



## BATON ROUGE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

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



### 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.

*We are what we repeatedly do.*

*Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.*

*-Aristotle*

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

It is easy to be discouraged when we look at the education statistics for our city and state.

- 1 in 3 eighth grade students in Louisiana is not proficient on the state reading assessment
- 3 in 4 eighth grade students in Louisiana are not proficient on a national reading assessment
- 1 in 2 high school students in East Baton Rouge Parish is not proficient in high school core content
- 1 in 3 ninth grade students in East Baton Rouge Parish does not graduate high school within four years

While these numbers are alarming for the future of Baton Rouge and Louisiana, there are schools, both charter and district, that are producing different results for students. Not enough of these schools, however, are in North Baton Rouge.

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, we will change this. Our goal is to ensure that all of our students are performing at or above grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics, preparing them to succeed in college and in life.

We continue to share our school design with you in our monthly updates. This month we focus on the power of high academic expectations to drive student success.

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, we know that students rise to our expectations. Our school model is designed to achieve our fundamental belief that our students can and will excel.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to share our mission, vision, and progress with you. We encourage you to send our newsletters with family, friends, and colleagues as we work together to bring **Baton Rouge College Prep** to life.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rice

### **Our Mission**

**Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School** equips all students grades five through twelve with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to excel in college and in life.

### **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.

## **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



### **High Academic Expectations for All**

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, we are led by the unwavering belief that all students can achieve at the highest levels. All students must have the opportunity to choose college; the doors to college must not be closed due to a lack of academic preparation. Students will rise to and exceed the expectations that we set for them. We will provide all students with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, aligned with state and national standards.

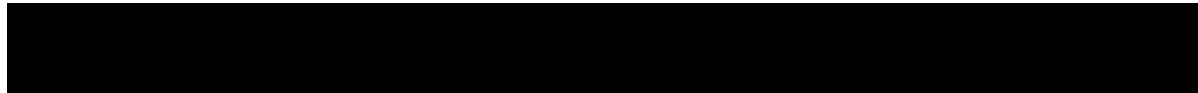
Every student will receive dramatically increased time in **literacy** and **mathematics** instruction. Intensive interventions and tutoring will provide individualized instruction to

ensure that all students receive the supports they need to meet and exceed our expectations.

Entering middle school students will focus on the development of essential grade level skills and knowledge, priming them to meet the scholarly demands of high school. An intensive emphasis on high-level reading, writing, thinking, and problem-solving will prepare high school students for the depth and rigors of college.

Students will also engage in **science, social studies**, and a variety of **enrichment** courses to provide a well-rounded academic base. We will place special emphasis on non-fiction reading and writing across the curriculum, a research-supported best practice. Access to a challenging, college preparatory curriculum is essential to student success. Schools that produce exceptional results do so largely because they expect exceptional results from staff and students.

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, there will be no substitute for excellence and no place for mediocrity. We will match the challenge of high expectations with the academic tools and supports to meet that challenge.



## Our Progress

We have been working hard to build the foundation for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. In each newsletter, we continue to share updates on our progress. Below is information on our work to date.

- The Founding Board of **Baton Rouge College Prep** participated in a full-day retreat for deep analysis of our charter proposal and their role as members of a charter school board. During the retreat, Board members focused on understanding the core elements of the school design.
- Kathryn Rice, Lead Founder of **Baton Rouge College Prep**, is conducting in-depth study of the nation's highest performing charter schools, most recently in Washington, D.C. and California. The proven practices of these schools have guided the development of **Baton Rouge College Prep** and we are excited to continue learning from these schools throughout the year. [www.buildingexcellentschools.org](http://www.buildingexcellentschools.org)
- As part of the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, Ms. Rice spent January in residency at DC Prep Edgewood Middle School. DC Prep, the highest performing charter management organization in the District of Columbia, saw its Edgewood elementary campus recognized as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon school. At all grade levels preschool to 8, DC Prep is implementing the Common Core at a high level, bringing greater rigor to all internal assessments and all daily instruction. At DC Prep, Ms. Rice studied literacy instruction and interventions to further inform the vision and practices of **Baton Rouge College Prep**. [www.dcrep.org](http://www.dcrep.org)

## Our Call to Action

You can help bring **Baton Rouge College Prep** to life for our students. Each update will provide ways for you to participate in the development of the school.

- **Spread the Word.** Share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to subscribe by clicking the "Forward this email" link at the bottom of the newsletter. Your help is critical to building a network of support for **Baton Rouge College Prep**.
- **Suggest Community Connections.** We will be connecting with community members in north Baton Rouge over the coming months to learn about educational needs and to share our vision for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. If you are part of a community group or can connect us to one, we would love to talk to you at your community meetings, church, community organization, or parent group-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. Our students' success is dependent on our ability to find and hire the best teachers and leaders. We are already recruiting to ensure that we have the best staff possible. Most of our positions will begin in the spring and summer of 2015. If you know any excellent educators who would be a fit for **Baton Rouge College Prep**, please email Kathryn Rice at [krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org).



### Contact Baton Rouge College Prep:

Kathryn Rice  
[krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org)  
[225.721.2011](tel:225.721.2011)