

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Dear Middle School Families:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year. We hope you are enjoying the summer and we are looking forward to the start of an inspiring year.

Whether you are looking forward to your child's first day of middle school or your child is returning, the start of a new school year is an exciting time. As parents, you have an extremely important role in your child's education. Parental involvement makes a huge difference in a child's success, yet can be as simple as discussing current affairs with your child or having a family conversation about the school day over dinner. Although your child is getting older, your participation in his/her education is critically important in helping your child succeed. Also, keep in mind that it is really important for your child to start off the day with a nutritious breakfast and arrive to school alert and on time.

In addition to ensuring that your student arrives to school well rested and on time, it is important to plan family vacations around the school calendar. Additionally, when scheduling doctor's appointments please keep in mind that CMTs are administered during the month of March.

As you work with your child and his/her teachers, keep in mind that we encourage open lines of communication. We listen to our voice mail regularly and respond in a timely manner to messages left to us. Please understand that teachers are not available to talk on the phone while they have students in their classroom. Additionally, you may contact us easily through email by using the last name of the staff member followed by [@brooklynschools.org](mailto:@brooklynschools.org).

You can visit our web site, which contains valuable information. The homepage is [www.brooklynschools.org](http://www.brooklynschools.org). Our webmaster, Mr. Lessig, regularly updates the site, which includes a calendar of monthly events, a monthly lunch menu, an invaluable library/media page maintained by Mrs. Reading, a comprehensive health and wellness page created by Mrs. MacFarland, and much more.

Also, emails are sent regularly to families who are on our listserv. The emails are generally short, quick bits of information about events, activities, and school news. We never send any junk mail and the information will always be related to the school. If you are not on the listserv, it is easy to be included – just send Mr. Yanku an email at [yanku@brooklynschools.org](mailto:yanku@brooklynschools.org) stating that you want to join the listserv.

Bus routes, which were created over the summer using your home address, will be published in *The Turnpike Buyer* and *The Reminder* newspapers. If there is a problem with the pick-up or drop-off location for your child, please contact Mrs. Lori Malstrom in the school business office. She can be reached by calling the school at extension 205.

We will continue to offer a number of items on our lunch menu. Typically, the kitchen will provide two alternative choices in addition to a variety of daily main meals. Breakfast is served each day. The price for lunch, breakfast and other items at the middle school cafeteria have changed – breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch is \$2.50. Students may pay for meals daily or you may prepay for as many meals that is convenient for you. However, we strongly encourage you to prepay. Students are allowed to charge four (4) meals or \$10.00 maximum (whichever comes first). After four outstanding charges, students will be served a supplemental lunch until the charge is paid (typically, a cheese sandwich and milk). Students, who owe money to the cafeteria, may not purchase a snack until the debt is paid. If you have children in both

schools, please send in money only to the cafeteria where the meals are purchased. Please be sure to place the full name of your student on the memo line. Your student will receive a copy of the September menu along with free and reduced lunch applications. If applying for free or reduced lunches, all parents/guardians must fill out and return one application per family. Please be aware that these forms must be completed and submitted each school year.

Below are several items pertaining to the start of the school year:

- There will be an assembly during the first week of school, to review school rules and share general information.
- Students interested in participating in an interscholastic sport must have a documented physical after May 1, 2011. This must be on file with the school Nurse, Mrs. MacFarland, in order to try out. Forms are available in the office. **The school will not be providing physicals this year.**
- The middle school **Open House** will be on **Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm.** The program is for parents and guardians.
- The PTO's annual Back to School Cookout is Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Elementary School.

Please check your student's backpack for the following:

- Student Information Card. Please return the card by **Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Student Information Card is critical and must be returned.**
- Agenda. You and your child should review the handbook section. **To acknowledge that you have reviewed the student agenda the last page of the handbook section must be signed and returned to your student's T.A.G. teacher by Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- Acceptable use of Internet and Website Permission Form **must be returned by Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- Accident Insurance Form – **this must be returned by Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- Free and Reduced Lunch Application – **this must be returned by Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** (Only one per household is necessary).

The school is in superb shape due to the hard work of our custodial staff. Additionally, our secretaries have expended a great deal of effort in preparing for the opening of school. We are grateful for all of their efforts and dedication.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Alan Yanku

Marybeth Sweet