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Start of School Year Means End of Summer for Nearly 300 Berkshire County Students

ADAMS, Ma – Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School’s academic year begins at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 22. BART is pleased to welcome the largest student body in its eight-year history, as 291 students will enter the school this year.

After starting in 2004, BART has been home to an increasing number of students each year. Serving grades six through 12, the school has continually raised the level of student achievement and its level of professional development for faculty, traits that have been born out in the school’s testing results and achievement gains.

BART is also implementing several changes and curriculum updates for the 2011-2012 school year. An expanded high school Spanish and physics curricula will be offered to high school students and seniors will now have an extra hour in their day to provide a more rigorous and exacting school experience. Utilizing some of the newly available space at BART, student support services will be expanded.

“The start of the school year is always exciting,” said Julia Bowen, executive director at BART. “We work all summer honing curriculum, improving infrastructure, and developing our faculty in the hopes that each school year is better than the last. The first day of the year means we’re able to see our practices at work and determine the best ways to go forward.”

Not only do students return to BART a little earlier than their district peers, but new teachers arrive three weeks early and returning teachers are asked to arrive two weeks early for professional development and team collaboration time.

“We go over the latest and most current teaching practices, get everyone on the same page with our new initiatives and work to get everyone excited for a new year,” said Ben Klompus, principal at BART. “It’s basically, let’s do better what we’ve already started.”

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. 100% of BART’s graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.