



# *Barkalow Middle School*

## *Freehold Township School District*

*Thomas Smith*  
*Interim Principal*

*Christine Cleffi*  
*Interim Asst. Principal*

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*...empowering students with skills and attitudes needed to succeed in a culturally diverse and changing world.*

August, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians:

I hope you are enjoying the summer with family and friends. I will be serving as Interim Principal until Mr. Soviero's anticipated return in December along with Mrs. Christine Cleffi who will be serving as Interim Assistant Principal. It is my goal to make this school year a rewarding and balanced educational experience both academically and socially for all students.

Barkalow Middle School is continuing its commitment to being environmentally responsible. To that end, we continue to communicate with you via e-mail for all notices. This would include schedules, report cards, parent teacher conference notices, etc. As a reminder, the PTO will not be providing agendas. All assignments and class information will be available on Schoology. Therefore, it will be very important that we have your most current e-mail address on file for your child. We will be asking, over this summer break, that you update your contact information via the Genesis Parent Portal, please check your emails for further information and instructions. The portal will reopen for this purpose on August 18th and will close again on August 27th. We are also requiring that you complete certain forms via the portal prior to the start of school year. These forms **MUST** be completed or you will not be able to access your child's upcoming class schedule. The date of the opening of the portal for schedules will be Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Students will also receive the Genesis Student Information Forms on the first day of school, and we ask that you review them thoroughly and acknowledge that all the information is correct. This will ensure that we do have the most up-to-date and accurate information in your child's database. Please be sure that your email address is current so that we can communicate effectively with you. If you do not have access to e-mail, for your convenience, we will be posting all information that goes out on our district website for your review. If you do not have access to a computer, and this process will not work for you, please let us know.

Our appearance has continued to improve throughout the entire building this summer thereby giving our students an inviting academic work environment. Our technology program continues to be updated to challenge our students in getting them ready for an ever-changing technological world. We continue to update our security procedures in the building and as a district. Please refer to the district security procedures that will be sent to you under separate letter.

Barkalow offers a variety of sports and extra-curricular activities within the school. It is encouraged for all students to get involved in some extra-curricular activity. Barkalow is fortunate to have an extremely active and supportive PTO. They continue to provide opportunities for all students to be involved in the Barkalow community. They sponsor many honorariums, dances, and other student-centered experiences. Please become a member and volunteer. Please remember to visit our website and check out all current events under Announcements.

The school counselors at Barkalow are Ms. Colford and Mr. Lins. Ms. Colford will be working with students whose last name begin with A through L. Mr. Lins will be working with students whose last name begin with M through Z. If your child needs some assistance, they can see their school counselor during the day by stopping in the main office to make an appointment to see them. The counselors are available to provide academic, social and emotional support to all students.

School hours are 7:30 am to 2:16 pm. Students will be dismissed from busses and may enter through any entrance at 7:30 am and go directly to their lockers. Students **will not** be allowed in the building before 7:30 am unless they are involved in a supervised activity. Bagels and breakfast foods will be sold by the PTO in the cafeteria as students enter the building on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. These sales will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Students report to homeroom by 7:30 am. The last class ends at 2:16 pm.

All students, including walkers will be dismissed at that time. If a parent chooses to pick up their child early, please follow the procedures to sign your child out. If you are picking-up any other children other than your own prior to the end of the school day, they **must** have a note from their parents authorizing them in your care. **Without a note** they cannot be released.

The drop off and pick up procedures remain the same as last year. During drop off and pick up, cars will proceed to the loop between Barkalow and the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). There will be no cars permitted into the front entrance lot while buses are present. After school, due to safety and security, you are not to park in the fire lane in front of the school as you wait for your child. You can park in the bus lanes once busses leave or park in the many parking spots that are available. The lanes directly in front of the building are fire lanes and must remain clear.

As was the procedure last year, students will not be allowed to ride another student's bus for any reason. This is due to the full capacity of those busses that are utilized. Students must ride on their assigned bus only. With regard to sports bussing, athletes will be dropped off at their practice location and parents are responsible for pick up there. For games, athletes will be brought to the game location. They will be transported back to Barkalow at the end of the game only if it is a location out of Freehold. Otherwise, parents will need to pick up their student athlete at the game.

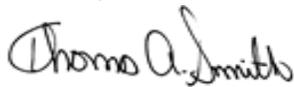
With regard to attendance, please be reminded that students will be considered tardy if they arrive to the building after 7:40 a.m. Also, please remember that after each absence, students are **required** to hand in a signed note from their parent/guardian explaining the absence. Each absence will be marked as unexcused until a note is received. Please be sure to read the attendance policy in its entirety in the district handbook which is available on the Barkalow website. After review of the policy, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

On the first day of school, students will be bringing home a packet which includes several forms that need to be signed and returned to the office. Again, please read through that packet with your children and submit any forms that need to be returned to your child/children's homeroom teacher. A listing of events and daily notices will be displayed on our website as information becomes available. Please visit the district website at [www.freeholdtwp.k12.nj.us](http://www.freeholdtwp.k12.nj.us) and click on the Barkalow School link. For those who do not have access to a computer to get to the website, you may call the school at 732-431-4403 x 2101 and let us know. We will make arrangements for you to access the material.

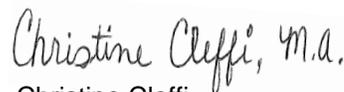
Chromebooks will be distributed to all students on September 4 from 5:00 pm until 7:00pm. Also during this time, students will be permitted to go to their lockers, practice the combination, set up locker as well as become comfortable with their schedules.

I wish to take this opportunity to assure you that I will extend my best efforts in providing a stimulating and meaningful educational program for your child.

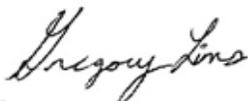
Sincerely,



Thomas A. Smith  
Interim Principal



Christine Cleffi  
Interim Assistant Principal



Gregory Lins  
School Counselor



Courtney Colford  
School Counselor