

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families:

I hope everyone is enjoying a fun and relaxing summer! I am writing with some important information regarding the upcoming school year.

First, I want to make you aware of several important dates, thinking forward to the start of the school year. The first day of school for students in grades K-4 will be Tuesday, September 6th.

Students may begin arriving at school at 8:35am, and our school day begins at 8:55am.

Students must be in class by 8:55am, or they will be considered tardy. Dismissal occurs at 3:15pm for bus riders and walkers. We will continue with two car rider waves, as follows:

Wave 1 - Students with last names beginning with letters A-L will be dismissed at 3:10pm. Cars should arrive between 3:00 and 3:10pm.

Wave 2 - Students with last names beginning with letters M-Z will be dismissed at 3:25pm. Cars should arrive between 3:20 and 3:30pm. If you arrive too early, we will have to send you back around to get in the line for wave 2 car riders, as they will not be in the gym until 3:25pm.

We will receive bus schedules from the bus company later in August, and they will be posted at sau80.org. For car riders, drivers should enter the BES lot and take the first right as you arrive, driving through the gate and past the basketball court around the building to the back side of the gym. The first car in line should pull all the way up to Cone #1, with other cars pulling up behind them so we can allow five cars to unload at once. Students must remain in cars until the bell rings at 8:35am and a teacher arrives outside to supervise. Walkers will be met at the end of Pleasant Valley Drive at 8:40am by a crossing guard and should wait safely away from the roadside with an adult if they arrive prior to that time.

Open House for students in grades one through four has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 12th. We will follow a staggered schedule due to limited parking capacity. Classrooms will be open for families of students with last names beginning with the letter A-L from 5:15 - 6:00pm and for families of students with last names beginning with the letter M-Z from 6:15 - 7:00pm. Open House is an opportunity for your son or daughter to show you around the classroom and introduce you to their teacher. Individual discussions about your son or daughter are not appropriate at this time, but will occur in November at parent-teacher conferences.

Representatives from the PTO will be available during open houses, and the first meeting for B.E.S.T. (the PTO) will be on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00pm in the gym. Babysitting is Engaging all learners to succeed in their ever changing world provided for this meeting and all PTO meetings. If you can help support the efforts of B.E.S.T. at all during the year, please come meet the team on this night. We have a very committed group of parents, but they do need more support to continue hosting the many great events that occur each year.

Fingerprinting and volunteer affidavits will also be offered at Open House in the lobby or gym beginning at 5:00pm. Your photo ID is required for fingerprinting. If you wish to volunteer in any way in our schools (e.g. in the classroom, on field trips, coaching or helping in any way), you must be fingerprinted once and then complete a new volunteer affidavit each year. Please complete this process and get involved in our schools!

K Students – Kindergarten teachers will host an open house for students and parents on Thursday, September 1st from 2-3pm. Students will have the opportunity to find their

classrooms, visit the café, and get on a bus before the building is full of students, as well as to meet their teachers and classmates. This day is intended to alleviate some of the anxiety for students and parents/guardians that can be associated with the first day of kindergarten. Parents will also meet our K teachers, complete required paperwork, and have the opportunity to confirm and discuss bus schedules with a representative from the bus company. Fingerprinting and volunteer affidavits will be available as well from 2-3pm. This event will also provide an opportunity for you to meet other parents of kindergarten students, which parents frequently state is important to them.

New Students - If you are new to BES and in grades one through four, we will host a tour of the building and provide an opportunity to meet your teacher on Thursday, September 1st at 2pm.

Your relationship and ongoing communication with your child's teachers is one critical component of a system of supports provided for each student at BES, so we hope to see everyone at these open house sessions!

On the first day of school, which is Tuesday, September 6th, we ask that everyone follow normal procedures for dropping your son or daughter off at school. Parents sometimes want to accompany their son or daughter into school, particularly on the first day of kindergarten, which often increases student anxiety. Almost without exception, students calm down within minutes of parents leaving, but if parents stay, the anxiety continues. We have our school counselors and many other staff dedicated to helping our kindergarten students (and all students) work through the challenges of the first day, and this system works very well. We will, of course, call you if there are lasting concerns.

I look forward to working with all of you and kicking off another fun and exciting year at BES! Best Wishes!
Ben Hill, Principal

Engaging all learners to succeed in their ever changing world