

# Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

August 11, 2014

Dear BLCS and BLCPA Families,

As we prepare to start the year, we have important news and updates to communicate to our families.

## Exciting Leadership Announcement

Stacy Winitt has joined the BLCS family as the principal for the lower academy! Her first official day was July 22, 2014, so she's been working hard to catch up quickly. Please see the enclosed letter from the board of trustees for more information about Ms. Winitt and her experience.

## Family Orientation Meetings

We encourage all families to attend one of the Family Orientation Meetings. In addition to having the opportunity to meet Ms. Winitt and other new staff members, we will present important information about our school goals, changes to promotional policies and other information in the handbook, uniform guidelines, and opportunities for family involvement. These meetings will be held in the CPA gymnasium and are scheduled as follows:

**BLCS: August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm OR August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am**  
**BLCPA: August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm OR August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

## 2014-2015 School Calendar

The calendar for the coming school year is enclosed. Here is a summary of key changes:

- Based on feedback from family focus groups, we have moved staff professional development days from Wednesday to Friday. Our scholars will be dismissed at 1:30pm each Friday.
- Parent-Family Conferences will be held on one day, with scholars dismissed at 11:30am.
- There will be a school-wide day of service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## Uniform Guidelines

To be consistent and supportive of scholars and families in meeting uniform expectations, we have modified some expectations for uniforms. Please read the information below carefully (changes are in *italics*). Uniforms may be purchased at KidsTown (991 Southern Blvd.; 718-893-5291) where BLCS families receive a 10% discount.

<b>BLCS (grades K-8)</b>	<b>BLCPA (grades 9-12)</b>
<p><b><u>Tops</u></b> K-4 scholars wear light blue Lighthouse logo polo shirts. 5-8 scholars wear white Lighthouse logo polo shirts. All navy, hoodless sweaters or sweatshirts may be worn, in addition to a navy BLCS sweatshirt.</p> <p><b><u>Bottoms</u></b> All scholars wear navy blue uniform pants, skirts, or shorts. Skirts and shorts must be knee length. Cargo pants, leggings, and colored jeans are prohibited. Belts must be black.</p> <p><b><u>Shoes</u></b> Scholars may wear closed-toed shoes or sneakers of <i>any color</i>. Distracting/inappropriate shoes are not allowed.</p> <p><b><u>Physical Education</u></b> Scholars will be permitted the opportunity to change into PE uniforms for their PE classes. <i>Scholars will not be permitted to wear PE uniforms instead of their regular school uniform.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Tops</u></b> Scholars may wear navy Lighthouse logo polo shirts OR white button down shirts with a navy tie or bow tie (ties are required for this option). All navy, hoodless sweaters or sweatshirts may be worn, in addition to a navy BLCS sweatshirt. Scholars are encouraged to wear navy blazers.</p> <p><b><u>Bottoms</u></b> All scholars wear khaki colored uniform pants or skirts. Cargo pants, leggings, shorts, and colored jeans are prohibited. Belts must be black.</p> <p><b><u>Shoes</u></b> All scholars wear closed-toed, all black shoes every day. The BLCPA Google site includes a link of approved shoes for specific questions about shoes.</p> <p><b><u>Physical Education</u></b> Scholars will be required to change into athletic attire for PE classes. Guidelines for PE uniforms are available on the BLCPA Google Site.</p>

**Challenge + Arts Infusion = Transformative Opportunities**

BLCS 1001 Intervale Avenue · Bronx, NY 10459 · Tel 646.915.0025 · Fax 646.915.0037  
BLCPA 1005 Intervale Avenue · Bronx, NY 10459 · Tel 646.915.0030 · Fax 718.893.0917  
www.lighthouse-academies.org

# Bronx Lighthouse Charter School

## Scholar Supplies

This year, BLCPS will pilot a program whereby scholars in grades K-8 will receive the majority of their required supplies from the school. These supplies will include notebooks, folders, binders, dividers, and filler paper. Families are required to continue supplying pens and pencils, plus any additional study supplies scholars might need at home. Upon occasion, we may ask families to provide supplies (such as paper towels) for a specific classroom project. To ensure this pilot project is a success, please ensure that your scholar maintains his/her supplies in good condition throughout the school year.

Scholars at BLCPS will receive supply lists for their scheduled classes during the first week of school.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Scholar safety is our top priority. Changes have been made to our arrival and dismissal procedures to ensure the safety of all scholars.

<b>BLCS (grades K-8)</b>	<b>BLCPS (grades 9-12)</b>
<p><b><u>Morning Arrival</u></b> Scholars will enter through the back door of BLCS on Roger's Place. Arrival will be supervised by Ms. Winitt and other staff. Scholars who arrive at or after 8:05am will enter through the door on Intervale Avenue.</p> <p><b><u>Breakfast</u></b> Breakfast will be served from 7:30 until 7:55 am. School will not be open to scholars before 7:30am.</p> <p><b><u>Dismissal Procedure</u></b> K-8 Scholars will be dismissed through the back door of BLCS on Roger's Place.</p> <p><b><u>Dismissal Timing</u></b> 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Dismissal will start at 3:55pm. K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Dismissal will start at 4:00pm.</p>	<p><b><u>Morning Arrival</u></b> Scholars will enter from the front door, on Intervale. Arrival will be supervised by Ms. Hardcastle, CPA Principal. Classes start at 8:00 a.m.</p> <p><b><u>Breakfast</u></b> Breakfast will be served from 7:30 until 7:55 am. School will not be open to scholars before 7:30am.</p> <p><b><u>Dismissal Timing</u></b> All BLCPS scholars will be dismissed starting at 3:55pm.</p>

## **Do you have questions about arrival and dismissal changes?**

We made these changes in response to problems identified and solutions offered by our families and community.

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Solution/2014-2015 Changes</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dismissal allowed for anyone to enter and access our facility without supervision.</li> <li>Intervale Avenue is a busy, four-lane street with two way traffic. Incidents of scholars crossing the street or cars turning across the street or double parking have been unsafe.</li> <li>With BLCS (K-8) and CPA (9-12) dismissal at the same time, the front of the school is crowded.</li> <li>There has not been a clear system for sibling pick up.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dismissal will occur outside of the school. This is a best practice for NYC elementary schools.</li> <li>Car drop off will occur on Roger's place instead of Intervale Avenue. This is a one-way street, and will eliminate some traffic concerns. Scholars will be required to cross streets at corners.</li> <li>BLCS (K-8) arrival and dismissal will be on Roger's Place. BLCPS (9-12) will continue to enter and dismiss on Intervale Avenue.</li> <li>Older scholars will be dismissed in advance of younger scholars so that younger siblings are not left unattended.</li> </ol>

**We appreciate your continued support and look forward to an amazing year ahead!**

Dianne Hardcastle  
Principal, BLCPS

Stacy Winitt  
Principal, BLCS

**Challenge + Arts Infusion = Transformative Opportunities**

BLCS 1001 Intervale Avenue · Bronx, NY 10459 · Tel 646.915.0025 · Fax 646.915.0037  
BLCPS 1005 Intervale Avenue · Bronx, NY 10459 · Tel 646.915.0030 · Fax 718.893.0917  
www.lighthouse-academies.org