

Brunswick Acres

Summer 2019 Family Newsletter



Mark Your Calendar!

8/29 New Student Orientation: 2:30

If you are NEW to Brunswick Acres, you are invited to a brief presentation/Q&A Session before our August open-house! This is open to all newly enrolled students UNLESS you have already attended our Kindergarten orientation in June. (This program is very similar). If you missed Kindergarten orientation, or you have a new 1st-5th grade student, please join us! Parents and children will attend together.

8/29 Student Open House and Self-Guided Tour: 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Our building will be open for ALL families to take a self-guided tour on Thursday, August 29th to help ease first day jitters. This is an opportunity for students to walk the halls, locate their classroom, and maybe bump into a classmate or two! Some students, for example, may benefit from a practice walk from morning drop-off locations to their new classrooms. If you think this is would be a beneficial opportunity for your child, we look forward to seeing you then (please enter through the main entrance)! Please note that while the school will be open, classrooms will not, as teachers will possibly not be present. Teachers look forward to seeing your child(ren) on 9/5, and to meeting you at Back to School Night.

9/5 First Day of School: 8:55-3:30

This is a full day of school for all students, with lunch available for purchase. The school day begins at 8:55 AM, and the late bell rings at 9:05 AM. Dismissal is at 3:30 PM. **Note:** Parents will be permitted to escort their child(ren) to their classroom door on the first day of school if they wish to do so.

9/5 New Parents PTO Meet and Greet: 9:30-10:00

Come meet the PTO and the principals and relax while your students start their first day! Questions welcome!

9/13 PTO Sponsored Back-to-School Picnic: 5:30

Join us for an evening of fun, family, and community building to celebrate the start to a great year! Bring your dinner and enjoy!

9/30 -10/1 No School - Rosh Hashanah

10/8 PTO Meeting 7:00PM

Please come meet your PTO board and learn how you can help support our school and your children! All are welcome!

10/9 No School - Yom Kippur

10/10 Picture Day!

10/15 Back To School Night - "Bring Your Parents to School Night!"

At Back to School Night, you will learn about your child's academic program, the grade level curriculum, and classroom routines and expectations. **This year we will have a new approach - students will be part of the event!**

10/22 Early Release: Professional Development - Dismissal is at 1:35 PM

Welcome Back!

Dear Brunswick Acres Families,

The summer is winding down but we hope that you have enjoyed it! We have also had some fun in the sun, but now we are preparing and organizing for the new school year. This newsletter will outline some "need to know" information that will help ensure a great start to the school year for all!

The home/school partnership is incredibly important to us. We look forward to an exciting, productive, and enriching year for your children. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us here at Brunswick Acres to help make your child's school year the best it can be. Thank you for partnering with us along the way!

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and we will see everyone on September 5th.

Sincerely,
Stacey Ta, Principal
& Laura Cervino, Assistant Principal

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR 2019-2020

Your child's class placement and teacher assignment will be available when you sign into the Genesis portal, starting Tuesday, August 20th. When placing each student, we consider the input of the classroom teacher and the input you may have provided us on the optional Parent Input Form emailed to you last year. The placement process is an involved and thoughtful process that takes many weeks to finish. Carefully balanced classroom communities have been created, and we look to your confidence in your child's placement. We appreciate the trust that you have placed in us in this process!

BEFORE SCHOOL & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

If you need childcare prior to the start of the school day, or after dismissal, you can enroll your students in our wonderful Before and After School programs. Families who need extended care before or after school hours should contact Community Education at 732-297-7800. Students are NOT automatically enrolled in this program from year to year.

Other Important Back to School Information

Supply lists can be found on our school website at this address:
<https://tinyurl.com/BAsupplylist19-20>

Students are encouraged to bring in the supplies over the first few days of school.



If you would like more information about our school's policies and procedures, please refer to the **parent/student handbook**, also on our school's website at <http://www.sbschools.org>. Please don't hesitate to contact our office staff if you have questions regarding information in this letter or in our handbook.

During the first week of school, students will take home some **important paperwork**. Additionally, there are **forms that you will need to fill out on our online student information system, Genesis**. Please plan to spend some time with these paper and online forms, and to complete all necessary forms promptly.

Reminder of School Hours


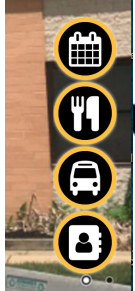
Regular Day (K-5)
8:55 AM - 3:30 PM

Early Release (K-5)
8:55 AM - 1:35 PM

Delayed Opening (K-5)
10:25AM - 3:30 PM



Snack and Lunch

Snack	Lunch
<p>All classes will have a daily snack break during the day.</p>  <p>Please send your child to school with a snack from home. We encourage healthy snacks (e.g. fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers, yogurt, pretzels, etc.). We ask parents to be mindful of their child's independence when selecting a snack. Snacks should be quick and easy so that students can maximize their learning time!</p>	<p>Students can bring lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. Students may also purchase just milk if they bring their lunch from home. Menus are posted on the right side of the school website with a link, and at https://sbschools.nutrislice.com/. You can also download the nutrislice app and sign up to receive the menu in an email each month!</p>  <p>Lunch costs \$2.55-\$3.75. Each child has an in-school debit card to use for purchasing lunch. Chartwells, our food service provider, has information on this process available on Brunswick Acre's webpage. Click on the fork and knife symbol on the right hand side, which will link you to the Chartwells' Nutrislice menu website. The school breakfast and lunch menu can also be found at this location, along with other information.</p> <p>Applications are available for Free and Reduced Lunch on the Genesis Parent Portal. When you sign in, you can access it in the forms library. Paper forms are available online or at the Board of Education offices if you don't have access to the internet.</p>

Parent of a Kindergartener?

Congratulations! Few things are more exciting than a child's first day of kindergarten! Our kindergarten teachers will be in touch with you soon to set-up your Hopes and Dreams conference - an opportunity for each family to meet with their child's teacher prior to the start of the school year.

A few kindergarten-specific details:

- **Jump Start Into Kindergarten** is the week of August 19th - August 23rd for those who have signed up.
- **Parents may drop off their new kindergarten students at his/her classroom for the first 2 days of school. After that, we will begin to build independence for your child, and staff members will guide students who need assistance getting to their classrooms.**
- **If your Kindergarten student will take the bus, don't worry! We have lots of staff on board the first days to guide them to their classrooms on the first days of school!**



Have Questions? Need More Information?

Bus passes should be available via the Genesis Parent Portal.






Should you not receive one prior to August 31st, please contact our Transportation Office directly at 732-297-7800.

Families who need extended care before or after the school day should contact South Brunswick's Community Education Office directly at (732) 297-7800



Stay In Touch With Us This Year!

Electronic Friday Folder	Twitter	Facebook
<p>In keeping with our continued efforts to “go green,” newsletters will appear in our Electronic Friday Folder (EFF). The district’s EFF provides families with important information from the school and from the community (PTO, Girl Scouts, Sports Programs, etc.). The EFF will be posted on the BA website every Friday, and an email reminder will be sent home Friday mornings. These emails will be sent to address you have listed in Genesis Parent Portal under the "Contacts" tab. Please make sure you have checked both the "Emergency" as well as "Non-Emergency" while your are updating your email addresses in Genesis Parent Portal. District communication and communication from the school will be sent to these emails, so please make sure that they are current. You can update or add email addresses at any time in the Genesis portal.</p> <p>More information will be provided on the Parent Log In page on the district website: https://www.sbschools.org/parent_student_info/parent_logins_information.</p> <p>Emergency notifications (school closings, delayed openings, etc.) from the school district will also be sent through your Genesis emails.</p>	<p>Follow us on Twitter</p>  <p>@sbsdbs</p>	<p>Follow us on Facebook</p>  <p>facebook.com/sbsdbs</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">PTO Executive Board Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Priya Rege, Co-President Pati Haaz, Co-President Harmoni Hernandez, Co-Vice President Mary Salama Aetia, Co-Vice President Seema Parikh, Treasurer Colleen Santoro, Secretary</p>	<p>We have a fantastic Parent Teacher Organization that partners with us to provide assembly programs, after school clubs, classroom technology, evening family events, and much, much more! Please reach out to find out ways that you can help!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">View the PTO’s website at: http://brunswickacrespto.weebly.com/</p> 
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School Procedures to Help Ensure a SAFE and Smooth Start

Note: These procedures are designed to protect the safety of all students, your support with these policies and procedures is expected and appreciated. Thank you!

Reporting an Absence

If your child is going to be absent, the school **must** be notified. You may leave a voicemail at any hour, or can call the Main Office staff after 8:00 AM. Call (732) 297-6621 and follow the prompts. **You may now also report an absence directly on the Genesis Parent Portal.**

State Law says a reason for each absence must be given and we must call each parent who does not call Brunswick Acres to report their child absent. The earlier you can report an absence, the better.

Arrival

Doors open at 8:55 AM. Parents and students are expected to wait outside until 8:55 AM unless students are in the Before School Program. Please do not leave children unattended before 8:55 AM.

The late bell will ring at 9:05 AM. All students are expected to arrive by 9:05 in their classroom so that instruction can begin promptly. Late arrivals must be accompanied to the Main Office by a parent/guardian to be signed in.

Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:

- **BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM (BSP):** For those enrolled in the program, you are required to sign your child into the BSP each day. You may park in the main parking lot and **enter the building through the back doors behind the gym**. You may park in the front loop **prior to 8:40 only**. As per our security policy, you will need to be "buzzed in."
- **BUS STUDENTS:** All buses arrive at the black top by the side playground. Students enter the building through the side school doors. Students are supervised by staff members throughout the arrival process.
- **WALKERS:** Students walking to school are expected to only cross neighborhood roads at the locations that have a crossing guard. Walkers should enter through the main doors. Help your child time their walk carefully, as students cannot enter the building until 8:55 AM.
- **PARENT DROP-OFF:** Parking is very limited. We STRONGLY encourage you not to park and to use the "Drop-Off Zone" instead. The "Drop-Off Zone" is located in the loop at the front of the building. Enter the front loop, and pull as far forward as possible in the Drop-Off Zone. Pull all the way up and have your students exit the car from the passenger side. Once your child has exited your vehicle, please wait until the cars in front of you pull ahead - **do not pull around the other cars**, as this is not safe while students are exiting vehicles. **There is no parking permitted in this zone at this time.**
 - Once your child exits your car, please pull forward so other cars may enter the drop off/pick up zone. There will be staff members that will ensure your child enters the school.
 - Please do not get out of your car. Staff members will be there to greet you and to help your child get out of the car as you remain in your car. This helps to ensure a safe and efficient arrival for all. Park your car in one of the parking spaces if you need to escort your child to the building or to get out of your car for any reason.
 - Please use caution in the parking lot and drop-off loop, as it is a busy place for cars and pedestrians during arrival and dismissal. Please leave ample time in the morning so that we can all exercise caution and safety throughout the arrival procedures.

Dismissal

IMPORTANT: Brunswick Acre's Main Office requires that dismissal changes be sent into school in writing on the YELLOW "**Change in Dismissal Form**". A few copies of this form will be sent to you on opening day. You may access additional forms on the school's web page. If you do not have a form, you may also write a note on note paper, if necessary. Also, in case of an emergency **ONLY**, you can call the main office at 732-297-6621 to notify the staff of any dismissal changes. **Please do this by 2:00 PM unless there is an**

	<p>emergency at the end of the day. DO NOT email changes to the teachers. Teachers are instructing students or may not have access to email on certain days. Changes later than 2:00pm make the end of the day hectic and are detrimental to the safety of all of our students.</p> <p>Dismissal will occur between 3:25 and 3:30 PM (1:30 - 1:35PM on early dismissal days). Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP): Students will be dismissed to the ASP, and attendance will be taken before other students are dismissed. When picking up your child, please park in the lot, walk to the back doors by the gym, buzz-in, and sign your child out with the ASP staff. Please don't park in the circle for pick-up until after 3:45. ● WALKERS & PARENT PICK-UPS: Walkers and parents who <u>park</u> their cars will have their child(ren) dismissed through the <u>side door</u> of the school. This door is labeled, "B4" and is near the tennis courts. Please remember, parking is very limited! Please come early or be prepared to park farther away. You may not double park in the lot. Parents must come up to the blacktop to get your children. Do not wave your child over from parking lot. This is unsafe and we will not release your child to you until you are on the blacktop. <p>Parents who <u>drive</u> their cars will pick up their child(ren) near the front of the school (loop). Please drive your car as far forward as possible in the front loop of the school. Teachers will walk students outside and supervise their pick up. Please do not get out of your car. The teachers will help as necessary.</p> <p>Please let your child and your child's teacher know if you will "drive – car rider" to pick up your child or if you will "park – side door pick-up" to pick up your child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BUS STUDENTS: All students will exit through the side doors to meet their bus on the blacktop. Students are supervised by staff as they transition from the school to their busses.
<p>General Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the school day, all entrances are locked. Visitors to the building must be admitted through the front door and must go to the Main Office to sign-in through our visitor management system and obtain a visitor's badge. You must have government-issued photo ID to visit the building past the main office. ● There are a few visitor parking spaces in the front of the building. These are for short-term parking only. Visitors staying for longer periods should park in the main lot. ● Some of our students are very afraid of animals, specifically dogs. Please do not bring your dogs to the waiting area. Please wait with your pet on the sidewalk so that students are able to enter/exit the building calmly and safely.
<p>Recess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We try to get our students outside to play and for fresh air every day if possible! When it is actively raining, or the temperature is below freezing, we will have indoor recess. Please make sure that your students wear sneakers every day for outdoor recess as other shoes are not appropriate for the equipment and are possibly dangerous. Additionally, sometimes we have recess when it is pretty cold! Please make sure that students are dressed for the weather and have hats and gloves so that they will be warm enough to be outside for approximately 30 minutes,