

Here are some tips for using the District's New E-Mail Program:

1. While in the Address Book, you can type just a first initial in the Display, Last Name, First Name, or Alias field and you will get a list of suggestions.
2. You can type "bmr" in the Office field and get a list of everyone in the district.
3. If you get a 2 line log on be aware you must type "bmr\username" in the first line. The "\" must be a backslash (located above the enter key) not at forward slash (/).
4. You can turn off the "Show/Hide Reading Pane" by accessing the drop down box and choosing "Off" (Nice privacy feature)
5. You cannot print from the "Reading Pane" you must open the e-mail and choose the print icon.
6. To open a selected message press the enter key.
7. You can delete the selected message by pressing the Delete key.
8. You can use the up and down arrow keys to select messages.
9. If you regularly send e-mail messages to a group of people, you can create a Distribution List to simplify addressing messages.
10. The "Help" button (Question mark inside a little blue button) has valuable information regarding the new e-mail program.
11. If you are having trouble opening the e-mail program on your home computer, try:
Go into Internet Explorer, click on Tools, click on Internet Options, click on Delete Cookies... and click on Delete Files...
12. If an open e-mail is only partly viewable on the screen, click and drag the blue bar at the top of the e-mail ...this will move your window around on your screen.

X2 Student Admin. Software

The District will gradually be switching its student administration software from Nordex to X2 for student records, daily attendance, health, scheduling and reporting, etc. This is a web-based application. Training will begin in May for principals' office personnel as well as guidance staffs and nurses. Teachers will be trained at a future date for homeroom attendance. Teachers at the MS and HS will have a gradebook module available to them for easier posting to reports cards and transcripts. X2 is designed and implemented by the same people who created Nordex in the mid 1990s. The conversion of the data from Nordex to X2 occurs in nightly consolidations between the two systems for all 5 schools.

Featured Website:

Best of History Website <http://www.besthistorysites.net/>

Best of History Web Sites aims to provide quick, convenient, and reliable access to the best history-oriented resources online in a wide range of categories. BOHWS has been designed to benefit history teachers and their students, but general history enthusiasts will benefit from the site as well. Best of History Web Sites is ranked #1 by Google for "history web sites" and receives upwards of 92,000 visitors per month.

Best of History Web Sites contains links to over 1000 history-related web sites that have been reviewed for quality, accuracy, and usefulness. Included are links to K-12 history lesson plans, teacher guides, activities, games, quizzes, and more. Sites with engaging educational content and stimulating and useful multimedia technologies are most likely to be included in these pages. However, useful general resources and research-oriented sites have been included as well.

Best of History Web Sites was created by Thomas Daccord (B.A. Princeton University, M.A. *Universite de Montreal*), academic technology specialist and history teacher at the [Noble & Greenough School](#) in Dedham, Massachusetts. Mr. Daccord is also the President of the newly created [Center for Teaching History With Technology](#) (<http://thwt.org/>), designed to help history educators integrate technology into their curriculum. Through his web sites, summer courses, and online articles, Mr. Daccord teaches teachers in varied disciplines how to use technology in their courses.

Source:

http://www.incredibleinternetguy.com/browse_the_archive_link8.html

Technology Integration at BMRSD

AFM: Renee Rousselle and Kimberly Daily use their weekly computer time to work on short writing prompts and sentence building activities in conjunction with the Sitton Spelling program.

AFM: Diane Morin's students have learned an alternative way to complete a book review by making a brochure for *Winn-Dixie*
HS: John Morocco (Tech Ed) and Conrad Bibeault (Science) collaborated on a Physics lesson on Atmospheric pressure, Bernoulli's Principle, aerodynamics, flight and carburetors.

Professional Development Opportunity

PBS TeacherLine provides online professional development through facilitated courses, a supportive learning community, and exemplary professional resources. PBS is offering discounts from \$350 to \$150 for most of their online courses for teachers this spring:

www.pbs.org/teacherline or 800-572-6386

Lesson plans are available at:

<http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

Recent BMRSD Webpage Changes

Check out the following changes to the District webpages made by the High School volunteer student webmasters Amanda Staples, Mark Bernard and Jaimie Hazebrouck:

- Revamped the Music Department webpage
- Mr. Campopiano's site updated
- Hartnett Middle School handbook changes
- Slide show for Middle School teachers
- Student handbook links changed
- Student/Teacher of the month at the High School
- Awards page for Hartnett Middle School

From SMART Technologies:

Training Offerings - Spring Update

Free online sessions on SMART products and resources

Using your telephone and a Windows(R)-based computer with Internet access, you can join a free, live session led by a SMART trainer. You can choose from seven different half-hour orientation sessions:

- * SMART Board(TM) Interactive Whiteboard Basics
 - * Notebook(TM) Software Basics
- * Setting up a SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard
 - * Symposium(TM) Interactive Pen Display Basics
- * SMART Ideas(R) Concept-Mapping Software Basics
- * SynchronEyes(R) Computer-Lab Instruction Software Basics
 - * Navigating the SMART Website
- * Discovering the EDCompass(TM) Online Community for Educators

For the dates and times of these sessions, visit

<http://www.smarttech.com/trainingcenter/online>

SMART Technologies Corp.

1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1120 Arlington, VA 22209

BMR Submits Data to DOE

Recently, Tech Staff submitted the required student data on the 2400+ students who attend BMRSD schools. This involves 52 data elements on each student. It is, at times, a large data management project. A special thank you goes to several staff members, not the least of which are: Betty Ganis, Karen Breault, Sue Desilets, Tina Lacroix, Sue Sawyer, Suzanne Hannon, Priscilla O'Neil, Sue Levitre, Monique Simard, Sue Blouin, Virginia Edwards, Jill Pilla-Gallerani, and Patricia Robinson.

SPAM

What is SPAM? Spam is flooding the Internet with many copies of the same message in an attempt to force the message on people who would not otherwise choose to receive it. Most Spam is commercial advertising, often for dubious products, get-rich-quick schemes, or quasi-legal services. Spam can contain computer viruses.

Spam can be sent to mailing lists (public or private e-mail discussion forums). Spammers can use automated tools to subscribe to mailing lists, and some Spam is sent by servers because the recipient inadvertently put him/herself on a mailing list. Some companies sell your e-mail address to Spammers.

Tips to avoid getting Spam and having messages blocked:

- Never click the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of a spam message; this can let the spammers know that your email address exists and could add you to more mailing lists
- Do not post your email address on websites (forums, bulletin boards) unless it is encrypted (i.e. in a flash button). Spam Bots search the web all day looking for email addresses. Once your email address has been caught in this way, you'll never get off the spammers' lists.
- When you register with an internet site, make sure you do not give them the right to sell your email address to spammers. (Watch for little checkboxes and make sure to remove any which are checked by default). Read the text carefully to make sure that you are not accidentally opting in when you mean to opt out.
- Do not agree with terms and conditions of websites without reading the conditions carefully. Be especially careful when this is on a site where you have previously provided your email address.
- Make sure your friends don't refer you through chain letters or internet mailing services. This tells spammers that your email address exists.
- To ensure important emails are not blocked by our spam filters, tell senders to make sure the subject of the email does not resemble spam (i.e. "check out my pics" or "free LCD monitor offer"). These subjects will almost surely be blocked.

BMRSD is utilizing two different Spam Filters to try to control the amount of Spam we get into our e-mail system. The filters blocked 11,058 spam e-mails during the week of April 3rd.

(Student Tech Staff member, Evan Boyle, Class of 2005, contributed to this article.)