



BLIND BROOK PTA

Summer 2022 Bulletin

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Letter from the PTA Co-Presidents

Dear Blind Brook Community,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are so excited for the coming year, with the completion of the construction project as well the return of Fall Fest and the introduction of new events and activities.

As a K-12 PTA, we aim to provide programs and advocate for all students in the Blind Brook school district. To do this, we need the continued support of our community and volunteer effort from our families. We encourage you to get or remain involved with the PTA, attend our meetings and participate in events and activities throughout the year.

Our monthly meetings are an opportunity to have your voice heard and meet new people in the district. Blind Brook Superintendent Dr. Colin Byrne attends each meeting and delivers a summary of the month's happenings. Brief reports from members of the PTA Executive Board, including a financial summary, are also presented each month. This year our meetings will be held at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, alternating between morning and evening on Thursdays (see schedule on the left side panel, page 2).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments or suggestions throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events!

Cameron Sager and Correy Stephenson



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PTA MEETINGS 2022-2023

September 15 (9am)

October 13 (7pm)

November 17 (9am)

December 15 (7pm)

January 12 (9am)

February 16 (7pm)

March 16 (9am)

April 13 (7pm)

May 11 (9am)

June 8 (9am)

All meetings will be held
in-person at B.M.P.
Ridge Street School.

Blind Brook PTA 2022-2023 Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Cameron Sager - csager10@gmail.com

Correy Stephenson - _correystephenson@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Lynn Glantz - bbptatreasurer99@gmail.com

Legal

Shari Turner - goldsmith.shari@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Kate Marino - kmarino63@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Nethra Bhatt - blindbrookptasocial@gmail.com

Fundraising

Large Events: Leah Mittelman - BlindBrook.PTA1@gmail.com

Smaller Programs: Linda Itani - linda.itani@gmail.com

Smaller Fundraisers: Karen Lin - Karen.lin84@gmail.com

School Spirit: Shana Koransky - shanakoransky@gmail.com

Membership - BBPTAmembers@gmail.com

Stephanie Biderman

Katie Wolff

Liaisons

RSS: Amanda Gitkind - amandagitkind@gmail.com

MS: ToniAnne Rigano - rigatoni51207@yahoo.com

HS: Naomi Riley - naomiriley@gmail.com

Pupil Services: Victor Espinoza - blindbrookseid@gmail.com



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A Few Notes From Our Board

FUNDRAISING

We are excited to bring back some of our favorite activities this year! Baseball fans mark your calendars for our fall fundraiser Yankees game on 10/1 vs. the Baltimore Orioles. The 7th annual Fall Fest is back (Inflatables! Food Trucks! Spirit Wear! and more) on Saturday 10/22. Other favorites like the Book Fair will once again be held in person and After School Activities will start in the fall. As always, we depend upon community participation to make our events and activities a success, so please watch your email and social media for ways to help support the PTA!

MEMBERSHIP

To join the Blind Brook PTA, please register via Community Pass (to create an account, see directions here: <https://www.blindbrook.org/Page/711>). The cost is \$25 per household and includes access to our online directory hosted by SchoolBee. When you register, you also have the option to purchase a printed copy of the Dial-A-Friend directory. Beginning in September, only people who join the PTA for the 2022-2023 school year will have access to SchoolBee.

PUPIL SERVICES (SEID Committee)

We all recognize the importance of making sure our children's unique needs are supported throughout their school experience. SEID is a PTA committee designed to Support Every Individual Difference; this support applies to all students, with an emphasis on helping parents navigate the nuances of special education. We want to offer a safe environment for the sharing of questions, ideas and resources, while serving as a liaison with Pupil Services. New services and support services introduced this year are bound to bring new questions, and we look forward to engaging in these discussions. We hope to see you soon (even if it's virtually!) at parent coffees, book clubs and speaker engagements throughout the year!



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

This summer is bringing a challenge of extended heatwaves and another surge in COVID. I hope that you and your family are staying healthy and are enjoying the summer months!

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding PTA! Led by co-presidents Correy Stephenson and Cameron Sager, they have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping our schools during COVID, construction and the various other obstacles that crop up during the school year. They have been instrumental in keeping our schools on track and I look forward to working with them in the coming year!

As strong an organization as the Blind Brook PTA is, it could be even stronger with your help! Volunteering for the PTA is a great way to meet people, get involved with our schools, and make a direct impact on your child's education. It is important to remember that the PTA at Blind Brook is a "K-12 PTA" so whether your child is in kindergarten or is a senior at BBHS please consider joining this worthy organization and participating. I realize that time is one of the most limited resources that we have. Any time that you would be willing to donate to assist the PTA in its work would be greatly appreciated!

As we head towards what looks to be a smooth opening of the 2022-2023 school year, I wish you a happy and fun-filled summer! I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Sincerely,
Colin Byrne



Blind Brook High School Principal: Jennifer Chirles

PTA Liaison

Naomi Riley

naomisriley@gmail.com

Dear Parents,

We're excited to welcome you and your children back to school this year. We welcome our new students and new faculty to our campus. We can't wait to learn and grow together!

The summer mailing was sent out on August 9th. In that mailing will be important information for the month of September as well as any important forms that need to be completed. All of our mailings will be sent electronically. If for some reason you are not getting the school emails, please make sure your information is up to date in eSchoolData. Copies of mandated forms and calendars will be posted on the BBHS website. It is imperative that required forms are returned to ensure both our compliance with federal and state mandates, as well as our ability to meet the needs of each student.

The first day of classes will be Tuesday, September 6th. We look forward to meeting you through our parent and community events this year. I encourage you to attend our Principal Conversations throughout the school year and join the PTA. These are two great ways to support your young adult as they journey through high school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jchirles@blindbrook.org, or Mr. Greenwald at mgreenwald@blindbrook.org. In the interim, I wish you health and rest for the remainder of the summer.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Best Wishes,

Jennifer Chirles, Ed.D

Follow us online @BlindBrookHS on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook!



Blind Brook Middle School Principal: Seth Horowitz

PTA Liaison

ToniAnne Rigano

rigatoni51207@yahoo.com

Dear Blind Brook Middle School Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! This is an exciting year for our school community as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Blind Brook Middle School!

Thanks to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our community, BBMS has continued to grow and evolve over the past two decades. The lessons learned, coupled with an ever-growing body of research focused on early adolescent growth and development, have paved the way for a bright and exciting future. Highlights for the coming school year include:

- A new school schedule
- Implementation of FLEX period and Advisory programming
- Enhanced academic and social emotional programs and activities
- Community-wide engagement in identifying a BBMS mascot, logo, and slogan
- 20th anniversary celebratory events throughout the year
- Enhanced opportunities for parental engagement

It is well documented that children learn best and are more likely to achieve their full potential when the significant adults in their lives - parents, teachers, family and community members - work together to encourage and support them. It is therefore critical that we develop and nurture positive and productive relationships between the home and the school. We hope that you will partner with us in this endeavor by attending many of this year's parent engagement events (Open House, Parent Workshops, Principal's Conversations, etc.) which are posted on the District Calendar.

I look forward to our continued partnership and extend my deepest thanks to the Blind Brook PTA for its continued support and partnership. Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,
Seth Horowitz

Blind Brook Middle School - Additional Information

Prior to School:

To ensure the safety of our students, please be sure to complete the electronic Dismissal Form indicating who is permitted to pick your child(ren) up from school. If you have questions, please contact Lori Paisley (lpaisley@blindbrook.org or x3099).

To ensure that you receive all communication from BBMS, please log onto the eSchool Parent Portal and verify that all of your contact information is correct.

If you have difficulty accessing the portal, please contact Ana Tornini (atornini@blindbrook.org or x1006).

First Day of School:

Your child(ren) will be given the following forms on the first day of school:

- Emergency Card
- Annual Health Statement
- Medication Form – if necessary

Please complete these forms and have your student(s) return them to the box outside of the main office as soon as possible.

Important Dates to Remember:

August 26: Student schedules posted on the eSchool Parent Portal

September 1: New Student & 6th Grade Orientation, 2:00 PM

September 6: First day of school for BBMS students

September 15: Parent Workshop & Open House

September 19: School Picture Day

September 26-27: Schools Closed (Rosh Hashanah)



PTA Liaison

Amanda Gitkind

amandagitkind@gmail.com

B.M.P. Ridge Street School Principal: Tracy Taylor

Dear BMP Ridge Street Families,

Our bluebird nest is feeling a little empty right now, but soon the school buses will be here, the classrooms and hallways will be filled with the excitement of a new year of learning, **new learning spaces**, and lots of **C.H.I.R.P.**ing! We are excited to welcome our bluebirds back to the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School Bluebird nest and a year filled with new beginnings!

C.H.I.R.P. stands for **C**ompassionate, **H**onest, **I**ndependent, **R**espectful, and **P**ositive - the qualities that shine through in everything that we do, every action we take, and in the words that we speak. BMPRSS is the home of the bluebirds and we proudly **C.H.I.R.P.** Each year our **Bluebird Mindfulness** Program grows. During morning announcements we recite the Bluebird Pledge promising to do our best:

I am ready to respect myself.

I am ready to respect others.

I am ready to learn.

I am ready to **be mindful** and have a great day because bluebirds fly high!

Here's are some highlights coming up "in the nest" this year:

Morning Announcements will continue! Each morning we will recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Bluebird Pledge each day along with various other news in our bluebird nest over our new PA system!

Our new spaces will be open this fall! We are looking forward to our 21st century Art Studio, Elementary Makerspace (for our Young Engineers STEAM class), newly designed Music Room, our Cafetorium (cafeteria and performance stage), our outdoor learning space in our new courtyard, new greenhouse, new gardening area, new bus loop and additional parking lot, new Main Entrance, and our new Main Office.

Our Ridge Street **Bluebird Assemblies and School Spirit Days** will be held throughout the year! Don't forget to buy your BMP Ridge Street School and Blind Brook apparel which is available through the Blind Brook PTA School Store sponsored by our PTA!

Early Morning Drop-off at 7:45 am each school day. If you need to drop your children off a little early, we are here in the nest! You may bring your children to school as early as 7:45 am. Drop-off is located at our Main Entrance.

Class placement will be released on the Parent Portal on August 26th at 3:00 pm.

Our Parent Portal displays important information including your child's teacher for the upcoming school year, bus stop information, and report cards. Class placement for the 2022-2023 school year will be released on Friday, August 26th at 3:00 pm. You can access the Parent Portal on our District's website. If you have trouble accessing the Parent Portal, please contact our Director of Technology – Mr. Charles Von Hollen – at cvonhollen@blindbrook.org. If you have any questions about pick-up times, drop-off times, and bus stop locations please email our Head of Transportation Mr. Juan Zhindon at jzhindon@blindbrook.org.

Kindergarten Social for Incoming Kindergarten Families is on August 29th.

Our Blind Brook PTA is organizing a Kindergarten Social for our incoming Kindergarten students in the afternoon on August 29th at Rye Hills Park. Information was sent to all incoming Kindergarten families.

Meet and Greet is on August 31st.

The Blind Brook Federation of Teachers is hosting their annual "Meet and Greet" from 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm at Harkness Park (the area near the tennis courts at the Blind Brook Middle and High School campus.)

September 6th – First Day of School for ALL BMPRSS Elementary Students

School begins at 8:30 am* and ends at 3:10 pm.

Please see the important note below about Kindergarten for the first day of school.

Kindergarten on September 6th

Kindergarten students will be attending school on Tuesday, September 6th from 9:30 am – 3:10 pm. Note: This adjustment to the start of the school day is ONLY for our Kindergarten students on the first day of school. After that, all Kindergarten students will attend school from 8:30 am – 3:10 pm.

- Our BMPRSS faculty, staff, and administrators will be ready to help escort our Kindergarten students into the building. Parents and caregivers will not be allowed in the building.
- Bus arrival for Kindergarten will be one hour later on the first day of only.
- Morning Drop-off for Kindergarten will be one hour later on the first day of school only.

All **BMPRSS Open Houses** will be held in person this year! We can't wait for our parents to come into our school and see their children's classrooms and check out our new spaces.

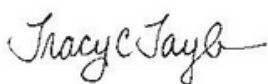
Please SAVE THE DATE for our Open House events on:

- Tuesday, September 13th - Grades 3 and 4 Open House
- Wednesday, September 14th - Grades K and 5 Open House
- Wednesday, September 21st - Grades 1 and 2 Open House

Each Open House will start at 6:30 pm. More information will be sent home to families regarding the agenda for each evening.

Many thanks to the Blind Brook PTA for its continuous support they have given to our school to fund our extra programs and activities that allow our students to experience something new!

From our office staff to our custodians to our teachers and administrators, we are gearing up for an exciting 2022-2023 school year!



Tracy Taylor
Principal



Teresa Letizia
Vice Principal