

# BATON ROUGE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

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

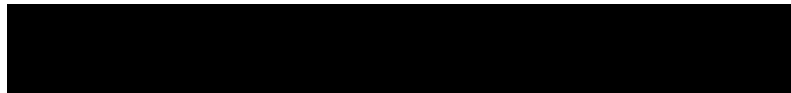


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*We must remember that intelligence is not  
enough.*

*Intelligence plus character - that is the goal*

*of true education*  
-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Today, Wednesday, May 28, 2014, marks another major milestone in the founding of **Baton Rouge College Prep**. This morning, our Founding Board of Directors and Lead Founder will discuss and defend our charter proposal at the Louisiana Department of Education.

Our purpose is clear: we are committed to the success of our students in college and in life. We know that by opening the door to college we open the door to opportunity. Our students will graduate from **Baton Rouge College Prep**, excel in college, and demonstrate to our community that excellence is not determined by zip code, race, socioeconomic status, or previous academic background.

**Baton Rouge College Prep** is founded on the belief that

**Academics + Character = Success.** We have shared our academic program in previous newsletters. This month, we highlight the second component of the **Baton Rouge College Prep** equation for success: focused character development. We will develop in our students the strength of character necessary to tackle the challenges of high school, college, and life.

Thank you to our many friends and supporters as we share our vision with the Louisiana Department of Education today. We are grateful for your continued support for and engagement with **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Please share this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues, spreading the word as we move ever closer to achieving our vision for **Baton Rouge College Prep**.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rice  
Lead Founder, **Baton Rouge College Preparatory Charter School**

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 fourth 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



### **Focused Character Development**

We understand that many students at **Baton Rouge College Prep** will be the first members of their families to attend college, and that this can make the path to higher education long and challenging. Strong character will amplify our students' ability to reap the benefits of their education. Therefore, we will explicitly teach character development so that every student can succeed.

Students at **Baton Rouge College Prep** will excel academically; they will also develop a clear vision of the future and the character values needed to achieve that future, such as hard work, perseverance, effort, honesty, respect, deep thinking, and pursuit of excellence.

**Baton Rouge College Prep** will develop a strong sense of community centered on our shared values. We will approach learning and life with **PURPOSE: Persistence, Urgency, Respect, Professionalism, Optimism, Self-Determination, and Engagement.** Our core values will be infused throughout the curriculum and explicitly articulated throughout the day, encouraging students to work and excel as individuals and as part of the larger learning community.

- **Persistence:** We work hard and embrace new challenges. We see mistakes as an opportunity to

learn.

- **Urgency:** We work efficiently at all times. We are smart and strategic in all we do.
- **Respect:** We do what is right for ourselves and each other, even when it is difficult. We treat others the way we want to be treated.
- **Professionalism:** We hold ourselves and each other to high standards. We are always focused and prepared to learn.
- **Optimism:** We believe in our abilities and the abilities of those around us. We believe in the power of "yet."
- **Self-Determination:** We are responsible for our choices. We know that we always have a choice.
- **Engagement:** We show excitement for learning. We participate fully every day.

Staff members will be introduced to the core values during hiring and summer training; students and families will receive an extended introduction during summer orientations. Celebrations for students who exemplify core values will occur in classrooms and in our weekly community circles.

Our school culture will make it "cool" to do well and to help others. We will teach that true character is doing the right thing even when no one is watching, simply because it is the right thing to do. Our students will demonstrate in and out of school that they have the habits of character that will lead to success in college and in life.

## OUR PROGRESS

- Our Founding Board spent the last three months preparing intensively for today's interview at the Louisiana Department of Education. The final authorization decision is expected in August.
- We surpassed our goal of 250 signatures, with over **580** individuals who signed in support of **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Special thanks to Communities Against Drugs and Violence (CADAV), Beacon Light Baptist Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Hi Nabor, and our community volunteers for helping us

collect these signatures.

- Many thanks to the civic, community, nonprofit, and educational leaders who wrote **Letters of Support** for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. We look forward to our partnerships with you!

#### OUR CALL TO ACTION

- **Spread the Word.** Help us grow the network of support for **Baton Rouge College Prep**. Share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to subscribe. Invite us to visit at local meetings, churches, community organizations, or parent groups. If you have ideas or connections, please email Lead Founder Kathryn Rice at [krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org).
- **Support Our Cause.** Your time and support make a difference. Join our volunteer team to help with community outreach efforts by emailing [krice@buildingexcellentschools.org](mailto:krice@buildingexcellentschools.org). Join us next week at the CADAV Pre-Juneteenth Family Day on Saturday, June 7, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Scotlandville BREC Park, 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Howell Place, next to the ExxonMobil YMCA.
- **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).

**Learn more. Support our efforts. Join us.**