

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School

Jamie Sokolowski
Principal



Allison Byrnes
Assistant Principal

August 9, 2023

Dear Bresnahan Families:

We hope you are having a wonderful, safe summer! We are writing with some important information as we prepare to welcome our students to school in the coming weeks. Please read through the information below, keeping in mind that more information will be coming directly from your classroom teacher once class lists are posted. A school-wide communication called "the Weekly Wednesday" will be emailed every Wednesday with timely updates on events and school initiatives. We also encourage you to visit our [School Website](#) throughout the year for updates and resources. Please also do not hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Teacher Assignments, and Aspen Family Portal

Teacher assignments will be released for all Bresnahan students in the [Family Portal of Aspen](#) on **August 21st, 2023 at noon.**

If you do not have a Family Portal User Name and Password please email: aspen@newburyport.k12.ma.us

Indicate that you need a Family Portal Account and include the following information:

- Your Name
- Student's Name
- Student's Date of Birth
- Student's Year of Graduation (Grade 3: 2033; Grade 2: 2034; Grade 1: 2035; K: 2036; Pre-K: 2037; Preschool: 2038)

Upcoming Events

- 9/6: Meet, Greet, & Find Your Seat** - This event will begin in your child's classroom, where children will be able to meet their new teacher(s), see their desk and meet their new classmates. Students and families will have the opportunity to visit areas of our school. A school bus will be on site for students and families to explore. Staff will be available to assist you in finding your classroom.
 - 9:00-10:00 - Preschool and Pre-K
 - 10:00-11:00 - Kindergarten and Grade 1
 - 11:00-12:00 - Grades 2 and 3
- 9/7: First Day of School Grades 1-3**
- 9/11: First Day of School Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten**
- 9/15: Early Release Day (Ps/Pk dismiss at 11:15, K-3 dismiss at 11:40)**
- 9/28 & 9/29: Picture Day**
- 10/5: Open House**
 - 6:00 pm: Ps/Pk, K and Grade 1

7:00 pm: Grades 2 & 3

- 11/2 (evening): Parent Teacher Conferences**
- 11/15 (after-school): Parent Teacher Conferences**

School Hours

Bresnahan School Hours are as follows:

PS/PK: 8:15 - 1:00

K-Grade 3: 8:20 - 2:50

On **Early Release Days**, preschool and PreK programs dismiss at 11:15AM.

Kindergarten through Grade 3 dismiss at 11:40AM.

ALL Programs (PS-Grade 3) run **Monday-Friday**.

School Arrival

Walkers & Bikers: Arrive & enter through Door 1.

Busers: Drop off in the turnaround at the front of the school and enter through Door 1.

Car Riders: Drop off on the side of the school accessible from N. Atkinson Street. Parents should drive in a single lane to the drop off area. Students may enter the school through Door #4. Parents should pull forward as far as possible to continue the flow of traffic.

NOTE: Parents of **PS/PK Car Riders** should park in the main parking lot and escort their children to their classroom door.

Bresnahan staff members are stationed at all entry points to welcome students and monitor safety.

School Dismissal

We utilize a software program named [School Dismissal Manager](#) for this process. The program provides us with an organized and efficient tracking system for dismissals, keeping the process safe and orderly for all students.

Free apps are available for Android and iPhone users. You can *add the* [SDM App](#) to a smartphone, tablet, or web browser via the link. Username, passwords and some additional information will be sent directly from School Dismissal Manager in the coming weeks.

Walkers & Bikers: Dismissed and escorted by their teachers to the front of the building near door #1. Students will be released to their parents/guardians using distributed placards for identification.

Car Riders: Riders will be dismissed through Doors #2, #3, & #4. Parents should drive in a single lane to the pick up area from the N. Atkinson Street entrance with the student placard visible on the dashboard. Parents should pull forward as far as possible to continue the flow of traffic. **NOTE:** Parents of PS/PK Car Riders should park in the main parking lot (32 N. Atkinson St address) and pick-up their children at their classroom door.

PS/PK Tuition

Tuition is collected for general education students. Students with disabilities receive a free or reduced rate based on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The first tuition payment was due August 1st.

Newburyport Public Schools requires all tuition payments to be made on-line through the [UniPay Gold Payment Center](#). Only electronic checks and credit cards are accepted. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to set up an account with UniPay Gold and make your first payment. Thank you!

We strongly encourage all families to utilize UniPay Gold Payment Center's automated deduction feature. This feature enables customers the ability to set up a payment plan to automatically make deductions in accordance with your payment schedule.

Bus Transportation

Bus passes will be mailed home. Information regarding Bus Transportation can be found directly on the [Newburyport Public Schools Transportation Department's Website](#). If you need any assistance with bus transportation, please email transportation@newburyport.k12.ma.us (here you will receive an automatic away message, which provides the link for bus registration forms and info). If you have specific questions in general, please contact Kathleen Gustafson at Central Office 978-465-4456 x2000.

Food Services

The Bresnahan School offers breakfast and lunch on a daily basis. All students are entitled to receive a free breakfast and lunch. Additional purchases, such as milk, can be made in addition to the free meal. Purchases are made through the *My School Bucks Program*. Information regarding school meals and setting up a "my school bucks" account can be found directly on the [Newburyport Public Schools Food Services Website](#). This site includes links to the [Nutrislice website](#) for school menus and all your nutrition and school lunch information needs. It also provides information on free and reduced options, *My School Bucks* payment method, and other food service related questions.

SNAP Health Portal

The Newburyport Public Schools Nursing team has elected to use the [SNAP Health Portal](#) to better connect you with your child's school health and wellness information. This web-based system provides an easy, secure, and green way for you to update and review important school health information and medical documents throughout the year. The SNAP Health Portal will replace the paper Confidential Health Form. You will need to update OTC medications, vaccinations and physical forms using the Health Portal for next school year. Please see [this sheet](#) for more information.

Parent Volunteers

We greatly appreciate the support of [parent volunteers](#) throughout the school year. Parent volunteers enhance our programs and can have a strong impact on our offerings. We encourage all parents to consider volunteering in some capacity during the school year. There are many ways to become involved whether it is helping out in your child's classroom, helping to prepare for a special event, or chaperoning a field trip. State law requires that all volunteers complete a **CORI form** in order to volunteer in your child's classroom.

Additionally, the Newburyport School Committee policy requires any volunteer who has direct and unmonitored contact with children to be fingerprinted. This generally occurs in two instances:

1. If you are chaperoning a field trip; or
2. If you are a lunchroom volunteer and will be bringing children out to the playground. Note: Parents who volunteer in the classroom DO NOT need to be fingerprinted, as there is always another adult present.

Massachusetts has contracted with MorphoTrust for fingerprinting and you may make an appointment on-line at the website: <http://www.identogo.com/> to complete the fingerprinting at one of the local fingerprinting locations. The nearest locations are in Haverhill, Methuen, and Danvers. In order to register for an appointment, you will need to enter the Bresnahan School provider ID: **02040005**.

Visiting the Bresnahan

Safety is our top priority at the Bresnahan School. If you are visiting our school you must enter through Door #1 to get buzzed in and check in with our front office staff. Please bring your driver's license to check in using our Raptor Technologies security system. All other doors on the premises will be locked without the ability to buzz in.

Permanent Dismissal Form

If you have not yet enrolled in School Dismissal Manager, there is still time to do so! This greatly helps us get students where they need to be after-school. If you are unable to use the School Dismissal Manager, another option is to fill out this [permanent dismissal form](#). Please only fill out this form if you do not plan to use the School Dismissal Manager and return it to your classroom teacher on the first day of school.

Photo Restriction Form

During the year, we often take photographs of students, parents, teachers, and school activities and may include these pictures on school bulletin boards, in school and PTO publications, in school partner publications (NEF, NEBC), in local newspapers, and on our website. If you would not like your student's photo to be taken, please return this form to your child's teacher on the first day of school. Do not complete this form if you allow your child's photo to be taken. This form must be filled out annually if you wish to place a photo restriction.

After-School Enrichment

We are proud to offer connections to a variety of after-school programs. You can learn more about [Newburyport Youth Services](#), [School's Out \(the YWCA program\)](#) and [the Boys and Girls Club](#).

We offer our own **Bresnahan Clipper Courses**, led by Bresnahan Staff. These courses are free to Bresnahan students and run in three sessions. Enrollment is determined by lottery. More information to come, but please be aware of the session dates:

Session 1: the week of October 2nd - the week of November 13th (registration September 18th - 22nd).

Session 2: the week of January 8th - the week of March 4th (registration December 18th - 22nd)

Session 3: the week of April 1st - the week of May 27th (registration March 18th - 22nd).

Join the Bresnahan PTO

A Message from the PTO: Welcome to the Newburyport PTO! Together we support the students, families, and staff of the Bresnahan, Molin, and Nock Schools. In addition to raising substantial funds to support student activities, the PTO aims to build a welcoming family community at our schools. There are many ways to get involved!

Please check the weekly school newsletter or our website newburyportpto.com for locations. We hope to see you there (all meetings at 7 pm): 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 1/18, 2/8, 3/14, 4/4, 5/9, 6/13

The PTO will host a Fall Festival in October and a Spring Fling in June. These events are free and open to all Bresnahan families. We also offer sensory-friendly times so families can enjoy these events before the crowds get too large.

We always need volunteers to help at our events or activities! This is also a great way to meet other families and feel connected to the school community. Please go to newburyportpto.com and click on *Get Involved* to complete our Volunteer Opportunities form. To sign up to receive our email updates, please click on *Sign Up for Updates* on the bottom of our website.

Support our Fundraisers

The Newburyport PTO is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. In 2023-2024, we aim to raise \$84,000 (over \$50 per student) which will be used to fund transportation for field trips, bring enrichment activities to the schools and fulfill teacher needs. Our largest fundraisers are the Clipper Readathon in March and the Newburyport Kitchen Tour in May. You can also support the PTO by purchasing Newburyport Spirit Wear, Holiday Raffle Calendars and Valentine Candygrams. In addition, there is an EcoSmith Bin along the Bresnahan driveway for recycling textiles and shoes. The PTO receives a percentage of the proceeds from the total volume of material collected.

For more information, please email us at newburyportpto@gmail.com

We look forward to getting to know you and your children as we prepare for an exciting school year! Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Warmly,

Jamie Sokolowski, *Principal* & Allison Byrnes, *Assistant Principal*