

Dear Black Rock Families,

It is almost here -what we have all been waiting for! It is with great excitement that we at BRS are looking toward the 2021-2022 school year. Our teaching staff is here this week getting rooms ready, making class preparations and participating in exciting professional development sessions. They are fired up and committed to working diligently with our students to provide an exciting and rigorous student-centered education. We look forward to working on creative projects, preparing innovative presentations, reading exciting books, tackling challenging math problems, experiencing our community, and building foundational and critical thinking skills. Due to an increase in funding, we have been able to hire additional certified staff to cater even more to the individual needs of our young learners. Through a positive and nurturing environment, we also look forward to continue providing a strong social-emotional foundation for students as well.

As we move through the school year, we will also work to provide a safe physical environment as well as we work to mitigate transmission of the coronavirus. Like all of the schools in our state, we are using the Connecticut State Department of Education's guidance for the use of mitigation strategies. You can read this guidance here -

<https://www.bridgportedu.net/cms/lib/CT02210097/Centricity/Domain/8/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf>

We will emphasize mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing and sanitizing as we look to constantly mitigate the spread of the virus. We will continue to enter and exit from multiple entrances and have added an additional lunch wave to our cafeteria schedule to increase spacing and reduce crowding. Our goal is work with our students to understand the need for safety but also to feel excited about coming to school and being able to interact with their fellow students daily.

We also are looking forward to many exciting family activities this year. We will start with a Teacher Meet and Greet Day on Friday, August 27th. for students in Grades PK-8. This is a new event this year and is entirely optional. If you are interested and available, please come during the appointed time slot if you are free to the Black Rock School playground and take a couple of minutes for you and your child to meet their teacher. There will be a used book giveaway and Staples has also donated some supply goodie bags that will be given out as supplies last for selected grades. This is simply an informal activity, our regular Back to School Night is scheduled for September 15.

Here are the times for the different grades for the 27th:

- *11:00 – 11:45 Kindergarten*
- *12:30 – 1:00 PreK*
- *1:00 – 1:25 1st Grad*
- *1:30 – 1:55 2nd and 3rd Grade*
- *2:00 – 2:25 4th and 5th Grade*
- *2:00 – 2:25 6th, 7th and 8th Grade (at front of school on Brewster Street)*

Just a reminder, the school day hours will return to 8:40 to 3:05, five days a week.

All in all, it is shaping up to be an exciting year of learning at Black Rock School! We will be sending more communication in the next couple of days on first day logistics and how to get involved. See you soon!

Best,

Steve Cassidy