

## The Brooklyn Public Schools

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### COVID Updated 5/10/2021 Brooklyn Public Schools Response

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that this letter finds you well! It has been so wonderful to have all of our students in school and be planning some outdoor end of the year activities. Please note the few calendar events that represent school closures and the end of the year.

**Wednesday, May 19th Early Dismissal**

**Monday, May 31st: No School**, Town of Memorial Day Tribute will occur to honor veterans at 1PM during a short ceremony. See the Town's Website for more information.

**Wednesday, May 26th**: Virtual Celebration of BMS Honors night

**Wednesday, June 2nd**: Town Budget Hearing to discuss next year's budget

**Thursday, June 10th**: Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony, Outdoor celebration and last day

**Friday, June 11th**: Last day of school for Grades PK-7

**Wednesday, June 16th**: Town of Brooklyn Budget Meeting to vote on the budget

**June 28th**: Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Program begins; ends on **August 6th**

**July 6th**: Brooklyn Summer Academy begins; ends on **July 29th**

**September 1st: First day of school for the 2021-2022 school year**

**Next school year we will: 2021-2022 (This may change should the virus change dramatically)**

- Return to a 8:30-3:15 schedule.
- We will follow many mitigation measures as the majority of students may not have a COVID vaccine.
- Allow students to move to different special or unified arts classes with their cohort.
- We will wear masks and continue with mask breaks.
- We will spread out during breakfast and lunch.
- We will continue to follow CDC guidelines which will likely include quarantining of unvaccinated individuals who are contacts of a positive case of COVID-19.
- We will have sports, band, and chorus pending recommendations by the State Department of Education and added mitigation measures.
- We may offer some remote learning in lieu of snow days if the circumstances are appropriate.
- We **will NOT** be offering distance learning as we did this year.

The Brooklyn Public Schools have benefitted by many grant resources this past year and for the next two years. This has allowed us to

- Access PPE, shields, masks, hallway markers, dividers and desk shields,
- Offset the cost of distance learning teachers,
- Purchase technology resources to support remote and hybrid learning and provide 1 to 1 devices and hotspots,

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As we plan for the next round of grant funding that will be available, we are planning to support learning and needs through:

- Summer Academy to support continued learning for two years,
- Offer additional afterschool clubs,
- Access to summer camp through Parks and Recreation along with transportation at no cost to families for two years,
- Continued work on curriculum development,
- Provide instructional coaching for Tier I, II and III supports for reading and math instruction and intervention,
- Continue to support social emotional learning (SEL) instruction and supports,
- Fund hardware and software that would have been funded through local taxes for 2 years,
- and Purchase PPE: bottle filling stations, masks, sanitizer, seal coating,

**We will be developing a "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan" as required by the State of Connecticut. I will offer informational sessions to stakeholders to listen to your ideas and respond to your questions. I have been reviewing the school climate surveys for your thoughts and will continue to offer additional opportunities for your comments.**

- **Community Feedback:** is encouraged by emailing questions or comments to [buell@brooklynschools.org](mailto:buell@brooklynschools.org)
- **Stakeholder Zoom Meetings:**
  - **Staff:** May 25th 3:30-4:30
  - **Parents/Community:** May 27th 4:00-4:45 (Link will be posted to the website on 5/27)
  - **Parents/Community:** May 27th 7:00-7:45 (Link will be posted to the website on 5/27)
- **If these dates and times are not convenient for you please email or call my office to share your thoughts. 860-774-9732**

**Please continue to visit the Brooklyn Public Schools' website for more information:**  
[http://www.brooklynschools.org/announcements\\_covid\\_resources/covid\\_resources](http://www.brooklynschools.org/announcements_covid_resources/covid_resources)

Please also be aware that the Town of Brooklyn would like your feedback on the budget. The Board of Finance will have a meeting **Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00PM and Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00PM**. The link to their agenda and how to log into the meetings can be found on the Town of Brooklyn's website.

<https://www.brooklynct.org/board-of-finance>. **The Town Hearing to discuss the budget is on June 2nd and the Town Meeting is on June 16th to vote on the budget. Both are at 7:00PM.**

Thank you to all of the families and staff for their perseverance this past year and a half! We are fortunate to have such a wonderful and supportive school environment and community!

Sincerely,  
Patricia Buell

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