

Welcome to Bennet Academy 2020-2021



“Where Every Student Matters”

Joseph J. Chella, Principal
Joan Charnas, Asst. Principal
Megan Thompson, Asst. Principal
Catherine Amadasun, Asst. Principal

Bennet Academy Highlights

- ★ School hours: 8:15-12:40 (Hybrid)
- ★ School hours: 8:15 - 2:45 (Virtual)
- ★ Office: 860-647-3571
- ★ Attendance Line: 860-647-3583
- ★ Breakfast/Lunch No Charge
- ★ Food & Nutrition office: 860-647-3462

We have:

- ★ Elmos (a compact visual presenter) in every classroom, including Art, Music and the Media Center
- ★ Digital Projectors in every classroom
- ★ SmartBoards in every classroom
- ★ Five Teams of 5 teachers in Gr 5
- ★ Four teams of 5 teachers in Gr 6
- ★ Advance math opportunities
- ★ Fully-enclosed campus with 5 buildings
- ★ State-of-the-art classrooms and science labs
- ★ Two gymnasiums and a dance studio/weight room
- ★ Air-intake ventilation system with central air and heating
- ★ Peer Leadership Program
- ★ PBIS Programming with incentives
- ★ STARS Program, awards, Character Education Certificates
- ★ Extensive Special Education program
- ★ Art room kilns
- ★ Specialized music instruction areas including band and orchestra spaces

S.T.A.R.S. Program (Scholarly, Truthful, Aware, Respectful, Safe)

**What are STARS made of
at Bennet Academy?**

As a **Scholar** you are always:

- ❖ Prepared for class
- ❖ On task and working your hardest
- ❖ Following directions of an adult

As a **Truthful** person you are always:

- ❖ Practicing honesty
- ❖ Respecting the possessions of others

As an **Aware** person you are always:

- ❖ Using an indoor voice
- ❖ Using kind and caring words
- ❖ Interacting with others in a caring manner
- ❖ Keeping your hands, feet and objects to yourself

As a **Respectful** person you are always:

- ❖ Responding appropriately to all adults
- ❖ Making good decisions when responding to adults
- ❖ Treating all property with respect
- ❖ Using appropriate language

As a **Safe** person you are always:

- ❖ Behaving appropriately in the lavatory
- ❖ Walking quietly in the halls
- ❖ Following the bus rules at all times
- ❖ Following all the posted rules for inside and outside of the building

Important Information



Student Planners - All students are issued a planner where they keep all assignments. Parents can also communicate with teachers utilizing the planner.

Parent/Student Handbook - All parents have access to the handbook on-line. The handbook contains specific and pertinent information to guide parents through the culture and expectations of both Bennet Academy and the district. After you read the handbook, please sign off electronically on the *Informational Reading Verification Form*.

S.T.A.R.S. Packet - All students receive this packet that contains information outlining the behavioral expectations of students at Bennet.

Bus Transportation - Students must take their assigned bus home and only children assigned to a bus are allowed on bus transportation. Bus transportation is only provided on the day your student is assigned for hybrid in-person learning. If you choose the extended hybrid to provide care for your child on off days, parents are responsible for providing transportation those days. The bus driver is in charge of students while on the bus and students are expected to follow the driver's instructions at all times, including wearing masks. For any additional information or concerns please contact Barbara Walz, Transportation Coordinator, at 860-647-3476.

Picking up Your Student Early - If you must pick up your child before dismissal please call the school (860-647-3571) and we will call your child to the office. When you arrive at the school please ring the bell at the Franklin Main Building and we will bring your child to the door and check your ID. Please be prepared to wait outside for your child as we try to limit the number of visitors to the building. We appreciate your patience. Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside of school hours so your child is not missing class on a regular basis.

Safety and Security - Bennet Academy is protected by locked fencing, locked doors and buildings are connected by glass walk-ways.

Breakfast Program - Breakfast is served in a grab and go style in the morning when your child enters the building. They will eat at their desk, which is outfitted with a plexiglass barrier. Breakfast has no charge this year.

Lunches - Lunch will be served in a grab and go fashion (to eat at home) as students leave the building. Students taking the bus are expected to put their lunch in their backpack. **THERE IS NO EATING ON THE BUS.** A choice of two lunch options will be available this year, a bagel plate or a hot lunch option. There is no charge for lunch this year. Please contact Food Services with any questions at 860-647-3462.



Lockers/Locks - For the 2020-2021 school year we are not using lockers. Students will keep their belongings in their backpack in their classroom.

Parking - Parking is at a premium at Bennet Academy. Parents should park in the designated Visitor Parking areas around the school. There are a limited number of visitor parking spots available in the front of Bennet Academy.

Afterschool Clubs and Activities - There typically is a myriad of after school programming at Bennet Academy, including intramural sports, Peer Leadership Councils, music groups, drama, and so much more. Manchester Parks and Recreation Department and Bennet Academy clubs and activities tend to begin operation in October of each year, however **at this time afterschool activities are on hold**. If this changes we will let you know.

Positive Programming - Important to the social and emotional development of our students is the sense of accomplishment and even "reward" for "doing the right thing" and "stepping up to the plate". At Bennet Academy it is important for us to recognize students for showing leadership qualities and STARS behavior whenever possible. We utilize many different opportunities for positive reinforcement, including Student Spotlight, Student of the Month breakfast, Character Award, and STARS Award to name a few.