Incoming Parent Kindergarten Orientation
March 26, 2026



The journey begins…

Ms. Tracy Taylor, Principal
Dr. Teresa Letizia, Assistant Principal



BMPRSS Kindergarten Program

- Enhances the love of learning
- Provides a rich and stimulating environment that promotes self-esteem, social development, and academic skills
- Offers differentiated instruction
- Assesses students' progress throughout the year

In Your Bluebird Folder

LEFT SIDE

- Get Involved with the PTA!
- PTA FLEX Afterschool Program
- Rye Brook Recreation Afterschool Program
- My School Bucks Lunch Payment
- School Lunch Program (Aramark)

RIGHT SIDE

- 2026-2027 School Calendar
- Sample Letter Day Schedule
- Reporting Student Absences
- Arrival Procedures
- Dismissal Procedures
- Change of Dismissal Form
- Portal Info
  - eSchoolData *
  - Community Pass
  - SchoolBee
- Welcome Letter from our Pupil Services Department
- S.E.I.D. Committee
- BMPRSS Contact Information

Kindergarten Sections for 2026-2027

There will be ***five*** (5) sections for next year's Kindergarten group.

There is no district policy for class size, however, we like to keep the class size between 20-22 students in each classroom.

We have ***two*** part-time aides in each classroom.

- part-time teacher aide in the morning
- part-time teacher aide in the afternoon

AUGUST/SEPT 2026

School runs on a 6 day letter cycle (A,B,C,D,E,F)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August 31 *Superintendent's Conference Day Professional Development Day for Faculty and Staff*	**September 1** *Superintendent's Conference Day Professional Development Day for Faculty and Staff*	**September 2** **A** ***FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL*** Kindergarten students arrive at 9:30 am. Dismissal is at 3:10 pm.	**September 3** **B**	**September 4** **C**
September 7 **Labor Day** **NO SCHOOL**	**September 8** **D**	**September 9** **E**	**September 10** **F**	**September 11** **A**
September 14 **B**	**September 15** **C**	**September 16** **D**	**September 17** **E**	**September 18** **F**
September 21 **Yom Kippur** **NO SCHOOL**	**September 22** **A**	**September 23** **B**	**September 24** **C**	**September 25** **D**
September 28 **E**	**September 29** **F**	**September 30** **A**		

First Week of Kindergarten

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August 31 *Superintendent's Conference Day Professional Development Day for Faculty and Staff*	**September 1** *Superintendent's Conference Day Professional Development Day for Faculty and Staff*	**September 2** **A** ***FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL*** • *All Kindergarten students should arrive at 9:30 am.* • *There will be a special bus run for bus-eligible Kindergarten students.* • *Kindergarten students should bring their lunch on this day. ** • *Students are dismissed at 3:10 pm.* • *Students who are eligible for the bus will take the bus home.* • *All other students will be dismissed through NBS or pick-up.*	**September 3** **B** • *Regular school day for students. Arrival for all students is at 8:30 am.* • *Kindergarten students should bring their lunch on this day. ** • *Students are dismissed at 3:10 pm* • *Students who are eligible for the bus will take the bus home.* • *All other students will be dismissed through NBS or pick-up.*	**September 4** **C** • *Regular school day for students.* • *Kindergarten students should bring their lunch on this day. ** Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School Home of the Bluebirds Compassionate•Honest•Independent•Respectful•Positive

School runs on a 6 day letter cycle (A,B,C,D,E,F)

Kindergarten Video



A Day in Kindergarten

- **8:30 am - Arrival**
- **Morning Announcements and Morning Meeting**
- **9:20 am - Specials (Nine Specials)**
  - *Art (2), Music (1), Physical Education (3), Library (1)*
  - *Young Engineers (1), Technology (1)*
- **10:00 am - 12:30 pm**
  - **Literacy** (*read aloud, reading, writing, word study)*
  - **Snack**
  - **Mathematics**
- **12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Recess and THEN Lunch**
- **1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**
  - **HRE -** *small group work, independent reading, quiet time, pull-out services*
  - **Science/Social Studies**
  - **Centers**
- **3:10 pm - Dismissal**

2026-2027 Open House will be held in September

NOTE: Community Circle with our Guidance Counselor and Mindfulness are weaved in throughout the school year!

We are Bluebirds and we C.H.I.R.P!

- ***C***aring
- ***H***elpful
- ***I***nclusive
- ***R***espectful
- ***P***ositive

Character Education Program includes:

- *Community Circle* Guidance Program with our guidance counselor (Mrs. Pumarejo)
- C.H.I.R.P. Recognitions - Bluebird Feathers
- YALE Ruler Mood Meter
- Schoolwide Events

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School

Home of the Bluebirds

Compassionate•Honest•Independent•Respectful•Positive

Open House
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Report Cards

Open House

- This will be scheduled on an evening in September

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Fall Conferences - November/December 2026
- Spring Conferences - April/May 2027

Report Cards

- Fall/Winter - February 2027
- Winter/Spring - June 2027

Please note: You are welcome to request a meeting with our faculty members at any point during the school year.

- ***Report Cards are made available online on the Parent Portal.*** **You may access this on the BMPRSS website.**

Kindergarten Arrival

- *EARLY DROP-OFF IF NEEDED* - 7:45 am early drop-off (Use OLD Main Entrance)

- Bus
  - Students arrive between 8:10 am and 8:30 am.
  - Students are escorted to grade-level areas.
  - At 8:30 am all students are in their classrooms.

- If arriving by car…
  - "Curbside" arrival
  - 8:10 am – 8:30 am
  - Students are escorted to grade-level areas.

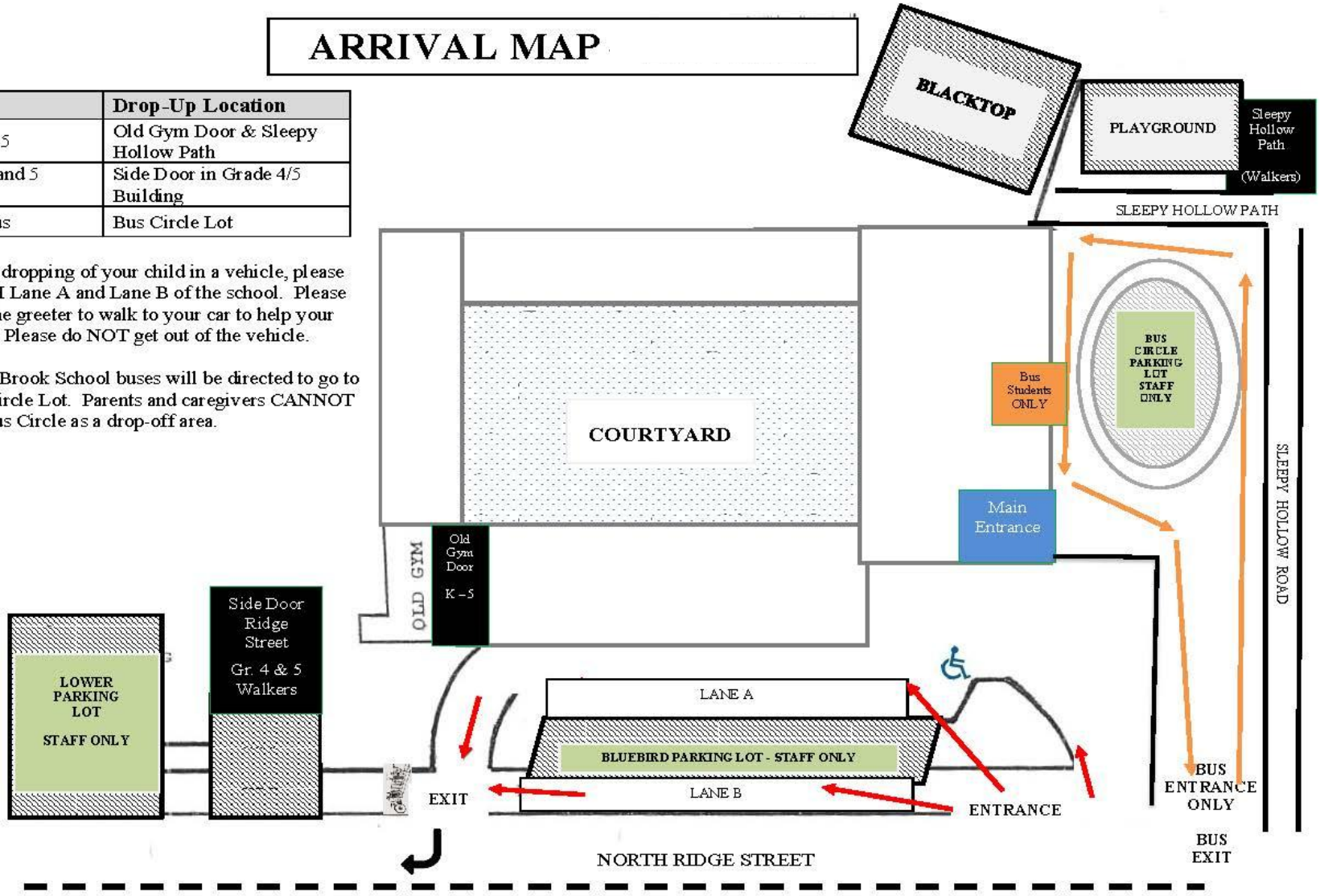
- Walkers

ARRIVAL MAP

	Drop-Up Location
Grades K-5	Old Gym Door & Sleepy Hollow Path
Grades 4 and 5 Walkers	Side Door in Grade 4/5 Building
School Bus	Bus Circle Lot

If you are dropping of your child in a vehicle, please use BOTH Lane A and Lane B of the school. Please wait for the greeter to walk to your car to help your child out. Please do NOT get out of the vehicle.

All Blind Brook School buses will be directed to go to the Bus Circle Lot. Parents and caregivers CANNOT use the Bus Circle as a drop-off area.



Kindergarten Dismissal

- All students are dismissed at 3:10 pm.
  - **Bus** (Students are escorted to "bus rooms" and will then be escorted onto buses.)
  - **NBS** (Non-Bus Student) – Each car is give a special tag with a number. Students will be escorted to their "car tag number."
  - **Pick-up** - Blacktop
    - Park your car on Sleepy Hollow Road and walk through the path.
    - Walkers

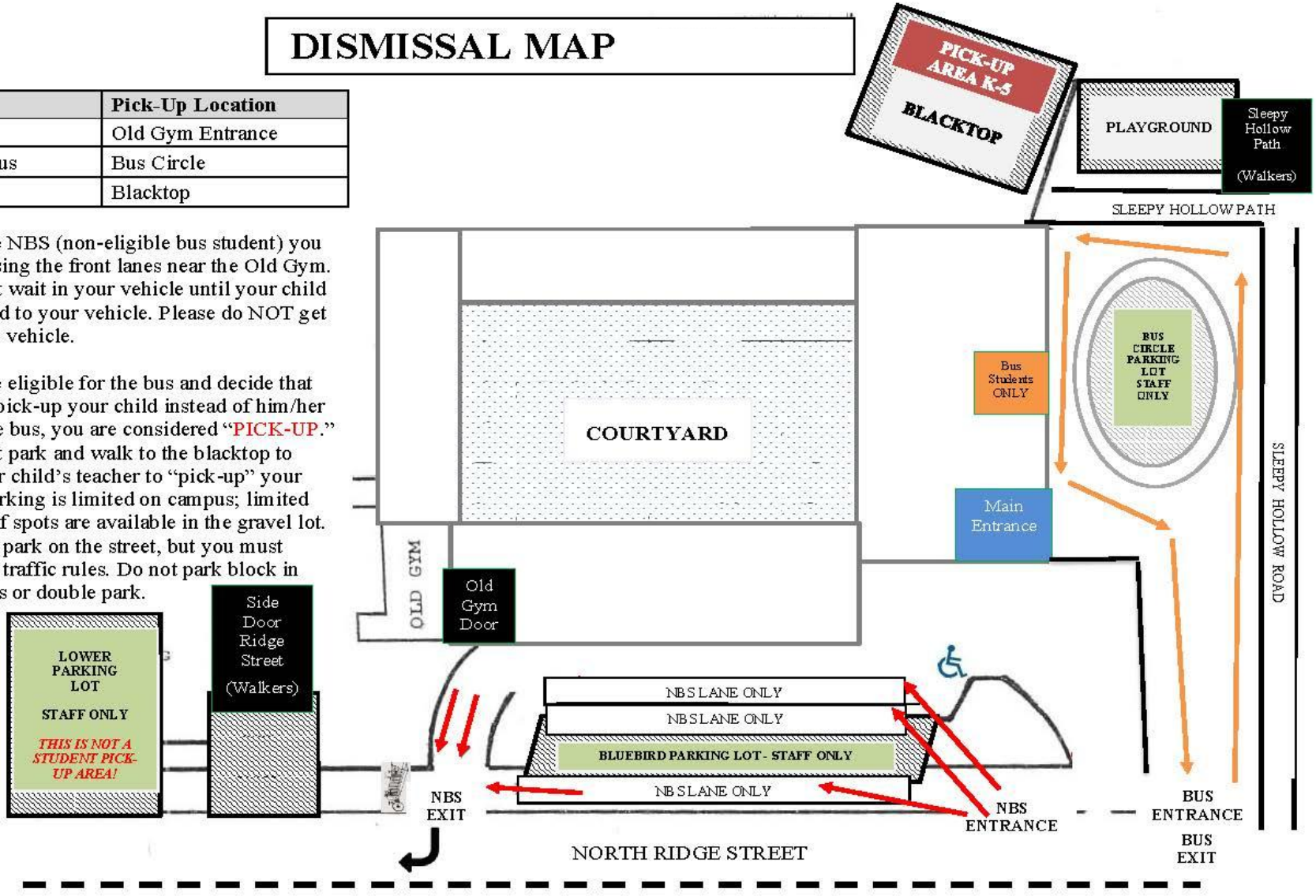
- After School Activities begin at 3:10 pm.
  - Blind Brook PTA After School Activities
  - Rye Brook Recreation After School Program

DISMISSAL MAP

	Pick-Up Location
NBS	Old Gym Entrance
School Bus	Bus Circle
Pick-Up	Blacktop

If you are NBS (non-eligible bus student) you will be using the front lanes near the Old Gym. You must wait in your vehicle until your child is escorted to your vehicle. Please do NOT get out of the vehicle.

If you are eligible for the bus and decide that you will pick-up your child instead of him/her taking the bus, you are considered "PICK-UP." You must park and walk to the blacktop to meet your child's teacher to "pick-up" your child. Parking is limited on campus; limited number of spots are available in the gravel lot. You may park on the street, but you must adhere to traffic rules. Do not park block in driveways or double park.



BUS and NBS

Bus Students

Bus Stop information and pick-up/drop-off times will be available on the Parent Portal. In the Parent Portal, you will see a tab that says "BUS" and you will be able to find out your child's bus number, pick-up spot, and pick-up time. If you have any questions, please refer to the Bus Transportation Handbook on the district website.

NBS - Non-Bus Student *(This can also be referred to as "Carpool.")*

If your child is not bus eligible, you will receive a letter in the mail with an *NBS tag* for your car. This NBS tag needs to be displayed in your car.

Change of Dismissal Form

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School

Change of Dismissal Form

Child's Name: _____

Grade: ___ Teacher's Name: _____

There is a change of dismissal for my child on this date:

_____

My child is going home:

☐ with _____ on Bus # ___

☐ with _____ at N.B.S. # ____

☐ with _____ and will be picked up on the blacktop.

☐ with _____ and will walk home (I have signed and returned the Permission Form to Walk Home.)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Lunch - My School Bucks



Bruno M Ponterio Ridge Street School Lunch Menu March 2025

Student Lunch- $4.75
Adult Meals - $6.80 +tax)

Daily Lunch Selections:

Yogurt Lunch: Fruit Yogurt, Graham Crackers, & Choice of Fruit, Vegetable & Milk

Salad Lunch: Garden Salad, Crackers & Choice of Fruit & Milk

Sandwich Lunch: Choice of Cheese, Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, Fruit, Vegetable & Milk

Bagel Lunch: WG Bagel with Butter or Cream Cheese, a Cheese Stick & Choice of Fruit, Vegetable & Milk

All meals offered with Milk: 1% white, Fat Free White, Fat Free Chocolate (all antibiotic and hormone free)

WG = Whole Grain

Menu is subject to Change

3 Chicken Tenders and Waffles Vegetable Blend Fresh Grapes 1% Milk	4 Orange Popcorn Chicken Fried Rice Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges 1% Milk	5 Nachos w/Beef Taco Meat &/or Cheese Salsa, Sour Cream Sauteed Black Beans Honeydew Melon 1% Milk	6 French Toast Sticks Turkey Sausage Patties Baby Carrots Applesauce 1% Milk	7 WG Cheese Pizza Slice Cut Italian Green Beans Fresh Pineapple Chunks 1% Milk
10 Macaroni & Cheese Peas & Carrots Fresh Orange Wedge 1% Milk	11 Crispy Chicken Tenders Tater Tots Sugar Snap Peas Apple Slices 1% Milk	12 Pasta w/Beef Meatballs Italian Blend Vegetables Banana 1% Milk	13 Sweet and Sour Chicken Brown Rice Roast Broccoli Fresh Grapes 1% Milk	14 WG Cheese Pizza Slice Tossed Salad Fresh Apple 1% Milk
17 Boneless Chicken Wings Potato Smiles Cut Green Beans Sliced Peaches 1% Milk	18 Beef Chili w/Beans and Cheese Brown Rice Sliced Carrots Sliced Apples 1% Milk	19 Chicken Tacos w/ Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa Sauteed Black Beans Fresh Pineapple Chunks 1% Milk	20 Chicken Tenders and Waffles Vegetable Blend Fresh Whole Pear 1% Milk	21 WG Cheese Pizza Slice Roasted Broccoli Fresh Orange Wedge 1% Milk
24 Pancakes w/Turkey Sausage Links Grape Tomatoes Banana 1% Milk	25 Meatless Baked Ziti Sugar Snap Peas Fresh Grapes 1% Milk	26 Orange Popcorn Chicken Fried Rice Steamed Broccoli Apple Slices 1% Milk	27 Nachos/Beef Taco Meat &/or Cheese Salsa, Sour Cream Sauteed Black Beans Cantaloupe Chunks 1% Milk	28 WG Cheese Pizza Slice Italian Green Beans Fresh Pineapple Chunks 1% Milk
31 Macaroni & Cheese Peas & Carrots Fresh Whole Pear 1% Milk	MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE	Spring BEE HAPPY!		

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PAY ONLINE
MY SCHOOL BUCKS

OFFERED DAILY

LUNCH INCLUDES: MAIN ENTREE, FRUIT, VEGGIES, MILK, JUICE OR 8oz WATER.
YOGURT MEAL: FRUIT & YOGURT, GRAHAM CRACKER, CHEESE STICK.
BAGEL LUNCH: BAGEL, CHEESE STICKS, FRUIT & VEGGIES
SALAD MEAL: GARDEN SALAD, CHEESE STICKS, FRUIT.
SANDWICH MEALS:
CHEESE, TURKEY & CHEESE, HAM & CHEESE

After School Programs

On site at the BMP Ridge Street School

- Blind Brook PTA After School Program
  - Fall and Spring Programs
  - Monday-Friday 3:10 pm – 4:15 pm

- Rye Brook Recreation After School Program
  - 3:10 pm – 6:30 pm (All school year when school is in session)
  - Arrangements can be made for students participating in a PTA After School Program to “switch over” to the Rye Brook After School.
  - www.ryebrook.org

From the Health Office

- Required Documents:
  - ➔ *Annual Physical, must be dated after 9/2/25*
  - ➔ *Immunization Records*
- Medication Policy
  - *If your child requires ANY medication in school, we need a Medication Authorization form-signed by the parent AND doctor.*
  - *Any medication! OTC, Prescription, Allergy medication, asthma medication*
- Screenings
  - *Vision, hearing, and color will be checked during the Incoming Kindergarten screenings in April. During the school year, if you have any concerns please reach out to the Health Office.*
- Attendance
  - *Please send THREE (3) emails:*
    - *your child's teacher*
    - *rssattendance@blindbrook.org*
    - *rssnurse@blindbrook.org*
  - *If your child is sick please email rssnurse@blindbrook.org with the specific illness.*

Health Office email is rssnurse@blindbrook.org

From the Health Office

- Illnesses
  - *Before returning to school:*
    - *Fever free (<100.4) for at least 24-hours **without** the use of any medication.*
    - *No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours*
    - *Strep Throat: 24-hours after the first dose of antibiotics has been given*
    - *Bacterial conjunctivitis: 24-hours after the start of treatment*
- Allergies
  - *Please report ALL allergies to our Health Office - no matter WHAT it is! Please do not wait until the start of the school year.*
- Healthy Snacks and Treats
  - *We are a peanut and nut aware school*
  - *Nut products may only be consumed in the cafeteria at designated tables*
  - *Classrooms are nut free*
  - *Please be very aware of products that contain nuts OR may have been processed or manufactured in a facility which uses/contains nuts*
  - ***All treats brought into the classroom for celebrations must be nut free and approved by the nurse***

Health Office email is rssnurse@blindbrook.org

Safety and Security

- School Monitors
  - Monitor arrival and dismissal locations
  - Monitor is always stationed at the security desk
  - Monitors present at various locations inside and outside the building
- All doors are locked throughout the day
- Faculty, staff, and administrators receive training throughout the year
  - Crisis Intervention Training
  - Emergency Response Training
  - Work with Altaris security consultants
- Fire drills, lockdown drills, and evacuation drills
- Designated wristbands for schoolwide events

School Visitors

- Please note that all doors are locked at all times.
- Visitors must use the Main Entrance ONLY.
- Visitors will not be permitted in the building without an appointment. After an appointment, visitors cannot wander through the building and must return to the main entrance to exit the building.
- All visitors must provide a Photo ID.
- All visitors must wear their ***ORANGE*** Visitor Badge. (This badge must be visible!)
- All visitors will need to sign in/out of the building at the school monitor's desk.

Getting to Know Your Child…

Screening and School Visit

Purpose: Introduce your child to the school and get to know your child

Time frame: 90 minutes

- Students will:
  - Meet some of our faculty and staff
  - Participate in screening activities
  - Take a tour of the building
  - Meet the nurse and participate in a vision & hearing screening
- Parents will:
  - Accompany their child on the tour of the building
  - Complete additional information about your child
    - *We would appreciate you signing a permission slip for us to speak with your child's preschool.*

Pupil Personnel Services

If you have any concerns regarding IEPs or 504s, or have questions about a disability/health condition which may impact your child's learning, please contact our Pupil Personnel Services Director and Assistant Director:

Dr. Alexandra LaFontaine Casabona - Director - acasabona@blindbrook.org

Mrs. Jen Castelli - Assistant Director - jcastelli@blindbrook.org

Ms. Danielle Brudner - CPSE and 504 Chairperson - dbrudner@blindbrook.org

You may also reach out to our guidance counselor or school psychologist:

Mrs. Katarina Pumarejo - School Counselor - kpumarejo@blindbrook.org

Mrs. Nicole Hirschler - School Psychologist - nhirschler@blindbrook.org

Mrs. Tania Insinga - School Psychologist - tinsinga@blindbrook.org

For more information, please go to the Pupil Services section on our district website:

https://www.blindbrook.org/departments/pupil-personnel-services

Class Placement

- Students are heterogeneously mixed.
- We encourage children to make new friends – everyone is a new student at our school!
- You will receive a ***Class Placement Parent Input Form*** via email from Mrs. Shaw so you can share information about your child. There is no need to have a formal meeting with an administrator or teacher to address placement requests. This form is OPTIONAL, but helpful for us!
- *Class placements are announced on the Parent Portal in late August.*
- Parent Portal information will be sent to you over the summer so you may set up your account.

Helpful Information

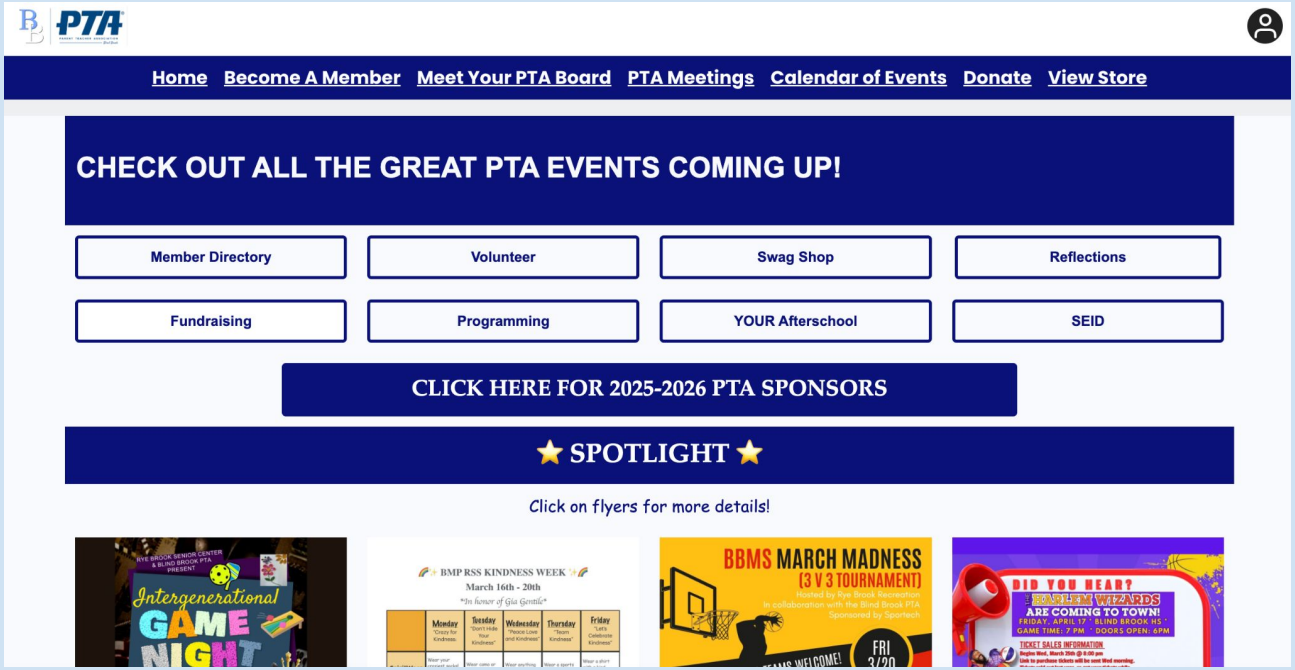
- **School Supplies - *PTA sponsored***
  - Information will be available on the web site; you can pre-order supplies.
  - Each child needs a backpack-no wheels please!
- **Snack**
  - Children bring in their own snack daily (peanut/nut free).
  - You may receive additional information from your child's teacher or the Health Office regarding any other food allergens that are in the classroom.
- **Labeling**
  - Write your child's name on everything that belongs to your child (lunchbox, backpack, jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, etc….)
  - We do have a Lost and Found, but we would like to have more things FOUND than LOST.
- **Get ready to get messy!**
  - Send children in clothes that they can manage and are safe to play and get dirty in!
  - Children will keep a change of clothes in the classroom for emergency purposes.

Become a Part of our Blind Brook Community

- Join the Blind Brook PTA
  - Join the PTA Executive Board
  - Become a Head Class Parent or Assistant Class Parent
  - Join the PTA's SEID (Supporting Every Individual Difference) Committee
- Volunteer in your child's classroom and during school events such as:
  - Class Parties
  - Book Fair
  - Fall Fest
  - Creating Connections
  - PARP (Pick a Reading Partner)
- Blind Brook District Committees

Blind Brook K-12 PTA

- Membership
- Class Parents
- PTA Fundraising Planning and Events
- PTA Meetings
- PTA-Sponsored Activities



SchoolBee

The Blind Brook PTA SchoolBee Directory contains contact information used for school and PTA purposes. Any use of directory email lists, addresses or phone numbers for solicitation, fundraising or political purposes is prohibited.

Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School
Home of the Bluebirds

So what do YOU need to do right now?

- Read with your child each day!
- Build independence- teach to zip, button, and snap clothes, buckle/unbuckle car seats, open snack containers
- Follow a consistent morning/bedtime routine
- Visit the school playground
- Use words to express feelings



Kindergarten is an exciting beginning to your child's formal educational journey. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

We're here to answer any questions you may still have.