback will provide invaluable insights into their experiences and how we can improve and adapt our school to their needs. If a student doesn't feel like they have enough information to answer a question, they will be able to skip the item altogether. The results will remain confidential. We are partnering with a third-party vendor, Panorama, to support us in administering these surveys.

The survey content will ask students to self-reflect on the experience of coming back to school during this year and their use of social and emotional skills, such as growth mindset, perseverance, and self-management. Thank you for your support of the students and staff of the School District of Manatee County and Braden River Elementary!

Sincerely,
Krissie Daughtry
School Counselor

PurposeFULL People

To do life, on Purpose

We are grateful
for your
involvement in
our school and
community!



Children today are faced with many opportunities and challenges as they enter a fast-changing world and we want to do everything we can to encourage and empower their success. It is fun to think about all the ways they will make the world better in the future and all the things they get to navigate now. Every day, they are meeting new people, learning new words, solving problems, making friends, and being a part of a community. Research would tell us that it is not grades or IQ scores that make us most successful, but instead the ability to “fail forward” - to develop resilience and persevere even when things get tough. So, how do we help young people become more resilient, generous, and emotionally intelligent?

We are excited to share that we will be using a program called PurposeFull People this year. It is all about helping schools weave simple, powerful, relatable content into everything happening at school and beyond!

At school, our teachers will be role modeling this work by doing their own challenges! There will be games on the playground that help reinforce the messages. In the classroom, our educators will be integrating everything from 30 second strategies to longer activities designed to teach skills like Courage, Kindness, Empathy, and Responsibility. To teach young people to connect with one another more thoughtfully and skillfully. To work together to solve the small and big problems of the world.

Character Traits

October

RESPECT: Seeing good in PEOPLE AND THINGS & TREATING them with care

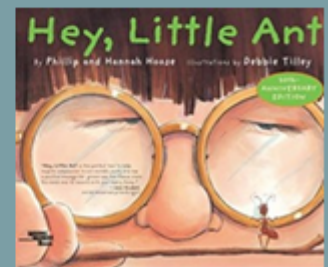
November

EMPATHY: the ability TO UNDERSTAND & CONNECT TO THE Feelings of Another

December

GRATITUDE: choosing to NOTICE & APPRECIATE things in things in things in LIFE, OTHERS, & THE WORLD

Wonderful story to
share with your child.



Message from PTO President—Rebecca Gurski

Dear BRE Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! I want to start off by thanking all of our amazing business partners, most of whom are repeat supporters of our school, as well as our fantastic families, for all of the support shown through our early fundraising efforts. Wow-it was very hard to anticipate if we would have the same enthusiasm and dedication shown in previous years, but we are off to one of the best starts ever! And, of course, I have to mention our terrific BRE staff, who are taking on so much more this year including standing in for PTO volunteers. We really do have the best school ever!

I think the big word to describe how the PTO is going to operate this year is FLEXIBLE. This is definitely not our typical year. While our fundraising efforts have continued through events such as our Otis Spunkmeyer Sales, the upcoming Golf Tournament, and several Spirit Nights, we are unable to plan our usual school culture events due to COVID restrictions. These events are some of my favorites, as they provide a chance for staff and families to mingle, socialize, and have fun at no cost. For the time being, we are looking at other ways to bring some cheer and positive vibes to our students and staff. Stay tuned for more information!

I invite you to reach out to me anytime if you have questions about PTO or would like to help us out. BRE has given so much to my 3 children, and it is my passion to do all I can to give back through this organization. There are many ways, large and small, to contribute. In April, we will be looking to nominate new Board members, so now is the time to start getting involved! Join us for our monthly meetings (currently held on Zoom), check my weekly email updates, follow the school on Facebook, and listen to those informative school call outs! All are great ways to keep up with the ever-evolving events happening at the school.

Here's to hoping to meet more of you soon!

Rebecca Gurski

Picture DAY



School pictures are (tentatively) scheduled for **October 20th**!

(If this date changes, it will be communicated via ConnectEd calls.)

Flyers will be sent home 2 weeks prior—check backpacks!

We appreciate our Business Partners!

BRE Sponsors 2020-2021

Platinum Plus

Flood Pros
Little Town Smiles Pediatric Dentist
Clear View Windows
The Milbank Team, Real Estate

Platinum

Blue Marlin Insurance – Jeff Hamer
Dr. Si McAninch, DDS
Gulf Coast Institute of Rejuvenation
i9 Sports
Jersey Sound and Entertainment
Life
Morrish Stewart Orthodontics
Wellness Concepts - Dr. Kotlarczyk

In-Kind Platinum

Cablish and Gentile CPA
Culver's
Kona Ice
Oasis Church
Schindel Orthodontics
Sunshine Yard Cards

Gold

ArtVue Glass

Your sponsorship will support our school's vision by providing professional development trainings, materials, and community building experiences for our students and staff. If you are interested in purchasing a sponsorship, please contact Angela Abrams at BREPTO6125@gmail.com