



Back to School on September 9

Tamarac students will return for the 2009-10 school year on Wednesday, September 9, as the District looks to build on the successes of last year and continue initiatives such as the Pre-K and middle school mentoring program.

“This should be an exciting year,” said Superintendent Lou McIntosh. “We’ll continue to focus on the district priorities we’ve established which center on helping all of our students succeed.”

At Tamarac Elementary, the Pre-K program that began last year will continue to help young children be better prepared to start school. Children most in need of additional help are enrolled in the Pre-K program and taught critical thinking and problem solving skills to help them reach a similar learning level as their classmates when they enter kindergarten.

“Our Pre-K program really helped students last year be better prepared for kindergarten this year,” said Principal Karen Lederman. “The program helps bridge the gap so children can become successful lifelong learners.”

Children in all grade levels at Tamarac Elementary will benefit from new Response to Intervention (RTI) initiatives, added Lederman. “These initiatives will ensure students who need additional assistance receive it in and

outside of the classroom and we will continue to work to challenge all students at all levels,” Lederman said.

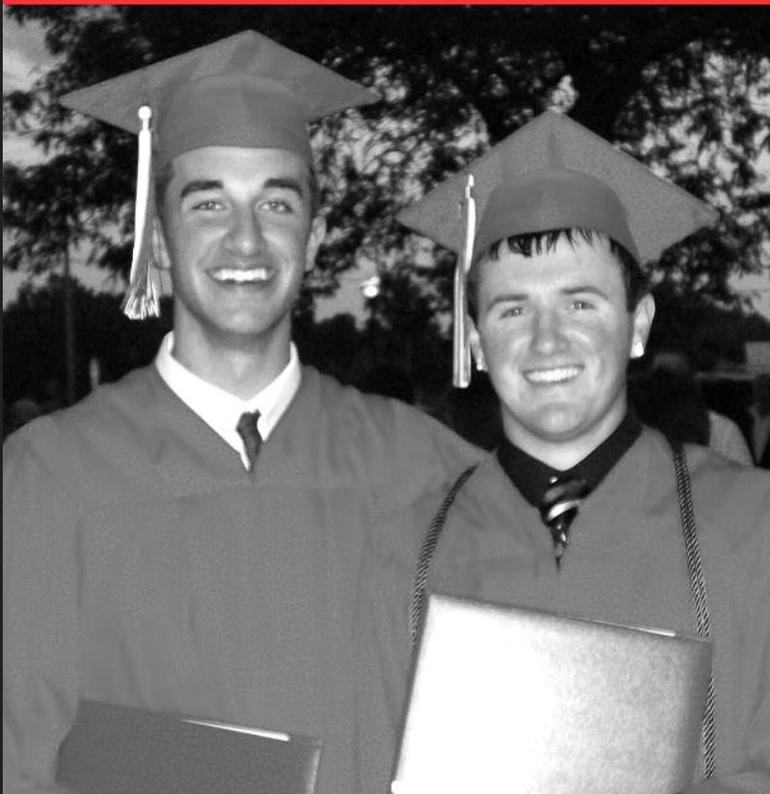
To help address safety concerns, parents who drop off children are also asked not to park in the drop off lane and leave their vehicles. This created concerns last year as cars backed up. Instead, parents are asked to only stop in the drop off lane and let school aides escort students safely across the crosswalk to school.

At Tamarac Secondary School, the Reaching Academic and Personal Potential (RAPP) program will continue this year to help students in need of additional help by pairing them with mentors along with academic support. Principal Richard Pogue noted the program will expand to include sixth graders along with seventh, eighth and ninth graders.

“It really helped kids get invested in the middle school last year,” Pogue said. “By expanding it formally to the sixth grade, we can help students earlier and try to improve our drop out rate.”

At the high school level, Pogue said the District will continue to look to improve its honors program and character education will be a focus as it is integrated more into the school’s regular curriculum.

“We also will be offering more art classes and other electives than we have in the past,” Pogue said.



Congratulations Class of 2009!

A total of 103 Tamarac seniors walked across the stage for this year’s Commencement Ceremony as proud parents, family members and friends snapped photos and applauded the accomplishments of Tamarac’s newest alumni.

The Class of 2009 included 90 graduates who earned Regents diplomas; nearly one-quarter of the graduates earned honors, requiring a 90 percent average on all required Regents exams.

“I’m incredibly proud of the Class of 2009,” said High School Principal Rich Pogue. “They were a great group of students and will certainly be missed. I know they will go on to do great things.”

The Class of 2009 went on to such colleges as Boston University, New York University, Clarkson University, Siena College, and the University at Albany.

Congratulations to our newest alumni!

Dear friends in the Brittonkill Central School District,

I hope you're enjoying the summer. It seems like graduation was just yesterday. It's hard to believe another school year is almost here.

I look forward to my second year at Tamarac schools and building on last year's successes. I feel fortunate to be part of such a wonderful school district. No matter the event I attended last year – watching sports teams, seeing plays, attending concerts, or recognizing academic achievements – I've been so impressed with the talents of our students and the support our community gives them.

This coming school year we'll continue to focus on the district priorities we've established to help our students excel. We will continue our successful Pre-K and middle grades mentoring programs while looking to improve them and others such as our reading, writing and speech programs.

We also continue to encourage openness and communication with our community. If you ever have a question or concern, please contact me or someone at the school. Tamarac schools are your schools and we want to hear from you. I also encourage you to visit my school blog where I'll post monthly school news.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome you have provided my wife Kathy and me. We truly enjoy living in this beautiful area.

Sincerely,

Lou McIntosh, *Superintendent*

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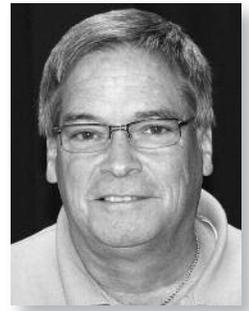
Daley Named BOE President

Paul Daley was named President of the Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District Board of Education at the Board's July 9 organizational meeting after a unanimous vote.

Daley, a four-term Board member and Tamarac alum, succeeds Karen Zagursky, who served the last two years as Board President. Mary Ann Doyle, a first-term Board member, was named Vice President of the Board, also by a unanimous vote.

"I personally would like to thank Karen (Zagursky) for her two years as Board President," Daley said. "You've set the bar very high for me and I can only hope to reach that."

New Board of Education members Christine Fox and Ryan Matthews were also sworn in at the meeting after being elected to three-year terms in the May election. Daley was also sworn in to a new three-year term.



New School Website

This school year, visitors to the Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District website will find a new design that we hope will make it easier for our community to find the information about their schools they're looking for.

The school website, www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us, features individual webpages for Elementary, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12 and the district. We will continue to provide regular updates to the website, including announcements of upcoming events, stories of student and faculty success and challenges facing the district.

If you have suggestions about information or resources that you think should be

added to the school website, please let us know through the contact information listed on the website. We'll continue to improve the website throughout the school year to make it a valuable resource for our community.

District Planning Process

Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District is seeking community members to participate in the third annual District Planning Process on Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community members will work with faculty and staff to help set the school district's 2010-2011 priorities and goals. Lunch will be served. If you are interested in serving on this committee or require further details, please e-mail Maria Lewis at mlewis@brittonkill.k12.ny.us or call 279-4600 ext. 2602.



Tax Levy Set for 2009-10

The Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District Board of Education set the tax levy for the 2009-10 school year at its August 6 meeting at \$10,288,309, the same level as the previous year.

The projected tax rates (per \$1,000 of assessed value) for each town in the district are: Brunswick: \$66.13, Grafton: \$199.30, Pittstown: \$26.02, Poestenkill: \$66.68, and Schaghticoke: \$69.58.

While the District maintained a 0 percent increase in the tax levy, tax rates for individual towns could increase or decrease due to factors outside the school's control including assessments and equalization rates.

For example, the State Office of Real Property Services sets equalization rates for the five towns in the District. If the agency determines that property values have risen more in one town than another in the past year, the tax rate in that town may be somewhat higher than another town. The school districts plays no role in determining what portion of the tax burden is placed on any one town or property owner.

Please note that New York State also reduced the property tax exemption levels for its School Tax Relief (STAR) program for next year. This change by the state may cause a homeowner's school taxes to increase despite the flat tax levy. The school district has no control over this change.



New Athletic Director and Cafeteria Supervisor

Gary Dormandy and Joy Wright have joined Tamarac Schools as the new Athletic Director and Cafeteria Supervisor, respectively, for the new school year.

Dormandy was appointed Athletic Director July 9. He comes to Tamarac from a private boarding school in Connecticut where he worked for 30 years, most recently as an Assistant Athletic Director. Dormandy also is a Tamarac alum.

"I'm excited to come back to my alma mater," Dormandy said. "We have a dedicated coaching staff who have the kids' interests at heart. My job is to help that continue."

Joy Wright was appointed Cafeteria Supervisor August 6. For the last seven years, she served as Manager of Dining Services for Bennington College. She has a degree in Culinary Arts.

Wright noted that Heather Brooks, Tamarac's previous Cafeteria Supervisor, has worked with her this summer to ensure a smooth transition.

"I appreciate how helpful Heather has been," Wright said. "We talked about not making a lot of changes at first but then looking later at things we can improve."



GARY DORMANDY



JOY WRIGHT

SIGN UP FOR:

eNewsletters

In an effort to provide our community with more news about their schools, Brittonkill eNews will be expanded this year to feature monthly eNewsletters.

The eNewsletters will feature stories about student and faculty success, announcements of upcoming events, and challenges facing Tamarac schools. To receive the eNewsletters, just visit the school website at www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us and sign up to receive Brittonkill eNews.

Last year, hundreds of parents and community members subscribed to Brittonkill eNews, receiving announcements about upcoming tests, student concerts and other school news in their e-mail inboxes.

With the cost of printing and mailing continuing to climb, we hope our community finds these eNewsletters to be an effective way to learn about your schools at no cost. However, since we realize not everyone has access to the internet, we will continue to mail all district residents four print newsletters throughout the school year to ensure our entire community receives information about its schools.

District Bond Rating Upgraded

Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District has been informed its long-term bond rating has been upgraded to A3 by Moody's Investors Service which expects the improved rating to remain steady in the future.

The organization, which analyzes the financial performance of commercial and government entities, explained in a letter that the improved rating reflects the

District's improved financial position, small rural tax base and debt burden that is expected to remain manageable given no future borrowing plans.

"Moody's expects that the district's improved financial position will remain stable given historical trend of conservative budgeting and management's commitment to maintaining healthy reserve levels," the organization wrote.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sept. 9 Classes Begin
- Sept. 10 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 24 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 8 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 12 Columbus Day – No School
- Oct. 22 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 23 Staff Development Day –
Half-Day for Students
- Nov. 5 BEST Assembly, 9:15 a.m.
- Nov. 5 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 6 Emergency Release Drill, Grades 6-12,
1:55 p.m. Grades K-5, 3:10 pm.
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day – No School
- Nov. 13 Senior Citizens Concert & Luncheon,
10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 19 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

Opportunities for Parents

From open houses to parent-teacher conferences, Tamarac schools offer opportunities for parents to meet with teachers about their children's education in the first few months of school.

Here is a list of upcoming events. For a full list of events, including parent group meetings such as the PTSA, download the district calendar from the school website, www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us, or call your child's school.

Tamarac Elementary School

- Sept. 8 Open House (K and New Students) 4-6 p.m.
- Sept. 17 Meet the Teacher's Night, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23 BEST Welcome Back Parent Picnic – 5-7 p.m.
- Nov. 13, 20, 24 . . . Parent Conferences

Tamarac Secondary School

- Sept. 24 Meet the Teachers Night – Grades 9-12, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
- Sept. 24 Meet the Teachers Night – Grades 6-8, 7-8:15 p.m.
- Nov. 19 Parent Conferences – Grades 6-8, 4:30-7 p.m.
- Nov. 23 Parent Conferences – Grades 9-12, 4:30-7 p.m.

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