

Brookwood Junior High School

Parent Weekly News Bulletin

Week of: August 18, 2014



From the Principal...

Dear Parent(s),

We are excited to welcome your child back to school! The first day back for students is Tuesday, August 19, 2014. Students will be in session from 8:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m. We want your child to be happy and successful at Brookwood Jr. High School and believe that you play a key role. That role is to continually show interest in and support for your child's education. The child who knows that his or her family is interested in and supports the school program will almost always have fewer problems in school and will enjoy greater success.

At Brookwood Jr. High School, we implement a school-wide, *positive behavioral interventions and supports* (PBIS) system. This system encourages positive behavior and interactions, while discouraging problem behaviors. Schools are successful when they help children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. For this to happen, it is imperative that we have a safe environment that is supportive and conducive to growth. By setting forth clear social and behavioral expectations and directly teaching students about those expectations, it is our goal to create this atmosphere for learning. We also celebrate students' academic success through our I LEAD (Individual Learners Excelling Academically Daily) Program. Students who demonstrate academic excellence and/or academic progress will be showcased each week at BJHS and given special incentives to reinforce the importance of academic learning and achievement.

We will be hosting our Open House on August 26, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. During this special activity, parents will be able to take a tour of the school, meet their child's teachers, learn about our academic program/assessments, and our extra-curricular activities and support services we offer to students. We hope you and your child will be able to attend.

Again, please share with us any information regarding your child's special needs that will help us better serve your family. We believe that communication among parents, students and teachers is critical in assuring student success. I am excited about the plans for the upcoming school year. Please let me know if I can be of any help to you during the year.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bethany A. Lindsay in cursive script.

Bethany A. Lindsay, Principal

Help Your Child Set Academic Goals



We encourage our parents to require their child to set academic goals for each school year. Our children need our help to stay focused on their education, to keep going when it gets difficult and to believe that what they're doing is important for their own futures.

Monitoring progress towards these goals is very important. How do you monitor a child's progress toward the goals you set together? There are two effective ways. One of the best is conferencing. Periodically, schedule a block of time with your child to discuss how well he/she is doing on the goals. Determine if there are any areas your child needs assistance. A second way to monitor progress toward goals is to keep a record. Teachers use grades, which work, but there are also checklists and rubrics. Monitor your child's progress by creating a checklist of what is needed to achieve their particular goals.

Showcase your child's achievement by using a portfolio of their learning and invite family members to view the portfolio at special occasions. Every Friday go through any schoolwork your child brought home for the week and place it in the portfolio. As you sort through the papers, talk about some of the assignments and what your child learned from it. Also ask your child how he or she can improve in a particular area.

Done regularly, creating and sharing a portfolio of learning has several results:

- Shows your child that you value education.
- Shows your child that you are interested in his/her educational experience.
- As your child improves, it provides him/her with a sense of purpose and pride.
- Helps your child see where his/her strengths and weaknesses are and motivates him/her to improve.

Keep your children's portfolios from year to year. They are fun to look back on as your kids get older. You will have a record of their schooling, and your child will have a record of his/her learning.

PowerSchool

Brookwood Junior High School will be using PowerSchool this school year. PowerSchool is the first student information management system that connects the school to the home through the Internet. You will be able to check your child's grades and attendance to keep up-to-date on your child's academic progress.

To log into PowerSchool:

- Direct your browsers to the Brookwood School District website at www.brookwood167.org.
- Click on "PowerSchool – Parent Portal" on the lower left- hand side of our homepage.

You will be prompted to enter your user name and password to access the site.

If you have any questions regarding our PowerSchool site or need assistance, please contact:

Brookwood Junior High School
at [\(708\) 758-5252](tel:7087585252).

•Honor Roll •High Honor Roll

Students at BJHS are given a quarterly report card. If a student earns an academic grade point average of 3.95 or higher, he/she is placed on the High Honor Roll. If a student earns an academic grade point average of 3.45-3.94, he/she is placed on the Honor Roll.

Any student placed on the Academic High Honor Roll or Honor Roll will be invited to a special Student Recognition Luncheon each quarter.

Drop-Off / Pick-Up Procedures

Students should arrive at school no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and be picked-up no later than 3:15 p.m. If a student is being dropped off or picked-up, the driver must follow the one-way sign at the entrance of the parking lot. Drivers should **NEVER** go the wrong way in the parking lot as this causes unsafe conditions for our students.

Breakfast & Lunch Service



Breakfast and lunch are offered to students **free** every day. A lunch menu is provided to students every month. This year we are encouraging all students to eat breakfast. Breakfast doesn't just fill the stomach, it can also help children improve their academic performance. Kids who eat breakfast have higher test scores, superior concentration and better muscle coordination, and they're less likely to miss classes or report to school late. Breakfast eaters also tend to exhibit better classroom behavior, and perform better in certain subjects like math, reports Dr. Ronald E. Kleinman, chief of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital and professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Cross-Country Season



All boys and girls are welcome to join our Cross-Country teams. Participating students will compete against ten other schools in neighboring school districts. Students must have a current physical to participate. The first cross-country practice is scheduled for:

Thursday, August 21, 2014
From 3:15 – 4:30 PM

At Brookwood Jr. High School

We Expect Our Students To ...

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**

BJHS OPEN HOUSE:



August 26, 2014
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

WE EXPECT 100% PARENT ATTENDANCE!

General School Supply List



1. 6 spiral notebooks
2. 2 packs of loose leaf notebook paper
3. 2 three-ring binders
4. 6 pocket folders
5. 1 scientific calculator (any model)
6. 1 set of colored pencils
7. 1 box of crayons
8. 1 pack of non-permanent markers
9. 12 pencils
10. 5 blue pens, 5 black pens, 5 red pens
11. 1 pack of highlighters (assorted colors)
12. 2 packs of lined 4X6 index cards
13. 1 box of facial tissue
14. 1 Brookwood Junior High School Planner
15. 1 Gym Uniform

*During the first week of school, every student's teacher will issue a specific supply list for their class.

Extra-Curricular Activities at BJHS

We expect **ALL** of our students to participate in extra-curricular activities. We offer opportunities for our students to participate in:

- Cross-country
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Track
- Cheerleading
- Band
- Chorus
- Speech club
- Chess
- Student council
- Various clubs

*In order for your child to participate in an athletic activity, he/she must have a current physical on file.

Reporting of Absence(s)

Parents must call the school to report their child absent before 8:30 a.m. When calling, please identify yourself, give the student's name, grade, and reason for being absent.

The number for reporting absences is: **708-757-2115**

If you are aware at the time of calling that your child will be absent more than one day, please indicate the length of absence in your message.

Home School Connection...

After-school chats

Parents are encouraged to have after school chats with their child. Set aside time each day to go through your child's backpack and school work. Please check that your child is using his/her student planner. All assignments should be recorded by your child daily. As you review your child's daily work, encourage your child to demonstrate how he/she completed the class assignment. Have your child explain what he/she learned while doing the project/assignment. Provide specific feedback to your child about their progress on assignments. Positive reinforcement goes a long way!