Coming Up
Key School Opening Information

Student Supply Fee Link https://brentholidaysale.com/products/school-supply-fee

Join Brent’s Community Directory
https://atozconnect.com/cls/related_entities_list.php

Monday, August 24 – 28
Virtual Grade Level Meet-Ups
Schedule at brentelementary.org

First Day of School
Student Supply Kit and Requested Technology Pick-Up
Thursday, August 27, 3-6 p.m.
Friday, August 28, 3-6 p.m.
Saturday, August 29 9 - noon, 1 - 4
Monday, August 31 3 - 6 p.m.
Tuesday, September 1 3 - 6 p.m.

Friday, August 28
Release of Parent Handbook for Virtual Learning
Asynchronous Virtual Open House Link

Before, Saturday, August 29
Student ID and technical instructions emailed to families. Start selected ramp-ups with week one schedule.

Sunday, August 30
First Day of School Reminders via Email

Monday, August 31
First Day of School

Monday, August 31 - Friday, September 4
Virtual Home Visits - See individual teacher communication for details

Sunday, August 30

Before, Saturday, August 29

Brent Named a DCPS Meal Site During Virtual Learning
Brent has been named a DCPS Meal Site starting Monday, August 24. Students may visit Brent from 10 to 2 p.m. to pick up a free lunch Monday through Friday in main lobby.

Photo: Faculty celebrate Summer Bridge participants.
Grade Level Team Complete At Home Student Supply Kits! Kits are Ready for Distribution Starting Thursday, August 27 from 3 – 6 p.m.

Grade Level Teams and specials teachers spent last week assembling grade level specific at home supply kits for their students. Kits include standard school supplies, math manipulatives and additional learning materials. Distribution begins on the Thursday, August 27 from 3 – 6 p.m. All students will receive a at home supply kit. The cost of term one and two supplies is $50 paid via Brent School Store on the website. Families who qualify for free or reduced lunch or who have other financial considerations do not need to pay the fee. See photos.
supply kits. Thank you for holding on to them for months!

From DCPS Re-Open Strong -

Attendance Update
Attendance Expectations
Every Day Counts! Daily attendance remains compulsory for students age 5-17, even in the virtual setting.

At Brent, all students, prior to 8:30 a.m., will log into Canvas to access their morning meeting link. Canvas participation will transfer to a student’s Aspen attendance record on a daily basis. No additional action is needed beyond signing into the Canvas system. If a student experiences a tech issue, they should call their school to have their attendance recorded for that day. Review the full attendance guidance on the #ReopenStrong website.

Grading Guidance

Grading
DCPS believes that grades support ongoing learning, by providing timely feedback and informing personalized instruction, while making a record of growth and development over students’ school career. We used feedback from teachers, school leaders, students, and the education community to ensure our learning at home grading policy is equitable and genuinely based on students’ learning. Review the full grading guidance on the #ReopenStrong website.

Pre-K
At each grading period, students will receive marks for individual skills or expectations within each area of development (language, literacy,
cognitive, math, social emotional, and physical) indicating if they are below developmental expectations, meeting developmental expectations, or exceeding developmental expectations.

**Grades K - 5th**

Term grade calculations are based on student engagement, practice and application, and assessment to reflect the diverse nature of student work. All student work will be scored objectively, and grades will be supported with evidence and documentation. Teachers will regularly communicate expectations to students and keep them informed of their academic status.

**A Message from the Brent’s PTA and DWG Leadership**

Dear Brent Families,

We wanted to take a moment to respond to the heightened need for childcare and the formation of “pandemic pods” or homeschooling pods. This is the formation of small student groups where students learn together in homes under the direction of the children’s parents or a hired teacher/tutor.

The PTA and Diversity Working Group (DWG) are deeply committed to building community connections and helping families meet socialization needs in an unprecedented year. Ultimately, we have decided not to specifically invest resources in facilitating these pods, for reasons we would like to share below.

Over the past couple of years parents and students have participated in listening sessions as a mechanism for continuous improvement at our school. These important sessions have an ultimate goal of lifting up and amplifying feedback from otherwise marginalized voices at our school.

We’ve learned that while there is great respect and appreciation for our school community, there are also valid feelings of exclusion and isolation. Most importantly, these feelings often fall along lines of race, ethnicity, language, economic status, neighborhood, and length of time at the school.

As a school community that is focused on equity and inclusion – now more than ever – our concern is that the formation of small groups/pods that require significant resources outside of the public-school system creates new inequities in our community. Our concern is that pods do not support the work we are doing to foster an inclusive and equitable community, as for many students these outside resources are not available.

However, we wholeheartedly recognize the very real need for both childcare and socialization and understand that reaching out to one another for support can be a lifeline.

We ask that if you are looking to form small groups of students for any in-person childcare or socialization that you consider the process you are using to form the group, and who you are reaching out to and why. We are committed to the values of equity and inclusion in all areas of school-life. Thank you for considering this request.

We also heard loud and clear that you are interested in equity and supporting others in need! Thank you. We are developing a list of community based organizations like the Homeless Children’s Playtime Project, Ward 6 Mutual Aid, and THRIVE East of the River, so that we can help be part of the solution for our larger community.

Finally, there are some exciting connections happening in our community! Look out for notifications about virtual grade level Zoom meet ups for families, and more creative, fun and useful ways to connect during the school year. Please let us know what you are most interested in and if you would like to volunteer to lead an upcoming family Zoom session.

In partnership,

Brent PTA and DWG
Recommended Resource from the Student Support Team

Pandemic Parenting: 5 Ways to Support Your Child During Remote Learning - A 1 Hour Webinar to address your child’s emotional needs as school resumes

Webinar via Zoom, Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, New York, NY
Intended for parents of school-age children

Thursday September 10, 6:30 - 7:30pm
(If you are unable to attend the live broadcast, you can view a recording of the webinar to watch at your convenience)

DESCRIPTION:

Join our panel of child psychologists for a one hour webinar to address how to prepare your child (and yourself) for another round of remote learning this fall. The uncertainty and novelty of this transition can feel overwhelming. So, how can you set your child up for success this fall? We will discuss concrete ways to manage the challenges of remote learning in your household. We hope you will end the webinar feeling more confident in how to:

· Provide support for students in special education

· Maintain social support (and sanity) for your child and family

COST: FREE. Registrants will receive a zoom link to the live webinar. If you are unable to attend the live broadcast, you will be sent a recording of the webinar to view at your convenience.

Learn More and Register at https://tinyurl.com/y265qd6m
Dear Brent Families,

We are just SIX days from the start of school!

Yesterday our faculty officially returned for a week of professional development, logistics and planning. What was clear, even on our first day together, is that our faculty is approaching this year with clear eyes, careful intention and a sense of possibility toward creating the learning experiences our students deserve.

It also means that we have officially initiated our communication plan. You should already know/have received:

- Your child’s class list
- Your child’s teacher assignment
- A welcome email from your classroom and focus teachers that includes the Term 1 schedule, the Week One schedule, Week One virtual home visit sign ups, the first cycle of small group and half class assignments where applicable and notes specific to the grade level. Be sure to highlight your child’s first cycle small groups and half classes on the general schedule so that you a daily plan to follow.

Please email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov if you did not receive any of these communications.

Later this week, you will receive:

A student-specific email with student IDs (needed to login to our primary learning platforms: Canvas, Teams, and Clever) and instructions about how to login for the first day and beyond. Please be sure to practice logging in before Monday so that we can troubleshoot through any technical difficulties.

On Friday, a second classroom and focus teacher email that includes the link to the Asynchronous Open House – a presentation or video designed to introduce important Brent adults to our students – and the Brent Virtual Learning Family Handbook.

Also on Friday, an email from your child’s special(s) teachers (in some cases it will be embedded in the classroom and focus teacher email above) with an overview of the class, their own home visit signups for Kindergarten, First Grade and new students and their own Asynchronous Open House links.

Both the Tuesday (today) and Friday communications will also be posted on the school opening page on the Brent Elementary website to give you secondary access to the information.

We recognize that more facilitation will be required in the first part of the year but with the ramping up process and your support, we are also confident that the time spent on facilitation will drop dramatically by the end of the ramp up period. It is similar to our stance at the start of every school year: dedicate a large amount of time to community/relationships, routines, independence and stamina building early on so that these needs are fulfilled, and we can focus almost completely on academic and social-emotional content from there.

It cannot be said enough how much we need and appreciate your partnership. That partnership means reading the emails, making sense of them, and sharing questions when you have them. We’re in this together!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal