



Kim Feltre, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Berkeley Heights Public Schools  
345 Plainfield Ave, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922  
908-464-1718

## **Subject: Community Update**

January 23, 2025

Dear BHPS Families and Staff,

It has been quite an eventful start to my Superintendency in the district! I appreciate the community support as we navigate the unexpected infrastructure adventures. In the spirit of open communication, I'd like to update you on a few of the events of the past several weeks.

GL Heating Issues: Over the winter break, heating coils ruptured in roughly eight locations. Water damage in some of the rooms required classes to be relocated. Space heaters and air purifiers were placed in rooms without heat. Typical univents bring in air from the outside on a regular basis to create airflow and maintain circulation in classrooms. The use of the air purifiers in the rooms with space heaters is not enough to circulate the air sufficiently, hence windows need to be opened periodically to refresh and circulate the air. From a safety standpoint, air quality takes precedence over temperature. The heating coils are expected to arrive on Friday, and replacement will commence upon their arrival. The heat in the cafeteria will take longer to fix because it is a more extensive issue that deals with an outside rooftop unit.

CMS Fire Panel: Since January 8th, we have maintained a continuous Fire Watch, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, a temporary Fire Panel has been in place which controls all fire pull stations, strobes, and alarms. This system has been an essential part of ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and visitors while upgrades to our fire alarm system are underway.

Our Fire Company Vendor has been working diligently to install a new fire alarm panel and connect it to all components of the fire alarm system, including strobes, alarms, sensors, and fire pull stations. Once this work is complete, the Berkeley Heights Construction Code Official will perform a final inspection of the system. Following the successful completion of this inspection, we will conclude the Fire Watch and resume normal school operations.

We anticipate returning to normal operations during the week of **January 27th**. Once the final inspection is complete and the exact timeline is confirmed, we will immediately notify the school community.

PowerSchool Data Breach: The data potentially breached primarily included student names, addresses, email addresses, custodial information, grade levels, grades, and other personal information such as medical information or special education status (not classification). The actual data breached depended on the information provided by parents to the schools, as well as the years the student attended Berkeley Heights, as the data collected has changed through the years. In the last PowerSchool communication, they shared that PowerSchool/Experian will be reaching out directly to those whose information was involved in the breach. PowerSchool informed the public that they have engaged the credit reporting agency, Experian, to offer **two years of complimentary identity protection services for all students and educators whose information from our PowerSchool SIS was involved. This offer will also include two years of complimentary credit monitoring services for all adult students and educators whose information was involved.** PowerSchool has stated that they paid the violator to delete the data and are confident that they did so, but will not make that guarantee. As with any data breach notification, a prudent course of action is to be vigilant watching for any unauthorized activity in your or your child's name. Please visit <https://www.powerschool.com/security/sis-incident/> for up-to date information provided by PowerSchool.

I am hoping for less eventful days in the near future so that we can focus on moving forward, but will address all unexpected adventures as they come. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support. Stay warm and safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Feltre, Superintendent of Schools