

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.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2014

Our children do not have time to wait.

They only grow up once and they have one shot to receive a quality education.

- Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana

Dear Friends of Baton Rouge College Prep,

In 2014, we have a single goal: to establish a school of excellence for students in Baton Rouge - Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School.

Upon authorization, we will open the doors of **Baton Rouge College Prep** in August 2015 to 120 fifth and sixth grade students. We will grow one grade level per year until we reach our full fifth through twelfth grade capacity.

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, we know that **Academics + Character = Success**, and that all students can excel when provided with structure and supports. We will provide all students with a rigorous college preparatory education within a safe, structured, and joyful environment.

In 2014, **Baton Rouge College Prep** will continue to develop our vision through the study of high performing charter schools across the country, cultivate relationships with community members and local families, and submit a high quality charter application.

This newsletter, our first, is to welcome you to **Baton Rouge College Prep**, share our mission, and preview our core elements. You will receive updates each month to inform you of our progress.

We encourage you to share our newsletters with family, friends, and colleagues as we work together to bring **Baton Rouge College Prep** to life.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rice

Founder, Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School

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



Our Progress

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

- Baton Rouge College Prep has an exceptional founding board that is dedicated to achieving our mission. We are proud that Marielle Land Howard, Buster Kantrow, Paula Laird, Jada Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Mikki Mathews, Jennifer Montgomery, and Brian Rodriguez are bringing their skills and experience in community development, education, finance, operations, communications, advertising, strategic planning, and board governance to Baton Rouge College Prep.
- Kathryn Rice, Lead Founder of Baton Rouge College Prep, is currently completing the

prestigious Building Excellent Schools Fellowship. Through the Fellowship, Ms. Rice is conducting in-depth study of the nation's highest performing charter schools. 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.

 As part of the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, Ms. Rice is spending January in residency at DC Prep Edgewood Middle School. Serving a high-poverty community, DC Prep is one of the top schools in Washington, D.C. and the flagship campus of the city's highest performing charter network for the past two years. Ms. Rice is grateful to DC Prep for the opportunity to dive into the daily life of such an outstanding school.

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.

- 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 let us know.
- 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 let us know.

Contact Baton Rouge College Prep:

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