

NEWS RELEASE

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New monthly "Televisión BCPS" show explores topics of interest to Spanish-speaking families

Towson, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools continues to expand its outreach to Spanish-speaking families with the launch of "Televisión BCPS," a new monthly program on BCPS-TV.

The show, hosted by Gevene de Harden, BCPS bilingual senior communications officer, features in-depth interviews in Spanish with school system staff. It can be seen on the BCPS-TV channels, Comcast 73 and Verizon 34 as well as Vimeo and YouTube.

"Our hope is that our families learn more about what our school system is doing for their children," says Harden. "We want 'Televisión BCPS' to be a space for representation and an opportunity for families to get to know the Hispanic professionals who work with their children day to day. The show is designed to be yet another tool to help parents navigate and support their children's education. 'Televisión BCPS' will reinforce that BCPS is also Hispanic."

The just released <u>first episode of the show</u> features an interview with Lorena Orozco Reyes, a Spanish teacher at Perry Hall Middle School, who is a neurolinguist with experience in child development and behavior. The discussion explores how to build positive study habits, especially for homework routines; effective discipline; and tips on how to support children, even if parents are not fluent in English.

Upcoming episodes will feature:

 Alicia Amaral Freeman, BCPS Teacher of the Year 2022-2023, discussing myths and truths about the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. (January 2023)

- Jenny Torres, a school social worker and community school facilitator at Padonia International Elementary School, reviewing school participation and community resources. (February 2023)
- Officer Pomales, school resource officer (SRO) at Parkville High School, talking about keeping teenagers safe and the role of SROs in BCPS schools. This conversation will include BCPS students speaking directly about their experiences, thoughts, and needs. (March 2023)

Harden, the show host, was a family services liaison in the Office of ESOL for 25 years before joining the Department of Communications and Community Outreach. She is a graduate of Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla.

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<u>Baltimore County Public Schools</u>, the nation's 22nd largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates <u>many honors</u>.