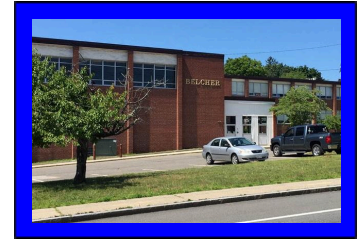


# BELCHER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

125 Montgomery Street ● Chicopee, MA ● 01020

Phone: 413-594-3526 Fax: 413-594-3469



## Message from the Principal



## Upcoming Events

**Open House -**  
**October 3rd @**  
**6:00-7:30 pm**

**Picture Day -**  
**October 7th**

**PTO Meeting -**  
**October 7th @**  
**6pm**

**Half Day -**  
**October 11th**  
**(lunches served)**

**Columbus Day/**  
**No School -**  
**October 14th**

**Halloween Party**  
**- October 30th**  
**@ 6pm**

Dear Belcher Families,

What a strong start to the school year. All students did a great job adjusting to their new routines. Thank you to all the families who helped to make the transition to school a smooth one. If you feel that your child is still having difficulty transitioning to the school day, please make sure to talk with your child's classroom teacher, or feel free to give me a call.

Over the past few weeks all of our students have been assessed with fall benchmark testing. In grades one and two, three types of assessments were administered. The DIBELSnext (short, one or two minute reading assessments given one-on-one), The MAP Reading and Math assessment (given on the computer), and a Writing Prompt. Kindergarten students were only administered the DIBELSnext assessment. Reports on these assessments are used as a baseline to show growth over the year. They are also used to determine if a student needs additional attention in reading.

A brief reminder for all of our families...



Please make sure to drive carefully in our school parking lot. A gentle reminder that parents dropping off or picking up children during arrival or dismissal should do so in the *back* of the building. With so many small children we ALL need to be careful. If you are picking up a child or dropping off a child and wish to walk them in or out of the building, please make sure to park your car. *Do not leave your car in the traffic lane in front of the school.*

This fall grade K students will travel to Monson to visit Silver Bell Farm. This trip is taking place on Thursday, October 24, 2019. Grade 2 will be traveling to Springfield to see the Thunderbirds play a special game on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Don't worry, Grade 1 will be traveling to Springfield to see a musical version of 'Pete The Cat' in late February. If parents would like to chaperone field trips or volunteer at school, please stop by the office to complete a CORI form. Make sure to bring your state ID with you at this time. A CORI form is a police background check to make sure adults are able to work with children.

Have a wonderful October, and I look forward to seeing everyone on October 24, 2019 for our Belcher PTO Halloween Dance 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

Samuel Karlin, Principal



---

## Teacher & Staff News

### KINDERGARTEN

#### **Mrs. Huard, Mrs. Masse, & Mrs. Legiadre:**

The Kindergarten children at Belcher School are off to a great start. We've been busy learning all the rules and our Kindergarten routines. In Math we've been learning position words so we can make patterns. In Language/Reading our children have been previewing all our letters of the Alphabet and reading many nursery rhymes. Happy Fall. Remember that the days are getting colder and we may need to wear a jacket or sweater to school.

### FIRST GRADE

#### **Ms. Barree:**

A big welcome back to our Belcher School first graders. First grade is a big adjustment from kindergarten, and we have been working very hard to get used to the new routine. Ask them about their mornings and what they do in the afternoons. They are building stamina to read, write, and become responsible lifelong learners. Homework will begin this month as well. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Thank you to those parents who have sent in snack donations for those who may forget theirs from time to time. I look forward to meeting you at Open House. If you have any concerns, please contact me. We are a team to support your child's needs.

#### **Mrs. Fontaine:**

This month we will be working on mapping in Social Studies and life cycles in Science. We will be working on number sense, addition, and subtraction in Math. In Reading we will be working on Unit 1. Please keep listening to your child read and holding conversations with them about what they are learning in school! I am really enjoying investigating *Acting With Purpose* with the children. They have been giving some great input!

#### **Mrs. Dunn:**

The boys and girls have made a great transition into first grade. I am very proud of them. We have spent much of September reviewing skills from last year and learning rules for success. During the month of October, the children will be reading stories about different kinds of surprises. It is important to practice reading at home every day. In math we will be working with subtraction sentences and graphs. I hope that your child is coming to school each day having a good night's rest. Remember FREE breakfast is available for ALL Belcher students at 8:05. By working together we can make this a happy and successful year for all.

### SECOND GRADE

#### **Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Domingos:**

Hi! Rooms Six and Nine students are really getting into the swing of things! In our reading series, *Wonders*, we are discussing short vowels, different types of sentences, and different genres! In math, we are reviewing basic addition and subtraction strategies and skills. We are looking forward to meeting you at Open House! We hope to see you there!

---

**Ms. Demers:**

I am really looking forward to a new school year together! Welcome to all my new friends!!!! In writing we are working on creating a detailed paragraph and staying on topic. In Math we have just started UNIT 1 in which we practice adding and subtracting and representing numbers and number sentences in word form and with digits and symbols. We are also working in our reading series called WONDERS. You can view the new books and materials at OPEN HOUSE on October 3rd. Can't wait to meet all the new families. Hope to see you there. Remember to keep practicing your reading at home. Homework packets are given out on Mondays and can be returned on the following Monday. All spelling tests will be given on Friday. Let's have a great year together!!!!

**Mrs. Kindness:**

The students have been working very well together. We are all settling into our classroom routine very nicely. We have been busy "getting smarter" every day! Please remember that your child does have snack each day at school. Homework is given EVERY night. Please remind your student to check their backpack EACH night. I look forward to meeting you at Open House. We will have Parent/Teacher sign ups that evening. Enjoy this beautiful time of year!

**ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION****Ms. Belanger:**

I can't believe September has already come and gone! Each day our students are becoming more and more at home in our new classroom. The staff is looking forward to your students' progress this school year! Please remember to send your child to school with a jacket as we are enjoying the beautiful fall weather while it's here.

**Special Education****Mrs. Bukowski and Mrs. Greenia:**

Fall is here! We have been working in our small groups with our *Wonder Works Reading Intervention*. In Math, we have been working on numbers 1:1 correspondences, patterns, skip counting, and odd & even numbers. We are off to a great start!

**SPECIALISTS****Title 1 Reading Mrs. Merchant and Mrs. Franco:**

We are proud of the hard work that the children have been doing. Our kindergarteners are learning their letters and sounds. Many of our first graders are reading already! Second graders are reading up a storm! Keep up the good work and support at home. We are looking forward to seeing you at Open House this year. Be sure to stop by our table outside of the gym to say hello. Thank you.

**ELL Mrs. LaDuke and Mrs. Serrao:**

Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather and getting used to the school routine. We truly enjoy working with your children and look forward to meeting all of you during Open House. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions. Thank you.

---

**Music Mr. Fossa:**

I really enjoyed meeting all the new kindergarteners at Belcher School. We have been singing, dancing, clapping, and playing musical games. I'm also pretty excited that I have been doing a good job at memorizing all the students' names, especially the Kindergarteners. Keep up the good work everyone!

**Technology Mrs. Desautels:**

I am pleased with all that the children have remembered from last year. I am so happy that I have the opportunity to see each of the classes at least twice a week and some of them three times a week. This is wonderful for reinforcement and retention of skills at this age. We are looking forward to expanding our technology knowledge using programs that challenge the students on many levels in reading, math, typing, writing, and basic technology skills. It is always wonderful seeing all of the children and meeting their parents on Open House Night. Thank you for stopping by the lab to show your interest!

**Physical & Health Education Ms. Moss:**

*Harvest a Healthy Body -*

This past month has been lots of fun getting to know each other with cooperative games and showing off a variety of locomotor skills (i.e. walking, jumping, hopping, skipping, galloping, etc.). In Ms. M's Physical Education class we are learning to - **Play Safe. Play Fair. And Play Hard.** I encourage you to ask your student(s) what those rules entail in P.E. Your child has also been made aware of which day(s) he or she has P.E. so please help them get the most out of class by wearing **sneakers**. Finally, while the weather is still nice try to get outdoors for some fun fall activities like a corn maze, apple picking, or attend a local college/university sporting event. We will be getting ready for our Halloween Dance with some warm up dance moves throughout the month of October. Hope to see you there!

**Nurse Kathy:**

Happy Fall and Halloween! Please continue to send in immunizations and physical exams for your child's records. As the weather temperature starts to drop, make sure your children have jackets and warm clothes for recess. Parents of asthmatics, if the winter cold temperatures trigger your child's asthma, you will need a note from your doctor to allow them to stay in for recess. Life threatening allergies are on the rise and we have double the number from last year! Thank you for being aware of the safety concerns around this issue. As always, check labels for nuts and being manufactured in a nut factory when sending in food for your children.

Kathy McCarthy, R.N.  
Belcher Elementary School Nurse

**Library Mrs. Ewing:**

The Fall Book Fair will run from October 1st - October 4th. Please come visit us during Open House night on Thursday, October 3rd from 6-7:30pm. If you would like to volunteer at the Book Fair, please email me at: [pewing@cpsge.org](mailto:pewing@cpsge.org).

Thank you!



---

### **Guidance: Ms. French and Ms. Mastalerz (Team Chair)**

Now that students are adjusted to being back at school, a few parents have been asking me for suggestions about what they can do at home to help their children develop strong social skills. First, give yourself credit for the VERY important role you play in shaping your child's ability to get along with others! Your child looks up to you ☺! What you say and do has the most powerful impact of all on teaching your children how to act. Even if you think they may not be listening or watching to learn from you, they probably are! Here are some additional ideas for home though:

- **Give positive attention** - Try to set aside even a little uninterrupted time each day to spend with your child, and also try to let them take part in deciding how to spend that time. Maybe it will be talking about the day, reading a special book, or going outside for a walk...whatever it is, your child will feel important, respected, and secure. Plus, it will be fun for both of you! Tip: While enjoying each other's company, give each other your full attention. In other words, turning off cell phones, television, or other distractions can make a BIG difference during this special time ☺
- **Let your child know what you expect** - Be very direct, and calmly and confidently tell your child how you expect them to interact with others. This might include things like keeping their hands to themselves, listening quietly while someone else is talking, or offering to share with a friend - increasing your expectations according to their age and abilities. Remember, they look up to you ☺!
- **Talk with them about Acting with Purpose** - You are receiving newsletters from your child's Teacher related to our Acting with Purpose program. Talking with your child about what they're talking about in class related to this can also be a fantastic way to help them strengthen their social skills!

Thank you for all you do! Have a wonderful October!!

### **PTO Corner:**

Our Belcher School PTO mission is to promote the welfare of the children in our school. To further this goal, we will strive to encourage a closer relationship between the school and the community with educational and social activities directed toward parent and teacher sponsored through communities, projects, and programs. Come support our school!! Our next PTO meeting is on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:00 in the school's library. Please help support your children, our students and the PTO by collecting and sending in Box Tops! Come show your school spirit! Free daycare provided!

Kindergarten Field Trip: Thursday, October 24, 2019 to Silver Bell Farm

Grade 1 Field Trip: February 26, 2020 Springfield musical of 'Pete The Cat'

Grade 2 Field Trip: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 to Springfield Thunderbirds

*You provide the tools with which students build their futures.*

---

~ *Anonymous*