

Heath Brook School
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Celebrating Excellence



~Welcome Back to School~ 2019-2020

Dear Heath Brook Families,

Another school year is just around the corner! I'd like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you back to the Heath Brook for the 2019-2020 school year. We would also like to send along a special welcome to our new Kindergarten students and families as they get ready to begin their educational career at the Heath Brook! Starting a new year brings with it excitement and anticipation for everyone. As the faculty and I prepare for our students to join us, I'd like to share with you some important and exciting updates, all of which will positively impact teaching and learning at the Heath Brook School.

Who's New at the Heath Brook:

I'm so pleased to introduce our newest Heath Brook staff members to you. I'm thrilled each one of these talented professionals is joining our staff, as they bring a wealth of knowledge and great passion for working with children.

- ***Mrs. Cara Griffin*** is our new K-2 DLC (Developmental Learning Center) teacher.
- ***Ms. Daryn Starkey*** is our new Digital Learning class teacher, which will replace computer classes from previous years.
- ***Ms. Kristen Cahill*** is our new STEM class teacher, which will replace academic support classes from previous years. Ms. Cahill will be helping us set up our new STEM Lab at the Heath Brook.
- ***Ms. Gayle Bridgford*** is our new Music teacher.

TPS District Strategy:

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- **Mr. Jason Dubay** is our new Head Custodian.

Specialists Update:

Due to shifts in enrollment and an increased focus on Digital Literacy and STEM, specialists teachers have been assigned to the following schools:

Art: Mrs. Barbati - Heath Brook/North St

Art: Mrs. Kosiba - Dewing/Trahan

Digital Learning: Ms. Starkey - Heath Brook/North St.

Digital Learning: TBD - Dewing/Trahan

Music: Ms. Bridgford - Heath Brook/North St.

Music: Mr. Nahlik - Dewing/Trahan

Phys Ed: Mr. Armano - Heath Brook/North St.

Phys Ed. Ms. Higgins - Dewing/Trahan

STEM: Ms. Cahill - Heath Brook/North St.

STEM: Mrs. Legvold - Dewing/Trahan

What's New at the Heath Brook:

This year brings with it tremendous new opportunities for teaching and learning! We are so excited to officially open a STEM Lab that our students will utilize during their weekly specialist classes. On any given day, you may hear students talk about their learning through the use of green screen technology, virtual field trips, 3D printers, robotics and more! We have also enhanced our computer learning with our digital literacy class. Given the new and ever-changing ways we use technology to receive and communicate information, digital literacy teaches our students to find and consume digital content, create digital content, and share it out.

Our building has also undergone some capital improvements! The Heath Brook School received a fresh, bright coat of paint in the main hallway, along with a brand new cafeteria flooring. You may also spot our beautiful new planting beds and sidewalks in front of our cafeteria drop off location. Our library space also received new air-conditioning units to keep us cool and all the exterior doors were replaced building-wide. Not as noticeable, but just as important, is the new boiler system, roof painting/repairs and updated technology infrastructure which includes wireless access points in each classroom. Our building has also been outfitted with Stop the Bleed Kits.

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Home-School Communication:

In order to strengthen our home-school communication, the Heath Brook is always looking for better ways to stay connected to our students and their families. Below are some of the tools the Tewksbury School District implemented to make communication easier and more efficient:

- **Tewksbury Public School Website:** [TPS Website](#)
- **Tewksbury Public School Mobile App:** To assist with parent and family communication, we have developed a NEW MOBILE APP with helpful information and communication options to meet the needs of the community. [NEW TPS App](#)
- **Heath Brook-Trahan PAC Website:** Please visit the new website at <https://www.hbtpac.org/> to stay up to date on the latest information sent out by Heath Brook School-Trahan PAC community.
- **Critical Information forms now accessible online:** To reduce the amount of paper we send home to you, we have made electronic versions of some of the forms for you to read and sign. Please use the following links to fill out each of your children's Accident & Illness form in preparation for the 1st day of school.

Please click here: [Heath Brook Accident/Illness Form](#)

- **Student Handbook:** Please make sure that both you and your student take the time to review the online student handbook. We make changes to the handbook each year and it is helpful for families to be familiar with the handbook and its contents. All parents must verify they have reviewed the handbook by completing the on-line Elementary Handbook Sign Off by **Friday, Sept. 13th, 2019.**

Please click here: [PreK-Gr.4 Elementary Handbook](#)

Please click here: [Elementary Handbook Sign Off Form](#)

- **Aspen Accounts:** Please click [here](#) to learn more about Aspen, which is our secure, web-based school information management system that organizes all facets of student data – from attendance to conduct, grades to schedules, transcripts to activities. Tewksbury has been

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using Aspen for many years with great success. The Student Portal has been implemented and is available to all K-12th grade students.

Notes from the Nurse's Office:

As the school year begins, it's extremely important to update us of any changes to your child's health and to contact the school nurse if there has been any changes to your child's medications. You may do this by simply providing an updated written order from your child's pediatrician. Along with a written order, please drop off your child's medication prior to or on the first day of school to the nurse's office in the morning. Please note, all medication should be in its original labeled box or bottle.

School children need to be well nourished and well rested. In order to perform best during their long school day, please strive to maintain a consistent bedtime and start NOW to establish a schedule that will allow your child to get enough sleep once school officially starts. Please also start planning for healthy snacks and lunches your child prefers. The healthier the better!!

Before and After School Programming:

AlphaBEST (<https://www.alphabest.org/tewksburyma/>) is just finishing up running our summer camp programs this year, replacing Community Services, and will continue on to run our before and after school programming (extended-day) starting this fall. Community Services will no longer be offering extended-day programming but will continue with enrichment, pre-school, and adult education programming.

Morning Drop Off Procedures:

Each year, we reflect on our drop-off and pick-up procedures to make sure that we have systems in place that allow students to get to school safely and efficiently. Please click [here](#) for a helpful visual map that outlines this year's drop off procedures. We gently remind families of the following routine:

- ***K-2 Elementary School Families -***
 - Drop off begins at 8:25 am. Staff members are not on duty to monitor students prior to that time
 - Enter into the parking lot (far left) and remain in the single file vehicle drop-off line
 - Wait for staff members on duty to signal that it is time for your student to exit the vehicle
 - Safely exit the parking lot in a single line

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- ***Please do not park in the lot during morning drop off, unless you have specific permission from the principal.***

- ***Extended Day Preschool Families -***

- Drop off begins at 8:00 and continues until 8:20 am
- Enter into the front "bus" loop in a single file vehicle line
- Wait for Extended Day Preschool staff members to signal that it is time for you to assist your child in exiting the vehicle
- Safely exit the parking lot in a single line

Afternoon Pick Up Procedures:

We are pleased that Tewksbury Public Schools provides such reliable bus transportation to all students. We encourage families to utilize this resource, as it is an exciting part of our students' school experience. ***However, if you choose to pick up your child in the afternoon, we kindly ask that you print/fill out the following dismissal form and send it to school with your child on the first day of school.*** We will have paper copies available as well.

Please Click Here: [Heath Brook School Dismissal Form](#)

Please Click Here: [Heath Brook Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures](#)

Breakfast & Lunch

We are pleased to offer such delicious and nutritious meals at the Heath Brook School. Did you know breakfast is available every morning in the cafeteria when students arrive at school? Lunch prices will remain the same this year: lunch is \$2.75 and breakfast is \$1.50. Heath Brook also offers a special snack on Tuesdays for \$0.75 - students can purchase a bag of chips, popsicle, or ice cream novelty.

Please remember that applications for free/reduced lunch must be filled out annually. Those forms will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Food Service has information (including application and monthly menus) that can be accessed on the district website, or through this direct link: [TPS food services](#).

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Opportunities to Get Involved:

We actively encourage our families to get involved in their child's school experience! Keep an eye out for upcoming information on ways to participate as a volunteer or as a member of a council. Consider joining the Heath Brook Community by:

- ~**Serving on the Heath Brook School Council**~
- ~**Volunteering in our school library**~
- ~**Becoming a member of our PAC (Parent Advisory Council)**~
- ~**Lending a hand at a PAC organized event**~
- ~**Volunteering in your child's classroom**~

Upcoming Events:

There's lots of exciting events in the coming weeks! Add these important dates to your calendar!

- **Don't forget! We have new school hours: 8:45 - 3:05pm**
- **Kindergarten Orientation/Open House** - August 26th @ Heath Brook from 4-6pm
- **Opening Day of School** - August 28th @ 8:45am
- **No School** - Friday, August 30th
Monday, September 2nd
- **Open House for Grades 1 & 2** - September 10th @ 6-8pm
- **Student Picture Day** - Monday, September 16th

The days of summer are fading fast, but hopefully, you'll be able to enjoy every last minute! On behalf of the Heath Brook faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you back to another great year of exploring, learning and growing. We look forward to making 2019-2020 one of our best years yet!

In partnership,

Felicia Wettstone
Principal

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