

DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

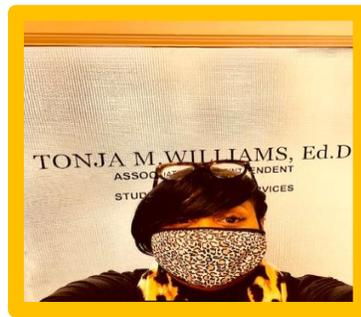
CONNECTING THE DOTS

Newsletter • Issue 5 • March 2021

DR. TONJA M. WILLIAMS ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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I am a fan of movies—always have been. Often my family and friends are surprised at the quotes, lines or stories that I am able to recall from movies I have seen in the past. One of my favorites, “We Are Marshall” is the story of the Marshall University’s football program that attempts to come back after a devastating plane crash tragically takes the life of virtually every player and the coach from the 1970 football team.

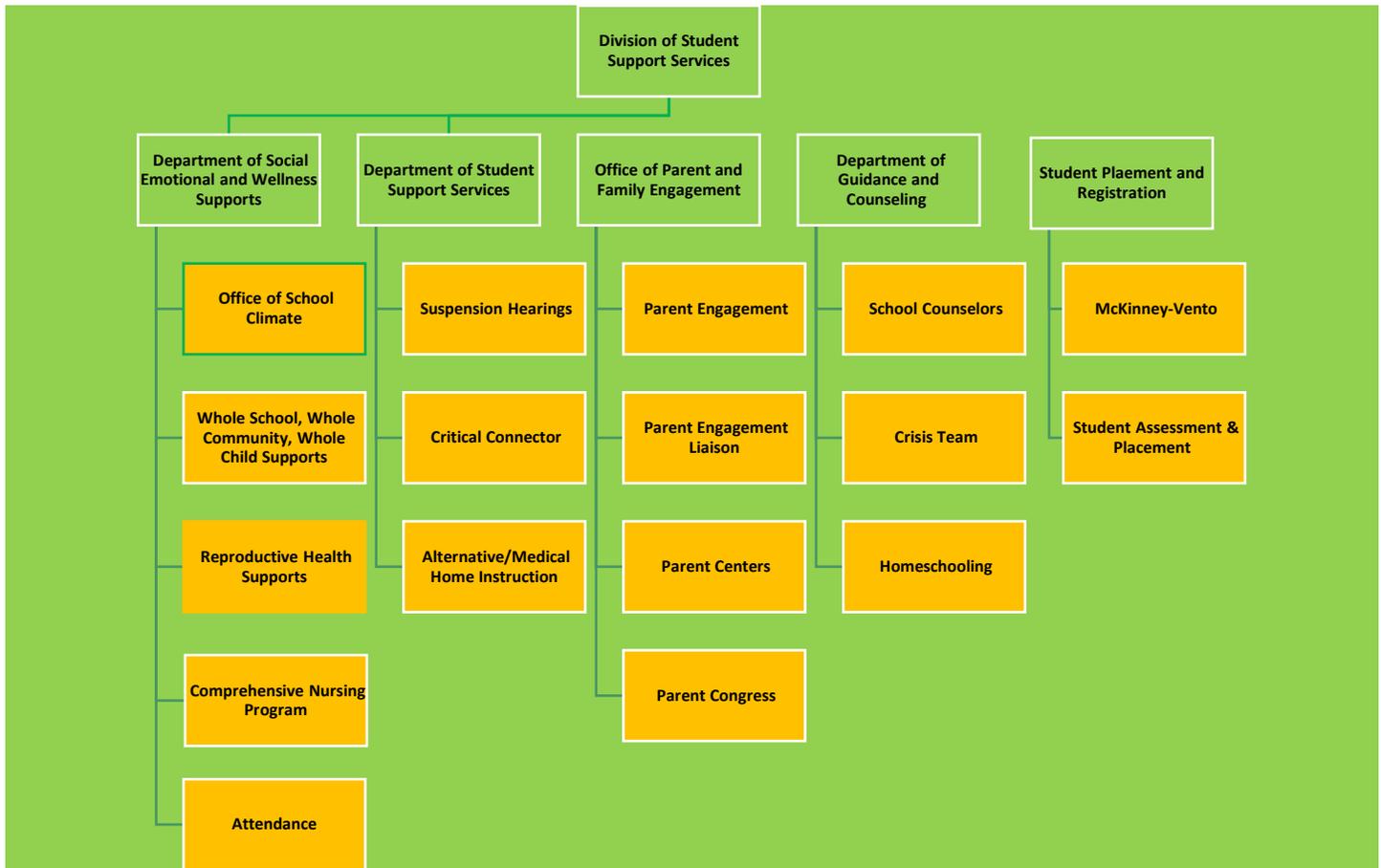
I am certain that Hollywood added to the plot and story line, but in one particular scene of that movie, the new coach is speaking to one of the assistants who just happened to not be on the plane the night it crashed. The assistant coach was bemoaning the team’s lack of success. I remember that new coach’s reply,

“...no, winning is not the only thing, but sometime, someday, we will be like every other team, when winning is the most important thing to us. That is when we will honor them, but right now, we just have to play, we have to show up, we have to keep moving—so that one day, we will get to be like every other team.”

I feel that way about everything that we are doing this school year. Many may feel that they just hate what COVID has done. You will get no argument from me. I too, am COVID weary, BUT one day, some time, we will have a year like every other year—like every other theater event, like every other game, like every other graduation—the point is, and the right message is:

“We will have ‘different looking’ events, but we will show up! We will play! We will keep moving, so that one day, we can have events like every other year. I do not bemoan what we have lost due to COVID. Quite honestly, I just don’t have the time. However, I do spend time celebrating what we here in the Buffalo Public Schools, and specifically within the Division of Student Support Services have managed to accomplish in the first semester of this year! Now, I will look to continued excellence and opportunities as we carry on in this second semester of the school year!!

Division of Student Support Services Departments Office



DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Dr. Tonja Williams, Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services
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Dr. Sharon Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services
Sebrown@buffaloschools.org

Ms. Kelli Daniels, Director of Student Placement and Registration
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Mai Nguyen, Director of Social Emotional and Wellness Supports
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Mr. Paul O'Grady, Temporary Director, Student Support Services - Pupil Personnel
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Dr. Ramona Reynolds, Instructional Specialist III, Office of Parent and Family Engagement
Rreynolds@buffaloschools.org

Ms. Martha Younger, Director of Guidance and Counseling Services
Myounger@buffaloschools.org

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY & CLERK SPOTLIGHT

We are excited to acknowledge the work of all our clerical staff who work behind the scenes to help ensure that we are addressing the needs of our students and families! This month, we spotlighted a few of our support staff from the Division of Student Support Services.

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE



Michelle Clifton is an Administrative Secretary in the Office of Guidance and Counseling Services. Ms. Clifton has been employed by the Buffalo City School District for 26 years. Prior to Ms. Clifton's current assignment, she worked as a Typist, Account Clerk Typist, and Principal Clerk.

Ms. Clifton's work not only supports the work of the department, but ultimately the students and families we serve. She inputs annual budget information, orders instructional & clerical supplies, manages the district's website, assists the Home School Office along with several other responsibilities.

We value Michelle's knowledge and skills and look forward to her continuous support.

THANK YOU MS. CLIFTON!

ATTENDANCE DEPARTMENT



Deliris Rodriguez has been employed by the Buffalo Board of Education for six years in the role of Teacher Aide at Schools 3, 30, and 76. Ms. Rodriguez began her current assignment as a Spanish Speaking Clerk Typist in the Attendance Department in December 2020. Her duties include but not limited to processing transcript requests for former graduates, businesses, law offices, and verifying education checks for employers. Ms. Rodriguez has a positive attitude and has come to realize that while her current assignment is busy and demanding, it is rewarding because her work supports students and families.

Student Support Services welcome Ms. Rodriguez, and look forward to her continuous support on behalf of the families and community!

THANK YOU MS. RODRIGUEZ!

STUDENT PLACEMENT & REGISTRATION



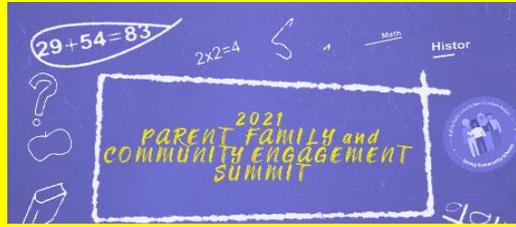
Manuel Romero, also known as Manny, has been an employee of the Buffalo Board of Education since October 2014. He began his career in City Hall and then transitioned to an elementary school until he arrived to the Office of Student Placement & Registration in October of 2015 as a Spanish Speaking Registration Clerk.

In addition to working with families during the admission and registration process, Mr. Romero stepped forward and used his talents to develop our new Student Placement and Registration website: [Admissions and Registration](#)

We are very thankful and proud to have Mr. Romero on our team working on behalf of students and families!

THANK YOU MR. ROMERO!

OFFICE OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Nominations for the 20-21 Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Summit Submitted

During the **2020-2021 Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Summit** we are excited to celebrate the commitment and hard work of those who have put children and families first to ensure high academic achievement for all.

This past month, the Summit Committee received nominations for parents, students, school-community, and staff recognitions who will be honored in the following categories: *VIP Parent, School-Community Partnership, and School Staff Recognition*. Student Recognitions will also be provided to remarkable students who have exemplified: *Compassion, Exceptional You, Leadership, and Resilience*.

This year's Summit will be held virtually on **Thursday, May 20th at 5:30 p.m.** and streamed live on the **BPS Parent Centers Facebook** page. The event will include engaging presenters, uplifting entertainment, and will feature a motivating guest speaker! As an added bonus, 1000 delicious hot meals, dessert, and drinks will be delivered to BPS families to enjoy while they watch the event. A special pre-Summit show will begin at 5:00 p.m., featuring performances by BPS students.

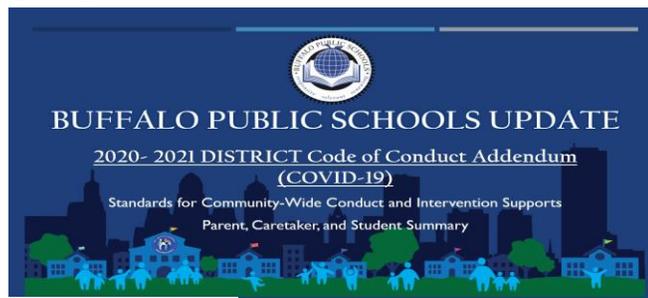
To learn more about the 20-21 Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Summit please visit:

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/96914>

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The office of Pupil Personnel services is proud to announce that they will host seminars to discuss the new Buffalo Public Schools Code of Conduct Addendum.

You can locate a pre-recorded video on the **BPS Parent Centers Facebook** page, and we will engage families in a Facebook live chat on **March 8th at 5:00 p.m.**



During the COVID-19 Pandemic students have a responsibility to:

- ✓ Read and become familiar with this Amended Code of Conduct for 2020- 2021.
- ✓ Attend school daily (remotely, hybrid, and/ or full-time in person)
- ✓ Complete all assignments
- ✓ Be aware of all rules and expectations regarding student's behavior.
- ✓ Treat all others fairly and with respect,
- ✓ Express opinions and ideas in a respectful manner,
- ✓ Avoid unrelated activities, such as messaging, social networking, or video
- ✓ Dress appropriately



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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL AND WELLNESS SUPPORTS

February Highlights:

- Various BPS Staff Members will become Mental Health First Aid Trainers as part of the Project Aware grant. Tentative training will begin in the Spring.
- Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.
- Year of the Student Voice: For more details, please see the *BPS Student Corner* on page 6.
- In accordance to Public Health Law 2164, the NYS Department of Health has extended the deadline to meet vaccination requirements until March 11, 2021, only for students attending school exclusively remotely. Updated immunization records can be sent to your student's school nurse. Please disregard this message if your student is up-to-date with vaccinations.

ATTENDANCE TEACHERS HOME VISIT TOTALS: YEAR TO DATE

Attendance teachers have completed **1,450** in-home visits with students and families.

Check-in due to lack of participation in school:

- Wellness checks
- Drop off supplies:
 - Computers/Tablets
 - Computer Plugs
 - Work Packages
 - Food
 - Rewards/Incentives
- Shared the following information:
 - Technology support
 - Food distribution sites
 - Child care/learning center information
 - COVID related
- As a result of home visits:
 - Increased school participation
 - Improvement in work completed and grades
 - Families using resources available in and outside of school
 - Establishes ongoing meaningful relationships with students and families
 - Facilitates open and continued communication with students and families

Upcoming March Dates for Mobile Health Clinics:

FOR SET OF SCHEDULES AND PHONE NUMBERS (SEE PAGES 2)

DOCTOR'S VISITS AT SCHOOL

Is your child in need of immunizations?
How about an annual physical, or even a sick visit?
The City of Buffalo Mobile Health Clinics provide students with convenient on-site health services. Mobile Health Clinics are available at 19 Buffalo Public Schools! See below for school locations. To schedule, call your child's school and ask to speak to a nurse today!

UPCOMING DATES & LOCATIONS:

March 5, 2021, 8:30-2:00pm, NHC @ Frank A. Sedita #30
March 10, 2021, 8:00-11:30am, CHCS @ Futures Prep #37
March 12, 2021, 8:30-2:00pm, NHC @ Lafayette HS #207
March 19, 2021, 8:30-2:00pm, NHC @ D'Youville Porter #3
March 26, 2021, 8:30-2:00pm, NHC @ D'Youville Porter #3

QUESTIONS?
Contact your school nurse or the parent/guardian hotline at Amanda Paul, Senior Director of IT/Analytics, amapaul@buffalopublicschools.org

VISITUSBUFFALO.ORG

Mobile Health Clinics are made possible by the financial support of the City of Buffalo, the Center of Buffalo (COB), and the Center of Buffalo (COB).

