



Dear Brighton School Online Academy Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We look forward to partnering with you as we deliver your child/ren a fully online Brighton School option through our newly formed Brighton Online Academy while ensuring your family maintains regular connections to your home campus. We recognize that online learning may be new for your family and questions still remain. We are committed to staying in regular communication with you throughout the school year but especially over the next few weeks to ensure your understanding of the program and make this a smooth transition. The information below will provide some initial details of the Online Academy as you begin preparing for the year ahead.

Our school is part of a network that includes Evergreen Academy in Bothell for this school year to form an Online Academy Cluster, sharing resources and experiences to ensure that every Online Academy student has an experience that approximates traditional school, including a full set of classmates and a teacher trained to use the tools and curriculum appropriate for that group. To be sure, a child and family enrolled in the Brighton School Online Academy will be an integral part of our school community throughout the year, but this grouping brings added resources to our school during a challenging year. The Brighton School Online Academy is embedded within our school, but operating on a learning platform that is intentionally designed to support the online learner, and staffed by teachers trained to use those tools to teach from a distance. The intentionality and training are critical distinctions; Online Academy teachers are currently engaged in training which will continue throughout the school year.

Online Academy teachers are Brighton School teachers, or teachers from within our cluster, who specifically applied to be part of the Online Academy cohort. You will be virtually introduced to your child's teacher before school begins and have multiple opportunities to engage with her/him throughout the year. Students in K-5th grades will be placed in an Online Academy grade specific classroom with an Online Academy teacher, who will teach the core subject curriculum.

Back to School Details Specific to Online Academy

- **August 21st - Teacher Assignments & Class Schedule:** you will receive your Online Academy teacher assignment and schedule the same day as all other Brighton students. The schedules will match for connection with homeroom meeting times and specialist classes to connect with the rest of the classmates at Brighton.
- **Augusts 28 - iPad/Material Pickup:** you can come to the school to pick up your school issued iPad and course material printed out for the Online Academy.
- **August 31st - September 4th - Pre-Launch Online Academy:** you will receive dates and times from your Online Academy the teacher the week before to meet as a class (students and parents) and prepare for the being in the online academy.
- **September 8th - Virtual Student Orientation:** your student will still be part of this since they are still assigned a homeroom teacher and see their classmates.
- **September 9th - First Day of School**

To ensure ongoing support for our Online Academy students and parents throughout the year, we want to emphasize that the Brighton office staff and administration will still be your school support for any needs you have.

Schedules

Schedules will align with the school schedule so students will be able to attend morning/afternoon meetings, and specialists. A typical day would be to start with their homeroom class and see their classmates, go to their Online Academy classes and specialists (with their other classmates), and then go to the afternoon homeroom with their classmates. Daily lessons will approximate a typical school day, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Using the online learning management system and Zoom, students will engage in *live instruction*, guided practice, small group work, assessment, and social/emotional support. As parents, you will have an observer account that will allow you to monitor your child's progress and interact with his/her teacher, as needed.

Communication

Your partnership and support are key elements to ensuring that we are able to maximize each student's educational and personal development.

Families in the online academy can expect to receive:

- All school communications
- Weekly communication from their homeroom teacher
- Weekly communication from their online academy teacher

Technology

All students in K-8 will receive a school issued iPad from their home campus. This iPad is fully compatible with the Online Academy learning management system and course content for students in K-2nd grades; however, for students in 3rd-8th grades, access to a standard desktop or laptop computer, either Mac or PC, is required in order to fully access course content. Please see below for additional tech specs:

- Operating System: Windows 7 or later; Mac OS X (10.7 or higher)
- High-speed Internet connection (Cable, DSL)

Satellite Internet service and cellular wi-fi “hotspots” may be subject to speed and reliability issues and result in unsatisfactory performance.

- Browsers: Up-to-date versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome, and Edge are supported. We recommend the latest version of Firefox.
- We recommend (and courses may require) the latest versions of:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader – <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Adobe Flash Player – <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - Java – <https://java.com/en/download/>

Learning Materials

In addition to technology, general school supplies the students in our Online Academy should have available to them throughout the year include:

- pencils
- pens
- colored pencils, crayons, markers
- notebook paper
- highlighters
- headphones
- erasers
- pencil sharpener
- glue sticks
- scissors

Online Academy and specialty teachers will communicate with families in advance should additional learning materials be necessary for planned projects/activities; periodic pick-ups at home campus may be scheduled throughout the year.

Throughout our greater Brighton School community, there is an incredible level of excitement and anticipation as we make final preparations to kick off our Brighton School Online Academy. We are confident the year ahead will engage students in meaningful learning experiences, allow for the rekindling of old friendships, while also forming new connections, and will foster the development of skills necessary in our future leaders.

We look forward to deepening our relationship with each of you throughout the year ahead. Stay well, and please stay in touch!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Adams

Head of School at Brighton School