

6/18/2020

Dear Brighton Families,

It's been a transformative last few months and last few weeks, with so much to digest, lament, and yet also celebrate.

First and foremost, we again want to thank you for your partnership and perseverance in helping us achieve the continuation of your children's education throughout our distance learning program. As we concluded the 2019/2020 we shared a great sense of pride in how much our students (your amazing children and families!) adapted and thrived despite the challenges of these unexpected circumstances.

As we wrapped up the school year in distance-learning mode, we were simultaneously planning the reopening of our physical campus for our Summer programs with great anticipation and preparation. After implementing extensive new health and safety protocols, we will reopen our doors Monday June 22nd, and we are incredibly excited to have students back on-campus. We will continue to monitor and learn from this first phase of reopening as we prepare for the upcoming school year, and we will have more to share regarding our 2020/2021 school-year plans over the course of the next few weeks.

However, in the midst of our end-of-year celebrations and preparing for the "new normal," we've been confronted with yet another harsh reality – the persistent issue of racial injustice, violations of basic human rights, and social inequity. The confluence of terrible events across the country wherein Black lives were unjustly taken, has prompted an eruption of justifiable national outrage and heartfelt protests, which many of us have witnessed or actively supported first-hand.

In the wake of these events, we feel compelled to reiterate, reinforce and rededicate ourselves to the principles of diversity, inclusion and social justice that are at the core of who we are as educators. We recognize that upholding our core values is just the beginning. While we have always incorporated inclusion and diversity in our teachings, we know we can, and will, do better. The events of the past few weeks give new urgency to our work to develop within our community a deeper understanding of implicit bias and the perils of social inequity. We will expand our efforts to incorporate these critical lessons into curricula and programs for next school year -- designing lessons that will equip our students to be leading global citizens and advocates for all.

Despite these tumultuous times, we are filled with hope and joy, inspired by the ever-inquisitive minds and smiling faces of your children (our students)! We look forward to a summer full of reimagining and reshaping our path forward for the new school year, and beyond!

Staff Not Returning

It is always hard to have staff leave as we appreciate all staff at the school. We want to acknowledge and thank those pursuing other endeavors that won't be returning next school year. We wish you all the best.

Lisa Thompson (2nd Grade): Ms. Thompson is pursuing her administrative certificate and will be working towards completing her program.

Jena Lacomis (STEAM): Ms. Lacomis is pursuing classroom teaching opportunities.

Erin Way (PreK): Ms. Way is going to home school her son Henry. She will be around next year as her son Ben will still be at Brighton.

Summer Reading Challenge

Don't forget to participate in our summer reading challenge (see attached Summer Reading Bingo Card). Please read and turn in your completed form with **your students full name and grade** to the online folder. To access the folder you will need a Google account (personal or your school student account). We want to encourage and recognize all the amazing reading happening this summer when we return in September.

Yearbook Orders

It's not too late to order your yearbook online and have it shipped to your house. Go to the online store website by clicking the link and entering the password.

Store Website: <http://brightonschoolyearbook2020.picaboo.com>

Password: brightonschool2020

Plans for the Fall

Since March, the impact of the global pandemic of COVID-19 has deeply affected the communities we serve. While no one person could have fully predicted or anticipated the magnitude of this disruption, we are proud of our dedicated educators who continue to stand united in our commitment to provide your child with a safe and secure learning environment while delivering the academic excellence you expect. Thank you for your resilience, patience, and support of our efforts throughout this period. Behind the scenes, an extraordinary academic task force composed of principals and curriculum-design specialists and experts from across our organization began designing multiple paths to support our return to school in the fall. The plans in development include agile practices, responsive to what we know now and to what we do not yet know – public health mandates and guidelines that will be in effect in August and throughout the next school year. While details are still being refined, we wanted to share the following high-level direction and assurances with you, as we look ahead to what school will look like in the fall:

- We plan to fully resume on-campus instruction in the fall.
- We are also preparing “hybrid” plans for combined learning at school and online, in the event that school class sizes are restricted or incidences of COVID-19 force intermittent school closures.
- We recognize that some families may be reluctant to send their children back to an on-campus environment in the fall. Therefore, we will also offer a FULLY ONLINE Brighton School option

that will approximate the rigor and richness you expect at Brighton School but be accessible entirely from home.

As we develop these plans, your feedback is very important to us. As a next step, to help us evaluate interest in the “Fully Online” program, we will send a short survey next week, and we would greatly appreciate your input. Following that, we will share more detailed plans in early July.

We thank you again for partnering with us as we work toward this “new normal.” We miss you, and we are eager to welcome your child(ren) back to school in September.

Suzanne Adams

Head of School