

# EDWARD H. BRYAN SCHOOL

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Erik Roth, Principal

August 26, 2019

Dear Bryan School Families,

As August winds down to its close, I look back at what a fun summer I enjoyed. The busyness of last school year came to its grinding halt, and the summer's work here at Bryan School grew quickly laced within a refreshing dose of warm air, slower pace, and good times with family and friends. There were trips to Boston to visit my daughter during her five-week stay for ballet. There were many gatherings at my home in July, where I hosted my favorite company with grilled shrimp on the sunny deck. There were morning walks and music-filled evenings under the white lights of a backyard umbrella. And, of course, what's a summer without the beach? I relished great weather at Smith Point Park, the ocean, dunes, and a nap in a comfortable chair. This week, returning from our final "hurrah" in the beautiful Florida Keys, I couldn't help but think of the importance of taking time to bring fun and enjoyment into life.

Often, we tend to get so caught up in our work. And work we must. But what I take away from summer is an understanding of the critical importance in remembering to *play*. Our work will never go away. Yet, remembering to play and have some fun can be as elusive as the time we attempt making for it. At EHB we like to try operating according to a guiding principle: *work hard, play hard*. Our teachers work hard to ensure our students' learning. Our children work hard to learn. Our parents and guardians work hard to support all our efforts. As a community team of staff, students, and families, let's keep that drive alive in this new school year. And let's also remember there is no point in doing so if we are not having fun at the same time. Let's work hard *and* play hard. Let's show our kids that, like life, school can and should challenge us, but it should also be full of fun, play, and happiness at the same time.

This spirit of working and playing hard has been alive and well lately at school, where I have witnessed the return of so many teachers eager to set up their classrooms and prep for the fall. Already, the warmth, care, and laughter that characterize Bryan School are evident in the classrooms, hallways, and air. Our staff could not be more thrilled to begin working with you and your children! That said, my hope is that you experienced a happy summer with ample supply of fun, relaxation, and good times with family and friends.

As we approach our opening days, I would like to draw attention to the hard work of a few staff members who have been with me all summer preparing our building. My secretary, Mrs. Ronnie Hartmann, continues to serve as my right (and left!) arm each day. So much of the credit to opening a new school year goes to her unfailing attention to the key details and logistics of "all things September" at EHB. As well, Ms. Kristin O'Connell's work over the summer with taking care of our various shipping and supply orders has been a huge help. Our technology department, Mr. Kevin Whitney and Ms. Deb White, have also both spent a great deal of time in Bryan School addressing our various digital needs. And, of course, the custodial team of Mr. Patrick Kenny, Mr. David Manuet, Mr. Sean Franco, and Mr. Dennis Kinzler, have done an excellent job readying the school for September. Thanks to all of these individuals for their time and efforts this summer! We are certainly now ready for September 5th!

Summer on Brookside Avenue has been a productive time for our building. During July and August, the following facilities items were accomplished/acquired:

- painting of the partition separating the east/west sides of lunchroom
- painting of gymnasium, main, and kindergarten/third grade entryways
- painting of first and second floor hallway trim
- painting of first and second floor central hallway boys'/girls' restrooms
- stripping/waxing of all classroom, hallway, office flooring
- steam cleaning of media center carpet
- installation of hanging hallway signs identifying classrooms by teacher name (thanks to our KPA!!!)
- staff parking lot on east side of Brookside avenue newly paved and lined

In addition to these facility enhancements, I am sure all have noticed that construction continues on the south side of our building. As the development of our kindergarten and developmental pre-school/Early Childhood Center moves forward, our community's continued flexibility with temporary parking modifications and classroom adjustments is appreciated!

As well, through our PTA's amazing fundraising and generosity, I am happy to announce the following upgrades to our school:

- as part of our *Google Chromebook* initiative, a significant sum of funds has been designated for increasing our *Chromebook* supply within grade 3-5 classrooms. This will assist greatly with providing technological enhancement for our students that is matched to their classroom activities. For this we are grateful to our PTA's fundraising efforts and their sponsoring of this Fifth Grade Gift from the Class of 2019.

Our gratitude as staff extends to our district and to our PTA for their generosity in providing us with such great additions to our building. Each of these summer updates continues to refurbish our facility in ways that positively impact all within our Bulldog community.

### **Staff Changes at Bryan School:**

A few goodbyes, welcomes, and congratulatory wishes are in order for several members of our staff. This July we said goodbye to Mr. Nick Calandrino, who will join the middle/high school staff as a Physical Education Teacher in the building where he also serves as the Head High School Wrestling Coach. In lieu of this move, we welcome Mr. Adam Preciado as our new Physical Education Teacher at EHB. Mr. Preciado has served many years as part of the middle/high school PE staff, and we are happy to have him join our elementary team! Additionally, we greet the arrival of Ms. Lauren Luciani to our Bryan School staff. Ms. Luciani will be teaching *Health and Wellness*, a new special in our six-day rotation (more to come on that in the *Daily Schedule* section of this letter).

Other personnel modifications include a few of our staff members who will now be teaching new grade levels this year. For 2019-2020 we welcome Mrs. Malki to our first grade team, Mrs. Wood to our second grade team, Mrs. Nahm to our third grade team, and Mrs. Russo to our fifth grade team. We wish these veteran staff members well in their new roles and look forward to the talent and energy they will bring to our children!

Adding to our welcomes, we say “hello” to Ms. Jacqueline Clinton in her new role as a maternity leave replacement for Mrs. Palummieri, who expects to return to her third grade classroom in early February. After achieving her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from West Virginia University, Ms. Clinton worked in both the Ramsey and Ridgewood Public School Districts as both a general and special education teacher, and we are delighted to now welcome her services in Mrs. Palummieri’s homeroom beginning September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of Mrs. Palummieri, we, of course, extend the happiest of greetings to her newest little Bulldog, Enzo, whom she and her husband, Eric, welcomed as a new addition to their family last March. We wish all three of them a happy start to this new chapter in life!

Congratulations are also in order for a terrific teacher in our special education department, Ms. Catherine Cannon, who married her fiancé, Matt, this summer! EHB sends its best to the newlyweds and a wish that the honeymoon continues well into our new school year!

Finally, rounding out the “welcome front,” we must extend greetings to our veteran Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Julie Rooney, and our veteran Teacher of Fourth Grade, Mrs. Patti Dobish, who will both be returning to EHB this September after their medically related leaves of absence this past spring. Both teachers are doing well and we look forward to their return!

To all starting/restarting their path at or beyond Brookside Avenue, all the best!

### **Grade Level Lineup**

The first day of school is Thursday, September 5, 2019. Our school day begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:10 PM. Please note that the late bell rings at 8:35. If your child arrives after 8:30, he/she must report to the office for a late pass before reporting to the classroom. **Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:15 a.m. since there is no supervision available before that time.** The Teacher-in-Charge, and our Assistant Principal, Mr. Paul Wyka, will be supervising the students, along with safety patrol, to ensure their safety. At 8:30 each class will proceed to their homeroom. **In fair weather** please have your children line up at the area designated outside of their homeroom. Classroom signs and members of our administrative team will be posted on the first day of school to assist you with where to bring your child for line-up.

**In inclement weather**, please note that students are permitted into the building beginning at 8:15 A.M. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** For safety reasons, parents will not be permitted to enter the building to drop their children off at their classrooms during inclement weather days. The entrance beside the main entrance (under overhang) and entrance by the gymnasium doors will be supervised by staff to ensure students enter the building safely, and unaccompanied by parents/guardians. Students will enter the building and wait outside their classrooms, where they will be supervised by our Teacher-in-Charge, our Assistant Principal, and our Safety Patrol.

### **Kindergarten**

Parents/guardians are reminded that the first, two days of school, (9/5, 9/6), will be minimum days with dismissal at 12:40 PM. Please mark calendars and be sure someone is here for your child at dismissal. Students in Grades 1-5 will be dismissed at our normal 3:10 PM.

### **Daily Schedule**

Please know that for the 2019-2020 school year, EHB and MMS will be continuing a 6-day cycle of rotating specials for Art, Health and Wellness, Music, Physical Education (twice per cycle), and World Language. On our website you will find a calendar delineating the days for

the rotating cycle for the entire school year (each day in the cycle will have a different designation, A, B, C, D, E, or F). These days are set and will not change, regardless of closings or unforeseen events.

On the calendar there is space for you to fill in your child's specific schedule once it is provided by his/her homeroom teacher at the beginning of the year. This will help you know on what day your child has a certain special (ex. A-day = PE, B-day = Music, and so forth). As well, the website will always indicate the particular letter day.

Also of note, included in our cycle of rotating specials will be an exciting new course of study, *Health and Wellness*. Based on legislative changes to Physical Education requirements in the state of New Jersey, this cycle will be added to our students' K-5 schedule. The course will be taught by Ms. Lauren Luciani, a veteran teacher in the district, and, in addition to aspects of physical health, it will focus upon topics/issues such as social-emotional well-being and mindfulness. We are greatly excited to bring this needed opportunity to our children!

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact Mrs. Hartmann in the main office of Bryan School.

### **Parent Teacher Association/Cresskill Education Foundation**

There are two outstanding organizations that provide a great deal of support for our students. Our wonderful PTA is greatly appreciated for its generosity with our academic, cultural, recreational and lunch programs. I look forward to continue working with Mrs. Kim Semenoro, our PTA President, and the entire PTA, and am excited about the many activities they have planned for the school year. Everything they have coordinated is designed to make the school a wonderful place of learning and fun! Their donations throughout the school year are much appreciated! Thank you!

As well, The Cresskill Education Foundation (CEF) is another organization that provides our students with an array of wonderful opportunities for cultural and academic enrichment. I encourage your participation in both of these excellent organizations, as they serve to provide our children with the best education possible.

### **Safety Procedures at Bryan School**

School safety is a topic of national concern. All schools in Cresskill have developed Emergency Plans in coordination with the Cresskill Police Department. Hopefully, we will never have to utilize these plans in the face of a real emergency. **The most important thing for you to do is return emergency contact information to your child's teacher as soon as possible.** You will receive a data sheet on the first day of school, which must be returned ASAP. Be assured that in case of an emergency, we will use every possible number you provide in order to reach you. We also have access to our Reverse 911 system that we have used to share information school and district wide. Please make sure the main office has your email address and cell phone numbers from day one by returning this form with the information requested!

Visitors to school, traffic patterns, and safety to and from school are issues that need to be addressed. It is imperative that everyone follows these simple procedures that will benefit our children and keep them safe. **Please know that, due to construction, there will be some modifications to parking arrangements this year for staff and for families. An updated communication will follow, but below are current arrangements (subject to change):**

1. Do not park cars or leave them unattended during drop-off and pick-up. Please know that, presently, **there will be no parking available at the south end of the field on Prospect Avenue off Brookside. This area will be reserved for EHB staff.**
2. There is **absolutely no parking or standing in the staff parking lots.**
3. Drop children at the sidewalk. Children must not exit on the traffic side of the street.
4. Children are expected to walk in an orderly fashion using the sidewalk when they are dismissed. Your support is greatly appreciated.
5. When picking up or dropping off students, drive down Brookside Avenue as far as possible so that parents behind you may do the same. This will avoid a bottleneck. Your compliance with this request will improve the traffic flow both in AM and PM.
6. Please do not leave your car engine idling when waiting to drop off or pick up a child. This practice pollutes our environment and creates a health hazard for our families. This year one of our local Girl Scout Troops has overseen the installation of “No-Idling” signs at each public school in Cresskill. Thank you, girls, for this reminder!
7. For the safety of everyone at Bryan School, **all visitors** to the school are to report to the Main Office. **Parents are not permitted to go to a classroom to meet their child or talk to a teacher without an appointment.** If you have an appointment to meet with a teacher, or are coming for a special project, report to the Main Office to get a visitor pass, which must be worn at all times during your visit. Please remember that visitors must go to their designated place without disturbing teachers or students.
8. **Please meet your children outside the building at dismissal time.** Parents congregating inside the building cause a disruption to the flow of traffic as well as a fire hazard. Please allow teachers to dismiss classes in a safe and orderly manner.
9. All doors of our building will be locked during the school day. **Please use the main entrance only** for our safety. Use the buzzer system at the Main Entrance. We will be able to see the visitor and speak to them before allowing them into the building.
10. **All students who have permission to walk home without a parent escort must give a signed letter to their homeroom teacher at the beginning of the school year. This letter will be kept on file throughout the school year.**

### **Health Alert - Food Allergies**

Students with severe food allergies, who require medication, and especially those who need Epi-pen injections for allergic reactions, are required to notify the nurse. Please supply safe alternative snacks for the classroom teachers to serve your child when necessary. The snacks should be individually wrapped and placed in a plastic container with the student's name. The student will receive this snack when the class is celebrating various events, particularly unplanned events during the school year. A signed medication administration form, by the parent and doctor, is also required each school year with the appropriate medication. Forms can be obtained from the school nurse.

### **Lunch and Recess**

Please send lunch to school with your child daily. If you prefer to buy lunch, the PTA will be sponsoring different choices each day. You should receive this information via email from the PTA. If you do not plan to purchase lunch, please provide a lunch for your child each day. Please note: **No Lunch (PTA sponsored lunches) will be served on days when there is an early dismissal; students may bring a snack to school on those days.** Those parents

Interested in volunteering to help serve student lunches should contact the PTA. Ice cream will be available for purchasing on Wednesday.

**Please put your child's name on his/her lunch bag (box).** Children are responsible for bringing his/her lunch bag to the lunchroom, to recess and back to the classroom. To avoid the need to buy multiple lunch bags, please make sure that it is labeled. We can then identify the student to whom it belongs in case it is misplaced.

### **Free and Reduced Milk Applications**

Applications for free and reduced milk are available on the district website. Download the application, fill it out, and send it to school with your child. If you cannot access the website or download the application, contact the office for a hard copy.

### **Dates to Remember for September**

**September 2 – Labor Day, No School**

**September 3 - Teachers Only**

**September 4 - Teachers Only - Kindergarten Orientation, 10 AM/New Student Orientation/New Parent Welcome, 1 PM**

**September 5 - First Day of School**

**September 5-6 – 12:40 Dismissal for K Students Only**

**September 6 – School Spirit Day (Wear your Bulldog Red)**

**September 30, October 1– Rosh Hashanah – School Closed**

**October 3 - Back to School Night**

**October 9 - Yom Kippur - School Closed**

**October 10 – 8:35 AM Opening PTA Meeting**

**October 14 – Columbus Day – Teachers Only**

**October 17 -- School Picture Day**

**October 22-24 – Scholastic Book Fair**

These “dates to remember” also bring to mind that this year’s Book Fair will arrive during the fourth week of October. More information will be distributed on that exciting event as the year begins. Certainly, the Book Fair reminds us that fun through learning has always been at the heart of EHB, so please also stay tuned as the year starts for a variety of enjoyable and enriching after school programs!

### **Quasquicentennial**

Speaking of fun and learning, this fall marks the time to celebrate Cresskill’s Quasquicentennial!!! In collaboration with the borough’s historian, plans are in order for a ceremonial burial of a time capsule in Quinn Court (right by Borough Hall). With this in mind, for students in grades three through five, Merritt and Bryan Schools will sponsor an essay contest based on the topic of what Cresskill will be like in another 125 years. Selected winners will read their work during the ceremonial burial of the capsule. A flyer will soon be emailed home for any interested students who wish to enter.

As well, all K-5 elementary students in the district will be invited to bring in items to potentially be placed into the capsule. They must be small enough to fit, and be based on the

topic of what Cresskill students would like to see in 2069 that would let them know what our lives were like in 2019 (ex. a smartphone, a newspaper, a textbook, a pair of sneakers, a sports trophy, a report card, etc.)? Again, more details will be sent home through a forthcoming flyer, but good to get the wheels turning for those students who might be interested in participating.

### **Stay Connected**

In terms of staying connected to all things Bulldog related, please, if you have not already, check in with the district/EHB website at [www.cboek12.org](http://www.cboek12.org). These sites exist to enhance the ease of communication between school and home. Regarding our website, please know the Bulldog Calendar/Handbook will be made available online, so my hope is that you may refer to these sources for pertinent school information. Of course, it is also always helpful to our staff if you can kindly check your email on a daily basis for various communication items from EHB. Additionally, you are encouraged to follow me using the Twitter handle @EHB\_Principal via which I will be sending out a variety of announcements/news items.

Again, please know how excited we, as the EHB staff, are to be collaborating with you and your children this year! I wish you a safe, happy, and enjoyable close to your summer and look forward to meeting and seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

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