



August 2026

Dear Families of R.A. Brown Middle School,

Welcome to another exciting school year at R.A. Brown Middle School! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer. Our staff is looking forward to begin a new year of learning, growth, and achievement together.

At R.A. Brown, we are committed to creating a positive, inclusive environment where every student can thrive. This year, we'll continue to focus on building strong academic foundations and essential social skills that will prepare our students for high school success and the opportunities that lie beyond.

A strong partnership between home and school is critical in preparing students for their future. One of our first opportunities to build (or further develop) a strong partnership is to have you attend our annual **Back to School Night**. Back to School Night will occur at R.A. Brown Middle School on **Thursday, August 27th from 5:30-7:30**. Our Back to School Night serves two primary purposes:

- 1) Students receive their class schedule
- 2) Students (and parents/guardians/caregivers) can walk their schedule to see their classrooms and meet their teachers (this is where the partnership building occurs!)

One significant change I want to make you aware of is in regards to chromebooks. Starting this school year, we will no longer be checking out chromebooks to students to keep for the year. Instead, teachers will have class sets of chromebooks that students will be able to use, when appropriate, during class time. If students need to take a chromebook home to finish an assignment, we will have chromebooks available to check out from the library from 3:15 - 3:30 after school. Families will still be held fiscally responsible for damage to chromebooks that are damaged. We believe this change will create more purposeful use of chromebooks by students while decreasing the amount of damage and number of chromebooks lost by students.

**Here are some important dates to remember:**

- August 14 - School office opens, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- August 26 - Family Connections and Transitions (Welcome Outreach- we call you!)
- August 27 - Back To School Night 5:30 - 7:30
- September 1 - First day of school for grade 7
- September 2 - First day of school for grade 8
- September 7- Labor Day Holiday
- September 18 - Picture Day

**School Hours:**



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Our school hours are 8:45 - 3:15 M/Tu/Th/F and 9:16 - 3:15 on Wednesdays.

- Students who eat breakfast at school may enter the building at 8:15 M/Tu/Th/F and 8:45 on Wednesdays.
- Students who ride the bus may eat breakfast when dropped off or wait in the gym until the bell rings.
- Students who do not eat breakfast should arrive **no earlier than** 8:15 M/Tu/Th/F and 8:45 on Wednesdays.

### School Meals:

The Hillsboro School District is approved to offer meals at no cost for all students through June 2028 under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). **All** students attending any of HSD's 36 school sites are eligible to receive a healthy complete breakfast and lunch at **no cost**. No further action is required of you. Your children will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay for meals or submit a meal application. You can view menus at [Hillsboro School District Menus](#).

### Family Involvement Opportunities:

We hope that all of our community members can volunteer in our building during the 2026-27 school year. From field trips to after school socials, volunteers make so much possible for our students. All volunteers need to be approved in advance through our school district. Please fill out the volunteer application or update/renew/check the status of your current application by visiting <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/volunteering>.

### School Attendance:

Every minute of every day matters in your child's education. Research suggests missing fewer than 9 days a year helps students succeed in school and later in life. Our goal is for every student to attend at least 90% of the school year. Missing school—whether excused or unexcused—means missing important learning and connections. Please help your child arrive on time daily, plan vacations around the [district calendar](#), and use the [Too Sick for School guidelines](#) when they're ill. If your child is absent, call **503-844-1075**. You'll receive an automated call if we don't hear from you by 10:00 a.m. Please leave your child's name and reason for absence, including symptoms if they are ill.

### Bus Routes:

Schedules and walk zone information are developed by the school district's Transportation department. They will send you directions on how to access this information online at the end of August. Please let us know of any childcare or address changes right away. You may call Transportation at 503-844-1123 if you have specific questions.

### Going home plans:

You will receive a paper copy to complete at the beginning of the school year to confirm your child's plan for getting from school to their after school destination. Once returned to our office,



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this document will serve as the daily plan for your child. **If day-of changes need to be made, please call the office during the school day to inform us of the change.**

**ParentVUE:**

The email addresses and phone numbers in our student information system are what we use to send families important news and updates, information about your child's attendance, and safety and emergency communications. Please verify your information by logging into [ParentVUE](#).

The staff and I are looking forward to partnering with you throughout the year and celebrating the achievements of these amazing students. Together, we will make 2026–2027 a fantastic school year!

**Andrew Bekken**

Principal

**R.A. Brown Middle School**

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