

# BATON ROUGE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

*A proposed tuition-free public charter school for the students of Baton Rouge*



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Volume 1: Issue 4

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*We must provide all children the opportunity  
to get a great education,*

*so that they can pursue the American Dream  
and realize their full potential.*

-Bobby Jindal

Dear Friends of **Baton Rouge College Prep**,

## OUR MISSION

### **Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School** equips all

students in grades five through twelve with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to excel in college and in life.

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We are firmly situated as part of the Louisiana Department of Education's plan to increase the number of high quality charter schools across the state. We welcome the increased accountability of a charter for student achievement results, and our students will be prepared to successfully compete with their peers in the city, state, and nation.

The charter application for **Baton Rouge College Prep**, a proposed 5-12 college preparatory charter school, was submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education on May 7, 2014. The **Baton Rouge College Prep** Founding Board is preparing to discuss and defend the proposal during the last week of May.

**Baton Rouge College Prep** has been supported throughout the charter application process by hundreds of families and multiple local and national partners. Over the next two months, we will continue to engage the larger Baton Rouge community in support of **Baton Rouge College Prep** - a high quality, college preparatory middle and high school for students and families in North Baton Rouge.

Families have high aspirations for their children. The community is hungry for profound educational change. The city and state are committed to a quality public education for every child.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for . Please share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues, spreading the word as we prepare to make our vision for a reality.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Please share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues, spreading the word as we prepare to make our vision for **Baton Rouge College Prep** a reality.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rice

## OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

**Baton Rouge College Prep** is founded on the belief that all students can achieve at high levels. Our school design is grounded in eight core principles, based on the proven practices of the highest performing charter schools in the nation. Each month we will highlight one of the core principles and explain how it promotes student success. This month, we highlight the second core principle:

- 1) High academic expectations for all
- 2) Great teachers, great results

### **3) Highly structured environment**

- 4) Focused character development
- 5) Data-driven culture
- 6) Extended learning time
- 7) Seamless grade transitions
- 8) Family involvement



### **Highly Structured Environment**

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, we know that a highly structured, disciplined, and safe school environment lays the foundation for teaching and learning to occur. To meet our high expectations, students must be able to focus on learning and teachers on teaching.

Our routines, procedures, and discipline will combine to create a school where students and teachers can focus on learning. Consistent school-wide systems and procedures will maximize instructional time. We will use our school structures and systems to guarantee that every moment of our extended day is productive to learning, from entering the building to lunch routines to dismissal, and from sharpening pencils to class participation to homework.

A clear code of conduct, enforced by all, will hold students to high behavioral expectations. Consistency matters and we will adhere to the "broken windows" approach to school discipline, in which the little things matter and infractions are addressed swiftly with teacher corrections and a merit/demerit system to decrease the likelihood of more significant negative behaviors.

Students will rise to the level of our expectations, particularly when the work is rigorous and engaging, structures and routines allow for success, and a joy for learning permeates the school. While we will relentlessly uphold a disciplined and structured environment, our classrooms and school will be infused with joy, creating a warm and strict school in which students want and choose to do what is right.

## OUR PROGRESS

- Our Founding Board is continuing to prepare for the Authorizer Interview, which will take place during the last week of May.
- Three Founding Board members and Lead Founder Kathryn Rice traveled to [Liberty Collegiate Academy](#) in Nashville to observe a high-performing charter school in action. Liberty Collegiate Academy, founded in 2011 by a [Building Excellent Schools](#) Fellow, outscored both the district and the state in 2013 and had the highest student growth in Tennessee. Visiting the school prepared our team with a clear vision of how **Baton Rouge College Prep** can achieve the same results in 2015.
- Kathryn Rice, Lead Founder of **Baton Rouge College Prep**, is collecting **Letters of Support** and **Signatures of Support** from parents, community members, and leaders in business, non-profits, religion, and education.

## OUR CALL TO ACTION

- **Attend an Information Session.** We are hosting Info Sessions in North Baton Rouge for families and community members to learn more about **Baton Rouge College Prep**.
  - **Wed, Apr 23**, 4:30 - 6:00 PM, Greenwell Springs Library, Greenwell Springs Road
  - **Sun, Apr 27**, 8:00 and 10:30 AM, Beacon Light Baptist Church, Prescott Road
  - **Mon, Apr 28**, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Eden Park Library, Greenwell Springs Road
  - **Tue, April 29**, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Delmont Gardens Library, Riley Street
- **Spread the Word.** Share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to subscribe. Invite a friend to our information sessions. Give your signature of support. Help us grow the network of support for **Baton Rouge College Prep**.
- **Suggest Community Connections.** We would love to be involved in local meetings, churches, community organizations, or parent groups-anywhere that people want to talk about educational opportunities for their children. If you have ideas or connections, please email Kathryn Rice at [krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org).
- **Connect to Excellent Educators.** Great schools require great teachers. If you know an excellent teacher who would be a fit for **Baton Rouge College Prep**, please email Kathryn Rice at [krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org).

**Support our efforts. Join us.**

**Contact Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School:**

Kathryn Rice, Lead Founder