

Kindergarten Buzz

Summer 2017

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 the bottom right of Brandon's homepage, 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 required Kindergarten items in advance online.** Online purchasing of pre-packaged kits ended. We will have a limited number of these kits available at the Celebration of Learning. If you did not already pre-purchase, your best option is to buy your supplies based on the list provided on the Brandon website. There are a few customized Brandon items that are required and can be purchased throughout the summer. The remainder can be purchased anywhere you find supplies. Go to the Brandon website>Parent Toolkit>School Supplies to find all of the information. If you did pre-purchase your supplies, you will receive them directly up to July 21. Remember to **bring them with you UNOPENED** to the Celebration. Questions? Contact School Supply Chairs: Wallis Ronchetti or Debbie Franz.
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 14, and it will be available to pick-up at the Celebration of Learning. Visit the Brandon website>Parent Toolkit>Logo Wear to view all store items.
4. **Register for a carpool number.** If you are planning to pick-up your child in carpool during the 2017-18 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 the Brandon website>Parent Toolkit>Transportation>Carpool. Questions? Contact Carpool Coordinator, Elizabeth Holmes, carpool@morrisbrandon.com.

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

Lelia Pratt, leliaschwabpratt@gmail.com
Shelli Wojohn, shellihofeld@hotmail.com

Back-to-School Celebration of Learning

Friday, July 28, 2017
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 or required customized Brandon items if you haven't already done so. There will be a *very limited number* of kits available.
- Purchase Morris Brandon logo wear.
- Obtain information about carpool/bus routes at designated tables.

Coffee, Tea & Sympathy

Tuesday, August 1, 2017
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!

Save The Dates

• K Class Lists Posted on Doors (K ONLY)	July 24		PC
• Celebration of Learning	Jul 28	11am-1pm	PC, MC
• First Day of School	Aug 1	8am	PC, MC
• Coffee, Tea & Sympathy	Aug 1	8am	PC
• Brandon Backyard Bash	Aug 11	5:30-7:30pm	MC
• Kindergarten Parent Information Night	Aug 15	6-8pm	PC
• Special Services Parent Coffee	Aug 29	8:30am	TBD
• NO School – Labor Day	Sept 4		PC, MC

PC: Primary Center / MC: Main Campus

Welcome from Principal Kara Stimpson and Program Administrator Tiffany Momon

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, we 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 1, 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, we 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 Principal Kara Stimpson 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, 7) bag tag (from school supplies) on backpack with transportation information.

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. Please note that bus routes are typically not released until immediately before school starts. As soon as it is updated, parents will be notified. We will also have information regarding bus schedules at a table marked "Bus Information" at the Celebration of Learning on July 28 from 11am to 1pm.

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. You will also include it on your child's bag tag on his/her back pack.

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 Kelly Rike at kellywrike@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 "Willingness to Serve" form on the school's home page. Thank you!