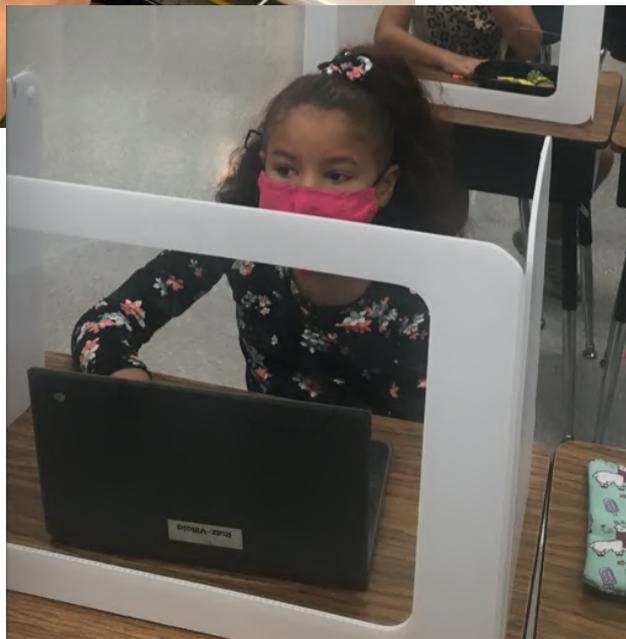


# BCS NEWS



## The Case of the Chromebooks

By Noah Clements

BCS has some new Chromebooks! Chromebooks allow access to the internet, Google Classroom, Google Meets, and more! Ms. Malinoski lead the effort to purchase the new Chromebooks. "In preparation for this school year, we purchased 350 new HP Chromebooks for students," Ms. Malinoski says. "We used a mix of both grant funds and general funds to make sure we could get a Chromebook for every student." Ms. Malinoski also says that in case the students had to suddenly work remotely, they needed to supply every student with a device that is accessible to the things we use, like Google Meet. "There are lots of nice techniques that students can learn about these Chromebooks," she says. Ms. Malinoski adds, "I would say that they should practice the basics of good digital citizenship. These are school devices that need to be treated with respect and care."

Students should NEVER share passwords! And, everyone should also know that because these are school devices, the school has access to everything that the students do with the devices. These are not private devices.

The students of BCS are glad they have new Chromebooks. Sixth grader Katelyn Hoffman says, "It's nice we don't have to share a device with siblings or any other person." Fifth grader Gwyneth Clements says, "When you have to share a device, you have less time to do your OWN work. And the more siblings/household kids you have, the less time you get. This is why the new Chromebooks are so helpful for students who want to actively learn."

The new Chromebooks are important because once COVID-19 struck, it meant different things would happen – for the teachers AND the students. Since we got these Chromebooks, every student can easily have access to a device which has a camera, microphone or access to the internet. Maybe they wouldn't have access to a device at all! So let's all give a big thank you to Ms. Malinoski – and the other teachers!

# Girls Soccer:

## Play It, Please?

By **Katelyn Hoffman** and **Kelcie Perkins**

Last year the girls soccer team almost didn't have enough players to create a JV team. Here's why YOU should join the team next fall.

Besides making friends and building confidence on the field, playing soccer is proven to help enhance concentration, focus, and strength (according to the Health Channel). Playing soccer is also FUN!! The adrenaline coursing through your veins, the accomplishment when you make a perfectly placed pass, and the friendly competition you will have with other schools, will combine into an experience you will never forget.

We had an interview with two current players about girls soccer: Riley Martin in 6th grade and Olivia Bevans in 7th grade.

Riley Martin:

Question: How long have you been playing soccer?

Answer: "I started when I was 3. Took a break for a year. In total 7 years."

This does not mean you need to have played soccer before in order to be on the team. Julia, this year's 8th grade captain, joined the team with no experience last year and won a Coach's Choice Award this season!

Olivia Bevans:

Question: How do you balance both school and soccer?

Answer: "I managed school and soccer by getting my homework done in free time during school and when I got home from soccer. When I was home on the days I did distance learning, I would get to practice on time and then do homework after soccer."

The 5th grade girls were surveyed to see if they would like to play middle school soccer next year. 58% of them said, "Yes." But we need all the girl power we can get. One of the most common reasons for people not wanting to play on the team is because it just doesn't interest them. That's ok! But if you're like 5th grader Vienna Ladd who said, "Soccer is my favorite sport, and BCS gives me a great opportunity to try it out," We would definitely recommend joining the team next year! Others are still considering joining the team but they may have various reasons for not joining, such as: not finding it interesting enough or having other commitments they need to do.

All in all, joining the soccer team will not only improve your mental and physical health, but it will give you lasting memories!



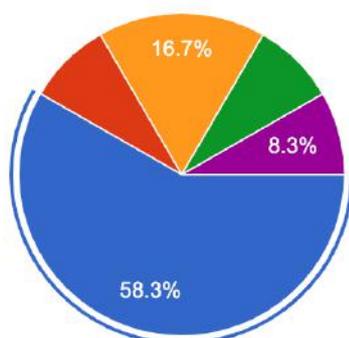
**"Soccer is my favorite sport and BCS gives me the opportunity to try it out."**

**-Vienna, Gr. 5**



### Will you join the Girls Soccer Team next year?

12 responses



- I will definitely join girls soccer
- I am considering joining girls soccer
- I will not be joining girls soccer
- I have never considered joining girls soccer
- i dont like soccer

# Welcome to 4th Grade!

By Abby Jenkelunas and Vienna Ladd

Meet Miss Breen, a new fourth-grade teacher at BCS. She is kind and nice. Her favorite color is blue. She is not married. Miss Breen has taught 1st grade at BCS and also has taught 3rd and 1st grade in Ellington. Miss Breen went to Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. Miss Breen has been teaching for 2 years. She enjoys teaching all subjects, but her favorite subject to teach is writing. Some things she looks for in a good student are someone who follows the BARK expectations and is kind to others.

FUN FACT: Miss Breen is a triplet. Miss Breen is happy that we are back to school even through these tough times. She says, "I'm happy we support each other."

Meet Ms. Andrews, another new fourth-grade teacher at BCS. She has never taught at BCS before but has taught in East Haddam. She taught at East Haddam for a year. Ms. Andrews went to Eastern Connecticut State University and received her Bachelor's in English, then Masters in Elementary Education. Some things she looks for in a student are someone who is organized, responsible, and dedicated to their work. Her favorite color is blue. Ms. Andrews has an orange cat named Roscoe. She enjoys teaching writing. When asked about her feelings about teaching in a year like this, Ms. Andrews says, "It is a first time for everybody!"



Art by Brooke Holota

# Welcome New Teachers!

Miss Breen



Ms. Andrews

Art by Brooke Holota

## Making Art with Ms. Paradis

By Jax Carlson and Madison Gotler

The new art teacher is Ms. Paradis.

Ms. Paradis is very nice. She loves art and is really good at it. Ms. Paradis says, "I love to do clay and molding. I love teaching at Bolton. It is really great! Everyone here is so nice. I have always loved art since 5th grade."

Everybody thinks that Ms. Paradis is really nice!

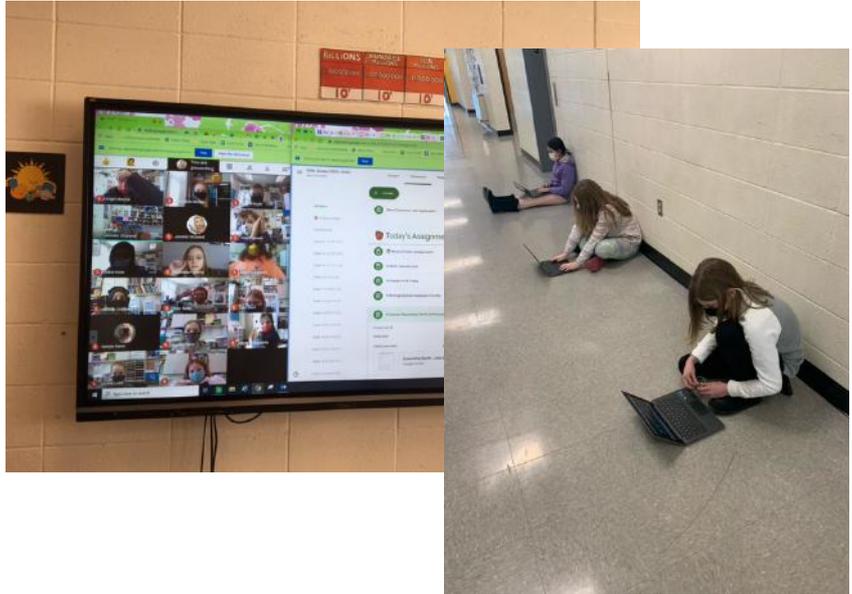
The new art teacher is fantastic. She is the best, and she is very nice to students. Ms. Paradis is very nice!!

## Opinion:

# Distance Learning or In Person: You Be the Judge

By Cameron Anderson

This year has been very different from the rest. Distance learning, in person learning. We have them both but which do YOU prefer? All of my friends say I'm so lucky to be home all the time, but am I? Distance learning is great in all, but there are so many distractions with my dogs barking and my parents using the blender while I'm on a Meet. It's like come on, the blender!?! I know you have to wear a mask all day for physical learning but at least you get to see your friends, and if you need help you can just raise your hand. At home, you have to send an email to the teacher and then wait for them to respond. I, Cameron Anderson, chose to do distance learning because I felt it would be uncomfortable to wear a mask and bring a shield everywhere I go at school.



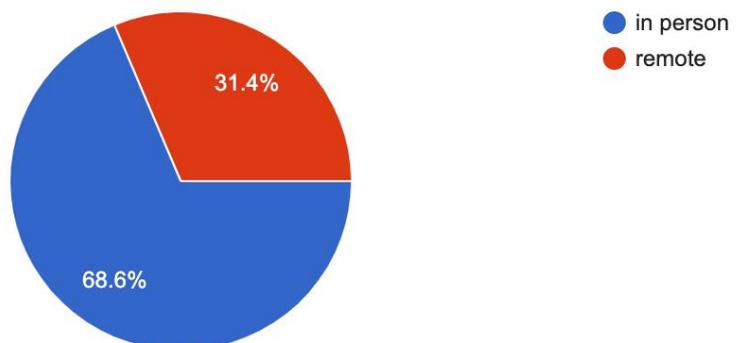
Here are some opinions from students at Bolton Center School: Madison Gotler says, "I like distance learning because we get to be home, our work takes less time, and we do not have to wear masks the whole day. I also like being in school because we get to interact with our friends and teacher. I would have to say, I like being at school more." Sophia Carina says, "In person learning: so I can be with my friends, see my teacher for real, and have things more understandable." Julianna Fairclough says, "I would rather go to school because I am bored at home, and I do not pay attention very well at home." Sara Diehl says, "In person: I just find it really hard for me to do distance. I feel like I'm not learning much from distance." I actually thought that a lot of my classmates were going to choose to do distance learning, but after I thought about it, I remembered that not all parents work from home like my dad does. They might work somewhere where you have to go in person. Think about the advantages and disadvantages before you make a decision.



## BCS Student Survey

Do you prefer in person learning or remote learning?

303 responses



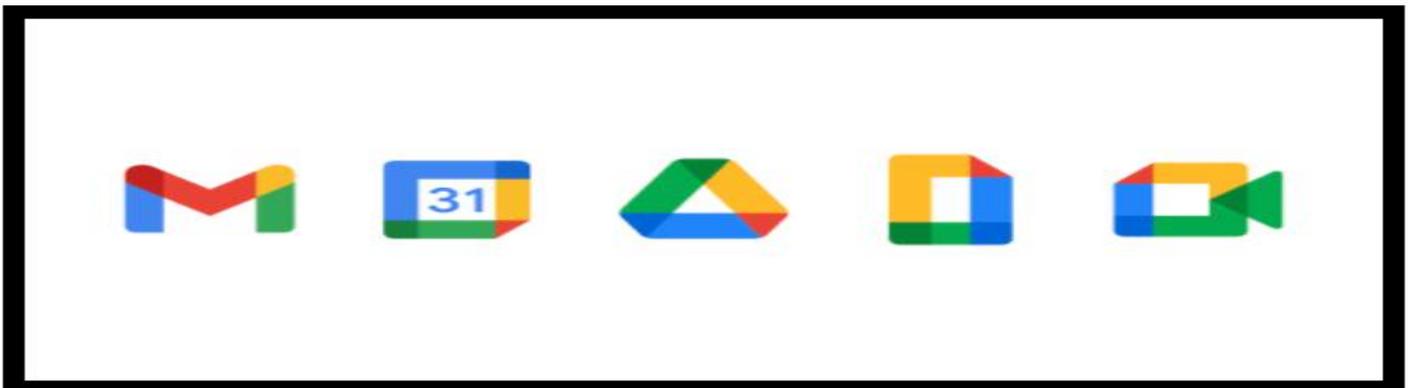
# The Technology Continues to Grow

By Diego Negron

Chromebooks are tiny PCs that you can take anywhere. Some of them have a touch screen. This year, BCS's Chromebooks have gotten new software updates. It's a bigger change than you might think!

For example, they changed the icons of Gmail, Google Calendar, and Google Meet to be rainbow-colored lines. They did this because they decided to make all of the icons specific colors. The WiFi signal and battery life indicator have white, bulky outlines to them. The icons in Gmail are made of thin, black lines. Also, they added an activity tab for Google Meet for breakout rooms, polls, and Q&As.

This may not have been a big change for BCS, but it's a change all right. Now people have a new way of navigating Google, until they make more changes later. You might have an entirely new company for software and more new apps to explore. There will always be a new way to navigate the internet. You'll just have to wait for it. See you next time on BCS News!

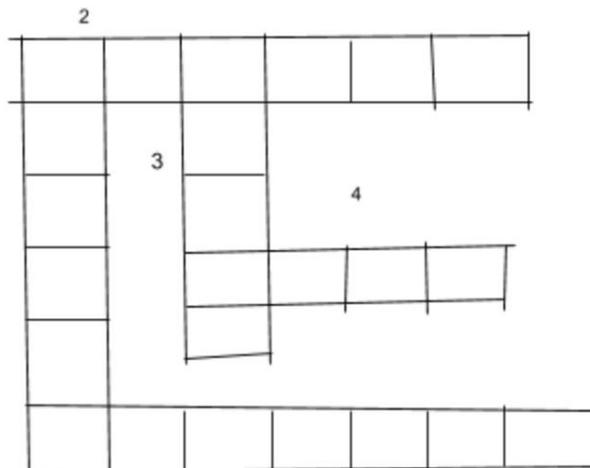


Gmail Calendar Drive Docs Meet

## Bolton Crossword

by Abby Jenkelunas

- Word Bank
- Bolton
  - Buster
  - Learn
  - Book
  - Reading



- Down
- 1 - our mascot
  - 3 - students do it
  - 5 - we learn from them
- Across
- 2 - our town
  - 4 - fiction or nonfiction