

Bobcat Blast

Vol 2, Issue 12
December 1, 2023

Bobcats Under a Full Moon - oh my!

Dear Beck Families,

We're not sure if you noticed, but we started the week with a Full Moon. Although there is absolutely no scientific evidence to support this, educators can ALWAYS predict when a full moon is coming because student behavior is wacky and sometimes even a little wild!



Last Bobcat Blast, we shared a short video from [Dr. Angela Duckworth](#) that talked about self-regulation in pre-teens and teens and below, in the School Culture & Discipline section, we've shared an overview of the school discipline referral process. You might be wondering what the connection is between the two. The connection is this:

- Pre-teens & teens are still developing self-regulation skills while they are experiencing a tremendous amount of social & emotional growth. Plainly said, they make A LOT of mistakes, misbehave at times and sometimes make poor decisions.
- Schools have discipline systems in place to ensure safety and deter bad behavior but there are many, many, many other actions and supports that are in place between student behavior and something like detention.

Here at Beck, each teacher, counselor, administrator and staff member plays a role in positively redirecting student behavior, helping students identify what went wrong and how to restore a relationship and/or trust.

- **Teachers** - Teachers present lesson to students in Advisory, 2-3 times per week on pro-social skills, goal-setting, organization, resolving conflict and the like. Advisory teachers are also a

go-to adult for when a student needs assistance. Teachers meet with friends in conflict or help students advocate for support.

- **Counselors** - The school counselors prepare lesson materials from Second Step for Advisory classes to ensure all students in a grade-level learn about topics such as bullying prevention, inclusion, mental health & other topics. Counselors also do check-ins with students to start the day and ensure they are on the right track. Counselors see students all day at their request to help them deal with stress about a test, a problem with a friend group or worries that may not be school related.
- **Nurse** - The nurse receives students in the office who may be experiencing anxiety or other worries. She provides reassurance and refers students to the school counselors if a student is coming to her frequently but not for physical reasons.
- **Administrators**- Each grade-level administrator meets with students who receive a Level 2 Discipline Referral. Frequently only a verbal warning is necessary but even when other discipline consequences are in place, the focus is on helping students recognize what responsibility they have for misbehavior, how it impacts others (or themselves) in a negative way and alternate ways of behaving in the future. Any student assigned to an after-school detention participates in a Reflection Activity about why they received the consequence. They also are presented with age-appropriate videos or worksheets about the specific type of behavior. Finally, if applicable, they do a restorative act or apologize to the harmed party. Here's an example of a video that a student would watch on [CyberBullying](#).

We are here to talk with any parent/guardian about behavioral concerns or needs for their child. Please reach out to your grade level counselor or administrator to set up a meeting or call.

All the Best,

Rebecca Metzger

Principal

Beck Middle School

Parent Dashboard ([click here](#))

Upcoming Events

12/4-12/6 Parent/Teacher Conferences - EARLY DISMISSAL for students at 12:15pm

Monday, 12/4

Tuesday, 12/5

Wednesday, 12/6

Instructions on how to schedule a conference were sent in a separate email. There are remaining times but if you find these times are not available for you, we advise the following:

- **Concern about 1 class:** If you have a concern about 1 specific class, please contact that teacher directly to see if a phone call or virtual meeting can be arranged at your mutual convenience.

- **Concern about 2 or more classes:** Please email the Team to see if a phone call or virtual meeting can be arranged during their Team time.
- **General progress update:** If your students is progressing satisfactorily and you would just like a general progress update, please email the Team and they can provide you with that feedback.

Upcoming Concerts

Wednesday, Dec 14 - Winter Band Concert, 7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, Dec 20 - Winter Choral Concert, 7:30-8:30pm

Thursday, Jan 18 - Winter Orchestra & Jazz Ban Concert, 7:30-8:30pm



Beck YEARLY Events Calendar ([click here](#))

School Culture & Discipline

Behavior Expectations & Discipline Process

At Beck Middle School, we strongly believe in fostering a positive school culture through modeling, teaching and practicing positive behaviors and building student's social and emotional skills. Our school's behavioral expectations are guided by our 5 core values: **Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Integrity, Perseverance.**

Positive Rewards - Beck students who follow building rules and expectations can earn positive rewards through our PBIS online system. Students are also recognized for 5 Core Values and be nominated as a Character Education Student of the Month. Beck students receive positive verbal feedback from their teachers, the staff and all adults in the building on a daily basis.

Discipline Referrals - If student breaks a classroom or building rule, teachers and administrators are responsible for issuing a discipline referral.

- Level 1 Behaviors - Late to class, providing a fake name, mild class disruption, horseplay, dishonesty, Food/Drink in classroom when not permitted, electronics misuse (cell phone or other device), misuse of a hall pass. These are handled at the classroom level by the teacher and consequences could include parent contact, teacher-assigned detention, loss of privileges or the like.
- Level 2 Behaviors - 4 Level 1 referrals, cheating/plagiarism, defiance/insubordination, disrespect to staff, inappropriate physical contact, fighting, possession of alcohol or drugs, property damage. These are handled at the Administrative Level and administrators utilize the [District Code of Conduct](#) when assigning consequences.

All referrals are recorded in the PBIS system. If a student receives a Level 2 referral, the grade level administrator's office will provide a written/email notification to the parent/guardian about the incident and disciplinary consequences.

Technology Expectations – Cell Phone Use

Please see BOE Policies 2361 and 2363 for further information.

- Cell phones should be **SILENT & AWAY** from 8:00am-3:00pm.
- Cell phones may be used at the direction of an adult staff member.
- Cell phone use is NOT permitted in the Cafeteria, Hallways or Bathrooms
- Students may receive disciplinary referrals and consequences for repeated use of cell phones.
- **Students with documented Medical Needs are exempted and the Nurse has made all Teams aware of any students that must have their cell phone with them and on at all times.**

Beck Parent & Student Handbook

Athletics, Clubs & Activities

Athletics

Winter sports practices have begun. Be sure to check the [Beck Athletics Calendar](#) for practice days and upcoming game schedules.

Basketball Game Spectators

As with last year, students wishing to attend Beck basketball games must follow the expectations below:

- Report to the LGR at dismissal and sign in.
- Students will be escorted to the game at 3:50pm.
- Students must dismiss to the late bus at 4:30pm.
- Students returning to school for the game or staying beyond the late bus must have a RESPONSIBLE ADULT supervising them. It does not have to be their parent or guardian, it could be a parent of a friend who is there with a group of students.
- Rude or inappropriate behavior in the bleachers may result in students being barred from attending games the remainder of the season.

Clubs

Beck Buddies Club

The Beck Buddies Club held their first planning meeting. These students are volunteers who will be Buddies for students in the Autism Support classroom. They will meet monthly to do afterschool activities together like arts & crafts, playing games or playing outside (weather permitted). We are very excited to have the club starting up and are planning the first Beck Buddies event in December.

Beck Players

Drama rehearsals have begun for the Spring Musical.

Chess Club

Beck is starting a Chess Club. Stay tuned for more details.



Contact Us

Attendance: If your student is absent or needs an early dismissal, please just email Beck Attendance at BeckAttendance@chclc.org

Website: <https://www.chclc.org/Domain/21>

Location: [950 Cropwell Road, Cherry Hill, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: 856-424-4505