8/4/2021

Mail - Brent Elementary (DCPS) - Outlook

[Test] Brent ES Tues News - August 3, 2021
Brent Elementary <brenntelementary@k12.dc.gov>
Thu 8/5/2021 3:32 AM
To: Brent Elementary (DCPS) <BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov>

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**THE TUES. NEWS 8.3.21**

**BRENT ELEMENTARY**

**BRAVE  EMPathetic  Active  ResPOnsible**

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**Coming Up**

**Sunday, August 8**
PTA Early Childhood Playdate  
3 - 5 p.m.  
Turtle Park - 401 E Street SE

**Tuesday, August 10**
PTA Kindergarten Playdate  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Turtle Park - 401 E Street SE

**DCPS Parent University: Getting My Child Ready for School This Year**  
Virtual  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  

**Thursday, August 12**
PTA First Grade Playdate  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Garfield Park - 200 F Street SE

**Sunday, August 15**
PTA Second Grade Playdate  
3 - 4 p.m.  
Garfield Park - 200 F Street SE

**Tuesday, August 17**
DCPS Parent University: Supporting our Students:  
Accelerating Learning in and out of the Classroom  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  

**Thursday, August 19**
PTA Third Grade Playdate  
5 - 6 p.m.  
Garfield Park - 200 F Street SE

**DCPS Parent University: Mentally Preparing Myself and My Child for the New School Year**  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  

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**Key Contact Information**

**Main Office Number**  
202-698-3363

**Main Email Account**  
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

**Website**  

**DCPS Meal Service Menus**  

**Facebook**  
facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool

**Twitter**  
twitter.com/brentelementary

**Instagram**  
instagram.com/BrentBears

**DCPS School SY21-22 Calendar**  

**From the DCPS Chancellor**  
[https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/category/chancellor/](https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/category/chancellor/)

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https://outlook.office.com/mail/BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov/inbox/id/AQMkAGQwMjFzZDI1LTZjODAtNDU5Nz04MjQ3LTYwNDB0bWJkMzA0MABGAAA...
Sunday, August 22
PTA Fifth Grade Playdate
10 - 11 a.m.
Garfield Park - 200 F Street SE

Wednesday, August 25
Class list posted on website and via email

Friday, August 27
Back to School Open House - Virtual By Class
3 - 3:30 p.m.
Login information sent home on August 25, 2021

New Family Orientation
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Topic: Brent ES New Parent Orientation
Time: Aug 27, 2021 03:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94265340867?pwd=b3U2Zm9PLzAwUTZ3YTRBbmVuU0ZYUT09
Meeting ID: 942 6534 0867
Passcode: 7hC7ms
ASL Interpreters Provided

Monday, August 30
First Day of School for K - 5th
All students need to arrive at school by 8:35 p.m.

Monday, August 30 - Wednesday September 1
ECE Home Visits

Thursday, September 2
First Day of School for ECE Students with last names A - L
All students need to arrive at school by 8:35 p.m.

Friday, September 3
First Day of School for ECE Students with last names M - Z
All students need to arrive at school by 8:35 p.m.

View this email in your browser

Click here to pay school supply fees for SY21-22
**What is Tues News?**
Welcome to the summer edition of Tues News for SY21-21. Tues News is Brent's weekly newsletter that is emailed home to all families and posted on Brent's website (www.brentelementary.org) every Tuesday during the school year. Tues News covers upcoming events, learning activities, student and staff accomplishments and news from DCPS. Tues News is also the central communication hub for calls for volunteers. Every Tuesday, check your email inbox or Brent's website to get the latest news about our school community. If you have news or announcements or are not receiving the email version, please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@k.12dc.gov

**Back to School Packet - Please review all contents**

The Brent Team is gearing up to launch Brent's school year 21-22. A mailing with this information has been sent to all families and posted on Brent's website – www.brentelementary.org. Please reach out to Brent staff by contacting brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or 202-698-3363 with any questions.

School Year 20-21 School Opening Letter from Norah Lycknell, Principal
Attendance Policy SY21-22
A Family Guide to Brent Communication
Bulk Purchasing and Student Supply Fee Program
Before and After School Programming – Innovation Learning
Brent Student Store Flyer
Welcome Letter from the Brent PTA
Diversity Working Group Information
Local School Advisory Team Information
Paper Free and Reduced Lunch Application or Access the online application here.
DCPS School Calendar

While the Brent family handbook is not included in the summer mailing, a link to the handbook can be found here. The handbook will be updated throughout the year to reflect any changes to health and safety guidelines and protocols.
STAY ON TRACK!
Now more than ever, it's important that your child receives their immunizations on time.

All DC students **must** be up to date on their immunizations before next school year!

Students who have not received their required pediatric immunizations may be removed from in-person instruction and activities until they receive the required immunizations and provide documentation to the school.

**TAKE THESE THREE STEPS NOW TO GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD IS READY!**

1. **SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT**
   Schedule your child's annual wellness visit today, and ask your healthcare provider to complete the Universal Health Certificate. If your child receives an immunization during the visit, ask for written proof of the immunization that you can share with your school.

2. **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS RECEIVED ALL OF THEIR IMMUNIZATIONS**
   Not sure if your child has received all of their required immunizations? Ask your primary care provider, and request a copy of your child's immunization history to share with your school.

3. **SUBMIT IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTS TO YOUR SCHOOL**
   Submit the Universal Health Certificate and any other immunization documents to your child's school to guarantee they are ready for next school year. Not sure if your child's school has all the immunization documents they need? Call the school and ask today!

For more information:
OSSE: (202) 727-6436 | DC Health: (202) 576-7120 | bit.ly/DGMP

DC HEATH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR
Brent Elementary PTA

SUMMER PLAYDATES 2021

Join grade-level communities for informal playdates! Dates, times and locations are listed below. All health precautions are required: masks, social distancing and participating only if symptom-free. This event is sponsored by the Brent PTA.

**Early Childhood**
- Sunday, August 8
- 3 - 5 p.m.
- Turtle Park
- 401 E St SE
- Washington DC 20003

**Kindergarten**
- Tuesday, August 10
- 4:30- 5:30 p.m.
- Turtle Park
- 401 E St SE
- Washington DC 20003

**First Grade**
- Thursday, August 12
- 4:30- 5:30 p.m.
- Garfield Park
- 200 F Street SE
- Washington DC 20003

**Second Grade**
- Sunday, August 15
- 3 - 4 p.m.
- Garfield Park
- 200 F Street SE
- Washington DC 20003

**Third Grade**
- Thursday, August 19
- 5 - 6 p.m.
- Garfield Park
- 200 F Street SE
- Washington DC 20003

**Fourth Grade**
- Saturday, August 21
- 10 - 11 a.m.
- Garfield Park
- 200 F Street SE
- Washington DC 20003

**Fifth Grade**
- Sunday, August 22
- 10 - 11 a.m.
- Garfield Park
- 200 F Street SE
- Washington DC 20003
Brent Summer Adventure Camp 2021
This summer over 50 Brent Bears participated in Brent Summer Adventure Camp! Brent teachers served as counselors and our campers joined "bunks" named after different types of bears: Grizzlies, Pandas, Polar Bears, and Sun Bears. Each week had a camp-wide theme that brought together literacy, STEM, and social-emotional skills.

During Week 1, our campers read fantasy stories, wrote their own fairy tales, planted beanstalks, and brought imaginary scenes to life with recycled materials. During Week 2, each bunk worked together to design a "Tiny Town," inspired by stories such as *The Littles*, by John Peterson, and *The Minpins*, by Roald Dahl. They also wrote informational books to teach the people of Tiny Town and created characters out of clay, clothespins, and toothpicks. In Week 3, campers became Super Heroes to solve problems. They read graphic novels and comic books and then wrote their own, using the techniques they learned from mentor authors and illustrators.

Throughout Summer Adventure Camp, counselors focused on strengthening students' attention, engagement, motivation, persistence, curiosity, and executive functioning skills by designing joyful and authentic academic experiences. Campers practiced constructive collaboration and social problem solving by designing, building, testing, and revising creative projects with partners and teams.

Thank you to Sarah Werstuik, who served as our Summer Adventure Camp principal, and Chloe Patterson, Summer Adventure Camp Instructional Coach. Thank you to teachers, Caitlin Arbuckle, Kaylee Wisher, Kelly Laskowski, Dayon Hairston, Jason Harris, LaQuontinesha Atchison, Teresa Adams and Isabella LeBon, who made this opportunity possible for our Brent Bears!

Free and Reduced Lunch Application for School Year 2021-2022
For school year 2021-2022 students at all DCPS schools will receive meals at no charge - this includes breakfast and lunch, plus supper and snack at applicable schools. Despite universal free meals for SY 21/22, DCPS Food Services strongly encourages Brent families to complete the Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) application to ensure they are eligible for other benefits such as the Pandemic-EBT program, WIC, reduced internet pricing, and other benefits.

Please complete a FARM application even if you decline the service. You can complete an application either online or through a paper application. For fastest processing, please complete online application.

- Access the online application here.
- A paper application [PDF], was included in the back-to-school summer packet. To submit your paper application, please deliver to a DCPS school listed above, email to food.dcps@k12.dc.gov, or print and mail or fax to:

Food & Nutrition Services
c/o: Nadine James - FARM Application
1200 First Street, NE 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Fax: (202) 727-2512
Please complete only one application for all students that attend DCPS in your household every school year, even if they attend different DCPS schools. Families with students only enrolled in charter or private schools do not need to complete a FARM application, please contact your school directly.

**Brent Uniform Policy will Return for School Year 2021-22**

The Brent uniform policy will return for school year 2021-22. All students are expected to adhere to the uniform policy. The uniform consists of a **HUNTER GREEN** or **WHITE** collared shirt or blouse and **HUNTER GREEN** or **KHAKI** pants, shorts, skirts, skorts or jumpers. Shorts may not be more than three inches above the knee.

Brent Elementary School shirts (t-shirts, polo shirts, and sweatshirts) are also appropriate with green or khaki bottoms. *Brent school T-shirts are permissible. Brent products can be purchased at the Brent Store.*

**Children must wear their school uniform every day unless otherwise notified.**

If students arrive at school without their uniform, parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing and/or students may be asked to change into school-provided uniform clothes. Families must provide an extra change of clothes for early childhood (PS3/PK4) students in case of bathroom accidents. Change of clothes must include underwear, socks, shirts and pants/shorts/skirts/skorts/jumper. Clothes should be sent in a labeled ziplock/plastic bag.

Students are expected to wear safe, functional clothing and shoes that they can use independently. Closed-toe shoes are required for health and safety reasons. Preschool and pre-kindergarten students are strongly encouraged to wear elastic waist pants since most young children are not able to secure buttons, snaps or belts independently. Preschool and pre-kindergarten students are also strongly encouraged to use Velcro or zipper shoes since most young children are not able to tie shoelaces and the can become a health and safety hazard.

Brent does not have a specific uniform vendor. **If you are ordering from French Toast [www.frenchtoast.com](http://www.frenchtoast.com) Brent’s school code is QS4SG6. Brent will earn 5% of orders placed.**

Please note, Brent does have a substantial used uniform collection. Families will be able to access the used uniform collection during the summer and throughout the school year. Specific dates will be announced shortly.
Important Safety Message - Brent is a Nut-Free School

Brent is a Nut-Free School – this policy covers Brent buildings, the playground and the front grounds. This includes both peanuts and tree nuts (such as almonds, walnuts, pecans, etc.). Several Brent students have severe allergies, which can be triggered simply by coming into contact with a surface that has nut residue on it, including keyboards or tabletops. Children and adults who are allergic to nuts can face a severe allergic reaction (known as anaphylaxis) from even the smallest exposure to peanuts (including peanut butter) or tree nuts, which can result in death.

All families and staff members must work to provide a nut-free zone within the school. Please keep Brent’s Nut-Free Policy in mind both when packing your child’s food for the day and when providing classroom snacks and help us to ensure that no foods containing peanuts, tree nuts or products made from them are brought into the classroom areas under any circumstances, both during regular school hours and for all school-related activities.
Kids Ride Free

Mayor Muriel Bowser established and championed the Kids Ride Free transit subsidy program to ensure that enrolled District students who are also District residents can get to school and school-related activities for free.

The Kids Ride Free (KRF) program allows students to ride for free on Metrobus, Metrorail, and the DC Circulator while travelling within the District.

To be eligible for participation in the KRF program, each student must be:

- A resident of the District of Columbia, and
- Age 5 through 21, and
- Enrolled in an elementary or secondary public, charter, private or parochial school located within the District, or youth in the care of the District.

2021 - 2022 School Year

The Kids Ride Free (KRF) program continues to grow! In School Year 2020-2021, DC students can request a new SmarTrip Card for traveling on public transit systems within the District. A supply of the new cards will be sent directly to all DC public and charter schools for distribution to eligible students. Students can collect their new School Year 2021-2022 KRF SmarTrip cards from their school ID administrators like they did during the last school year.

School Year 2021-2022 Kids Ride Free SmarTrip cards will remain valid through September 30, 2021.

Remember: No Card, No Free Ride

Students riding Metrobus, Metrorail, or DC Circulator should always have their Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card with them or be prepared to pay the regular fare for their trip.

For more information, please review the Kids Ride Free Frequently Asked Questions. If you have additional questions about the KRF program, please contact Denise Diggs, Brent's Manager of Strategy and Logistics at denise.diggs@k12.dc.gov or the District Department of Transportation’s School Transit Subsidy Office at (202) 673-1740.
Start your SY21-22 Planning!
Use the SY21-22 DCPS calendar to plan long weekend trips and family excursions during school holidays. The last day of school next year is Thursday, June 23, 2022.

https://dcps.dc.gov/page/dcps-calendars

Fantastic Fun Volunteer Opportunity - The 2021 Brent Holiday Tree Sale - WE NEED YOU!
Summer Greetings Brent Community,

We will never forget last year’s Holiday Sale. The community came together and conquered Covid to break a new fundraising record. This year’s 11th annual sale will be even better. The Committee has started planning, confirming tree, greenery, and hanukkah item supply, and plotting ways to exceed our goals.

We’ll be bringing back our tree donation program and keeping our extended hours, as well as engaging some of our students to help, so they can learn about managing a small non profit business. We are looking for some more Brent Bear Elves to get involved!

If you loved your chain-sawing, tree-hauling, wreath-sorting adventures this past year and would like to help organize the event in the future, please join us this year to learn the process. (No firm commitments necessary, but we’d love to answer any questions you may have.) Please reach out to any of the committee members listed below.

We need 30-40 volunteers in all different capacities to make the sale happen, so start thinking about supporting this fantastic, fun community event and critical fundraiser, and mark your calendars for the sale dates this year. Dec. 2 - 5th

Sincerely,

Craig Heilman - cwh.buster@gmail.com
Mary Claire York - maryclaireb@gmail.com
Dave Stritch - david.strich@gmail.com
Lindsay Gorman - lindsayagorman@gmail.com
Paul Taylor - pmt271@hotmail.com
Shelby Hunt - shelbyhhunt@gmail.com
Ben Whitcomb - bigbenwhitcomb@gmail.com

Join the Brent A-Z Community Directory

The Brent Elementary School Community values community connections. Please take a moment to enter your up to date information into AtoZ Connect so we can quickly publish our first ever school directory! Help us so we can help to make the connections you might need for important information, resources and family to family support! To use the directory, click on link below to create an account or log-in to update your information https://atozconnect.com/cl5/related_entities_list.php

The Brent Operations team verifies that everyone who applies to join the Brent A-Z Directory is a Brent family so families can be assured that contact information is used appropriately.
Parent University Series
Our Doors Are Open!

Join a Parent University session to learn more about returning to in-person learning for School Year 2021-22!

Thursday, July 22, 5:30PM
Caring for Our Youngest Learners:
Reopening Our Pre-K Classrooms

Tuesday, August 10, 5:30PM
Getting My Child Ready for School this Year:
What Will DCPS Look and Feel Like?

Tuesday, August 17, 5:30PM
Supporting Our Students:
Accelerating Learning In and Out of the Classroom

Thursday, August 19, 5:30PM
Mentally Preparing Myself and My Child
for the New School Year

RSVP: bit.ly/dcpsrecover
For questions, e-mail CEO.info@k12.dc.gov
CONSIDERING A TRIP?

To help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the health and safety of all children and staff of schools and child development facilities, travel outside of the District, Maryland or Virginia remains discouraged at this time. As travel increases, so does your chances of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.

Please remember children, teachers and staff returning from travel outside the District, Maryland or Virginia, or any place other than a low-risk state, territory or country, must complete the following before returning to school or child care:

**SELF-MONITOR AND LIMIT DAILY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE, FOR 10 DAYS UPON RETURN TO THE DISTRICT**

**OR**

**LIMIT ACTIVITIES AND SELF-MONITOR UNTIL THEY ARE TESTED FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AT LEAST THREE TO FIVE DAYS AFTER THEIR RETURN AND RECEIVE A NEGATIVE RESULT.**

Please note: Travel is defined as a household member traveling to/from a high-risk state or a household receiving a visitor from a high-risk state. In general, travel requires a 3-5 day period of limited activities followed by a negative COVID test for all household members or a 10-day quarantine period following the point of return.

Also, only COVID - PCR tests (not rapid tests) meet the return to school criteria.

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**Principal Corner**

About the Principal Corner

The Brent Principal Corner in Tues News is a weekly column featuring an in-depth review on a wide variety of topics important to the Brent community. Please review this column weekly and continue to submit questions directly brentelementary@k12.dc.gov. This week’s Principal Corner features the school opening principal letter.

Dear Brent Community,

Dear Brent Families,

I hope you are well. The world still shifts and swirls around us and leaves us eager for the relative stability and opportunity of a new school year.

We have spent the summer recovering, healing, and reconnecting, whether with family and friends, a long-loved hobby or moments of solitude and quiet. Our Brent team also facilitated Summer Adventure Camp (thank you to our teacher leaders and all our students!), hosted DCPS Extended School Year classes, reflected on the lessons learned from the last school year and planned for the work and innovation that will fill the next 11 months. We are ready.

By last year’s fourth term, we invited all students to in-person learning. About 90% of students chose to return to the building and 10% of students chose virtual learning. It was a feat that required creativity, persistence, and collective engagement. It was challenging but worthwhile, so much so that we will relentlessly pursue this year’s goal of not only welcoming 100% of students to the building but...
also doing everything we can to remain in that stance. Prioritizing in-person learning means some procedures and limitations different from a typical school year. By removing the demands of multiple and constantly shifting school settings, it also means a more singular focus on the practices that best support our students social emotional and academic growth.

2021-2022 Focus Areas

We are proud to be aligned with a school system that has declared two targets for the coming year: a Whole-Child Approach and Anti-racism. The graphics define and describe the principles of both.

![Whole-Child Approach Graphic]

**What is a Whole Child Approach?**

When we say we are utilizing a "whole-child approach", we are saying that we will acknowledge and respond to the overall learning and development needs and opportunities of students – not just their academic needs.

**Pillars of Anti-Racism in DCPS**

At Brent, we have historically built strong foundations for this work. We will preserve them while amplifying the spaces where the work is contained:

- **Wellness:** By considering all aspects of our school day, we seek that all students, faculty and families will share a sense of belonging, significance, and joy. We know that following a year of varied stresses and separation, these aims are even more critical.

- **Planning and Professional Development Cycles:** Supporting the collaboration of our expert faculty, we seek to research and be responsive to what students can do and what they will be able to do next, and to develop our practices to meet these needs. While the data we collected last year showed similar learning trends to previous years, we are prepared to adjust continuously to the information we collect at the start of this year and beyond.

- **Multi-tiered Systems of Student Support:** We seek to grow our systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data-based problem solving and decision-making is practiced across all levels of student learning. We will bolster our systems with a proactive and reactive lens and use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to offer targeted supports, including enrichment and tutoring within and outside of the school day.

- **Operational structures:** We seek to establish systems that are seamless and enabling to our instructional focus. We will hold community health and safety as paramount.

Even as we zoom in on these focus areas for the 2021-2022 school year, our values and operating principles endure. We are Brent Bears, and we face the future with Bravery, Empathy, Activism, and Responsibility. We carry our operating principles as our guide and use them to find a path through the anticipated and unanticipated challenges ahead. And, above all else, we are ready to face our outcomes head on to understand what is and what can be.

**Our Community**

In 2021-2022 we will welcome just under 450 students, about 75 of whom are new to our community, whether as younger siblings or the first Brent Bear in their families. Our enrollment number held steady from last year’s projection, though our number of new students is a bit higher than usual as we said goodbye to and welcomed families whose military and international placements held last year. Sixty-eight faculty members will serve our community, five of whom are new to Brent and two of whom will serve in positions new to Brent. We are fortunate to benefit from the contributions of our Community Leadership groups. Our PTA holds monthly general meetings and facilitates the work of various parent committees focused on fundraising, volunteering, and equity of voice. Both the meetings and the committee work are levers for all parents; we encourage everyone to get involved. The Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), which is an elected body of parents and faculty members, advises school leadership on budgetary and curricular issues, and often seeks parent input on questions related to the school’s growth and vision. Meetings are generally open and monthly notes are published. The Diversity Working Group (DWG) is a body that aims to advance Brent’s commitment to respecting and valuing diversity by engaging in work centered around issues related to equity in education. It is an open group, and all community members are welcome at any time. Finally, the School Improvement Team (SIT), addresses topics related to the physical plant and its expansion. The SIT will put out a call for new members, especially those with advocacy, design and construction experience, at the end of the calendar year.

Time to come together is essential to our sense of community. Most events will start in the virtual stance in line with our priority to exclude or limit potential disruptions to in-person learning, especially quarantine. They include New Family Orientation, Classroom Open
Houses and Community Meetings. The PTA will also host in-person (masked and outdoors) play dates. More information about those events is included in this mailing.

Class lists, with data gathered across 13 categories for each student, are being finalized with community in mind. They give each child the opportunity to build on existing relationships and seek new ones. Still under construction as we finalize enrollment, teacher assignments will be published on August 24th.

Communication

We expect communication to be transparent and frequent. We will rely on many of the existing structures like Tues News and weekly grade-level emails, even as we augment them with a website redesign and a more significant social media presence. Teachers are still the most important point of contact, particularly for student-specific issues, but provide in this mailing are additional points of contact. Read the regular communications and reach out whenever you have a question not answered there. If you are not sure where to go, email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or call our main number at 202-698-3363 and we will direct you to the right place. We will anticipate needs and be proactive in our communication and, when we do not yet know, we will tell you how and by when we will find out.

Safety Protocols and Procedures

Based on our successful experience with in-person learning last year and on current DCPS rules and guidelines, we have developed these layered safety protocols and procedures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Protocols and Procedures</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masks</td>
<td>Masks are required for everyone entering the Brent campus and building. Students are encouraged to wear and bring extra masks each day. A full stock of child and adult masks are available on site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Distancing</td>
<td>Social distancing is required only when feasible. Social distancing parameters will be emphasized at times without masks such as lunch or snack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohorting</td>
<td>Cohorting is required only when feasible. In general, we will limit cohort or class limit interactions, especially indoors and seek to keep outdoor interactions to four cohorts or less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC and Ventilation</td>
<td>DCPS provides and maintains industrial HEPA filters in all classrooms and centrally monitors both air quality via sensor and filter changes in our HVAC systems. The HEPA filters are designed to work most efficiently with the windows closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Personnel</td>
<td>We will have a full-time nurse and a health technician on site to screen and respond to COVID-related and other health needs, from immunization compliance to medication administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>Screening is still required and, to speed our arrival process, a portion will be done prior to school arrival. Temperatures will not be taken. School arrival will take place between 8:35-8:45 a.m. with instruction starting at 8:45 a.m. The full screening and arrival process will be shared the week of August 23rd. Throughout the year, breakfast will be available to all students at no cost. The playground will not be open in the morning as it is dedicated to our Before Care program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>All grades will eat lunch in their classrooms to maintain cohorting during unmasked times and to establish a calmer and more community-oriented lunch period. At least at the start of the year, school lunch will be available to all students at no cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specials and Services</td>
<td>Specials (atelier, art, library, music, PE, peace, and science) and related services (speech, occupational therapy, behavioral support and physical therapy) will be in person for all students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>Recess will be held outdoors when possible and each class will have a dedicated coverage person. Classes will engage with up to four other cohorts on the playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>Classes and teachers will come outside for dismissal together, similar to a typical school year. To encourage distancing, we will spread out our dismissal points to include the blacktop and the front and back of the school. The full dismissal process will be shared the week of August 23rd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We approach these procedures and protocols with a sense of collective responsibility; even if you think it is just a sniffle or are frustrated by travel guidelines, know that mutual trust and fidelity is necessary for the outcome we desire: the health and safety of our community and the preservation of consistent in-person learning.

As we are awaiting further DC DOH and DCPS guidance and as we understand that the landscape is constantly changing, we will highlight procedural updates weekly in Tues News, starting on August 10th. Videos and supporting documents that further outline the first days of school will be sent during the week of August 23rd.

**Planning for the Future**

Mayor Bowser’s most recent Capital Budget (2022-2028), now approved by the DC Council, includes the exciting allocation of $60 million in funding for a Brent modernization and expansion. The design phase is due to launch in late 2024 with a construction completion date in the summer of 2027. Our SIT and community will continue to advocate for an aggressive timeline, funding model and proximal swing space (school location during construction).

In September 2020, the District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) working group published its recommendations as to what District assets, including school names, should be removed, renamed, or contextualized. These recommendations include renaming 21 DCPS school facilities, including ours, that are named for individuals whose legacies are not reflective of our contemporary values. According to the DCPS schedule, the change process for our school’s name will launch in the 2023-2024 school year.

We believe that school matters, that it reflects our present and the promise of our future. In just a few weeks, I am eager to tackle that promise together.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell

Principal
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.