



BBK Bulletin

Editor's Note

Hello Keller Families!

Welcome back to the BBK Bulletin! We are thrilled to continue through this process and bring you along with us as we move forward on this journey. By the time you read this (but not as I am sitting here typing it) you will have had the opportunity to hear more about Best Buddies straight from the source at the April 9th PCC meeting. In addition, the Keller 3rd and 4th grade students will have been provided the opportunity to learn more about what will be happening with BBK next year.

We have also sent home an invitation to the 3rd and 4th grade students for a workshop detailing what it means to be a Peer Buddy and how to begin to create a meaningful relationship with their Buddy, if they are matched, as well as to continue to expand the inclusive culture already in evidence at Keller Elementary School.

In our next issue, we will be placing the spotlight on our other Faculty Advisor, Sarah Fishman. Thanks for reading and if you choose not to read, thanks for recycling!

Stephanie L. Geddes
IEP Coordinator

"A friend is a gift you give yourself."

-Robert Louis Stevenson



Possible Kid FAQs

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Parent Talking Points

What is a Best Buddies friendship?

Best Buddies helps to make friendships between you (the Peer Buddy) and your Buddy. A friendship is when two people get to know each other by talking and spending time with each other. Your friendship will grow when you and your Buddy (your new friend) spend time together and do things that you both enjoy.

What will I have to do?

There will be a workshop in June and one in August to learn more. There will be a meeting once a month after school for students who are a part of Best Buddies Keller. If you are matched with a Buddy, you will have to meet up with them once a month outside of school and talk to them once a week either in or out of school.

What would I do with my Buddy?

You can do anything that you and your Buddy both like to do and mom and dad agree to.

Will I be matched with a Buddy?

In June, students will be selected to participate in BBK based upon their participation in the workshop. From those selected, a handful of students will then be selected as potential Buddies based upon gender and similar interest areas, which will be announced during a "Match Party" during the August workshop.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

BBK Advisor Britt Dubendris



Mrs. Dubendris has been an educator for 14 years and working within the Franklin Public School District since 2004. More specifically, Mrs. Dubendris began working within the STRIVE program K-2 in the fall of 2012. In addition, Mrs. Dubendris is qualified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

A few words from Mrs. Dubendris:

I am really looking forward to being a part of Keller's Best Buddies chapter. I truly believe everyone deserves to have a friend. Being a part of Best Buddies is such an honor and I am excited to be a part of the growth and development of the first elementary school chapter in the nation. Keller kids are so kind and caring that I know that the Keller's Best Buddies chapter will be amazing!

Reminder:

A few requirements for Participants

As a Best Buddies participant:

- I understand that if I am matched in a one-to-one friendship, the commitment includes meeting together outside of school once a month and making weekly contact during the school year.
- I understand that I will attend chapter activities, assemblies, and Best Buddies events and that my conduct should always promote the mission of Best Buddies.

Trivia

1. True or False: Best Buddies has programs titled e-Buddies, Best Buddies Jobs, and Best Buddies Citizens.
2. Best Buddies is in how many countries?
 - a. 10
 - b. 33
 - c. 75
 - d. 50
3. Best Buddies volunteers annually contribute, at no cost to their communities, support services that equate to how much money?
 - a. \$164,000
 - b. \$164,000,000
 - c. \$1,640,000
 - d. \$16,400,000

*Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.