**Bennett C. Russell Elementary School**
**A Title I School**

# Cardinal Chronicles!

September 2017

## Welcome Back Cardinals!

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We are so excited to have your child at Bennett Russell Elementary. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience

2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers

3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills

4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life

5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject

6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school

We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Suzi Godwin, Principal

Sandy Arrant, Assistant Principal

## Dates to Remember

**September 4:**
Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

**September 13**:
Early Release Day 12:10
Teacher Professional Development

**September 15**:
Mid terms go home

**September 15:**
International DOT Day

**September 21:**
SAC Meeting- 7-8 AM

Title 1 Parent Breakfast / Volunteer Orientation 7:55-8:25am

**September 28:**
Fall Picture

**COMPLETE A NEW APPLICATION NOW to receive free/reduced meals for 2016-2017!**

All students that received free/reduced meals during the 2016-2017 school year will need to compete a new meal application. **Your 2016-2017 Free / Reduced application will expire on September 25th!** When the application expires, the student will be charged full price for all meals.
Go to the Santa Rosa County Schools website: **www.santarosa.k12.fl.us** click on Free/Reduced application. Follow the steps and within 48 hours your application will be processed.

### Breakfast in the Cardinal Café

Students that arrive to school by car and want to eat breakfast in the cafeteria, need to arrive by **8:10**. Students that are car riders who arrive later than 8:10 have a difficult time getting to class on time. Every minute in the classroom makes a difference!

### Bennett C. Russell is a Title I School

We believe that all children can learn and want to provide a quality education to all of our students. All of our teachers meet the "Highly Qualified" requirements to teach children and use research based instructional methods and materials in the classrooms. Our school receives additional funding based on our students' socio-economic status. These funds are used to purchase the newest technology for classrooms and upgrade software programs. The funds also allow us to hire UWF tutors to provide reading intervention to struggling readers, offer professional development for teachers and offer parent involvement activities for families. We encourage all parents to become involved in their child's education. Contact your child's teacher to schedule a parent conference if you have questions concerning your child's needs. You may also contact the school if you would like additional information concerning the Title I Program.

### The School Public Accountability Report (SPAR)

The School Public Accountability Report (SPAR) is a report that contains several types of data (indicators) designed to inform parents and the general public about the progress of Florida's public schools. This report meets public reporting requirements and provides certain additional information of interest on the status of Florida's schools. The SPAR can be found on our school website and in the Parents' Right to Know notebook located in the front office.

## Title 1 Parent Breakfast

We would like to invite you to a special Title 1 Parent Breakfast on September 12th beginning at 7:55am in our cafeteria. This event will be an opportunity for you to have breakfast with your child and receive Title 1 information , learn how to become a volunteer at BRE and strategies to improve and ensure your child's academic success. This special breakfast will be taking the place of our annual Open House. We hope to see you there.

## Highly Qualified Teachers

Bennett C. Russell is committed to providing information to you regarding your child's teacher and paraprofessional qualifications in a timely manner upon request. We are a school that strives for excellence and takes great pride in the following:

- All classroom teachers meet the state licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction.
- Information regarding your child's teacher or paraprofessional qualifications may be found in The School Public Accountability Report (SPAR) located on the BRE website or in the ***"Parents' Right to Know"*** notebook in the Parent Resource Center.

Please be assured that Bennett C. Russell Elementary is dedicated to providing the students of our County with a quality education.

## Parent Resource Center

The Parent Resource Center provides materials for parents to check out to expand on school learning at home. Parents may also obtain information on services provided to families in Santa Rosa County. Online computer access is available for Bennett C. Russell parents. Anyone accessing the school computer is bound by the Santa Rosa County School Board Acceptable Use Policy Agreement for No-Employees. Check in with the receptionist at the front desk for a Policy Agreement requiring a signature and a logon password to access the computer. The computer is available for purposes such as:

• Parent involvement Links
• Searches for educational information
• Complete the Free/Reduced Lunch Application
• Online job search information

## Volunteer Applications

We are fortunate to have so many parents that want to volunteer at the school. We encourage all parents to submit an application so we can have the approval from the school board in the event that you want to begin volunteering or attending field trips. Parents can find the application on the school or district website.

## Unpaid Meal Balances

Please check your child's backpack daily for unpaid meal notices from the cafeteria. Families may complete applications at any time during the school year. We make every effort to communicate with parents to address unpaid meals in the cafeteria. It is school board policy that **no students may charge meals.** When families are unresponsive in addressing unpaid meals, and the child has five unpaid meals in the cafeteria, the child will receive an alternate meal instead of the daily meal offered. We urge parents to contact the school if you are having a difficult time paying for meals. You may come to the school and we will assist you in completing the 2017-2018 Meal Application.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Breakfast full pay for students: | $1.05 | Breakfast reduced for students: | .30 |
| Lunch full pay for students: | $2.55 | Lunch reduced for students: | .40 |

*The Simple Way to Pay For School Meals*
**https://myschoolbuck.com/**