



BATON ROUGE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

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



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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.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

*It takes time to create excellence.
If it could be done more quickly, more people would do it.
-John Wooden*

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

We are two weeks away from the expected vote on our charter proposal by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. If approved this August, **Baton Rouge College Prep** will open our doors in 12 short months to 120 eager fifth and sixth graders, ready to learn and grow with us.

We are firmly committed to serving the students and families of North Baton Rouge, providing a strong college preparatory education grounded in academics and character. We have high expectations for every student, and we know that our students can reach these expectations with the appropriate supports.

We know that **Academics + Character = Success**. Our students will reach ambitious academic goals, master rigorous curriculum, and tackle life's challenges. This means we will require more time for targeted support, for deep reading, and for character development.

At **Baton Rouge College Prep**, our extended school day and year will provide our students with time to build the foundational skills, experience the enrichment opportunities, and develop the strong character necessary to excel in college and in life.

Please take the time to share this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues to spread the word about **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Join us at a Back to School Event this August to learn more about our work and to support our community.

Thank you to our many friends and supporters for the encouragement over the past few months. We look forward to sharing the state's decision regarding our charter proposal with you in August!

Sincerely,

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 sixth 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



Extended Learning Time

Baton Rouge College Prep will operate on an extended day (7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and annual calendar (182 days) to capitalize on learning opportunities and ensure that students are operating at and above grade level as quickly as possible. Student achievement improves when schools have more time to do what matters most.

By adding more time for students to learn, we will create the opportunity to focus intensely and strategically on literacy and math. Students will have more time for each content

area, allowing time for mastering skills that may have been missed and to enhance skills already mastered. In our early middle school grades, every day we will provide three hours for literacy and two hours for mathematics.

We know that many students will require supports beyond our multiple blocks of literacy and math. Our longer school day will allow for daily targeted interventions for all students, while the longer school year will ensure that students have the necessary time to develop proficiency in and mastery of rigorous, Common Core-aligned subject matter.

Our teachers will also have more time for professional learning and data-driven action. Three and a half weeks of professional development each summer will lay the foundation for each school year. Every day, teachers will have common planning time with grade level and content teammates. Each Friday, students will be released at 2:30 p.m., allowing teachers two and a half hours of professional development time. Every year, six professional development days give teachers time to develop action plans in response to student data.

OUR PROGRESS

- Our Board is preparing for governance while waiting for the final authorization decision from the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, expected in August. Look for our website and social media, coming soon!
- We are connecting with families interested in putting their child on a path to college beginning in August 2015. **Refer us to families with students who will be entering 5th or 6th grade in 2015 [here!](#)**
- Lead Founder and Building Excellent Schools Fellow Kathryn Rice spent three weeks in July in residency at a high performing charter school in Nashville, TN, [Liberty Collegiate Academy](#). Liberty Collegiate Academy, designed and founded through and continuously supported by Building Excellent Schools, had the

highest growth in student academic performance in the state of Tennessee last year. This month Ms. Rice is studying Liberty Collegiate Academy's professional development and preparation for the first days of school. This will guide our plans for opening **Baton Rouge College Prep** in August 2015.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

- **Connect to Excellent Educators.** Great teachers and staff will drive the success of **Baton Rouge College Prep**. We are looking for our outstanding founding team. Refer an educator [here!](#)
- **Spread the Word.** Help us grow the network of support for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Share this newsletter. Invite us to events and meetings. [Send us](#) your ideas and connections.
- **Support Our Cause.** Your time and support make a difference. Volunteer or donate with us [here!](#)
- **Join Us.** Come learn more about **Baton Rouge College Prep!** We will be at several local Back to School events. School supplies and materials will be available for families at these events.
 - **Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.:** ExxonMobil YMCA at Howell Place, hosted by Metro Councilwoman Tara Wicker.
 - **Saturday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.:** Interdenominational Faith Assemblies on Greenwell Road, hosted by State Senator Sharon Weston Broome, Representative Regina Barrow, and Metro Councilwoman Ronnie Edwards.