

Welcome Back to the 2017-2018 School Year!

Things you need to know to start the year off right.

Dear Brooklin Families,



Welcome back! For those of you whom I have not had the honor of meeting, my name is Jil Blake, and I am the principal of Brooklin School. I am excited to work with teachers to make sure that your children are prepared for the future—a future that will no doubt be demanding and competitive. With that said, we will really need to focus on three goals this year:

1. **Designing meaningful curriculum that encourages our students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers of the world.** You should ask your child(ren) often: What are you learning? How are you learning it? Why is it important?
2. **Incorporating teaching strategies that ensure EVERY child is working to their greatest potential.** You should ask your child often: Are you feeling challenged in school?
3. **Communicating effectively with parents.** If ever you feel that we are not communicating effectively, please let us know. Also know that we have an open door policy and we encourage parents to ask questions and check in on their child's progress.

It promises to be a great year! Once again, I am truly looking forward to working in this incredible community—and though we have a great deal of work to do, the fruits of our labors will be so sweet and delicious in the end. Here are some important reminders for the first week of school.

30th

PK-2ND ONLY!

Open house on
Wednesday from
3:30-4:30.

31st

**ALL STUDENTS (EXCEPT
NEW PK)**

First day of school.
School begins at 7:47
a.m.

1st

NEW PK

This will be the first day
for new PK students.

Ways Parents Can Help

We are all in this together. Here are some ways that you can make sure your child is being the best s/he can be in school.

Ask Questions

If you don't ask, they may not spill! *How was your day? What did you learn? Can I help you with your homework?*



Encourage Healthy Eating and Plenty of Rest

Volunteer

If you can, look for opportunities to attend parent-child activities, volunteer in the classrooms, support school fundraisers, attend monthly family outings, and be an active member of the PTF.

Communicate with Teachers

The following letter is specifically designed for new families who are unfamiliar with the day to day operations of the campus. It may also serve as helpful reminders for those families who are returning.



Welcome to the Brooklin School!

As a new parent here at our school there are probably lots of questions you have about how things work around here. Don't worry - you'll catch on quickly. There is a staff and student handbook which outlines a lot of the information you'll need to know and this will get sent home in the first week of school. This letter is designed to let you know the details of day to day life as you start your first week as a parent at our school.

Any question you have that arises will be deftly answered by Louanne, our administrative assistant in the office at school at 359-2133. She knows EVERYTHING! Her busiest times are when school starts in the morning and at the end of the day when the students depart so you might want to reserve long conversations for another time. Jil Blake is the principal and is reachable at the school number. Barb Grindle is our school nurse and is only at school on Thursdays. The teachers will also provide their own contact information to you.

If you don't have another family member or parent friend who has been at the school already who can answer stray questions, feel free to call or text Allison Watters at 610-2990 or Molly Blake at 266-1298. They head up the parent group here at the school called the PTF (Parents, Teachers and Friends). Other parents you may run into will also be happy to help you learn the ropes.

HOW DO I GET IN?

The main entrance to the school is located by the tennis courts across from the flagpole. As you drive in the driveway to the school, take your first right around our orchard. You'll see a Brooklin School sign above the entrance. This is the door to enter the school unless there is a meeting or other community event at the school. There are many other doors to the school though for the safety of students, they are kept locked on the outside.

MORNING DROP OFF:

School begins promptly at 7:47. Kids may be dropped off as early as 7:20 but should have an extra layer to play outside in if it's chilly. If your child is riding the bus they will arrive close to 7:30. If you wish to drive your child to school please drop them off at the main entrance to the school. If you plan to be in the school any longer than a few minutes, please park over in the main parking area by the playground.

AFTERNOON PICK UP:

School gets out at 3:00. Please communicate with Louanne whether your child will take the bus home or be picked up by you or someone else. Students taking the bus will leave via the main entrance by the tennis courts. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day please park by the playground entrance by the gym which is where the children are dismissed from. If you are running late, just warn Louanne and she will have your child wait by the benches outside the office and you can pick them up there.

PRESCHOOL DROP OFF:

If your child is attending Pre-Kindergarten, you will need to accompany them into the Pre-K classroom in the morning and pick them up from the classroom in the afternoon. If you want to make special arrangements regarding drop off or pick up timing just make those with Julie Wilson, the preschool teacher.

COMMUNICATION:

The Brooklin School has a few ways to know what is going on at school. As always you can communicate with your child's teachers. There is a weekly newsletter that is sent home with kids and/or e-mailed to parents on Thursdays. The Brooklin School has a website <http://brooklin-es.u76.k12.me.us/> and both the school and the PTF both have Facebook pages. This year, teachers will be using Bloomz to send regular communications to families. More information to come soon!

LUNCH AT SCHOOL:

A home-cooked meal by our cook is available every day for \$2.80. It's helpful for the school to know if your child will be eating lunch at school or will bring their own. It's fine to eat the school-provided lunch some days and bring your own others. Louanne sends home a slip so you can communicate which you would prefer. The school will keep track of how many school meals your child eats and will bill you accordingly. You can also pay Louanne up front for your school lunches and she will let you know when you owe more money. Please take note that our school is a nut-free zone which means that no nuts of any kind are allowed into the school.

Good luck at the Brooklin School! We are glad you're here!