

Dear Bryan Families,

Excitement is in the air and we are filled with anticipation as we begin a new year of learning together. Our theme this year is “Building a Better World, one Learner at a Time!” Through our passion for learning we will engage our students intellectually and inspire them to reach their full potential. Together we will conquer the “WORLD” to meet the needs of our students: **Working** collaboratively so every learner achieves academically, socially, and emotionally, **Opportunities** built/created to learn through mistakes, **Reaching** our goals with a focus on achievement, **Learners** today, leaders tomorrow by building a growth mindset, and **Differentiating** instruction to meet ALL individual needs.

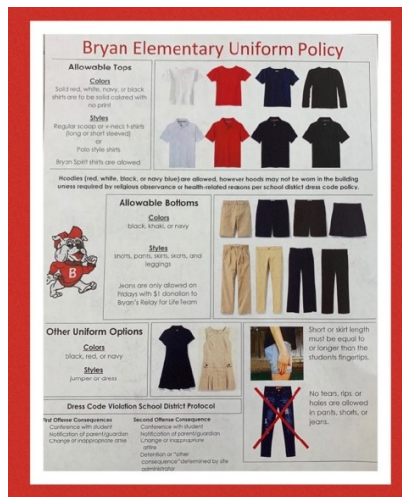
Our “**WORLD**” will be created by teachers **WORKING** collaboratively on student learning experiences through academics, and social/emotional needs. Together we will have **OPPORTUNITIES** to build and design learning through our mistakes. We will set individualized learning targets with our students to **REACH** our goals with a focus on achievement. Our **LEARNERS** will build a mindset to capture the spirit and attitude of taking on challenges as growth opportunities. Learning experiences created through **DIFFERENTIATED** instruction with a focus on small group. As we continue to grow we need to be reminded “There is the whole world at your feet!”

As the proud principal of Bryan Elementary, I will continue to develop and build strong relationships with our students, families, and community. I encourage you to join our amazing PTA. Membership is \$5.00 and will be used to supplement student activities throughout year. Our School Advisory Committee (SAC) meets monthly and focuses on school improvement initiatives. If you are interested on serving on the PTA Board or SAC Team please email me at [tamethea.simmons@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:tamethea.simmons@sdhc.k12.fl.us) n or before August 10th. I will continue to keep you informed of school news through my weekly text messages. I also ask that you follow our Bryan Facebook and Bryan PTA Facebook pages for timely updates and information. Our Open House “Meet the Teacher” Event is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th.



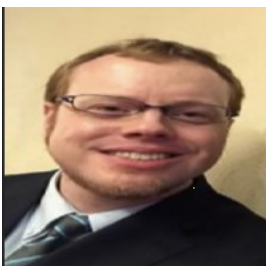
We will welcome families with the last names beginning with A to L from 3:30-4:45 and families with last names beginning with M-Z from 5:00-6:30. Please remember to wear a mask and we ask for only one parent or guardian to accompany each child to help limit the amount of people on campus. Opportunities to join PTA or SAC will also be made available during Meet the Teacher. Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 10th. Students may enter the campus as early as 7:10 AM and instructions will begin promptly at 7:40 AM. Breakfast is served daily for all students from 7:10-7:35 AM. Apply online for school meal benefits at [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us) and search "Go SNS" on your computer, tablet, or phone. You can also call the Healthy Meals Express Application Center for assistance at (813) 840-7066 or the Meal status/Meal Prepay Hotline at 1-866-544-5575.

Bryan is a Uniform School. We want our students to come to school dressed for success and ready to learn. We know that how a person is dressed affects their attitude and behavior. Here is an example of uniform expectations. All students are encouraged to wear sneakers every day to safely participate in physical education activities. Flip Flops or backless shoes are not permitted.



Bus routes and schedules will be released soon. All bus riders are to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the printed arrival time. Your child's safety is of the utmost concern to us, therefore, please be sure that your child is always well supervise while he or she is at the bus stop. All KG students must have a parent or designated adult at the bus stop every afternoon. If a parent or designated adult is not at the bus stop, your child will be returned to school.

We are excited to welcome new Bryan staff members to our winning team:



David Buckley, Reading Coach

Originally from New York, this will be David's 15th year as an educator. He is looking forward to being the Reading Coach for Bryan Elementary and just finished his second year as a trainer for the district's Reading Endorsement program.



Gloria Vilhauer, 2nd grade teacher

I am from New York where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Education from Saint Joseph's College. I have been teaching for 25 years, and I have taught Preprimary Montessori, Kindergarten, Second Grade, Third Grade and Fifth Grade. After many years I returned to school at the University of Nebraska at Kearney to receive my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Facilitator. As a young child my ambition was to become a teacher. I admired and respected many of my Elementary School teachers who taught me values and the love of learning.



Kirk Vilhauer, 4th grade Math teacher

I received my bachelors in education from Briar Cliff University in my hometown of Sioux City, Iowa in 1995. From there I went on to teach middle school math and science in the large metropolis of Hull, IA population 1,600 at the time. I spent six years there until I decided that the small town was not for me. I have gone on to teach in Omaha, NE and then Hillsborough County back in 2016. Along the way I have taught in grades 4-8. Most of that time in title one schools where I feel like I belong.



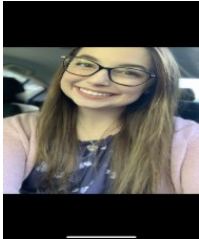
Megan Karl, Varying Exceptionalities Teacher

My name is Megan Karl. I have been teaching in Hillsborough County for the past 11 years. I was a classroom teacher for 9 years teaching grades Pre-k to 2nd and have spent the past 5 years teaching Varying Exceptionalities special education. I am passionate about doing what is best for individual students in order to help them succeed. In my free time I am soaking up every moment with my 3 year old son, 3 month old daughter, and wonderful husband.



Lisa Brown, 3rd grade Math/Science Teacher

I have been teaching all subjects grades 3 –5 including gifted for 21 years in Hillsborough County. I am married and have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. We also have 3 dogs and 3 cats. I graduated from University of South Florida.



Alyson Gierlach, Varying Exceptionalities Teacher

As of May 2020, I am a graduate of USF where I earned my degree in Special Education. During my time at USF, I was a Paraprofessional at Bryan Elementary where I focused on teaching reading strategies to students with disabilities. I have become passionate about creating a learning environment where all students gain the necessary strategies and tools to lead successful lives.



Sara Grey, Kindergarten Teacher

I graduated from the University of South Florida in the spring of 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I have always had a passion for children and helping them to instill a love of learning that will last throughout their lives. As a new teacher, I am so excited to continue to learn from my future students in my very own classroom."



Hermina Rodriguez, 4th grade ELA Teacher

18 years of experience as a teacher. Bachelor of Language Arts in Elementary Education. I love teaching children because they are the future of our nation.



Holly Wallace, 3rd grade ELA teacher

I am a graduate of the University of South Florida, I earned my National Board Certification as a Middle Childhood Generalist in 2008. The Florida Commissioner of Education selected me in 2006 as the Milken Educator of the Year, which has provided me with numerous opportunities to advocate for Florida's students with Commissioners of Education and Governors. I was selected by NASA to participate in NEWEST, an intensive teacher training program that focuses on cutting-edge instruction alongside astronauts, engineers, and NASA directors. Most recently, I have served as the English Language Arts Support Teacher and an International Baccalaureate Coordinator where I used a child-centered approach to develop school-wide K-5 curricular units of study.



Jessica LePlante, PEEPS teacher

I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Missouri Western State University, and a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Special Education from the University of Kansas. I have 7 years of teaching experience and joined the Hillsborough County Schools in 2016. I have previously taught in Missouri and Hawaii. I have been married for 10 years and have two daughters.



Lisa Hutchinson, 3rd grade ELA teacher

I hold both a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Adult Education: Training and Development from University of South Florida. Serving a diverse demographic, I has taught in K-5 classrooms in both public and private schools in Hillsborough and Polk County Schools. While teaching, I have facilitated and mentored my educational colleagues in many educational best practices and been Teacher of the Year. Most recently, I have held the position as my school's Literacy Coach, coordinating and implementing their ELA curriculum with an expertise in K-5 writing and have been instrumental in my school's success as one of Florida's top performing elementary schools.

The last few months have been challenging for us all, but our staff is ready to welcome back our students to school. We are ready to provide support via the learning platform that is best fit for your child. Planned activities may be subject to change in response to official health and safety directives from the CDC, State of Florida, and our School District. We will be modifying our procedures in response to current information and directives. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we work to be responsive to ever-changing situations. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (813) 757-9300 if you have questions or are in need of additional information as we approach the beginning of the school year. I look forward to a wonderful year of learning!

Keeping Children First,

Ms. Tamethea Simmons,

Proud Principal

