



August 23, 2026

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We are excited to welcome our students and families back to Brader Elementary for another year of learning, growing, and connecting as a school community.

This year, our theme is:

IMAGINE ♦ BELIEVE ♦ ACHIEVE

These three words reflect what we want for every Brader student. We want our children to **IMAGINE** what is possible, **BELIEVE** in themselves and one another, and **ACHIEVE** through hard work, perseverance, support, and a love of learning.

As we begin the year, our work will center around three important goals:

Supporting the Whole Child

We will help our students grow into confident, self-regulated, and respectful individuals who communicate effectively, build positive relationships, and demonstrate empathy toward others. We want every child to know they belong, are valued, and have people at Brader who believe in them.

Teaching & Learning

We will empower our students to become independent and engaged learners who think critically, take ownership of their learning, and apply what they know in meaningful ways. Our goal is not only for students to achieve academically, but also to develop confidence, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning.

Community Connection & Pride

Brader is more than a school—it is a community. We will continue to create an inclusive environment where every voice is valued while strengthening school pride, family connections, and community partnerships. We know that our school is strongest when our students, staff, families, and community work together.

We are excited about all that lies ahead and grateful to have you as our partners. Together, we can make 2026–2027 a year in which every child feels connected, supported, challenged, and proud to be a Brader Tiger.

Welcome back, Brader families and students! Let's **IMAGINE ♦ BELIEVE ♦ ACHIEVE** together!

Warmly,
Suzanne Wong
Principal
Brader Elementary School

Brader Elementary School
Back to School Information – 2026-2027

Our Mission

At Brader, our mission is to work as a CommUNITY to nurture and grow leaders, inspiring one child at a time to embrace their educational journey and achieve their full potential in life.

CSD Vision

Together, Educating Every Student for Excellence

Our Commitments

At Brader, we are committed to maintaining a culture of inclusion, where ALL faces, voices, and experiences are reflected and valued, and EVERY child is afforded access to a quality education and high standards of achievement. We pledge to work together to foster strong partnerships with parents/families and the community, to maximize opportunities for EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY.

Student Day: 8:50 AM – 3:50 PM

School Colors: Blue & White

School Mascot: Tiger

School Motto

Brader Elementary School is the home of the Tigers, where you can hear our students practice their ROAR every day!

Respect
Outstanding Attitude
Achievement
Responsibility

Brader's School Goals - 2026-2027

Goal #1 – Whole Child Goal: Here at Brader, we will support the development of the whole child by fostering confident, self-regulated, and respectful students who demonstrate strong communication skills, build positive relationships, and show empathy toward others.

Goal #2 – Teaching and Learning Goal: We will empower independent, engaged learners who think critically, take ownership of their learning, and apply knowledge across subjects—building a love of learning, confidence in communication, and deep understanding beyond the lesson.

Goal #3 – Community Pride Goal: Brader Elementary will honor an inclusive environment where every voice is valued, strengthening school pride, family connection, and community partnerships through meaningful engagement and collaboration.

Calendar Dates – August & September

Thursday, August 27th, 3:00-5:00 PM - Back to School Meet and Greet (Cafeteria & Lobby)

Stop by to learn your child's homeroom assignment and meet their teacher. This is also an opportunity to drop off school supplies, pick up car tags, sign Chromebook Agreements, and sign up to be a part of the Brader Parent Teacher Team (PTT). We will have special representatives from our Boys & Girls Club aftercare program.

Monday, August 31st – 8:50 AM-3:50 PM – 1st day of school for students in 1st through 5th grades

Kindergarten families are invited to attend Kindergarten Orientation with their Kindergarten student from 10:00 - 11:00 AM on this day. Note: There are NO classes for Kindergarten students on August 31st.

Tuesday, September 1st – 8:50 AM – 3:50 PM - The first day of school for Kindergarten students and ALL grade levels, K-5

Friday and Monday, September 4th and 7th - Schools Closed - Labor Day

Tuesday - Friday, September 8th - 11th: Spirit Week: Mon. PJs; Tues. Orange & Black; Wed. Rock & Roll; Thurs. Unity Day

Tuesday, September 15th - Statewide PD Day & Election Day - no school for students

Sunday, September 20th - Newark Community Day

Monday, September 21st - Professional Development Day - no school for students

Wednesday, September 23rd - Back to School Night & Title I Parent Meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23rd - Friday, October 2nd - Brader's Book Fair

Friday, September 25th - September Tiger Awards (invitations will be sent out)

Thursday, October 1 – 6:00-7:00 PM – Brader Parent Teacher Team Meeting (Please join us to prepare for an amazing school year. Child care will be provided along with a light dinner.)

Friday, October 2nd – Fall Picture Day for All Students

Arrival/Dismissal

Monday, August 31st - 1st - 5th Grade Families may walk their students to their classrooms (we ask that you promptly leave the building after saying your goodbyes). Staff members will be available to help you find classrooms.

Tuesday, September 1st - Kindergarten Families may walk their student to their classrooms (we ask that you promptly leave the building after saying your goodbyes). Staff members will be available to help you find classrooms.

Car Tags

ALL families will receive a set of two numbered hanging car tags to use when picking up your child/children from the car line. Please display the tag from the rearview mirror for easy viewing. If you have a Kindergarten child, please write "K" on the tag to alert us, since it takes our little ones some time to learn the procedures. Please help your child/children memorize their car tag number. We plan to distribute car tags at Meet & Greet on August 27.

Our doors will open at 8:50 AM daily and will remain unlocked until 9:10 AM as we welcome our students through the front doors. Students planning to eat breakfast at school should stop in the cafeteria to key in their student ID to pick up a Grab & Go breakfast on their way to their classroom.

Arrival

Walkers - Walkers should enter the building from the front doors and proceed to the cafeteria to purchase breakfast, or proceed directly to class. We encourage all families to say their good-byes outside after the first day; however, we will work with K/1/new families to ensure a positive and happy first day/week experience.

Car Riders - Families driving to school each morning will enter the school driveway in a single lane, travel straight, and then veer left to follow the bend of the car line circle. Families are asked to remain patiently in line along the curb and wait for a staff member on duty to guide you through the circle to a safe stop point, where your child will be welcomed to exit the vehicle from the passenger/curbside only. Adults are asked to please remain in the vehicle so that we can move the car line quickly and safely. You may not pass cars that are unloading children. The inside lane of the circle is not for driving or parking. Use it only for parents pulling out of parking spaces. All cars will stay in line to exit the lot.

Bus Riders - All bus information is available for your student in Infinite Campus. Times are not exact, so please be at the pick-up/drop off location 10 minutes earlier than the assigned time. Upon arrival at school, buses will park in the bus lot and will wait for our bus duty staff to dismiss the students on each bus and guide them to the main sidewalk. Students will not be crossing any traffic.

Dismissal

Afternoon announcements will take place at 3:45 PM, followed by dismissal at 3:50 PM for car riders and walkers, then bus riders. Please note that we will begin the dismissal process a few minutes early during the first week of school. To ensure the safety of our students, all parents picking up are required to have their photo identification with them EVERY DAY. If you have authorized additional adults to pick up your child/children, they must present photo identification and their names must be listed on the emergency card/office information sheet.

Walkers - K/1 will wait in the cafeteria with car riders and will be released from the cafeteria doors to an authorized parent. 2nd/3rd will exit from the Wetlands Pod side door, and 4th/5th will exit from the Butterfly Pod doors. All walkers will be escorted by staff on duty to a designated safety zone (the tree near the bus lane at the front entrance to school or the stop sign near the crossing guard on the side of the school). Parents and guardians may meet their child(ren) at these locations. Older siblings who do not attend Brader may meet siblings at the stop signs near the crossing guards, *but not on school property*. Our duties staff will be outside and ready to help our families learn the designated locations on the first day of school. It is very important that families pick up their child/children at the designated locations so we can maintain a safe and orderly dismissal process.

Car Riders - Due to the much higher volume of car riders, we will once again dismiss our car riders from the cafeteria this year, instead of having the children wait outside. We appreciate your patience as we work together to implement the dismissal procedures at the beginning of the year. When you arrive, staff will call/signal for your child to be brought outside for pickup, according to their assigned car tag number. Duty staff will ask for identification if they do not recognize the adult picking up. Please notify the office immediately if your car tags are lost or stolen. We hope to disseminate car tags to families at the Meet & Greet on August 27. **To maintain student safety, no parking/driving is allowed in the bus lane under any circumstances.**

Bus Riders - All bus riders will be escorted to their bus by a member of your child's grade level team. Buses are expected to arrive at school beginning at 3:45, and typically depart between 3:55-4:10 PM. We will announce on Class Dojo when all buses have departed.

Child Nutrition Services – Breakfast and Lunch

All students will be able to receive a free breakfast and lunch daily again this year. If your child has a food allergy, please provide a signed physician note to our school nurse stating the allergy. If your child needs a special menu, a registered dietitian will create one. For more information, please contact Child Nutrition Services at 302-454-2400.

Nurse

Emergency Cards will be sent home with each student during the first week of school. The card contains a health history. Please complete ALL PAGES, SIGN IN ALL PLACES, and return to your child's teacher ASAP. Please inform the school of any changes to your address, phone numbers, or additional contact numbers during the school year so we can reach you in the event of an Emergency. If your child has a health problem such as asthma, seizures, or food allergies, please inform our nurse so that she can maintain the highest level of care and safety for your child.

Medical Requirements for New Students: In most cases, when you registered your child for school, you were advised of his/her need for any Immunizations, Physical, TB test, or Lead Screening. Please submit this information to the Nurse's Office ASAP. Visit the school website and weekly newsletters for additional health updates from the school nurse.

School Wide Communications/School Forms

At Brader, we believe that strong communication between home and school is essential for student success. You will receive school-wide communications from us through:

- Parent Link - Weekly Sunday evening email/newsletter message at 5:30 PM during the school season with short notification via telephone
- The Brader Website - Braderes.org - Visit for school forms and to access district links

Please be sure to follow us on social media! You may hear about our day-to-day fun and exciting experiences through: Schoology - Brader School Community Group, Class Dojo, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram

If your contact information has changed, please email our Administrative Secretary, Ms. Sunni Jones, at sunni.jones@christina.k12.de.us