



# Benner Elementary School

490 Buffalo Run Road

Bellefonte, PA 16823

Telephone: (814) 355-2812 Fax: (814) 353-5339

Mr. Kristopher M. Vancas,  
Principal / Attendance Compliance Officer

Bellefonte Area  
School District

---

Dear Benner Elementary Families,

I am excited to welcome you back to school. It has been a wonderful summer. I hope that it has been a productive yet restful one for you and your children. We are all ready for the first day of school on August 28. Our custodians, Mr. Houser and Mrs. Cain, have done a wonderful job making the building shine from top to bottom. The teachers and aides have done their homework over the summer to prepare for a new batch of students. Mrs. Potter has all the supplies ready to go, and the cafeteria staff is anxious to start serving their delicious meals.

Benner Elementary is a special place. It is a wonderful environment for children. Last year we were named a PA PBIS Banner School for our Bear Necessities program. This is the fifth consecutive year that we have earned this honor. My hope is to always provide our children a great experience both educationally and socially each and every day. I also hope to provide parents and visitors an amazing experience every time they enter the front doors.

We want and need you to be involved in our school in any way that works for you. You can assist us in multiple ways. You can support or better yet join the PTA. Our PTA membership has dwindled drastically over the past couple of years and we would love to have you join us. You can also attend school events, or simply stay up to date with what is going on in our school by following us on Twitter, Facebook, or by reading the Friday Newsletter. We can ensure success when we communicate and work together.

This year we will expand our school garden project. Students will enjoy pumpkins and watermelons in the fall and we will add a Pollinator Garden in September. The spring will bring various vegetables culminating in a school-wide salad party.

Spanish instruction will increase this year to include all students in kindergarten through fifth grade. They will have Spanish instruction for thirty minutes once each cycle. Students in K-2 will see a new Language Arts Program as our district will be utilizing the Fountas and Pinnell Classroom System. We will also continue with our All Pro Dad and iMOM Morning Breakfast programs.

You can find news about the Benner Bears on Twitter @BennerBears.  
We are also on Facebook and can be found by searching for Benner Elementary School.

My personal mantra for the year is "Forward". Everything we do should be done with the purpose of improving and moving our school and students in a positive direction. I hope you join me on this mission this year of moving "Forward".

I'll see you on Thursday, September 7 from 6:30-7:30 for Back to School Night.

Kris Vancas

