



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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brandywineschools.org

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August 21, 2022

Dear BSD Families,

We hope everyone is enjoying the last few weeks of summer! It's hard to believe how quickly the new school year is approaching.

Last week we held our August Board of Education meeting. The recap of that meeting can be found here: <https://express.adobe.com/page/cRCtSLEhatRjx/> and contains lots of great information for our families.

I also wanted to share additional important information for our families.

Bus Assignments

Unfortunately, we've experienced a glitch with our transportation bus routing software. This has led to a delay in getting bus assignments to our families. We sincerely apologize for this unexpected technical issue. Our goal was to make sure our families received only the correct information. We will be sending the bus assignments to all families on Monday – and hope for everyone to have their mailer by mid-week.

Unfortunately, due to this glitch we aren't able to move forward with our previously scheduled "Meet the Driver" event on Wednesday. Again, we sincerely apologize for this unexpected issue – and please know we're doing everything we can to get our families their information as soon as possible.

Download "Where's the Bus" App

Families with students who are eligible for transportation can also download the "Where's the Bus" app for real-time updates on their bus location. The app can be downloaded on Apple or Android devices and lets families know exactly when their bus will be arriving at their child's bus stop in the morning and afternoon. Information is updated every 15 seconds, and provides mapping, location data, and timing for when the bus will arrive.

Signing up is easy – we've created a short video outlining the process. You can watch the video here: <https://www.brandywineschools.org/bus-app>

Take a Peek Events

Our BSD elementary schools want to make sure our students and their families have an opportunity to “take a peek” at their school building and classrooms before the start of the next school year.

Most of these open house events take place on August 24 or August 25, so they are happening soon! If you have any questions, please reach out to your school for more information.

Meal Benefits

This school year, many of the federal waivers that have been in place throughout COVID have expired. This means that some BSD schools will remain free school meal sites – while other schools will once again require meal benefit applications to provide free or reduced meals to students.

All BSD families received an email from Colleen Carter, Supervisor of School Nutrition, explaining the process to apply for meal benefits. You can also find all the information, including the application, here: <https://www.brandywineschools.org/meal-benefits>

Guidance for the School Year

As we shared at our August Board Meeting, all of Delaware's school districts had an initial meeting with Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) and Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) regarding guidance for the upcoming school year.

We were hoping to share the official guidance on this communication, but we are still awaiting the final information from DPH and DOE. In general, we do believe that many of the social distancing guidelines we were using last year will be relaxed. Masks will remain optional for students, but are a great mitigation tool.

For the beginning of the school year, we will continue to have families utilize our COVID Reporting Line (302-793-5095) to report a positive COVID test result. Once you call the line, you will receive further guidance from one of our CDC Liaisons or a school nurse. Parents will no longer need to provide information about an exposure, only positive test results.

As soon as we have final guidance from our public health and education partners, we will make sure to share that information with our families.

We hope everyone has a wonderful end of their summer and we can't wait to see our students return the week of August 29.

Respectfully,

Lincoln Hohler
Superintendent