

Bordentown Regional MIDDLE SCHOOL



Building a Community of Learners

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph F. Sprague
Principal

Robert R. Schurtz
Assistant Principal



50 Dunns Mill Rd., Bordentown NJ 08505

Phone: (609) 298-0674

Fax: (609) 291-1929

Web: www.bordentown.k12.nj.us

August 26, 2019

Dear BRMS Families;

We hope that your summer was exceptional and we welcome you to another exciting year at Bordentown Regional Middle School. We will be off and running with a full day of school – Thursday, September 5, 2019. Our focus at BRMS is on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding educational experience as well as social and emotional growth.

Along with holding high academic expectations for the students at BRMS, they are also provided with a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities to promote school and community involvement. Please check our website for various athletic and club opportunities.

Below are some important updates as well as reminders for families to review with their students prior to the 2019-2020 school year commencing:

- 1.) **We are continuing to implement and improve procedures and protocols for visitor entry into BRMS, please make sure to review of our entry procedures listed below.**
- 2.) **After much research, input from our community and faculty, we have updated our bell schedule to better the academic experience for our students. ****Please note that we are no longer having a homeroom period and students will report to their first class of the day after going to their lockers.******
- 3.) **Implementation of an After School Bus on Wednesdays. We are going to use this for students who need to stay late for extra help with a teacher as well as an added level of disciplinary consequence.**
- 4.) **Our Band Director will be at BRMS for a full day instead of half of the day.**
- 5.) **We have added a Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) to be at BRMS more regularly. The SAC is an additional social and emotional support for students who may need it.**
- 6.) **We have updated our Student Handbook in great detail, please take time to review it with your student. It is available on our website and students will receive a copy the first day of school.**

Vital to our success of BRMS is our Parent/Teacher Organization. We encourage all parents to actively participate in our PTO. The PTO has played an integral role in many of the academic and extra-curricular offerings here at BRMS. The first PTO meeting of the 2019 -2020 school year will be held on Monday October 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the BRMS Library. One other important date to remember is our Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 24th in our auditorium at 7:00 p.m. More information will follow.

Our teachers, staff, and administration are looking for a terrific 2019-2020 school year where our students grow not only academically but also socially and emotionally as well.

Thank you,

Joseph Sprague
Principal

Bob Schurtz
Assistant Principal

BRMS STAFF CHANGES 19-20

Social Studies- Mr. Joseph Gilch is joining the BRMS Social Studies Department. Mr. Gilch has a wealth of experience in the Social Studies field and is a graduate of Rutgers University. He will be teaching 8th Grade Social Studies this year.

Math- Mrs. Jennifer Ito is joining our Math Department. Mrs. Ito comes to BRMS with a great deal of teaching experience. Mrs. Ito will be our Basic Skills Math Teacher and is also a graduate of Rutgers University. Also, Mrs. Fisicaro recently had a baby and will be out until Thanksgiving on Maternity Leave. Mrs. Regina Phillips will be teaching her classes until she returns. Mrs. Phillips is a graduate from The College of New Jersey. Lastly, Ms. Pfenninger was married over the summer and her married name is now Mrs. Taylor as you will now see in Power School.

Language Arts- As many of you know, Mrs. Poole retired at the end of last year. Taking her place is Ms. Rachel Gagliardo. Ms. Gagliardo was our Basic Skills Language Arts Teacher last year. Taking Ms. Gagliardo's place as our Basic Skills LA Teacher is Ms. Jeanette Loria. We are excited to have Ms. Gagliardo fill this position and as equally excited for Ms. Loria to join our LA Department. Ms. Loria is a recent graduate from The College of New Jersey.

Band Director- As many of you know Mr. Montalto will be working full time at Bordentown Regional High School. Replacing him at BRMS is a former Band Director at PMES and MIS, Mrs. Cheryl Stallworth-Glitz. The Band Director position is now an full time position at BRMS and lessons will be offered throughout our entire day. We are excited for this new opportunity for our students and can't wait to have Mrs. Glitz join our team!

Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC)- We have an added more days to the week that our SAC is present in our school. Mr. Michael McQuarrie will be filling this role for us. Mr. McQuarrie did his internship at BRMS and will be a great addition to our staff and helpful to our students.

Special Education- Mrs. Amanda Bramley will joining our Special Education Department and working in our Language Arts and Science Departments. Mrs. Bramley is a recent graduate of Rutgers Camden University.

School Entry Protocol 2019-2020

- No visitors are to enter the building with students during arrival. Administration will be present at our doors and will not allow visitors in unless they have a scheduled appointment.
- When ringing the buzzer for entry, it is expected that all visitors state the purpose of their visit and/or specify with whom they have an appointment.
- Visitors will be required to show photo identification and sign in to obtain a visitor's pass.
- **It is imperative that visitors do not hold the door open for others behind them. Each visitor must be acknowledged individually through the buzzer system.** *We understand that this is not necessarily the polite thing to do; however, it is the safest.*
- If you *must* drop off an item for a student (lunch, homework, etc.) you will be directed to deposit that item in a bin inside the main entry. Entry into the office will not be permitted. Please see the statement below with regards to dropping off items for your student:

We are limiting the amount that we contact students during class to reduce disruptions during instructional time. We are asking students to remember to bring all necessary items required for school on a daily basis. We will be limiting the times that we call down students to the main office to pick up forgotten homework, lunches or personal items. As you can imagine this is very disruptive to our school day as well as classroom instruction. We also believe that this will enhance the security in our building for our staff and students.

- If you will be picking up your child early, you must notify the office of this while at the buzzer. You will be required to state the name of the student and your relationship to the student. Please note, we will check ID and confirm with the parent/guardian before releasing student. Once a student is signed out, the family member or guardian will wait for the student outside of the main office in our vestibule until the student arrives. If the person picking the student up is not on the approved list, the student will not be released until someone from the list arrives to pick the student up. We do this for the protection of all students.
- Front office secretaries will be required to call the school resource officer and notify school administrators if the visitor is uncooperative or does not adhere to the procedures.

We know that this protocol is stringent and may seem like an inconvenience to our visitors who are, as always, welcome in our schools. Please understand that these procedures are put into place to enhance the level of safety for our students and staff. It is my expectation that our visitors understand the need for these updates and will work to follow them.

Other Important Items

- ❖ Please Remember - Thursday, September 5th is a full day of school.
- ❖ BRMS will be providing a student assignment book. This is a calendar for homework assignments and also includes all BRMS expectations. Please take some time to review and discuss this information with your child.
- ❖ Your locker assignment with the locker combination is found on your schedule. Please make sure to keep your locker secured and do not give your combination to any other students. BRMS lockers are the property of the school district and are subject to periodic searches.
- ❖ Remember to check out our website for additional information. Please be sure to check emails regularly as that is our primary form of communication.
- ❖ School hours – 7:50 am to 2:50 pm – **students should not be dropped off prior to 7:50 am since there is no direct supervision provided.**
In the morning, our buses unload on the cafeteria side of the school – the large parking lot. Therefore, any parents dropping students off in the morning should do so in the front, horseshoe driveway.
- ❖ On a half-day, students are dismissed at 12:05.

Explanation of Student Schedule

- ❖ Each student will have Language Arts and Mathematics for the entire school year. Social Studies and Science will be a half-year course (semester), and will be held during the same period. (For example – if you start the year with Science during Core 2, then in January you will begin your Social Studies class during Core 2.) These four courses are considered “Core Courses”. Each core course in 7th and 8th grade meets for 85 minutes a day. In 6th grade each core course meets for 82 minutes.
- ❖ Each student will have two (2) humanities (Special) courses each marking period. The humanities courses are; Art, Music, Spanish, Computer Ed., Technology Ed., Health and Physical Education (PE). These classes will change each marking period. Each humanities course will run for only one marking period except for Physical Education – students will have PE for two marking periods. Each humanities class meets for 41 minutes per day.

**** AE Period- All students will be scheduled with an Academic Enrichment (AE) period. During this time our Chorus and Band students will meet for rehearsals and practices. Also during this time students will receive additional academic support from teachers where needed. ****

- ❖ Below is the New Bell Schedule for a full day:

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
7:50 - 7:55	Student Entry	7:50 - 7:55	Student Entry	7:50 - 7:55	Student Entry
7:58 - 8:39	Core 1 (A)	7:58 - 9:23	Core 1	7:58 - 8:39	AM - Special
8:42 - 9:23	AM - Special	9:26 - 10:07	AM - Special	8:42 - 10:07	Core 1
9:26 - 10:07	Core 1 (B)	10:10 - 10:40	AE	10:10 - 10:40	AE
10:10 - 10:40	AE	10:43 - 12:08	Core 2	10:40 - 11:10	LUNCH 8
10:43 - 11:24	Core 2 (A)	12:08 - 12:38	LUNCH 7	11:13 - 12:38	Core 2
11:24 - 11:54	LUNCH 6	12:41 - 2:06	Core 3	12:41 - 1:22	PM - Special
11:57 - 12:38	Core 2 (B)	2:09 - 2:50	PM - Special	1:25 - 2:50	Core 3
12:41 - 1:22	Core 3 (A)	<i>30-Minute Academic Enrichment Period</i>			
1:25 - 2:06	PM - Special				
2:09 - 2:50	Core 3 (B)				