

Brooker Creek Elementary School

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Jennifer Mekler
Principal

Abby Cannata
Assistant Principal

Good afternoon, Brooker Creek families. This is Jennifer Mekler, your Principal, calling to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year, and share some important information with you.

School Safety Updates:

As a result of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, a number of safety measures have been put into place in Pinellas County Schools, which will result in changes to the daily operations on our campus. All staff will be participating in safety training later this week before students begin school. Joining our team, is School Security Officer (SSO), Kelly Goswick. Officer Kelly comes to us with years of experience and we are excited to have him with us at school each day. In regards to our new security measures, all exterior school doors will remain locked, at all times, and classroom doors will remain closed and locked each day. All visitors must be cleared to enter the secure area of the school through our Badge Pass system. Visitors who do not have a JLA (Jessica Lundsford Act) Level 2 clearance must now be escorted by school personnel, at all times, while on campus. Volunteers, with JLA Level 2 clearance, will be granted access to campus only for school scheduled volunteer opportunities. At Brooker Creek, this will encompass a change from our previous volunteer and visitor process, as we do not have supplemental staff to act as escorts. We appreciate your support and understanding while we make these district safety changes to our campus.

We will also have a new policy with respect to having lunch with your child. We are sad to say that, at this time, parents will be limited to lunch with their child, on campus, to one day a week. We are hopeful that you will consider joining us for a mid-week lunch on Wednesdays, beginning on Wednesday, August 29th. We will be using the first two weeks of school to set our school processes and will not be welcoming lunch time visitors during this time. I know this specific day may not accommodate everyone's schedules; however, this will be our process moving forward, as we do not have supplemental staff to escort and supervise parents having lunch on campus. We will continually review our practices and will make changes as necessary. Additionally, parents will no longer be able to join their students for breakfast.

When you have a scheduled parent conference, the teacher will meet you in the office and will escort you to the classroom or to a school conference room.

Parents will be allowed to walk their children to class the first week of school through Wednesday, August 13th-August 15th. Beginning August 16th, parents will say their goodbyes outside of our campus and students will enter the campus and walk to class independently. Please be assured that we will have plenty of staff on hand to assist and Kindergarten students will be escorted to their classrooms by our safety patrols and/or staff members.

For more information about school safety, please feel free to visit the district's website at www.pcsb.org/safety for updates.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Class lists will be posted tomorrow evening, August 8th, after 5pm, and they are also available through the parent portal. Please know that placements are made with many factors in mind, and we will be unable to accommodate any request for a teacher change. All class lists will remain tentative through the 10 day count.

Meet the Teacher will be this Thursday for Fifth grade from 2:00-3:00 in the afternoon. The remaining Meet the Teacher schedule will be held on Friday at the following times;

Pre-K and Kindergarten – 10:00-11:00

1st and 2nd grades- 1:00-2:00

3rd and 4th grades- 2:00-3:00

This is a great time to drop off supplies, pick up paperwork to be completed, and meet your child's new teacher. PTA will also be having their Information Fair in the cafeteria during Meet the Teacher times, and we will have staff members and volunteers around the campus to answer questions.

The first day of school is Monday, August 13th. Please note our new school hours will be 8:45-2:45. The first bell will ring at 8:40 and all students should be in their seats no later than 8:45.

Open House dates are as follows:

August 30th for Grades 3-5

September 5th for Prek-2

As always, we appreciate your partnership and support of our school vision of 100% student success!

Have a wonderful evening and we hope you enjoy your last few days of summer.