

Kindergarten Buzz

Summer 2016

Note from your Kindergarten Coordinators

We welcome you and your child to the Morris Brandon Primary Center! Our goal is to work closely with your Kindergarten teachers and each class's room parents to ensure that everyone stays well informed during this exciting first year of Elementary School!

The Brandon Kindergarten experience is rich with wonderful traditions: exciting and educational field trips, science projects, easel painting, parent readers, and much more. Along with the room parents, we will keep you informed of all events specific to Kindergarten through monthly emails and updates. Your room parents will send an e-mail blast each time new Kindergarten information is posted online. It is the best way to BEE informed of Kindergarten news! This summer, in preparation for a fabulous year, we ask that you:

1. **Subscribe to our electronic communications: the BeeMail AND text alerts.** These will be your main sources for all school-wide information. The quick subscribe link for BeeMail is located on Brandon's main page, www.morrisbrandon.com. To sign up for text messages, send a text to 81010 with @mbbees in the body. After school starts, your BeeMail will arrive in your email each Wednesday.
2. **Purchase your Kindergarten school supplies in advance online. Follow the link from the home page of the website.** This supply package is a service offered by the PTA (not a fundraiser) and is not mandatory, but is encouraged. This is a simple and convenient way to purchase the supplies your child needs. If you order before the July 25 deadline, the kit will be delivered to your child's classroom by the first day of school. If you decide to purchase your own supplies, there is a required Kindergarten school supply list posted under the "School Supplies" link on the home page. Questions? Contact School Supply Chairs, Caren Solomon caren.solomon@gmail.com or Wallis Ronchetti wronchetti@mac.com.
3. **Purchase a Red Morris Brandon t-shirt** to be worn on all field trips. You may also want to purchase a pair of red shorts that are required for field day in May. Pre-order your logo wear online by July 20, and it will be delivered to your child's classroom the first week of school. Visit the website and click on the "Logo Wear" link to view all Morris Brandon clothing.
4. **Register for a carpool number.** If you are planning to pick your child up in carpool during the 2016-17 school year (even occasionally), you must register for a carpool number. The same number is used for the Primary Center and Main Campus. Please go to www.morrisbrandon.com and click on the "Carpool Registration" link on the home page. Questions? Contact Carpool Coordinator, Elizabeth Holmes, elizabethpholmes@gmail.com

We look forward to a great school year! Feel free to contact us!

Liz Hammack, elisabeth_moore@yahoo.com

Khette Plyler, khetteplyler@gmail.com

Back-to-School Celebration of Learning

Monday, August 1, 2016
11am to 1pm

Morris Brandon Primary Center

- Meet your child's teacher and classmates in their new classroom and tour the school.
- Purchase a school supply kit if you haven't already done so. There will be a *very limited number* of kits available. Avoid the lines and buy online!
- Purchase Morris Brandon logo wear.
- Obtain information about carpool/bus routes at designated tables.

Coffee, Tea & Sympathy

Wednesday, August 3, 2016
8am to 9am
Primary Center

Are you sad to send your child off for the first day of school, or ready to celebrate a little peace and quiet? Either way, all parents are invited to stop by the PC after carpool on the first day of school for a cup of coffee and light refreshments. Brandon's PTA Presidents and Principal Kara Stimpson will be available to chat and answer any questions. We hope to see you there!

• K Class Lists Posted on Doors (K ONLY)	Week of July 25	PC
• Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Aug 1 10:30am	PC
• Celebration of Learning	Aug 1 11am-1pm	PC, MC
• First Day of School	Aug 3 8am	PC, MC
• Coffee, Tea & Sympathy	Aug 3 8am	PC
• Brandon Backyard Picnic	Aug 12 5:30-7:30pm	MC
• Kindergarten Parent Information Night	Aug 16 6-8pm	PC
• Special Services Parent Coffee	Aug 23 8am	MC
• NO School – Labor Day	Sept 5	PC, MC

PC: Primary Center / MC: Main Campus

Welcome from Principal Kara Stimpson

Welcome to the Morris Brandon Family! There is a special joy in welcoming our newest and youngest students to the Hive! For those of you with older children who are already experiencing all that makes Morris Brandon such a special place, I also welcome you back to the Kindergarten experience. Kindergarten is a rite of passage in so many ways and brings with it a mix of emotions for parents and children alike. While you may experience some nerves and shed a few tears on August 3, please know that you are entrusting your child to a team of skilled and caring professionals who consistently provide an amazing Kindergarten experience for their students and families year after year.

Kindergarten is a year of tremendous growth for children. You will be proud and amazed at the development in your child's academic and social skills throughout the year. Your child's teacher will be intentional about providing an individualized learning experience for your child as he/she develops beginning literacy and math skills through engaging and age-appropriate instruction. Your child's learning experiences will promote the development of thinking and learning skills that will provide a solid foundation on which they will build throughout their elementary years. Aside from the top-notch education your child will receive this school year, you are in for a year of memory-making with your child as the Kindergarten team and the entire school community are committed to providing opportunities to enrich the school experience and allow you to enjoy special moments with your child at school.

As we embark on this new school year together, I look forward to seeing you and your children in our hallways and at our community events. Your primary point of contact on the administrative team at the Primary Campus is the Program Administrator, Tiffany Momon. In addition, Tameka Small, Assistant Principal at the Primary Campus, and I are available to assist you and your child as you transition to the school. Please be sure you are signed up to receive all school communications so that you stay up-to-date throughout the year. Our entire team is committed to carrying on the tradition and legacy of excellence that is Morris Brandon Elementary. We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in this journey!

Frequently Asked Questions

What will my child need for school every day? 1) a large back pack, 2) a healthy snack (water will be provided), 3) lunch money (or use www.myschoolbucks.com, see below) or a packed lunch, 4) tennis shoes (all students are required to wear tennis shoes to school at all times, no sandals, clogs, river shoes or Crocs), 5) school supplies (to be kept in the classroom), 6) labels on all personal belongings.

What's for breakfast and lunch, and how do I pay? You will find monthly menus for breakfast and lunch online at www.atlanta.k12.ga.us under "Quick Links." The preferred method of payment for cafeteria items is through www.myschoolbucks.com. Should you prefer to send lunch money with your child to school, please send cash only. No checks will be accepted. You may also pack a lunch for your child.

How do I find the bus schedule? You will find bus routes and times, as well as transportation information, online at www.atlanta.k12.ga.us under the "Bus Routes" Quick Link. We will also have information regarding bus schedules at a table marked "Bus Information" at Celebration of Learning.

How do I inform my child's teacher how he/she will go home from school every day? When you visit your child's classroom at the Celebration of Learning, your child's teacher will have paperwork that you must complete regarding transportation.

What if I need to make a change to my child's usual method of transportation? Your teacher will provide a "change of transportation" notepad at the Celebration of Learning to use any time there is a change in your child's transportation (phone calls to the school are unacceptable). During August, please refrain from scheduling after-school playdates for your Kindergartener so students can get used to their regular departure schedule and avoid confusion at the end of the day. Children may not ride home with each other on buses unless they already ride the same bus.

May I walk my child to his/her classroom? You are welcome to walk your Kindergartener to his/her classroom during the first week of school, *however*, our teachers respectfully request that after the first week of school, your child walks to the classroom independently in order to make the transition easier.

When can I sign up to help in my child's classroom and how can I become a Room Parent? You will have an opportunity to sign up for various classroom activities electronically. Your room parents will provide more detailed information at the start of the year. If you are interested in serving as a Kindergarten Room Parent, please contact Molly Sipp at mollysipp@gmail.com. Each Kindergarten class will have at least two room parents, preferably one parent being new to Brandon and the other a "veteran" Brandon parent.

How can I serve on PTA Committees? Go to www.morrisbrandon.com to complete an "Interest Indicator" form on the school's home page. Thank you!