

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Dear Middle School Families:

Welcome to the 2007-2008 School Year. I hope you had an enjoyable, interesting, and rewarding summer. We are eager to start the new school year and we look forward to seeing our students return on Thursday, August 30th.

Whether you are looking forward to your child's first day of middle school or you are 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.

As you work with your child and their teachers to kick off a great school year, keep in mind that we encourage open lines of communication. Attached please find a directory of staff's voice-mail extensions. We listen to our voice mail regularly and respond to messages left to us in a timely manner. Additionally, you may contact us easily through email by using the last name of the staff member followed by @brooklynschools.org.

You can visit our web site, which contains valuable information. The homepage is 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 established by Mrs. Stellitano, a comprehensive health and wellness page created by Mrs. MacFarland and much more .

Also, I regularly send emails to families who are on our listserv. The emails are generally short, quick bits of information about events, activities, and school news. I 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 me an email at yanku@brooklynschools.org stating that you want to join the listserv.

Bus routes were created over the summer using your home address. If this is not the pick-up or drop-off location for your child, please contact Mrs. Jeannine Lowell at school by Tuesday, August 28. She can be reached at extension *8205.

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 will remain the same as last year – breakfast is \$1.25 and lunch is \$2.25. Students may pay for meals daily or you may prepay for as many meals that is convenient for you. Students are allowed to charge three (3) meals or \$6.75 maximum. After three outstanding charges, students will be served a supplemental lunch until the charge is paid (a cheese sandwich and milk). There is no charge for the supplemental meal. If you have children in both schools, please send in money only to the cafeteria where the meals are purchased. Students will be given the September menu on the first day along with free and reduced lunch applications. The August 30th menu will appear in the local newspapers. If applying for free or reduced lunches, all parents/guardians must fill out and return one application per family.

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

- The first day, August 30, is a full school day. Staff will be in the hallways to help students find their homerooms/TAGs.
- There will be an assembly on Tuesday, September 4, to review school rules and share general information.
- Physicals for students who want to participate in **any** of this year's sports programs will be held Friday, August 31, for girls and on Thursday, September 6, for boys at a cost of \$20.00 per student. Cash or a check made out to Brooklyn Middle School must accompany the permission form. Forms are available in the office and will be given to interested students on the first day of school. (Fall cross country is the only sport available to fifth graders.)
- The middle school open house will be on Thursday, September 13, at 7:00 pm. The program is for parents and guardians. If you need baby-sitting services, there will be eighth grade students who will watch your children in the gymnasium free of charge.

On the first day of school please look for your student to bring home the following:

- Student Information Card. Please note there is a space on this card for you to list your email address. This information enables us to place you on the listserv, which provides us the ability to get school information to you quickly and easily (As I stated earlier, there will never be any junk mail from us, only brief to the point school information.) Please return the card by Tuesday, September 4. **The Student Information Card is critical and must be returned.**
- Agenda. You and your child should review the handbook section. **Page 25 must be signed and returned to school by Tuesday, September 4.**
- Acceptable use of Internet and Website Permission Form **must be returned by Tuesday, September 4.**
- Accident Insurance Form – **this must be returned by Tuesday, September 4.**
- Free and Reduced Lunch Application – **this must be returned by Tuesday, September 4.**

Due to the hard work of our custodial staff the school is in terrific shape. Additionally, our secretaries have expended a great deal of effort in preparing for the opening of school. I am grateful for all of their efforts and dedication.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. I anticipate a terrific year.

Sincerely,

Alan Yanku