

Brunswick Acres

Summer 2023 Family Newsletter



Welcome Back!

Mark Your Calendar!

9/6 New Student Orientation: 3:00

If you are NEW to Brunswick Acres, you are invited to a brief presentation/Q&A Session before our September open-house! This is open to all newly enrolled students UNLESS you have already attended our Kindergarten orientation in August. (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. This will be followed by the Open House (see below).

9/6 Student Open House & Self-Guided Tour: 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Our building will be open for ALL families to take a self-guided tour to help ease first day jitters. This is an opportunity for students to walk the halls, locate their classroom, and maybe wave to 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 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 might not, as teachers will possibly not be present. Teachers look forward to seeing your child(ren) on 9/7, and to meeting you at Back to School Night!

9/7 First Day of School: 9:00am - 3:35pm

This is a full day of school for all students, with lunch available at school. The school day begins at 9:00 AM, and the late bell rings at 9:10 AM. Dismissal is at 3:35 PM. **Parents may walk students to the school doors and we will have staff members escort children to their classrooms.**

9/15 PTO Sponsored Community Mixer, Time: Evening

Join us for some fun, family, and community building to celebrate the start to a great year!

9/25 No School - Yom Kippur

10/5 Brunswick Acres Back to School Night - more info to come!

10/10 - BA Picture Day

10/11 PTO Meeting (In person): 7:00pm

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

10/13 Early Release - Staff Professional Development, 1:40pm dismissal

Dear Brunswick Acres Families,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with excitement, as we eagerly prepare to welcome our students back to another fantastic school year! It is with great joy that we extend our Welcome Back greetings to you and your children. We understand that returning to school after a break can be both thrilling and maybe even a touch nerve-wracking, but rest assured that our dedicated staff is here to ensure a smooth transition.

We are eager to dive into the new school year with your amazing kids. Whether it's exploring new subjects, making friends, or embracing new challenges, we are here to guide and cheer on your child every step of the way. We encourage open communication between parents, teachers, and staff, as it's through collaboration that we can provide the best possible experience for your child.

This newsletter will outline some "need to know" information that will help ensure a great start to the school year for all!

Here's to a year filled with curiosity, growth, and memorable moments. Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of nurturing your child's educational journey. We can't wait to see those bright smiles in our hallways once again! Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and we will see everyone on September 7th!

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

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR 2023-2024

Your child's class placement and teacher assignment will be available when you sign into the Genesis portal, starting Tuesday, August 22nd. Kindergarten assignments will be posted on August 24th. When placing each student, we consider the input of the classroom teacher and the input you may have provided to 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 the Champions Before and After School program. This program will be located at Brunswick Acres School. Families who need extended care before or after school hours should contact the Champions Before and After Care program at 1-800-246-2154 : (paula.vargas@discoverchampions.com/732-737-4371) or go to [our website](#) or www.discoverchampions.com on the internet. 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 or click [here](#).

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 <https://ba.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 may 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)

9:00 AM - 3:35 PM

Early Release (K-5)


9:00 AM - 1:40 PM

2 Hour Delayed Opening (K-5)

11:00AM - 3:35 PM



Snack and Lunch

Snack	Breakfast & Lunch
<p>All classes will have a daily snack break during the day. Snacks should be nut-free for the classroom due to allergies.</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 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>Breakfast is also available for purchase every morning. Students can pick it up and bring it to their classroom to eat. For more information on Chartwells food services, please see this link.</p> <p>Breakfast costs \$2.55, a base lunch is \$3.40, and milk is \$.75.</p> <p>Free breakfast and lunch for all students through the federal government is no longer being offered as of the 22-23 school year.</p> <p>More information on school lunch procedures and payment options are offered on the district website on the School Lunch information box.</p> <p>Applications will be available for Free and Reduced Lunch on the Genesis Parent Portal. When you sign in, you can access it in the forms library. It is also accessible at this link. Paper forms will be available online or at the Board of Education offices if you don't have access to the internet. Please reach out if you need assistance.</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 Kindergarten teacher prior to the start of the school year.

A few Kindergarten and Preschool specific details:

- **Staff members will guide students to their classrooms on the first day. You may, however, come to the school for our "Sneak-a-Peek" Open House on September 6th from 3:30-5:00 pm to help your student find the way to their classroom and practice how to get there! Likewise, If your Kindergarten student will take the bus, don't worry! We have lots of staff ready the first several days to guide them to their classrooms on the first days of school!**



Parent of a Preschooler?

We are so excited to introduce preschool to Brunswick Acres!

Even if you plan to use the bus on a regular basis, we strongly recommend that you drive your preschooler to school on the first few days. There is no doubt that attending a large elementary school might be overwhelming for our littlest learners. If possible, it will be best to let them adapt to their new school and

classroom before introducing them to the bus, as well. Our buses are large and have up to 54 students. We recommend that preschool parents drive their students to school if at all possible. Preschool teachers will be in touch with you soon to go over the details of the classroom experience.

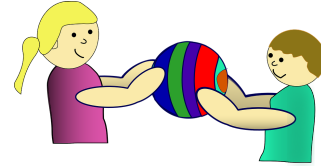
Have Questions? Need More Information?

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 Champions Before and After Care Program at 1-800-246-2154.



Stay In Touch With Us This Year!

Electronic Friday Folder

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 the 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 you are updating your email addresses in the [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.

Emergency notifications (school closings, delayed openings, etc.) from the school district will also be sent through your Genesis emails.

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook



facebook.com/sbsdba

Brunswick Acres PTO

Arya Nadkarni-Virkkula, Co-President
Kelli Sanchez, Co-President

Email: baschool.pto@gmail.com

Follow the "Brunswick Acres School PTO Facebook Page" for updates and reminders about what is happening at the school.

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 join and find out ways that you can help!

View the PTO's website at:



<http://brunswickacrespto.weebly.com/>

District Technology

Students in 2nd -5th grade will use technology quite a bit, both in school and at home. If you were with us last year, you made a choice to use your own device, or receive one from the district. If you need a device, please use [THIS FORM](#).

If you have a district issued device already:

- Your child will need to turn on the Chromebook and sign in using the student email and password prior to the first day of school to allow for automatic installation of updates. The updates may take up to a half an hour.
- Your child's password is located in Genesis.
- The yearly insurance fee is \$40 and due by September 29, 2023. This can be paid online through [MySchoolBucks](#). This fee is waived for those receiving free or reduced lunch.
- If your Chromebook is damaged or not working properly at any time during the school year, [please complete this form](#).
- If you have lost the charger, you'll need to purchase a replacement through [MySchoolBucks](#).

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! This is the easiest and preferred method for our staff.**

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 9:00 AM. Parents and students are expected to wait outside until 9:00 AM unless students

are in the Before School Program. Please do not leave children unattended before 9:00 AM.

The late bell will ring at 9:10 AM. All students are expected to arrive by 9:10 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:

- **CHAMPIONS BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM:** For those enrolled in the program, you are required to sign your child into Champions 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 and helped to their classrooms, if needed.
- **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 9:00 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 (sidewalk) 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. The preferred method for this is our Electronic Change in Dismissal Form. This can be found at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/BADismissalChange> or on our school website: <https://ba.sbschools.org/> under “Electronic Dismissal Change Form.” Please fill this form in by 11:00am on the day of the change. This allows us to make sure that everyone is notified properly for a safe dismissal of your child. If you are unable to access this, you may send the change via a 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, you can call the main office at 732-297-6621 to notify the staff of any dismissal changes. **Please do this by 1:00 PM unless there is an emergency at the end of the day.** **DO NOT** email changes to the teachers. Teachers are instructing students, may not have access to email on certain days, or there may be a substitute teacher and your message will not be received. Changes later than 2:00pm make the end of the day hectic and are detrimental to the safety of all of our students. Please do so only in an emergency.

Dismissal will occur between 3:30 and 3:35 PM (1:35 - 1:40pm on early dismissal days). Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:

- **CHAMPIONS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** Students will be dismissed to Champions, 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 Champions staff. Please don’t park in the circle for Champions pick-up until after 3:50.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WALKERS & PARENT PICK-UPS: We will be matching adults to children using a tag # verification system ("Pick Up Code"). All parents will receive a code on paper cards and a matching code will be attached to your student's backpack. Adults who are picking students up must show the code (preferred) or be able to verbally provide the code to the staff before their child will be released to them. Please keep this code handy and provide it to any adults who will be picking up your children. Once our dismissal staff knows you, this will be relaxed, but if there is a new staff member dismissing the students, or if you send a new adult to pick up your child, the code will be necessary. The code will be the same as last year. ● 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 the parking lot. This is unsafe and we will not release your child to you until you are on the blacktop and can verify your child's pick-up code. 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. You may not get out of your car if you are waiting in the car loop. The teachers will help as necessary. Teachers will verify your child's pick up code before releasing your student to you. 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 before the first day of school. You may update changes as they occur during the school year. ● BUS STUDENTS: All students will exit through the side doors by the blacktop to meet their bus on the blacktop. Students are supervised by staff as they transition from the school to their buses.
General Notes	<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 a government-issued photo ID to visit the building beyond 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.
Recess	<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.