

BRIMLEY AREA SCHOOLS

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

Superintendent's Corner

Summer is about to come to a close and that means autumn is upon us. With the start of autumn brings the start of a new school year. School is truly in the air!

Much has happened over the summer and we are excited to tell you.

Summer school was an eight week event, Monday-Thursday, 8:00-11:00. As you recall, we were not able to offer a summer school experience last summer due to the pandemic. We had a very good turnout of students who stayed for the entire program. I want to thank our parents/guardians, teachers, support staff, bus drivers, custodians, and especially our students for all the hard work during summer school. We hope this time was beneficial and that we were able to work toward catching up some of the time lost during last school year.

PROJECTS

Over the summer months, our district has worked to make our school entrances safer. When you visit our schools, you will find that the main entrances of the elementary school and high school have been modified in an effort to keep our students, faculty and staff more safe.

Each entrance has been modified to have another set of doors on the inside, as well as another door for visitors to enter the office area. This will help keep visitors from just walking down the hallway without checking in at the office.

Another project that took place over the summer was new drain tile set at the footing of the new high school wing to help move water away from the building. Along with this change came new sidewalks around the entire high school building.

One more project the board is looking at moving forward with is an additional parking lot to the south of the current faculty lot by the high school. We have needed additional parking space for

several years. If you attend sporting events and other major events at our school you would have noticed that parking is a premium. The additional parking lot will help keep all who come to events at our school parking in a safe manner and off the main road. This project is still in the planning phase.

THANKS

I would like to take this time to thank the maintenance department for all the hard work completing the projects over the summer break. They did a fantastic job making the campus and buildings look great for the start of a new year. Mr. Mark Lounds, Mr. Paul Harland, Miss Sara Spychalski, Mr. Brandon Pomeroy, and Mr. Donald Henderson. GREAT JOB!!!

BRIMLEY SCHOOLS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Child and Adolescent Health Center Program, the Chippewa County Health Department, and Brimley Schools will continue to offer counseling services through the E3 Grant- Expanding, Enhancing, Emotional Health. All Brimley Area Schools students attending classes in-person or on-line are eligible for services. The Chippewa County Health Department will provide the social worker. The social worker will provide individual and group counseling at school or via telehealth by appointment. Sessions will include initial evaluation, comprehensive risk assessment, and treatment plan.

Parent/Guardian consent is required for non-confidential services. Forms are available in the school office and on the school website.

Insurance including Medicaid is billed and accepted. Students without healthcare coverage will be provided information regarding Medicaid or Healthy Kids. No student is denied services.

Our staff is committed to providing quality care for Brimley students. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call 906 632- 5690 or email dhill@chippewahd.com.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Brimley Area Schools have a need for substitutes in most areas of employment. This includes teachers, bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, and teacher aides. For further information, or to pick up an application, contact the Central Office, at 248-3219. Please be aware that substitute employment in any school requires a background and fingerprint check.

MEAL PRICES

Meal prices will remain the same as last year. Elementary (grades K-6) students will be charged \$2.60 and Secondary (grades 7-12) students \$2.85 per day. K-12 students will be charged \$1.60 for breakfast. Milk prices will remain at \$.50 per milk. Adult lunch prices are \$3.80 per meal and breakfast is \$2.10 per day.

NEW EMPLOYEES and NEW POSITIONS

With every new school year, changes occur that require our district to hire new employees or move employees around to cover various different positions. This year is no exception.

Mr. Suggitt will be moving from the elementary school principal position to the middle/high school principal position. We are excited to have Mr. Suggitt in this position.

Mr. Clarke will be moving from the 5th grade classroom to take over the elementary school principal position. Please welcome Mr. Clarke when you see him.

Miss Grandfield will be moving from the kindergarten classroom to the 5th grade classroom. We wish Miss Grandfield well in her new position.

Ms. Erin Johnson will be taking over as the Food Service Director. Good luck in your new position.

Mrs. Stephanie Kontos has been hired to teach middle/high school business education. Mrs. Kontos comes to us from Bay Mills Community College. We are excited to have her join the Brimley High School Faculty.

Mr. Donald Henderson joins us in the custodial/maintenance department. He has several years of experience and we are looking forward to working with him for several years to come.

RETIREMENT

Our food service director, Mrs. Dianne Tremblay has retired after several years working in that department. Mrs. Tremblay took over the food service director position five years ago. We wish to thank her for all the hard work and extra time it took to provide meals and extra food when the need arose to our students, faculty, and staff. Enjoy your retirement.

This year we have one teacher retiring, Mrs. Marcella Reattoir. Mrs. Reattoir began her teaching career at Brimley in April of 1991. She taught various science classes in middle school and high

school during her 30 years. Most of her career was spent teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Physical Science. She also had a few years where she taught Statistics and Trigonometry. Congratulations on a job well done and enjoy your retirement.

SCHOOL BUS ROUTES AND INFORMATION

School bus routes will be the same as last year for the first week of school. Routes and buses may change if the need arises during the first week of school in order to minimize any overcrowding or excessive overlapping.

On the first day of school, students who are picked up first on the route need to be ready as they were last year. The bus driver will inform students of expected arrival times at their home during the first week of school. With new students and possible changes in routes, this communication will help get your students out to the bus stop on time. Our hope is to have the routes established by the end of the first week of school.

We will not be picking students up at every driveway along side streets. Where there is a number of students in an area, we will assign a common stop, rather than stopping several times in a row. Drivers will inform students about this potential when they have determined the exact stop location.

This DOES NOT APPLY TO M-28 OR 6-MILE ROADS. We do not want students walking along or crossing these roads for safety reasons. Also for safety reasons, we do not want students crossing M-28 or 6-Mile Road to ride the bus. Drivers have been instructed to not pick up students that have crossed these roads to catch the bus after the bus has already passed their homes. If you want your child to cross these roads, there must be a letter on file in the principal's office that has been approved by the transportation director. You may contact the transportation director at 248-3219.

We are looking forward to another great year.

Respectfully,
Mr. Reattoir
Superintendent of Schools

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year, at Brimley Middle School and High School. Our faculty and staff are excited and looking forward to reconnecting with students. It has been a great summer and an opportunity to relax. We look expectantly towards this new school year with high hopes and prayers for a safe and healthy school year.

We do have a new staff member in the middle school and high school this year. Mrs. Stephanie Kontos has been hired as our new Business Education teacher. Mrs. Kontos is a community member and we are very excited to have her on board with us.

FIRST DAY

The first day of school is a full day on September 7th. We are looking forward to working with your students this school year!

OPEN HOUSE

We will not be having an open house this year.

SKYWARD

Brimley Area Schools has switched to a new online student information system called Skyward. Illuminate decided that they no longer wanted to be a platform used to house grades and schedules so our area schools were forced to look for a new program. This process started two years ago and the committee, made up of area administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and technology directors came to the agreement that Skyward was the best program available to fit our needs. Schedules have been put on Skyward and are ready for the upcoming school year. We are working on a process to get parent information on how to access Skyward, look up students schedules and check on students grades and attendance. Please stay tuned for further information.

As in years past, parents and students can go on to the Skyward portal to check on missing assignments, current grades and attendance issues. At the beginning of each marking period, there are four of them, teachers will not be required to have grades on Skyward until the beginning of the third week. This gives teachers ample time to wrap up prior marking period grades, handle NWEA testing and other such state mandated testing and have assigned/received graded work from students.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Our student handbooks can be located online at our school webpage under information. Please refer to this about policies, procedures, academic information, etc... The handbook is updated each school year online. Reminder to make yourself familiar with the following areas:

- **DRESS CODE** – please make sure all students are following the dress code.
- **When your child is absent** the school MUST receive a phone call or note either the same day or the next day in order for it to be excused
- **When dismissing a student from school** – please contact the school, not the student. Students are not to be using their cell phones in the classroom. Students that leave prior to the office receiving an early dismissal will be considered unexcused
- **MEDICATION** – if your child is taking medication that must be administered during school hours, please make sure it is held in the high school office. Students self-administering at school is never a good idea. We do not want medications to land in the wrong hands.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

We will once again be offering our after-school tutoring program this year. Tutoring will begin the second week of school and is offered Tuesday thru Thursday from 3:20 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Busing home is also provided to those students that attend the FULL time allotted for tutoring.

SPORTS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Fall sports have started. We offer middle school and high school volleyball, middle school and high school cross country, and football.

You can find our complete game schedules located on our school website:
<https://brimley.eupschools.org/Page/1> located under athletics and the sport you are looking for.
Please refer to these calendars for any changes or updates.

If you have a son or daughter in grades 6th-12th interested in joining a sport that is new to the area, it is not too late. Contact our athletic director.

Our sports booster club is always looking for new members or new ideas, so if you are interested in joining or finding out more information, please contact Terry Maguran, the head of our booster club, at brimleysportsboosters@gmail.com or his cell phone number at (906)322-6269.

Brimley High School/Middle School also offers other extra-curricular opportunities besides sports. They include: key club, student council, quiz bowl, national honor society, and robotics.

PARKING PERMITS

If your student is planning on driving to school, please remind them to purchase a parking permit from the high school office. The cost of the permit is \$1. The permit should be displayed in the window of the vehicle at all times. Permits are issued as a safety procedure so that school personnel can identify which vehicles are authorized to be on school grounds. Thank you for your help with this matter.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our custodial staff, Mr. Lounds and Mr. Harland for the hard work they did in cleaning our school, making repairs, and getting it prepped for the new school year. Please make sure to thank them for their dedication to our school when you see them.

FINAL WORDS

Lastly, thank you very much for entrusting your students with us. We look forward to working with them to help them become successful adults. Please feel free to stop by the office and offer words of encouragement, concerns or suggestions.

Best wishes

Joyel S Hyvarinen

MS/HS Principal



News From Elementary

Hello Elementary Families,

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the wonderful weather this summer brought, and that you were able to rest, relax and rejuvenate with friends and family. The summer months are a time to reset and reload for the upcoming school year, and we're itching to get started in the elementary. We have some exciting new changes and will still face some challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic will bring. But, as always, we have a great staff, great students, and great community, and we'll get through whatever trials and tribulations this year brings.

Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 7th, at 8:05am. This will be a full day of school. Breakfast (8:05-8:20 a.m.) and lunch will be served. All elementary students will report to their respective homeroom. Parents should receive notification by mail as to which homeroom teacher their child will have this year. If you have not been notified by Thursday, September 1st, please contact the elementary office (248-3217) at your earliest convenience. Our office is open from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Welcome to Mr. Clarke

Congratulations to Mr. Hugh Clarke, our new elementary principal. He'll be taking over the elementary reins starting on August 23rd. He brings a wealth of elementary teaching and administrative experience into the position. We wish him the best and look forward to him beginning his journey as the elementary principal.

COVID-19 Procedures

Our initial COVID-19 procedures have been posted to our website, please review them at your convenience. The biggest change from last year is that masks for students are very strongly recommended, but they are not required. Please note that our procedures document is very much

a 'living' document, and that we'll make adjustments during the school year as circumstances require. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

With this year, our efforts will be made to keep kids as safe as possible, while returning to as normal a school day as possible. With that in mind, please be patient as we continue to work through these challenges. More information regarding day-to-day procedures and activities will be forthcoming.

Attendance

Please be sure to have your child in school and on time. Few things have the potential to impact a child's success in school as much as poor attendance and coming in late to school.

The curriculum is tough and students need to be in front of their teachers and school work on a regular and consistent basis. Please try to schedule appointments and family trips around the school calendar as much as possible.

Thank you for making this a priority.

Bays Ways

Our PBIS program, titled Bays Ways, will again be taking place this year. However, it will again look a bit different due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our school will continue to think a little creatively on how to coach our students about being safe, responsible, respectful, and ready to learn. We also plan on using our Bays Ways system to instruct our students on the new procedures we'll be employing through the year.

The Bays Ways Committee is working hard to create new ways to hold assemblies, teach our Bays Ways lessons, and of course reward students who consistently follow Bays Ways. Please stay tuned for further developments in this area.

Handbook

The student handbook will be available online through the Brimley Schools Website. Please review the handbook with your student and familiarize yourself with our policies and procedures. Mr. Suggitt and Mr. Clarke can answer any questions you may have and can be reached at the elementary office.

Bussing

Bussing guidelines will be the same as last year. While masks are optional within the building, federal mandates require the use of masks on public transportation. Students will also have

seating charts set according to family groups. However, bus routes will remain largely the same as last year. Please expect a communication from your driver soon stating the estimated pickup and drop off times. Changes to our routes may be made within the first week or so, as issues are identified, and adjustments needed.

In the event that your child would have an alternate drop off on a given day, we require the following steps be taken: The notification that the elementary office receives for requests must be either through a telephone call or signed/dated note from a parent/guardian. Whether by telephone call or written note, we are requiring that all information pertaining to a change in busing be in the elementary office by 12:00 p.m. (noon) each day. Also, we will need to know the full name and street address of the person where your child will be dropped off, and for how many days this change in drop-off location will be in effect. Please communicate this change in routine to your child, so that they aren't upset when informed. This is especially important with the younger elementary students. Thank you for helping us create a safe and well-organized busing system.

Lastly, please go over our bus policies with your child and model good bus behavior and expectations.

School Pictures

Lake Shore Photography will be here to take elementary, middle and high school pictures this year. The date of pictures is still being determined. Please stay tuned for the date and for information packets regarding pictures.

Have a Great Year

Again, this pandemic will cause some things to be different this year. But different can still be great. We have a lot of great events and activities still planned that we can still hold under current regulations. I hope the 21/22 school year is fantastic for everyone. I'm very excited to get the year rolling, and to see all the kids returning for another great experience at Brimley Schools. I wish the best of luck to Mr. Clarke as the building's new leader, and will plan on visiting as much as possible (especially on treat days!) Please feel free to call if you have any concerns, questions, or compliments. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable school year as we all work together to provide the best opportunities for our children. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and we look forward to seeing everyone on September 8th.

Tom Suggitt

Elementary Principal



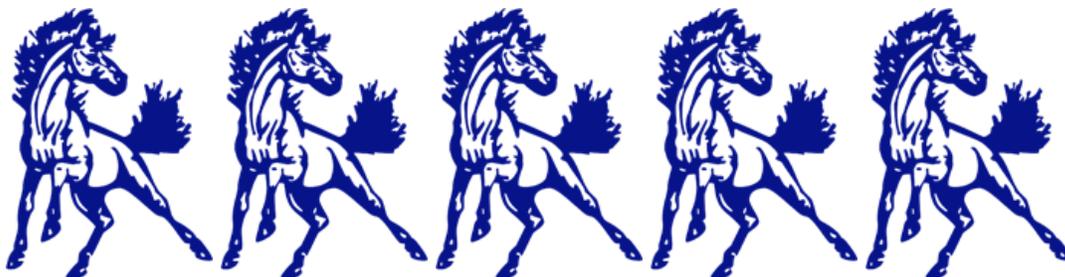
Hello Brimley Community,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and give a brief background. Most of you know me but for those who do not, my name is Hugh Clarke II. As a youth, I attended Brimley Elementary and High School. From there I went on to attain my bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University, and recently I completed all the classwork required to receive my master's degree from Northern Michigan University. I have worked in the Brimley School district the past four years in the roles of Elementary Educator and K-12 Athletic Director.

I am looking forward to my new role of Elementary Principal. My office doors are always open to all stakeholders in the community, so please do not hesitate to call or stop in with questions, concerns, or advice. I am excited to work with the students, staff, and community to ensure that Brimley Schools continues to be the center of our great community.

Thank you,

Hugh Clarke II



Food Service



Welcome Back! This year we will be bringing back the salad bar! This will be offered 5th through 12th grade.

Reminder! Free school lunches for all students has been extended through June of 2022.

Please fill out the free and reduced lunch application. The current applications are good through October 15th. Use the attached form or sign up on LunchApp.com.



Domino's pizza day will be on Wednesday every week. Extra slices will be \$2.00 and offered to 5th through 12th grade. We will also be adding some specialty pizzas to the HS/MS menu!

