

Parents' Association Handbook 2021-2022

Welcome from the Parents' Association

Dear BB&N Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the BB&N Parents' Association and the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited for a fresh start and the opportunity to return to a new and, hopefully, *better* normal. Working within and across our individual campuses, the Parents' Association aims to promote a strong sense of community and inclusivity among all parents/caregivers and with the School. You play a crucial role in promoting a positive environment for our school and our children.

[The BB&N website](#) and the PA Handbook provide additional information regarding the PA's role, structure, and mission. This section also describes the variety of volunteer positions available to BB&N parents/caregivers, and it serves as a resource to all who wish to make a difference contributing their time and talents. Our hope is that every BB&N parent/caregiver will find a way to volunteer in support of our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the relevant Executive Board contact or feel free to reach out to either of us. Your involvement serves to strengthen our community and enhance the educational and social experience for our children.

Parents' Association dues are \$50 per student, with a cap of \$100 (cost for 2 students maximum) per family. As detailed in the [here](#), the goal of Parents' Association dues is to create an equitable funding program that supports PA operations. Being able to launch each school year with an operating budget that the PA can count on (and to which most BB&N parents have contributed) allows the PA to focus on our mission of building community, welcoming new families, and sponsoring successful activities.

As your Parents' Association President and Vice President, we are committed to facilitating clear communication between parents, faculty, staff, and the BB&N administration. One of our most important tasks is keeping you informed about PA and school events, activities across all campuses and relevant topics through regularly scheduled newsletters sent by the PA and/or the school, which will commence with the start of the school year

BB&N's PA includes a strong network of affinity groups: MPA (Multicultural Parent Alliance), CGSA (Community Gender & Sexuality Alliance), Parents of Black Students (PBS), 4As (Association for Asian and Asian-American Parents), SAPA (South Asian Parent Alliance), LAHFA (Latin-American and Hispanic Families Association), and PRE (Parents for Racial Equity). We offer a multitude of opportunities for parents/caregivers to become engaged at BB&N through these diverse groups representing and working to strengthen our community. Whether you have an affinity with these organizations or are looking to celebrate diversity at BB&N, we encourage you to participate!

Your support is crucial to the vitality of BB&N and your efforts are greatly appreciated. We look forward to celebrating the BB&N experience together as a community in the year ahead!

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BB&N Parents' Association Mission Statement

The purpose of the Parents' Association (PA) is to help maintain a strong, cooperative and inclusive parent community and to support BB&N's mission. The PA provides opportunities for all parents to be involved, encourages communication between parents and the School, and connects parents through its network of class representatives, affinity groups and programming.

PA Purpose

The PA organizes activities for BB&N students, parents, faculty and staff of the School. To volunteer, please reach out to the parent representative on your respective campus.

All parents and guardians of BB&N students are automatically members of the PA and are encouraged to participate. The Campus VPs and Assistant VPs recruit representatives for each grade from a pool of parents who express a desire to volunteer. Campus VPs hold meetings at each of the three campuses to consider matters of general interest. These meetings are open to all parents.

The annual BB&N Circus is held in May. While the Circus takes place on the Lower School campus and primarily attracts LS students, all parents are urged to volunteer for this community-wide event, and Middle and Upper School students are also invited to participate.

The PA also sponsors and/or supports a variety of other events throughout the school year, including:

- Family picnics, ice cream get-togethers and other social activities;
- Dances and social events for students;
- Faculty appreciation events and support for faculty enrichment programs;
- Informal dinner gatherings for parents;
- Cultural events and guest speakers;
- Regular meetings, e-newsletters and communications;
- Yearbook, closing ceremony, and the ski trip (MS);
- Skating parties and bingo nights (MS and LS);
- Concerts, performances, affinity gatherings, Valentine's Day, Halloween (US);
- One School One World;
- BB&N Circus;
- Support of the BB&N Fund and Senior Gift campaigns;
- Support of parent representatives and groups that welcome new families and enhance community-building efforts;
- Support of the School's Community Service and Arts Programs;
- Sale of BB&N Products: community members can show school spirit by purchasing athletic wear, outerwear, headwear, and other novelty items.

Bylaws of the Buckingham Browne & Nichols Parents' Association (Revised June, 2020)

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE –The purpose of the Parents' Association (PA) is to help maintain a strong, cooperative parent community and to support BB&N's mission. It provides opportunities for all parents to be involved, encourages communication between parents and the School, and connects parents through its network of class representatives and programs.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 – MEMBERSHIP – All parents or guardians of BB&N students are members.

Section 2 – DUES – Families will be billed Parents' Association annual dues on their tuition bill in the amount of \$50 per student, not to exceed \$100 per family. All PA dues are voluntary. Dues will cover the operating budget for the PA organizations on all three campuses as well as the operating expenses for the PA Executive Board. Changes to this structure or the dues amount must be approved by the Administration and the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 – BUDGET – The Treasurer of the Executive Board will oversee the preparation and accounting of the PA budget. Campus treasurers will report to the PA Treasurer each month to account for all expenses confirmed by receipts and to affirm that the campus expenses are within the budget.

Section 4 – FUNDRAISING – All fundraising initiatives will be presented to and approved by the PA Executive Board and BB&N Office of External Affairs in accordance with the *Guidelines for Parent Initiatives*.

Section 5 – June 2017 - BB&N KNIGHTS SALE COMMITTEE – A parent-run committee to develop and oversee production of BB&N apparel & products for an annual Knights Sale. The purpose is to provide the BB&N community with opportunities to purchase branded merchandise. It is an independently run parent initiative with guidance provided by the Parents’ Association Liaison. The Executive Treasurer will periodically review the committee’s financial activity and expense reports, and serve as the authorized signer on the account for all related transactions. The BB&N Knights Sale Committee agrees to manage operations/control inventories responsibly without financial support from the Parents’ Association.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 – STRUCTURE – The Parents’ Association Executive Board officers shall include the President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Vice-Presidents, and two Assistant Vice-Presidents for each campus, one Representative for the Multicultural Parent Alliance (MPA), one Representative for the Community Gender & Sexuality Alliance (CGSA), one Representative for the Association for Asian and Asian-American Parents (4As), one Representative for the South Asian Parent Alliance (SAPA), one Representative for Parents for Racial Equity (PRE), one Representative for the Parents of Black Students, one All-School Athletic Liaison, one All-School Arts Liaison, and one All-School Communications Coordinator. There are 24 voting members of the Parents’ Association Executive Board. The Executive Vice-President and the campus Assistant Vice-Presidents automatically assume the positions of President and campus Vice-President the following year.

Section 2 – NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The committee shall consist of Head of School (or Designee), three campus directors, the Assistant Head for External Affairs, and the Parents’ Association Executive Board. The committee chair is the current Executive Vice-President of the Parents’ Association. Nominations may be submitted to anyone on the committee by any member of the Parents’ Association or the school or administration. The committee will follow the *Guidelines for Parents’ Association Executive Board Nominations*. A slate of candidates to fill positions for Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Vice-Presidents for each of the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools, All-School Parent Athletic Liaison, and All School Communications Coordinator will be submitted to the Nominating Committee for a vote. The positions of MPA, 4As, CGSA, SAPA, PBS, and PRE representatives will be submitted by those parent groups to the Director of Multicultural Affairs and Head of School (or Designee). The Nominating Committee may convene to fill vacancies as they occur during the school year.

Section 3 – MEETINGS – The Parents’ Association Executive Board will meet no fewer than six times during the school year, September to May, with the non-voting BB&N staff member serving as the Parents’ Association Liaison (or Designee). The campus Vice-Presidents shall conduct meetings at the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools with the respective campus Directors open to all members of the Parents’ Association.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 – PRESIDENT – The President presides at all Executive Board meetings and prepares an agenda prior to each Executive Board meeting. The President, with the Executive Vice-President and support from any other Executive Board members, solicits and appoints parent leaders and event chairs as needed. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall sit on the Board of Trustees of the School during the term of office, according to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

Section 2 – EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT – The Executive Vice-President assists the President in all duties and conducts business in the absence of the President. The Executive Vice-President along with the President and support from any other Executive Board members, solicits and appoints parent leaders and event chairs as needed. The Executive Vice-President supports Parent Leaders serving on standing committees, reviews each project or event, checks with Parent Leaders throughout the planning process to make sure the Parent Leaders are aware of the budgets and staying within those budgets, and submit reports at the end of the year to the PA’s Secretary. The Executive Vice-President serves as the chair of the Nominating Committee. The Executive Vice-President shall serve as Parents’ Association President the following year.

Section 3 – EXECUTIVE TREASURER – The Executive Treasurer oversees the preparation and accounting of the PA budget and interfaces with the Business Office on financial matters pertaining to the PA’s budget and annual dues. The Treasurer works with the campus PA treasurers and the campus Vice Presidents to review a monthly accounting of expenses verified by receipts to assess that each campus is operating within its budget.

Section 4 – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – The Executive Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the PA Executive Board. The Secretary shall submit a file of minutes and all relevant PA reports and communications to the BB&N staff Parents’ Association Liaison at the end of the year.

Section 5 – VICE-PRESIDENTS OF UPPER, MIDDLE, AND LOWER SCHOOLS – The campus Vice-Presidents (VPs), working with Assistant Vice-Presidents, solicit parent volunteers for all leadership positions on their campus. VPs prepare an agenda in conference with the respective campus Director before periodic parent meetings and preside over meetings and programs open to Parents' Association members. VPs collect reports from all Parent Leaders and review each project or event, check with Parent Leaders throughout the planning process to make sure the Parent Leaders are aware of budgets and staying within those budgets, and submit all reports at the end of the year to the PA's Secretary. VPs work with campus treasurers and the PA Treasurer to make sure a monthly report is filed with the PA treasurer.

Section 6 – ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENTS OF UPPER, MIDDLE, AND LOWER SCHOOLS – The campus Assistant Vice-Presidents (AVPs), working with VPs, solicit parent volunteers for all leadership positions on their campus including but not limited to classroom or grade Head Representatives, parent leaders, and event chairs. AVPs coordinate communication with parents on the campus. AVPs work with the all-school and campus communication coordinators in accordance with communication policies. AVPs conduct all business in the absence of the VPs and prepare for the position of VP in the following year.

Section 7 – MULTICULTURAL PARENT ALLIANCE (MPA) REPRESENTATIVES – One MPA representative serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The MPA Representative reports activities and information between the MPA and the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 8 – COMMUNITY GENDER & SEXUALITY ALLIANCE (CGSA) REPRESENTATIVE – One CGSA parent representative serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The CGSA Representative reports activities and information between the CGSA and the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 9 – ALL-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR – One All-School Communications Coordinator serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The Communications Coordinator works with campus coordinators and campus AVP's to distribute electronic information to parents. The Coordinator reports activities and information to the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 10 – ALL-SCHOOL PARENT ATHLETIC LIAISON – One All-School Parent Athletic Liaison serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The Athletic Liaison works with the Athletic Director and parents of team captains (or designees) to facilitate communication between the School and parents. The Liaison also helps to coordinate events. The All-School Parent Athletic Liaison works with Upper and Middle School Parent Liaisons to schedule a parent meeting with the Athletic Director and Coaches in the Fall. The Liaison reports activities and information to the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 11 – ALL-SCHOOL PARENT ARTS LIAISON – One All-School Parent Arts Liaison serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The Arts Liaison works with the parent coordinators for: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Musical Arts (Chorale, Orchestra, and Jazz) and the faculty on each campus for those disciplines to facilitate communication between the School and parents. The Liaison also helps to coordinate events. The Liaison reports activities and information to the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 12 - June 2014 – NEW PARENT GROUPS – Group must be All-School in order to request eventual funding from the PA Exec Board. May have only one or two co-chairs. Per the bylaws, voting parent groups include the MPA, CGSA, 4As, SAPA, PBS, and PRE. Non-voting parent groups will be invited to four of the eight PA Executive Board meetings throughout the year. After tracking expenses during first year, group may request funding from campus VP. After second year of existence, group may request funding from the PA Exec Board in the form of a vote on a budget.

Section 13 – June 2015 – ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN AND ASIAN-AMERICAN PARENTS (4As) One 4As parent representative serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The 4As Representative reports activities and information between the 4As and the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 14 – June 2018 – PARENTS FOR RACIAL EQUITY (PRE) One PRE parent representative serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The PRE Representative reports activities and information between PRE and the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 15 – June 2018 – SOUTH ASIAN PARENT ALLIANCE (SAPA) One SAPA parent representative serves as a voting member of the Parents' Association Executive Board. The SAPA Representative reports activities and information between SAPA and the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Section 16 – TERMS OF OFFICE – The term of all officers of the Parents’ Association Executive Board shall be from July 1st through the following June 30th.

Section 17 – June 2020 – PARENTS OF BLACK STUDENTS (PBS) One PBS parent representative serves as a voting member of the Parents’ Association Executive Board. The PBS Representative reports activities and information between PBS and the Parents’ Association Executive Board.

ARTICLE V

Additional Parent Leadership Positions – Parent Leaders are solicited from the entire parent community and report to the appropriate campus Vice-Presidents or the Executive Vice President. Roles include, but are not limited to Parent Representatives, Grade Head Reps, Event Chairs, BB&N Knights Sale and other leadership positions as they are identified. Parent Leaders recruit parent volunteers and are given a budget to follow. Parent Leaders must submit a report to the appropriate Vice-Presidents and Treasurers describing the project or event and an account of the money spent and gifts received or donated versus the project or event’s budget. Each Parent Leader is responsible for knowing the budget for their project or event, for keeping expenses within the budget, and reporting all expenses within a month following the project or event to the appropriate treasurer. These Parent Leaders work with BB&N campus directors, grade deans, and department chairs to support student activities, build community and celebrate achievement.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS -- These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Parents’ Association Executive Board and approved by the Head of School (or Designee).

*****End of Bylaws*****

Guidelines for Parent Initiatives

Parent Initiatives should be presented to the campus PA, initially to campus Vice Presidents and then at a general parents’ association meeting. Ideas for grades should be brought to Grade Head Reps, ideas for a campus should be brought to the campus VP, and ideas for all-school events should be brought to the PA President. PA leaders will inform the director of the appropriate campus about initiatives as they are discussed.

Initiatives may include:

- Social or recreational events for a grade or campus
- Parent events for a class, grade, or parent group
- Strategies to address areas of parental concern

If a VP or Grade Rep does not present the initiative for discussion, a parent may appeal this decision to a higher level of the PA or the PA President.

Parents should communicate with campus directors to express ideas or suggestions about academic experience, facilities, curriculum, student support services, co-curricular activities, extra-curricular offerings. Parents should communicate with the External Affairs office about BB&N fundraising ideas or suggestions. These areas are outside the scope of the PA.

The PA serves as a forum for discussion about parent ideas, but only the School is responsible for identifying, approving, and implementing actions. PA events must be scheduled through the school calendar committee and require school approval for the use of facilities. Private social or recreational events, initiated by parents, are outside the scope of the PA. No private event may be characterized as a School or PA activity. No school communications may be used to inform parents of private initiatives. Students should work with and receive approval from their faculty advisors before approaching PA for parent support.

Guidelines for Nominating PA Executive Board Officers and Soliciting Campus Volunteer Leaders

The Nominating process begins in February. If you would like to be a candidate or nominate another parent, contact the PA Executive Vice-President. Every BB&N parent is encouraged to nominate candidates for the Executive Board or to self-nominate for any position. Note the position of Executive Board President is filled by the current Executive Vice President, and the positions of campus VP's are filled by the current Assistant VP's.

The names of current Executive Board Officers are linked at the end of this section; please contact any officers to learn more about the responsibilities of serving.

Executive Board Officers responsibilities include:

- Represent the PA in a constructive and positive manner;
- Observe established operational policies and Community Standards;
- Set goals for the School year;
- Prepare for and attend monthly Exec. Board Meetings Sept.-June;
- Develop future Board Members and participate in nominating process;
- Oversee and maintain the PA's budget;
- Review and accept Executive Board meeting minutes.

Campus Vice Presidents' and Assistant Vice Presidents' responsibilities include:

- Foster a positive and inclusive parent community;
- Cultivate PA leaders and maintain a record of all campus volunteers;
- Meet monthly with campus Director to set meeting agenda and to discuss campus issues and initiatives;
- Schedule regular PA meetings and events with campus Directors;
- Solicit and train parent volunteers for standing committees and events;
- Guide volunteers to set appropriate goals and to plan campus events;
- To understand and maintain approved budgets;
- To keep a record of expenses, donations, and tasks for each event;
- Communicate with parents through BB&N Communication's department according to policies.
- Present a campus report at each Executive Board Meeting.

See PA Bylaws (above) for specific officer job descriptions.

Avenues for Gathering Information

- BB&N provides numerous avenues of communication between parents and the School.
- BB&N's main website is www.bbns.org. The site has an up-to-date and extensive event section, general and current information about the School, and areas devoted to academic programs, the Parents' Association, and Admission. Additionally, <http://go.bbns.org> is a password-protected area for internal communication between faculty, students, and parents.
- The [Veracross Parent Portal](#), weekly newsletters, emails sent periodically by the school, the InformaCast alert system, and the website's News page, are several avenues by which news, announcements, and important updates are shared.
- Forums are held regularly at each campus to provide an opportunity to meet other parents as well as to discuss issues of child development.
- The annual Back-to-School evenings offer parents an opportunity to learn about curriculum from each of their child's teachers.
- Parent conferences can be scheduled at any time, by the parents or by the School.
- The individual class Parent Representatives, a sub-group of the Parents' Association, is another avenue of communication. In addition, there are meetings during the year of the Parent Groups.
- The Upper School student newspaper, *The Vanguard*, is published six times per year.

- BB&N reserves the right to use students' images and names in School publications and websites. If you wish to restrict the potential appearance of your son/daughter within School publications, please email communications@bbns.org. (This applies to all except The Vanguard.)
- For listings of the below Parent Association representatives, please find the link on the homepage of your Veracross parent portal using the following link: <https://portals.veracross.com/bbns>

Parents' Association 2020-2021 Executive Board

Lower School Parent Representatives

Middle School Parent Representatives

Upper School Parent Representatives

Parent Group Representatives

Community Gender and Sexuality Alliance (CGSA)

The CGSA—a group of gay and straight parents, teachers, administrators, and staff members—promotes a positive experience for gay and lesbian families and community respect for GLBT issues school-wide. It is an informal forum for discussing issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and aims to explore the quality of the educational experience of students and promote greater understanding and acceptance within the BB&N community. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board. The current Co-Chairs are BB&N faculty members

Multicultural Parent Alliance (MPA)

The MPA is a parent group created to respond to the needs and interests of specific racial/ethnic/cultural groups who find themselves outside of the majority population. It is designed to provide a forum for parents from non-majority backgrounds to address issues and concerns specific to their own identity group. The hope is that parents participating will find voice within their own group and find commonality within the broader group. The MPA will also act as a resource to BB&N and support the School's mission; particularly around multiculturalism, diversity, and issues of inclusion. We welcome all parents to participate in supporting this vibrant and important mission. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Association for Asian and Asian-American Parents (4As)

The 4As is a parent group formed to unite and promote a positive support system amongst all Asian and Asian-American families at BB&N. It is designed to provide a forum to enhance the education experience for these families; to sponsor Asian culture events and activities; and to foster the spirit of BB&N's multicultural community. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board.

South-Asian Parent Alliance (SAPA)

SAPA's mission is to help raise awareness about South Asia and by providing inputs that will enhance and support existing efforts for a more global view within the extended BB&N community. SAPA will provide organized opportunities to participate more vigorously within the BB&N community and will help reinforce the connections across all three campuses. South Asia comprises Bangladesh, the British Indian Ocean Territory, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, but membership is open to all the BB&N parents. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Parents for Racial Equity (PRE)

Parents for Racial Equity will build a network of BB&N parents to promote inclusiveness and strengthen community connection around racial equity. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board.

Latin-American and Hispanic Families Association (LAHFA)

The goals of the group are to:

- 1) Serve as a platform for Spanish speaking families on campus to connect, get to know each other, and share experiences as they raise their children in a bicultural / bilingual setting.
- 2) Find avenues for bilingual children at the school to connect and expand their knowledge of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture.
- 3) Raise awareness of Spanish speaking cultures within the school community.

Parents of Black Students (PBS)

PBS is a group for parents of black students at BB&N, whose mission is to provide an opportunity for parents to come together in a group setting to discuss issues related to their and their child's experience at BB&N. Additionally, the group provides support, mentoring, and an avenue for advocacy and partnership with the school. PBS supports the school's mission around diversity, equity, and inclusion, and will engage with the school in efforts to support this mission, and contribute to both growth and progress in this important area of the school. PBS sees itself as a "partner" with BB&N and values that partnership. The group has one representative vote on the Parents' Association Executive Board.

For more information, questions, or suggestions, please contact the representatives listed above or Leila Bailey-Stewart, Special Assistant to the Head of School for Inclusive Communities at 617-800-2738 or lbailey-stewart@bbns.org.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities – All School

Circus Committee

The Circus is BB&N's All-School fair held the first Saturday in May. Many BB&N families and students from all three campuses help staff games, activities, and food booths.

One School One World

OSOW is a multicultural event linking all three campuses. Held every other year at the Upper School, it is an exciting and music-filled day, with hundreds of people coming together to celebrate and be part of our extraordinary and diverse BB&N community.

Faculty Appreciation

Organize breakfast treats and luncheons for faculty and staff on each campus. Contribute food to events, help set up and clean up. Can help once or many times.

Parent and Community Events

Plan, contribute food, set-up and clean-up at parent socials.

Community Service

Contribute, chaperone, and participate in various community service projects throughout the year including the February Food Drive.

All-School Arts Committee

Assisting with the Visual, Theatre, and Musical Arts programs.

Student Event Chaperones

Provide adult presence at school events including the ski trip, mixers, and the skating party.

Parent Ambassador Program, Admissions and Outreach

Welcome new families, telephone periodically through the year, attend admissions open house, encourage families to attend programs and become involved. If you are interested in volunteering for Admission outreach efforts, please contact Martha Newport, MS Director of Admission at mnewport@bbns.org.

The BB&N Fund

The BB&N Fund helps to fill the gap between tuition and the actual cost of a BB&N education. Every year more than 90% of BB&N parents contribute to the BB&N Fund. Contributions support the operating budget for faculty salaries, financial aid, and operating expenses. Consider volunteering for the Parent BB&N Fund committee which gives every family the opportunity to contribute. If you are interested in volunteering for fundraising efforts, please contact Caitlin Cavanaugh, Associate Director of The BB&N Fund, at ccavanaugh@bbns.org.

Each campus will also have additional volunteer opportunities available throughout the school year.
