



Kindergarten Buzz

Summer 2018

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. 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 info 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:

- Subscribe to our electronic communications: the BeeMail AND text alerts.** These will be your main sources for all school-wide information. The quick subscribe form for the BeeMail is located on the bottom right of Brandon's homepage, www.morrisbrandon.com. To sign up for text/"Remind" messages, send a text to 81010 with @mbbees in the body. After school starts, your BeeMail will arrive in your email each Wednesday.
- Purchase your required Kindergarten items in advance online.** The pre-packaged kits are a service of the PTA (not mandatory; not a fundraiser). This is a simple and convenient way to purchase the supplies your child needs all in one place. If you decide to purchase your supplies on your own, there are a few customized Brandon items that are required through the Brandon site. You can also find the full list online. Go to the Brandon website> Parent Toolkit> School Supplies to find all of the information. If you pre-purchased through our partner SchoolKidz, you will receive them directly up to July 20. Remember to **bring them with you UNOPENED** to the COL. If you pre-purchase through the Brandon site, the supplies will be waiting for you at the COL. Questions? Contact School Supply Chairs: Debbie Franz at schoolsupplies@morrisbrandon.com.
- 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 13, 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.
- Register for a carpool number.** If you are planning to pick-up your child in carpool during the 2018-19 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. NOTE: as soon as you find out your carpool number, please work with **your student to memorize it!** This is a critical requirement even on the first day. Questions? Contact Carpool Coordinator, Claire Benedict, carpool@morrisbrandon.com.
- Fill out your bag tag!** Your student will receive a bag tag at the Celebration of Learning. EVERY student at the PC is required to have one, as the staff has a system of checks and double checks to make sure students go to their proper after school location, starting on Day 1!

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

Amanda McAnally, amanda.mcanally@gmail.com

Kacie Brown, brown.kacie@gmail.com

Back-to-School Celebration of Learning (COL)

Monday, July 30, 2018
12pm to 2pm
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 *limited number* of kits available.
- Purchase Morris Brandon logo wear.
- Obtain information about carpool/bus routes at designated tables.

Coffee, Tea & Sympathy

Wednesday, August 1, 2018
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 School Administrators and PTA Presidents 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) Jul 25 PC
- Celebration of Learning Jul 30 12pm-2pm PC, MC
- First Day of School Aug 1 8am PC, MC
- Coffee, Tea & Sympathy Aug 1 8am PC
- Brandon Backyard Bash Aug 10 5:30-7:30pm MC
- Kindergarten Parent Information Night Aug 14 6-8pm PC
- NO School – Labor Day Sept 3 PC, MC

PC: Primary Center / MC: Main Campus

Welcome from Interim Principal Jay Bland

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 Admin Team will be our new Program Administrator at the Primary Campus, whom we expect to have in place before the start of the school year. 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 have had the opportunity to meet many of you at the various Rising Kindergarten events and camps, and we look forward to meeting many more of you at the Celebration of Learning and Tea & Sympathy events. We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in this journey! Your children will have the time of their lives as Newbees to the Hive!

Frequently Asked Questions

What will my child need for school every day? 1) a large back pack, 2) a healthy snack, 3) lunch money / registered account (see below) or a packed lunch, 4) tennis shoes (all students are required to wear tennis shoes to school at all times - no sandals, etc.), 5) school supplies (remains in classroom), 6) labels on all personal belongings, 7) bag tag 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). You may also pack a lunch.

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 info regarding bus schedules at a table at the COL 7/30.

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. NOTE: the bag tag is REQUIRED from Day 1!

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 and emails to the school are unacceptable). During August, please refrain from scheduling after-school playdates for your Kindergartner 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 email the PTA Presidents at presidents@morrisbrandon.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. The school's admin team makes the final assignments.

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!