



Dear BGA Students and Families,

August 19, 2022

On behalf of the entire Boston Green Academy staff, welcome back and happy new year! This year promises to be a great one, with new opportunities for students and our continued commitment to ensure BGA is a school where you can believe, grow and achieve. Your dedication to learning, support for each other, and resilience are deeply appreciated. This year we will truly rise together. We can't wait to see you on the first day of school, **Thursday, September 8th at 8am!**

Here are some key things for you to know as we get ready for the new school year:

- **The Year Ahead-** This year is a fresh start and a chance to renew our focus on learning and our commitment to a positive school community. We need your help to do that. You will notice we have stronger policies at BGA this year to minimize disruptions, maximize learning, and ensure everyone is respected in our school community. We truly want to live our [core values](#) and [safety guidelines](#). We will go over these in detail with all students and families as we start the year- look for more communication soon. Thank you for your support of our community so we can all stay focused on learning.
- **Electronics Policy-** We all know cell phones are an important part of our lives, but our classrooms must be free from distraction so our students can focus and learn. This year all students at BGA will be allowed to use their phones during passing periods and at lunch. However, no cell phones and electronics are allowed to be seen or used during classes (without teacher permission). This will be strictly enforced so that our students can focus on learning in their classes. If families need to contact their students during class, you can always call the BGA Main Office (617-635-9860) and we will connect you to them. Details on the policy can be found [here](#). We will discuss this as a community before the school year starts at our **Welcome Back BGA Town Hall meeting on Thursday, September 1st**. MS families will meet from 5-6pm, HS families will meet from 6-7pm. Both meetings will be held on zoom (details will be shared). Please join us if you are able. Thanks for your support so that our students can focus on learning.
- **MBTA Orange Line Shutdown-** Unfortunately, BPS is predicting increased street traffic, delayed MBTA buses, and significant disruptions to BPS yellow bus transportation at the start of the year due to the **MBTA Orange Line Shutdown** from August 19-September 19. Please have backup plans and leave extra time so you can get to school on time each day. School will start on time every day but we will support students who are delayed due to this situation. Detailed information is available from the [City of Boston's website](#) and the [MBTA](#).
- **Health & Safety-** Your health and safety are extremely important to us. We remain vigilant about COVID but expect a normal start to the school year. All classes are in-person this year with no remote option. At present, masks are optional for students and staff. There will not be regular COVID testing for students in BPS this year but we will have tests available at

school if needed. Anyone who tests positive will need to quarantine at home for at least five days until they test negative. Everyone should use the [BPS Health Checklist](#) everyday- do not come to school if you have any symptoms. Parents/guardians continue to be welcome in the BGA building. Thanks for keeping everyone safe and stopping the spread of COVID.

- **COVID Vaccination-** We strongly urge all students aged 12 and above and their family members to get vaccinated or receive booster shots for COVID-19 immediately. This is the best way to protect yourself against the virus and keep our community safe. For free vaccination/booster shot clinic locations, click [here](#).
- **BPS Transportation-** BPS has mailed and emailed all bus assignments to families. If you have not received it, please contact BGA (617-635-9860) or BPS Transportation (617-635-9520). Unfortunately, BPS is predicting disruptions to yellow bus transportation at the start of the year due to the **MBTA Orange Line Shutdown** from August 19-September 19. We will do everything we can to help, but if your child takes the yellow bus please have a backup plan in place to get them to/from school if their bus is unexpectedly delayed. Please see details on the *Leaf!* with alternative routes available to students.
- **New Opportunities-** We are very excited to offer new opportunities for BGA students this year that include: a newly-renovated cutting-edge Maker Space (which includes 3D printers, video production, and a recording studio), new murals and student artwork around the building, a new sound system and furniture in the auditorium, updated technology in the library and classrooms, more electives and clubs, and the return of great in-person BGA events like Back to School Night, the BGA Thanksgiving Dinner, and more. It's going to be a great year!
- **Special Education-** If your student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 plan, please be sure to contact Maritza Ciliberto, our Director of Special Education (mciliberto@bostongreenacademy.org) so that we can receive your documents and arrange the appropriate supports and services. Current BPS students will have their documents automatically shared with us. Students new to BPS must share their documents with us. We look forward to working with you!
- **Arrival at School-** BGA middle school students should enter the building on the Cambridge St. side next to the BGA parking lot. BGA high school students should enter through the front steps at the corner of Warren and Cambridge Streets. Staff will greet you at both entrances to welcome you back!
- **School Schedule & Calendar-** Here is the [BGA Bell Schedule](#) and the [BPS calendar for 2022-23](#). A BGA supplement with school-specific dates and events will be shared after the start of school.
- **School Policies & Procedures-** Our [FAQ document](#) covers most of the major topics for middle and high school students to help you start the year, including transportation, supply lists and middle school uniform information. All students and families should also consult the [BGA Student & Family Handbook](#) and the [BPS Guide for Students and Families](#).
- **Summer Reading-** all students should complete the Summer Reading project. Details can be found at www.bostongreenacademy.org/library. The project is due on September 16.

- **Supply Lists-** Back to school supply lists have been sent electronically and can be found [here](http://www.bostongreenacademy.org) for all grades and on the BGA website (www.bostongreenacademy.org).
- **Technology Support-** Students should bring their BPS chromebooks to school every day. If you do not have one, BGA will provide one for you on the first day of school. Do you need help logging in to Aspen or Jupiter Grades? Need support with email or the internet? Quick video tutorials for all BGA technology are available [here](#) (start with Aspen, tutorial is [here](#)).
- **Family Needs Survey-** we want to hear from you so we can provide what families need. Please fill out [this brief survey](#) here by the start of school.
- **After School Programs-** We are excited to once again offer after-school tutoring at BGA four days per week. To sign up, please complete and return [this form](#) to your Advisor when school starts. We also proudly partner with the [West End House Boys & Girls Club](#) in Allston/Brighton (just a short walk from BGA) for after school programs, tutoring, and great activities. To sign up for their offerings, visit their [website here](#). Both programs are available on Wednesday afternoons when BGA has early dismissal.
- **Attendance-** We need all students at school every day! We are stepping up our attendance and tardiness monitoring to make sure that all students are present and on time. Information on attendance policies can be found [here](#).
- **Sports-** We will continue to co-op with Brighton High School for many of our sports this year. For Fall teams and tryouts, click [here](#). To sign up for a team, you must register in Aspen (directions [here](#)). We encourage everyone to participate, but please remember that a 2.0 GPA is required for eligibility. Don't forget: BGA's own Boston United basketball teams will continue this winter for students in grades 7-12!

This year will be great as long as we stay focused, safe and healthy. Thanks for taking care of yourselves and each other. At BGA, we know that you will succeed with hard work, dedication, and pride. We are here for you and look forward to a successful year. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact the BGA Main Office at 617-635-9860 (open 7:30am-3:30pm each school day) or check the BGA website at www.bostongreenacademy.org. Once again, Happy New Year and see you on Thursday, September 8th!

Best wishes,



Matt Holzer, Head of School
mholzer@bostongreenacademy.org



For Further Information:

If you have questions, please feel to contact you student's Advisor, call the BGA Main Office (617-635-9860), or email any of the following people: (*=**habla español**)

For attendance and general support:

Ms. Nathalie De La Rosa* - Head Staff Assistant - ndelarosa@bostongreenacademy.org

For scheduling and supports:

Ms. Sarah Petrick* - Middle School Counselor (6-8) - spetrick@bostongreenacademy.org

Mr. Bryant Craft - High School Counselor (9-10) - bcraft@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Jodi Then - High School Counselor (11-12) - jthen@bostongreenacademy.org

For new student enrollment:

Ms. Amanda Reveles* - Enrollment Coordinator - areveles@bostongreenacademy.org

For family support and outreach:

Mr. Michael Cabrera* - Family and Community Outreach Coordinator -

mcabrera@bostongreenacademy.org

For Special Education:

Ms. Maritza Ciliberto* - Director of Special Education - mciliberto@bostongreenacademy.org

For English Language Learners:

Ms. Alicia Eberle* - ESL Facilitator (HS) - aeberle@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Alexandra Ibarra Carmona* - ESL Facilitator (MS) - aibarracarmona@bostongreenacademy.org

For Technology & Transportation:

Mr. Ryne Deckard - Director of Technology - rdeckard@bostongreenacademy.org

For the Student Support Team:

Mr. Brian Gonsalves - Director of Student Support/Middle School Social Worker -

bgonsalves@bostongreenacademy.org

Mr. Regi Loving - Dean of Students - rloving@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Katonya Gaines* - Special Education Social Worker - kgaines@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Marlina Cesar-Mendez* - ELL Social Worker - mcesarmendez@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Jacqueline Sims - Middle School Student Support - jsims@bostongreenacademy.org

Mr. Jonathan Torres- Middle School Student Support- jtorres@bostongreenacademy.org

Mr. Briea McDaniels - High School Student Support - bmcdaniels@bostongreenacademy.org

Mr. Taron Seaforth- High School Student Support - tseaforth@bostongreenacademy.org

Ms. Lauren Kelton* - High School Social Worker - lkelton@bostongreenacademy.org

For general questions:

Email info@bostongreenacademy.org and we'll pass it to the right people.