

Kindergarten Buzz

Summer 2021

Greetings from your 2021-22 Kindergarten Coordinators!

We are excited to welcome to our newest bees to the Morris Brandon Primary Center! Our goal as Kindergarten Coordinators this year is to work closely with your Kindergarten teachers and Room Parents to ensure everyone stays well informed during this exciting first year of Elementary school. While Covid mitigation strategies may shift between now and August 5, here are some things you can do to prepare for Day 1.

Note our new school schedule:

The Elementary school day is from 7:45am - 2:45pm. Arrival takes place from 7:15 - 7:45am, and dismissal from 2:45 - 3:15pm.

Visit MorrisBrandon.com > Parent Toolkit > [Bee Informed](#):

- **Subscribe to the BeeMail** e-newsletter weekly updates during the school year. **Keep an eye out for the July 28 BeeMail that will have the most up-to-date back to school information.**
- **Sign up for text alerts** to receive reminders about important deadlines (text @mbbees to 81010)
- **Find links to follow us on social media**, like the Morris Brandon PTA page on Facebook or the official Morris Brandon Twitter page (@MorrisBrandonES)...and more!

Purchase your required school supplies!

- The PTA offers pre-packaged school supply kits - a simple and convenient way to purchase the supplies your child needs all in one place! If you already purchased a kit this spring through our partner SchoolKidz, it will be shipped directly to your home prior to the first day of school. Remember to **bring the kits with you UNOPENED** to your child's classroom at the Celebration of Learning.
- Kindergarten school supply kits are available for purchase online (reserve now at MorrisBrandon.com > Parent Toolkit > [School Supplies](#)) or at the Celebration of Learning (subject to availability). When you arrive at the CoL, please stop by the gym first to visit the School Supply table and pick up your kit* to deliver to your child's classroom. If you prefer to purchase supplies on your own, a list of the items your child will need can be found at MorrisBrandon.com > Parent Toolkit > [School Supplies](#). **If you will not be at CoL to pick up your kit or have other questions, email School Supply Chair Catherine Syme: symecatherine@gmail.com.*

Plan for transportation!

- Morris Brandon uses the **PikMyKid** app for parents to register each student's primary mode of transportation and notify the school of any changes. You will fill out a google form and the administration will upload that information into the app. BEE on the lookout for a link to the form, and later for instructions to download and use the app!
- Bus riders should also visit AtlantaPublicSchools.us/Transportation for a "Bus Routes" quick link, instructions on how to download the APS' **Here Comes the Bus!** app to track your bus, and contact information. Note: bus routes are typically not released until immediately before school starts.
- Your child will receive a tag for his/her book bag at the Celebration of Learning or on the first day of school; please fill it out with your child's primary mode of transportation home, so any adult at the PC can help with the correct dismissal route.

We are looking forward to a great school year! Please feel free to contact us any time!

~Andy Brown, theandreabrown@gmail.com
~Peyton Johnston, peyton.johnston@gmail.com

Celebration of Learning

Wednesday, August 4, 2020

Last Names A-M: Drop in between 9am and 10am

Last Names N-Z: Drop in between 10am and 11am

Masks Required for Parents and Students

- Stop by with your new bee to meet his/her teacher, snap a 'first day of school' photo, and get important items your child will need for Day 1. If you can't make it to CoL, rest assured your child's bag tag and other items will be sent home on Day 1.
- If possible, please come during the times outlined above and plan to spend between 20 and 30 minutes in the building.
- Please start in the Primary Center gym where you can have your transportation questions answered, pick up your school supply kits, and learn more about everything Morris Brandon has to offer before you head down to your child's classroom.
- If your school supply kit was shipped directly to you, or you purchased items individually, please bring them with you **unopened** to drop off in your child's classroom.

Coffee & Kleenex

Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 8:00am
Primary Center Field

Wipe away the tears and come to the field to commiserate or celebrate with other Kindergarten parents. School Administrators and PTA Presidents will be available to chat and answer questions.

Mark Your Calendars

July 28	PC* Front Door	Kindergarten Class Lists Posted
Aug 4	9-11am PC, MC	Celebration of Learning
Aug 5	7:45 am PC, MC	First Day of School!
Aug 5	8:00 am PC Fields	Coffee & Kleenex
Aug 13	5:30-7:30pm MC	Brandon Backyard Bash
Aug 23	6-8pm PC	K Parent Information Night
Sept 6	PC, MC	No School - Labor Day

*PC: Primary Center (K-2nd): 2845 Margaret Mitchell Drive
(404) 802-7280
MC: Main Campus (3rd-5th): 2741 Howell Mill Rd NW
(404) 802-7250

First Day Checklist

- A large backpack
- A healthy snack
- A face mask to wear
- A packed lunch unless your child is eating school lunch
- A water bottle
- Tennis shoes (all students are required to wear tennis shoes to school at all times - no sandals, etc.)
- Required school supplies (which remain in classroom) if you didn't bring to the Celebration of Learning
- Labels on all personal belongings
- Bag tag on backpack with transportation information

PLEASE NOTE:

As of publication, we are waiting on guidance from APS on covid mitigation strategies and first day procedures. We urge all caregivers to sign up for the BeeMail and text alerts ASAP...and BEE on the lookout for the July 28th BeeMail with the latest back-to-school information!

Welcome from Principal Jay Bland



Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Please allow me to be the first to WELCOME YOU TO MORRIS BRANDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! Kindergarten is an amazingly special year for the growth and development of your child. Not only will they grow academically but even more importantly, they will grow socially and emotionally. Be sure to take a picture on the first day of school and compare it to the last day in May - you will be amazed at what you see!

It is my number one priority to ensure that every Brandon student feels safe and comfortable at our school so they can do what they do best: learn, play, build lifelong relationships, and begin to foster a love of learning. Rest assured that the people in charge of making sure this happens - our administration, staff and amazing teachers - are experienced with social and emotional learning, reading, writing, early literacy, phonics, math and so much more! Our teachers are intentional about providing an individualized learning experience for your child as they tackle the building blocks of literacy and math through engaging and age-appropriate instruction. These 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. Along with our teachers and myself, there is a myriad of other staff that all have your child's best interest at heart. This includes Mr. Dwight Hutson, Program Administrator for the Primary Campus and your go-to contact for all things Kindergarten, Tameka Small and Fume Ekpere, our two dynamic Assistant Principals, an IB coordinator, Instructional Coach, Special Education Lead Teacher, Gifted Teachers, Specialists and many more. Our entire team is committed to carrying on the tradition and legacy of excellence that is Morris Brandon Elementary.

In addition to the top-notch education your child will receive this school year, you are both in for a year of amazing memory-making! The Kindergarten team and entire school community are already making plans for opportunities that will enrich your child's school experience and allow you to enjoy special moments together at school. 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 Coffee & Kleenex events in August. If you can't make it, no worries! Our school thrives on the support of our parents and community, and there will be many other opportunities during the year for you to visit and get involved.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us on this journey. Your child will have the time of their life as 'New-bee' in the Morris Brandon Hive!

Sincerely,

Jay Bland

Did You Know?

- During the first few weeks of school, Kindergarteners will be provided with iPads to use during the school year.
- The PTA is always looking for volunteers to help with the fun events and programs that make Morris Brandon such a special place to BEE! Want to serve as a Room Parent, volunteer for the Tall & Small Ball, or help with the school's website? There is a job for every interest! Sign up at MorrisBrandon.com > Support Brandon > [Bee Involved](#)
- When new students join Morris Brandon, they are assigned a Hive color - yellow, orange, green, or blue - and have friendly competitions throughout the year to see which Hive can earn the most points.
- Click the subscribe icon  on the MorrisBrandon.com homepage to subscribe to the school calendar and never miss an event!
- The Cafeteria is open for Breakfast and Lunch! Because APS falls under the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), breakfast and lunch are provided at this time at no cost! Breakfast and lunch menus are available online at AtlantaPublicSchoolsNutrition.us. You may also pack a lunch for your child!