



Crossroads South Middle School

A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School

1915 Major Road, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852

Phone (732) 329-4633 Fax (732) 329-1906

www.sbschools.org

Bonnie H. Capes - Principal

Sandra Hinson, Mark Kmiec - Assistant Principals



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!

I hope this letter comes at a time when you are still fully enjoying many memorable opportunities with family and friends. As we prepare to embark on this coming year, I am reminded that the beginning of school is truly a special time and I am eagerly looking forward to partnering with you as we nurture the ongoing development of your child. This year's district theme is **"Imagine if every child..."** Our Superintendent challenges each of us to complete that sentence with our hopes and dreams for our children. For me, my ending would be, **"Imagine if every child...is connected to school."** At a time when our children are in the "messy middle", they need to stay connected more than ever. Our school hopes to provide an opportunity for each child to be seen and valued within our community. This may be through the mentorship of a staff member, athletics, music, clubs, activities, personal passions, or even friendships. Either way, it is our job to connect our kids so they feel the support around them and see school as a place of opportunities. This includes you and the partnerships we will develop over the year between home and school. Let's connect! Please share your "end of the sentence" with me.

Now, for the nuts and bolts! The first day of school for the 2018-2019 school year is **Thursday, September 6th**. This is a regular full day of school. Our **regular school day** hours are listed in the accompanying Crossroads South's Summer Newsletter. Be sure to read this newsletter carefully, as there is important information regarding the upcoming school year. This annual summer message highlights important back to school information, school policies and procedures, and several important dates for the upcoming school year. Please take the time to carefully review all of the information in this packet and be sure to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns. For the most current and up-to-date information about our school and district, please visit www.sbschools.org on a regular basis throughout the school year.

Finally, please join me in thanking the entire Crossroads staff for a summer filled with hard work in preparation for our students. The custodial staff has worked tirelessly to ensure a well-maintained and clean facility. The secretarial staff has been hard at work, preparing for this coming year and for the arrival of teachers and students. Teachers and staff have been learning throughout the summer, attending amazing professional trainings and workshops.

On behalf of the entire Crossroads South Community, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. We all look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 6th!

Fondly,

Bonnie H. Capes

Principal

"Imagine if every child..."

CROSSROADS SOUTH'S SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A SUMMER 2018 PARENT UPDATE



Dear Crossroads South Parents and Guardians,

I hope that all of you have enjoyed the change of pace that summer brings and have had the opportunity to refresh and rejuvenate! This update will give you some quick information about the beginning of the school year. On the first day of school you will receive a packet with many important forms. Until then, relax and enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Bonnie H. Capes, Principal

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR 2018-2019



Your child's unit placements have been posted and are accessible on the Genesis Parent Portal. To access this website, please go to:

<https://parents.sbschools.org/genesis/parents?gohome=true>

The GENESIS PARENT PORTAL support page with FAQ's can be found here:

http://www.sbschools.org/parents_students/family_connect_nl.php

Keep in mind that your child's unit placement has been done with much thought and consideration. It is important to know that there are many, many factors that determine where a student is placed. If you have a concern, you can email one of our Assistant Principals (Sondra Hinson or Mark Kmiec). However, please know that it is highly unlikely that I will change a student's placement at this point. Our faculty is highly trained and exceptional. We ask that you trust that the placements have been determined with each individual child in mind.

6th Grade Units: Apollo, Aurora, Phoenix

7th Grade Units: Chi, Delta, Gamma

8th Grade Units: Alpha, Beta, Omega

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Sept. 6th

Students may enter the building between 8:05am – 8:15am. School ends at 3:10pm. This is a FULL DAY of school! Upon arrival to Crossroads, 6th grade students will report to their 1st period classes. ALL 7th, & 8th grade students will report to the assigned unit-based locations below. ***New students should report to SPS (across from the Main Office) to receive their unit assignments.***



1st Day Locations

6th GRADE		
APOLLO	AURORA	PHOENIX
REPORT TO 1st PERIOD ROOM LOCATION Listed on the Genesis Schedule		
7th GRADE		
CHI	DELTA	GAMMA
Auditorium	Cafeteria (E-Hall Entrance)	All Use Room - D105
8th GRADE		
ALPHA	BETA	OMEGA
GYM	Library	F101 (French Room)

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES



Our regular school day for students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades continues to be from **8:15am – 3:10pm**. Each morning, our "first" bell will ring at **8:05am**. This is the time when students may enter the building. We ask that you **do not bring your child to school any earlier than 8:05am**, unless they are scheduled to meet with a teacher. The second bell (*late bell*) will ring at **8:15am** signaling the start of the academic day. Any child not arriving in his/her class by **8:15am** will be marked tardy by the classroom teacher.

"Imagine if every child..."

PARENT PICK-UP/DROP OFF LOCATIONS

MORNING DROP OFF – FRONT OF SCHOOL

Parents choosing to drive their child to school must use the “parent drop-off zone”, which is now located at the **FRONT** of the school on Major Road. During the morning arrival times, the front entrance will be a **ONE WAY** flow for traffic. Parents can access the drop off zone by using the Major Road Entrance by our practice football field. (*The other entrance is ONE WAY out for all traffic.*) All cars will exit through the one-way exit (Major Road) along with the busses. Cars will not be permitted to exit the same way they entered during this time.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP – Rear of School

The pick-up zone for those choosing to pick their child up at the end of the school day is located in the **rear** of the school. Parents can access the pick up area by using the driveway entrance located on Kingston Lane. During dismissal times (2:55-3:15), only cars needing to park should enter the front lot and students can enter through the main entrance. ****Remember, if you park in the front of the building, your car will be blocked by our busses.****



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A basic school supply list is posted on our website by clicking here:

<https://xr.sbschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=199396&pageId=1237148>

Please keep in mind that “Units” and “Encore” teachers *may* request additional items that are specific to individual teachers. These items will be shared during the first weeks of school.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

All students are asked to complete the Summer Reading project. For detailed information, please visit this website: <http://sbsummerreading.weebly.com/>. (*NOTE: If students did not have time to complete this assignment over the summer months, additional time will be granted at the beginning of the school year to complete this assignment.*)



AGENDAS

Each student will also receive an agenda book during the first full week of school. This book will serve as a valuable tool to assist students with the management of test, quizzes, and homework assignments. The agenda includes the Student/Parent Handbook, which contains the Code of Student Conduct. Please take a moment during the first few days of school to review the content of the handbook with your child.

LUNCH & BREAKFAST



Students may bring their lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. Chartwells, our food service provider, will be ready to serve a hot lunch on the first day and every day of the school year. Students are expected to use their **Student ID** to purchase lunch. 5th grade SNAP cards have been delivered from the prior elementary schools and will be distributed in the first week. Student lunch prices range from \$2.60 – \$3.95. Breakfast is a standard price of \$2.15 and is served everyday except for Delayed Opening Days. Additional information regarding school lunch may be found on the district website (Schools Tab: Program and Services: Dining).

The application for Free & Reduced Lunch is also available on our district website.

All students can have a daily snack break as per teacher schedules. Parents are encouraged to provide a healthy snack (e.g., fruit, vegetables, cheese, or crackers) each day for the mid-morning break. Please note that we have several students with severe nut allergies. Please try not to send any peanut products to school. If you must, your child should be sensitive to others who may have an allergy.

BUS PASSES

The transportation department will mail bus passes directly to your home. Should you not receive one prior to August 30th, please contact the Transportation Office at 732-297-7800, ext. 3131.



"Imagine if every child..."



AFTER CARE – CLUB 678

The South Brunswick Community Education Department offers extended after school care for all interested families. At the Middle School level, we call the program “Club 678” and it is housed at Crossroads North Middle School. Participating students from South are walked over with a staff member daily. In the case of inclement weather, a bus is provided. Families needing extended care after the regular school day should contact Community Education at 732-297-7800 ext. 3196.

CROSSROADS PTO

Our joint North/South PTO Executive Board and Committee Chairs are very enthusiastic about the upcoming school year. They are eager to plan a variety of programs and activities to help develop a strong school community. All families are encouraged to join. A PTO membership form will be sent home in the first day packet.

DISTRICT THEME FOR 2018-2019



Our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Scott Feder, recently announced that the district theme for the 2018-2019 school year is *“Imagine if every child...”* He invites everyone to complete that sentence and share your own hopes and dreams for our children. This motto will be affixed to all school district communications.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION – Community Pass

To register for all extra-curricular programs such as music, sports, and/or clubs, everyone must register with our Community Pass System. Under “Participating Organization”, select “South Brunswick School District”. Then, select “2018-2019 School District Programs”. Review family information and click “continue”. Select the group you want to register for on the left side of the page. Scroll through the programs offered and follow the steps to complete registration.



***There is a family “Cap” of \$250.00 for the “2018-2019” school year. Once that cap is met, future registrations for the “2018-2019” school year will not incur a fee. Registration must still be completed online.*

COMMUNITY PASS REGISTRATION PAGE: register.communitypass.net

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY - AUP

All parents/guardians must “electronically” sign the Acceptable Use Policy via the GENESIS PARENT PORTAL. **September 18th is the due date for submission.** Please be advised that a non-response will constitute *agreement by omission*. Students will be expected to sign the student policy within the first week of school. This allows them to access and use all of our technology, including the BYOD network.

HAP – 9th PERIOD

9th Period – Monday – Thursday

The middle school has an additional period (“9th Period”) added to each school day. The purpose of this regularly scheduled period is to provide time for our students to gain access to teachers, work on homework or any missed work, or to receive targeted support for organization and academic subjects. Students will track his/her use of this time with their assigned teacher. This time will be designated for chorus rehearsals, allowing our vocal students.

Advisory Period

On Friday, our entire school will engage in a weekly “ADVISORY” period. “Advisory” is a research-based approach to character education, decision-making, and moral/ethical citizenship. Our teachers will guide student groups in dialogue and conversations that are relevant to today’s adolescences and working to make our school a safe and caring community for all learners.

Please note: This daily period is part of our school day and students are **not permitted to leave early without an approved and acceptable reason. If a pattern occurs, administration will be in contact with families and student attendance will be impacted.*

“Imagine if every child...”

School News

Staffing Updates

Math Department

- **Mr. James Quilter** will be joining our Math Team as Support Teacher. Mr. Quilter is a former graduate of Crossroads and South Brunswick High School. He worked last year as an 8th grade math teacher at Crossroads North Middle School. He is thrilled to the team at Crossroads South.

English/Language Arts Department

- Congratulations to **Ms. Chucla** who got married this spring! Her new name is **Mrs. Ashley Dalrymple!**

Student Services/Special Education Departments

- Congratulations to **Ms. Zish** who got married this summer! Her new name is **Mrs. Jennifer Norbury!**
- **Nicole Hankins** will be serving in the role of 6-12 Substance Abuse Counselor. She will work between both middle schools and the high school to support students with a special focus on prevention and wellness for our students. We are excited to work with Mrs. Hankins and the overall wellness of our community.
- **Yazmin Arcila** will be joining the Child Study Team as our new School Psychologist. Ms. Arcila comes to Crossroads with several years of experience working on a Child Study Team and supporting students. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team!
- **Heidi Rosen** is also joining our Child Study Team as the new School Social Worker. Mrs. Rosen has extensive knowledge in the areas of counseling and supporting students and families within the world of Special Education. She is passionate about mental wellness and we look forward to all that she will bring to Crossroads South.

ENCORE/World Language Departments

- **Mrs. Tracey Dovas** has returned from her maternity leave and is very excited to see her former students.
- **Mr. Brett Gray** will be joining the Music Department at the end of September upon the retirement of Mrs. Lisa Lepore. Mr. Gray comes to us with an extensive choral music background from studying in California and at Princeton's West Minster Choir College. Most recently, he completed a replacement position at a middle school in North Jersey. Welcome Mr. Gray!

Unit Teams 2018-2019

6th GRADE		
APOLLO	AURORA	PHOENIX
ELA: Mrs. Behn/Ms. Figliolini Math: Mrs. Vines Science: Ms. Anuario Social Studies: Mrs. Brywka	ELA: Mrs. Murray/Mrs. Iraca Math: Mrs. Shoro Science: Mr. Bloom Social Studies: Mrs. Phillips	ELA: Mrs. Demetrious/Mr. Flum Math: Mr. Yopez Science: Ms. Barrio Social Studies: Mrs. Kapler
7th GRADE		
CHI	DELTA	GAMMA
ELA: Mrs. O'Donell/Ms. Breese Math: Mr. Gavin Science: Mrs. Ezzo Social Studies: Mr. Boucher	ELA: Mrs. Silcox/Ms. Hunt Math: Ms. Sicilia Science: Ms. Servilio Social Studies: Mr. Bottino	ELA: Mrs. Kleid/Mrs. Matus-Crook Math: Mrs. Edwards Science: Mrs. Gavin Social Studies: Mrs. Tailor
8th GRADE		
ALPHA	BETA	OMEGA
ELA: Ms. Rimmer/Ms. McMahon Math: Mr. Boehm Science: Mr. Dalrymple Social Studies: Ms. O'Mara	ELA: Mr. Morgan/Mrs. Maurer Math: Mrs. Zavaglia Science: Mrs. DeCarlo Social Studies: Mrs. Li	ELA: Mrs. Sisco/Mrs. Dalrymple Math: Mrs. Cirone Science: Mrs. Rousseau Social Studies: Mrs. Ventre

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your calendars for the following fall events:

- September 6th – First Day of School
- September 10th & 11th – **SCHOOLS CLOSED** – Rosh Hashanah
- September 19th – **SCHOOLS CLOSED** – Yom Kippur
- September 25th – Crossroads South **6th GRADE** Back to School Night – **6:30pm**
- September 27th – Crossroads South **7th & 8th GRADE** Back to School Night – **6:30pm**
- September 19th – PTO Meeting
- October 1st – Picture Day
- October 9th – **EARLY RELEASE DAY** – School Planning
- October 10th – PTO Meeting @ Crossroads South – 7:00pm

"Imagine if every child..."