

BRIEN McMAHON HIGH SCHOOL
Guide for Students and Families



2008 - 2009

300 Highland Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854
Phone: 852-9488 Fax: 899-2813
www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/bmhs

BRIEN McMAHON HIGH SCHOOL

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Tel: (203) 852-9488
Fax: (203) 899-2813



Principal
Suzanne Brown Koroshetz

Housemasters
Scott Hurwitz
Mary H. Michailidis
Patrick G. Milling
Barbara J. Wood

August 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

The ***Guide for Students and Families*** and ***The Norwalk Public Schools Student and Family Handbook*** are valuable sources of information on a myriad of topics. There are listings of important dates, schedules, personnel and phone numbers, school policies and answers to anticipated questions. Please take time to review the material together. It will be time well spent. Understanding the policies and procedures that affect the lives of students is critical to their success at Brien McMahon High School. These booklets will prove to be useful reference guides throughout your child's high school years.

If you have any questions, please call me or your child's Housemaster. I look forward to a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Brown Koroshetz
Principal

OUR MISSION

Brien McMahon High School will provide a supportive environment that will enable all students to grow academically and personally, and to contribute to society. We will teach, encourage and model respect and responsibility. We will challenge all students to demonstrate high levels of achievement, using clearly defined standards, as they become self-directed, life-long learners.

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BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Academic, Social, and Civic Expectations

Brien McMahon High School will provide a supportive environment that will enable all students to grow academically and personally so that they will be able to contribute to society. We will teach, encourage and model respect and responsibility. We will challenge all students to demonstrate high levels of achievement, using clearly defined standards, as they become self-directed, life-long learners.

Academic Expectations

Students will:

- Read both fiction and nonfiction with comprehension;
- Write effectively, using standard English, for a variety of purposes and audiences;
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of basic concepts of arithmetic, geometry, measurement and algebra;
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic scientific principles

Social & Civic Expectations

Students will:

- Demonstrate honesty, dependability and self-control;
- Assume responsibility for their behavior and consider the possible consequences of their actions;
- Demonstrate respect for all members of the school community;
- Be positive representatives of their school; contribute to the extra-curricular and co-curricular life of the school; respect the property of others, including school property;
- Be constructive members of the larger community;
- Develop an understanding of the importance of each individual to the improvement of the quality of life for all in the community;
- Understand and appreciate their historical and ethnic heritage as well as the heritage of others within the larger community;
- Understand how social and governmental policies, programs and procedures affect their lives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Susan Hamilton, Chair	866-9996	hamiltons@norwalkps.org
Rosa Murray, Vice Chair	847-0498	murrayr@norwalkps.org
Glenn Iannaccone, Secretary	866-5813	iannacconeg@norwalkps.org
Jody Bishop-Pullan	852-1655	pullanj@norwalkps.org
Greg Burnett	840-1931	burnettg@norwalkps.org
Jack Chiamonte	984-7293	chiamontej@norwalkps.org
Bruce Kimmel	847-2301	kimmelb@norwalkps.org
Shirley Mosby	956-7799	mosbys@norwalkps.org
Migdalia Rivas	981-7367	rivasm@norwalkps.org
Richard Moccia, Mayor	854-7707	(Ex-officio)

The Board's main purpose is to set policy to improve student learning. Board members are interested in the public's opinion on district issues because it helps them to set policy that reflects community values and expectations.

Meetings of the Board follow a planned and posted agenda. At a certain time in the agenda, the Board chairperson will call on individuals who want to make a statement or to express a viewpoint.

In order to perform its duties in an open and public manner and in accordance with state law, the Norwalk Board of Education holds regular business meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 PM. Normally, meetings are held in Room A300 of Norwalk City Hall, and occasionally at other locations. Both the agenda and the location are posted on the district website the Friday prior to the meeting. Parents, students and other community members are encouraged to attend.

CENTRAL OFFICE

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Main Number: 854-4000

	NAME	Phone	E-mail
Superintendent	Dr. Salvatore J. Corda	854-4001	corda@norwalkps.org
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction	Anthony Daddona	854-4081	daddonat@norwalkps.org
Director	open		
Director of Pupil Personnel Services	Janie Friedlander	854-4126	friedlanderj@norwalkps.org
Human Relations Office	Bruce Morris	854-4013	morrisb@norwalkps.org
Public Affairs Office	Sheri McCready	854-4015	mccreadys@norwalkps.org

BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL**Main Number: 203-852-9488****Website: www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/bmhs**

	NAME	Extension	E-mail
Principal	Suzanne Brown Koroshetz	Ext. 11329	koroshetz@norwalkps.org
Secretary	Mickey Ahearn	Ext. 11329	ahearnm@norwalkps.org
Housemasters	Scott Hurwitz	Ext. 11335	hurwitzs@norwalkps.org
	Patrick Milling	Ext. 11400	millingp@norwalkps.org
	Barbara Wood	Ext. 11402	woodb@norwalkps.org
	Mary Michailidis	Ext. 11331	michailidism@norwalkps.org
CGS Administrator	Roz McCarthy	Ext. 11007	mccarthy@norwalkps.org
Dean Of Students	Lou Constantinople	Ext. 11319	constantinoplel@norwalkps.org
Health Center		Ext. 11210	
Nurse	Elaine Ganat	Ext. 11218	ganate@norwalkps.org
Social Workers	Andrea Arnold	Ext. 11308	arnolda@norwalkps.org
	Rhonda Ginsberg	Ext. 11419	ginsbergr@norwalkps.org
Psychologist	Jim Dipisa	Ext. 11298	dipisaj@norwalkps.org
Attendance	Gail DeFrancesco	Ext. 11151	defrancescog@norwalkps.org
Guidance Counselors	Dawn Leeds	Ext. 11299	leedsd@norwalkps.org
	Karen Amaker	Ext. 11300	amakerk@norwalkps.org
	John Castelluzzo	Ext. 11297	castelluzzoj@norwalkps.org
	Elaine Gratrix	Ext. 11306	gratrixe@norwalkps.org
	Anthony Pavia	Ext. 11317	paviaa@norwalkps.org
	Marcy Sansolo	Ext. 11305	sansolom@norwalkps.org
	Chad Southerland	Ext. 11307	southerlandc@norwalkps.org
	Daniela Tejada	Ext. 11311	tejadad@norwalkps.org

DEPARTMENT LEADERS

Main Number: 203-852-9488

Website: www.norwalk.k12.ct.us/bmhs

DEPARTMENT	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Art	John Tate	Ext. 11111	tatej@norwalkps.org
Athletic Director	Joseph Madaffari	Ext. 11246	madaffarij@norwalkps.org
Business	Nancy Jessup	Ext. 11077	jessupn@norwalkps.org
English	Ellen Gaber	Ext. 12115	gabere@norwalkps.org
Family/ Consumer Science	Janet Sell	Ext. 11092	sellj@norwalkps.org
Guidance	Dawn Leeds	Ext. 11299	leedsd@norwalkps.org
Math	Thomas O'Neil	Ext. 12076	oneilt@norwalkps.org
Music	Ronald Secchi	Ext. 11127	secchir@norwalkps.org
Physical Education	Tory Sullivan	Ext. 11275	sullivant@norwalkps.org
ROTC	Robert Killackey	Ext. 11428	killackeyr@norwalkps.org
Science	Linda Paganini	Ext. 12016	paganinil@norwalkps.org
Social Studies	Beverly McFadden	Ext. 12112	mcfaddenb@norwalkps.org
Special Education	Patricia Mencucci	Ext. 11200	mencuccip@norwalkps.org
World Languages	Rita Leonardi	Ext. 11054	leonardir@norwalkps.org

SITE COUNCIL

The Principal, administrators and parents meet regularly to discuss issues that help to shape the future direction of the school.

VOICES OF IMMIGRANT PARENTS

The VIP is a group of parents who meet with the Principal and members of the Peace Project to discuss academic issues. The mission of the group is to create a better understanding of the workings of BMHS and to eliminate the isolation that may be caused by a language barrier. The group meets every other Wednesday at 7:00 and translators are provided at all workshops. For more information, please contact the Principal.

SCHEDULES & IMPORTANT DATES

BELL SCHEDULE

REGULAR DAY

Warning:	7:25	
Tardy:	7:30	
Period 1	7:30 – 8:20	(50)
Period 2	8:24 – 9:14	(50)
Announcements	9:14 – 9:17	(3)
Period 3	9:21 – 10:11	(50)
Period 4	10:15 – 11:05	(50)
Period 5	11:09 – 11:59	(50)
Period 6	12:03 – 1:22	(79)
Lunch A	12:03 – 12:33	(30)
Lunch B	12:27 – 12:57	(30)
Lunch C	12:52 – 1:22	(30)
Period 7	1:26 – 2:15	(49)
Dismissal	2:15	

ONE HOUR DELAYED OPENING

(60 min)	(8:30 – 2:15)	
Warning:	8:25	
Tardy:	8:30	
Period 1	8:30 – 9:11	(41)
Period 2	9:15 – 9:56	(41)
Announcements	9:56 – 9:59	(3)
Period 3	10:03 – 10:44	(41)
Period 4	10:48 – 11:29	(41)
Period 5	11:33 – 12:14	(41)
Period 6	12:18 – 1:39	(71)
Lunch A	12:19 – 12:49	(30)
Lunch B	12:43 – 1:13	(30)
Lunch C	1:09 – 1:39	(30)
Period 7	1:43 – 2:15	(42)
Dismissal	2:15	

TWO HOUR DELAYED OPENING

(120 min.)	(9:30 – 2:15)	
Warning:	9:25	
Tardy:	9:30	
Period 1	9:30 – 10:02	(32)
Period 2	10:06 – 10:38	(32)
Announcements	10:38 – 10:41	(3)
Period 3	10:45 – 11:17	(32)
Period 4	11:21 – 11:54	(33)
Period 5	11:58 – 12:31	(33)
Period 6	12:35 – 1:38	(63)
Lunch A	12:38 – 1:05	(30)
Lunch B	12:52 – 1:22	(30)
Lunch C	12:08 – 1:38	(30)
Period 7	1:42 – 2:15	(33)
Dismissal:	2:15	

SHORTENED SCHEDULE (7:30 – 12:45)

Warning:	7:25	
Tardy:	7:30	
Period 1	7:30 – 8:07	(37)
Period 2	8:11 – 8:48	(37)
Announcements	8:48 – 8:51	(3)
Period 3	8:55 – 9:31	(36)
Period 4	9:35 – 10:12	(37)
Period 5	10:16 – 10:53	(37)
Period 6	10:57 – 11:34	(37)
Period 7	11:38 – 12:15	(37)
Lunch	12:15 – 12:45	(30)
Dismissal	12:45	

ONE AND A HALF HOUR DELAYED OPENING

(90 min.)	(9:00 – 2:15)	
Warning:	8:55	
Tardy:	9:00	
Period 1	9:00 – 9:37	(37)
Period 2	9:41 – 10:17	(36)
Announcements	10:17 – 10:20	(3)
Period 3	10:24 – 11:01	(37)
Period 4	11:05 – 11:42	(37)
Period 5	11:46 – 12:23	(37)
Period 6	12:27 – 1:34	(67)
Lunch A	12:27 – 12:57	(30)
Lunch B	12:46 – 1:16	(30)
Lunch C	1:04 – 1:34	(30)
Period 7	1:38 – 2:15	(37)
Dismissal	2:15	

INTERIM AND MARKING PERIOD CLOSING DATES

First Quarter: Interim – September 23, 2008 Report Card – November 6, 2008	Third Quarter: Interim – March 2, 2009 Report Card – April 9, 2009
Second Quarter: Interim – December 5, 2008 Report Card – January 28, 2009	Fourth Quarter: Interim – May 13, 2009 Report Card – June 23, 2009

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING: PSAT & SAT

PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a test that is designed as preparation for the SAT and is administered in latter part of October. The SAT I and SAT II test are administered throughout the school year and are required by many colleges and universities as part of the admissions process. The dates of the tests are listed below.

PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The PSAT will be held at Brien McMahon High School on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Brien McMahon High School Code for the test is 070-698. Test Center #07-450.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) Test Dates for 2008 - 2009

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
October 4	SAT I&II	September 9
November 1	SAT I&II	September 26
December 6	SAT I&II	November 5
January 24	SAT I&II	December 26
March 14	SAT I	February 10
May 2	SAT I&II	March 31
June 6	SAT I&II	May 5

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) TESTING

AP Testing takes place during the month of May. Registration for the test is coordinated by the guidance office, usually in January.

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Morning – 7:30</u>	<u>Afternoon – 11:30</u>
Monday, May 4		Govt. & Politics: Comp French Language
Tuesday, May 5	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Statistics
Wednesday, May 6	Calculus AB	
Thursday, May 7	English Literature	
Friday, May 8	United States History	European History Studio Art Portfolios due
<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Morning – 7:30</u>	<u>Afternoon – 11:30</u>
Monday, May 11	Biology	Physics B
Tuesday, May 12		Psychology
Wednesday, May 13		Art History
Thursday, May 14	Macroeconomics	
Friday, May 15	Spanish Literature	Latin: Vergil

GENERAL INFORMATION

CLASS OFFICERS

The *freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes* have their own class officers. The goal of the class officers is to develop activities that will interest their particular grade level. By doing this, officers learn to work together and involve a broader cross-section of the class. Individual classes raise funds to defray the cost of various expenses.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please see the *District Handbook for Students and Families* for detailed information about expectations for student conduct.

PEER MEDIATION

The goal of peer mediation is to provide a peaceful resolution to a conflict before it escalates to a disciplinary referral. There is evidence that some students are more apt to listen to their peers. Peer Mediation reduces classroom disruptions and improves the climate of the school. Advisors: Mr. Pavia and Mr. Castelluzzo.

PUBLICATIONS

Our high school publications serve to enhance the educational activities of the buildings. They are as follows:

School Newsletter	<i>BMHS NEWSLETTER</i>
School Newspaper	<i>HIGHLANDER</i>
Literary Magazine	<i>SPECTRUM</i>
Yearbook	<i>ANNALES</i>

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER: [THE HIGHLANDER]

The school newspaper is considered an integral part of the school curriculum. Its primary academic mission is to encourage responsibility, analytical thinking, writing skills and interviewing techniques. When published, the paper must reflect the best journalistic writing style.

School newspapers will be governed by the following guidelines:

1. News will be presented in an impartial and unbiased manner.
2. All material must be factual and accurate in its presentation.
3. Material that is libelous or violates the rights of privacy will not be used.
4. The use of obscene, indecent language or implied obscenity or indecency through subtle word play or innuendo will not be permitted under any circumstances.
5. Material that criticizes or demeans any race, religion, sex or ethnic group or distorts through emphasis or omission will not be used.
6. The publication of any material that could cause substantial disruption to the school is forbidden. This includes the threat of physical violence in the school or school community and/or the disruption of the school's educational program.

7. The newspaper will not be used for the endorsement of political candidates or their positions by articles in editorials, in letters, in photographs or in cartoons. Candidates, who run for school office, must be provided equal treatment under all circumstances.
8. The school newspaper must adhere to the highest standards of ethical and moral conduct in its production.

Note:

The assigned faculty advisor for the newspaper will have the primary responsibility for reviewing, editing, deleting or rejecting all student material prior to its publication.

The school principal or his/her designee may also review all material prior to its publication. The principal may delete, reject or edit materials in the best interest of the school when needed.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is comprised of students and teachers who share the goal of making positive changes at BMHS and in the community. Elections are held for each grade.
Advisor: Mr. P. Sommer - Room 2108

VISITORS

We welcome families and other visitors, and we take special care to guard the safety of our students and staff. All exterior doors remain locked during school hours. **Only the main entrance is used during school hours.**

We ask that all visitors go directly to the main office upon entering the building. *All visitors must obtain a Visitor's ID badge in the main office and sign in and out.* Please call the principal in advance to schedule an appointment for a school tour or classroom visit.

In order to protect the safety and welfare of children while under the supervision of the school, we ask that visitors please leave promptly when their business is completed.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are an important part of life at BMHS. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in one or more activities. Please see the appropriate advisor to find out how to get involved.

ATHLETICS

Our interscholastic athletics program is but one way that our students can become better connected to our school. Great numbers of both male and female students participate on our teams in all three sport seasons. Whether or not you consider yourself a competitive athlete, we urge you to join our athletics program – to discover new talents and interests, to learn more about your sport, to compete in a sport in which you already excel or to make new friends and to find adult mentors in your coaching staff. BMHS athletes have distinguished themselves by excelling not only at their sports, but also by excelling in the classroom. Join!

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Boys	Cross Country Football Soccer	Basketball Ice Hockey (co-op) Indoor Track Wrestling	Baseball Golf Lacrosse Tennis Track
Girls	Cheerleading Cross Country Field Hockey Soccer Swimming (co-op) Volleyball	Basketball Cheerleading Indoor Track	Golf Lacrosse Softball Tennis Track

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Brien McMahon has a number of clubs to enhance student involvement beyond the curriculum. Clubs and organizations currently active at Brien McMahon include the following:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Current Advisor</u>
African-American Culture Club	Mrs. Pinn
Band/Winterguard/Colorguard	Mr. Secchi
Best Buddies	Mrs. Arnold
Book Club	TBA
Building with Books	Mrs. Sullivan
Chess Club	Mr. Cosmas
Highlander (Newspaper)	Mr. Kane
Debate Club	Mr. Sommer
Drama/Theatre	Mr. Tate
Drill/Dance Team	TBA
Electronics/ Robotics Club	Mrs. Paginini
Environmental Club	TBA
FBLA	Mrs. Hurley
World Cultures Club	Mrs. Vidoli/Ms. Belcher
Greek Club	Ms. Stavrou
Health Awareness Club	Mrs. Peckham
Italian Club	Mrs. Leonardi

<u>Club</u>	<u>Current Advisor</u>
Latin Club	Mrs. Goetz
Literary Magazine	Mrs. Flax
Math Club	Ms. Jacques
National Honor Society	Mr. Hofheimer
Peer Academic Leaders (P.A.L.)	TBA
Peer Mediation	Mr. Pavia/Mr. Castelluzzo
JROTC	Mr. Killacky
SAGA	Mr. Dipisa/Mrs. Arnold
Ski/Snowboarding	Mr. Sgarlata/Mr. Bradley
Student Advisory Council	Ms. Ahearn/Mr. Ayala
Model United Nations Club	Mr. Sommer
Web Design/Development	TBA
Yearbook	Mrs. Wolfe

CENTER FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Now in its sixth year at BMHS, the mission of the Center is to promote and support youth-led social change in three areas: youth philanthropy, peace education, and youth media. Advisor: Mr. B. Kocienda (203) 296-2188

Programs include:

Senators' Community Foundation (SCF)

The mission is to prevent child abuse. Executive Committee meetings are held Monday from 5:30-7:00 pm. All member meetings are every other Monday from 7:00-7:30 pm. Activities include grant making public awareness & advocacy, and volunteer programs with children. Membership is capped at 90.

Peace Project

The mission is focused on promoting safe schools and communities. Executive Committee meetings are on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm. All member meetings are on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:00 p.m. Activities include action research, public awareness & advocacy, and volunteer programs with children. Membership is capped at 45.

A Voice in the Crowd

This cable-access television show is broadcast on Saturdays at 3:00 pm on channel 77. Activities include public awareness and education of social issues and student concerns. Advisor: Mr. Bob Kocienda, Center for Youth Leadership (203) 296-2188

HEALTH INFORMATION

ROBERT APPLEBY SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Brien McMahon High School provides space for the Human Services Council to operate the Robert Appleby School-Based Health Center to serve our students. A school based health center is a licensed health care facility, separate from, but located in a school. Services are available to any student with written parental consent. The essential purpose of a School Based Health Center is to provide primary and preventive physical and mental health services and health education. These core services are provided by nurse practitioners (advanced practice nurses) or physicians' assistants, and clinical social workers. All centers have a medical director, who provides consultation and supervision as appropriate. Some centers also provide dental care. Additional staff may include: medical assistants, outreach workers, health educators, and substance abuse counselors. The Health Center extension is x11210

MEDICATIONS

To receive any medication including *any* over the counter medication, such as Tylenol, aspirin, cough syrup, etc. during the school day, *there must be a medication form on file signed by a doctor and a parent/guardian.* Please contact the school nurse for necessary forms and information if medications need to be administered in school.

1. All medication must be brought to the school nurse.
2. Medications must be delivered by the parent or other responsible adult to the school.
3. All medications must be brought to school in their original containers.
4. No more than a forty-five (45) school day supply of a medication for a student shall be brought to school.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Physical examinations are required for all grade 10 students and all students new to the Norwalk school system. All physicals must be recorded on the blue Connecticut State Health Assessment Record and must include a vision and hearing test. Any new student who does not comply with this state requirement will not be permitted to attend school. All physical forms for 10th grade students are due to the school nurse by October 15. Failure to do so will result in exclusion from school.

Physical examinations are also required each year a student participates in the sports program. The physical must be recorded on the Sports Participation Health Record and must be dated after July 1 of the school year.

All students new to the district, returning to the district after an absence of more than 4 month, or returning after an absence of any duration when residence has been established in a foreign country, must complete a health assessment. The exam must be done within one year of entering and recorded on the State of Connecticut Health Assessment form (blue).

NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH SERVICES RULES FOR ABSENCE AND EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

Parents and guardians are asked to:

- Notify the school when a child is absent due to illness.
- Not to send to school a child who has a cold or any communicable disease.

Communicable disease must be reported to the Department of Health at 854-7776 by the child's physician or parent.

The exclusion period for patients with a communicable disease is stated in the table below.

DISEASE	TIME PATIENT IS EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL
Chicken Pox	Six days from onset
Diphtheria	Until two negative cultures have been obtained by a physician
Fungus Ringworm of Scalp	On certification by a physician that patient is under adequate treatment
German Measles	Five days from onset
Impetigo	On certification by a physician that patient is under adequate treatment
Influenza	Until clinically well
Ivy or Shrub Poisoning	Not excluded
Measles	Five days after rash appears
Meningococcic Meningitis	Until certified by a physician as cured
Mumps	Until glands are normal
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	Until all sign of nits are gone
Pinkeye	On certification by a physician that patient is under adequate treatment
Poliomyelitis	Ten days
Rash	Until diagnosed by a physician plus certification that patient is under adequate treatment
Scabies	Until diagnosed by a physician plus certification that patient is under adequate treatment
Scarlet Fever Streptococcal Sore Throat	On certification by a physician that patient is under adequate treatment
Tuberculosis	Until three negative cultures have been obtained by a physician
Whooping Cough	Three weeks after whooping begins

These rules are in general as set forth in Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut

SPECIAL SERVICES

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Brien McMahon maintains a staff of 8 guidance counselors. Counselors are assigned when a student enters BMHS. A student remains with the same counselor throughout their years at BMHS. The guidance counselor assists students in a variety of ways, including subject selection, academic concerns, and personal issues.

SOCIAL WORKER

A resource for the entire school family, the social worker assists children, parents and staff by developing programs to foster positive interpersonal relations and works with them on any personal or social problems affecting learning. The Social Worker also offers workshops, class meetings and support groups for children as needed.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

The school psychologist is assigned to Brien McMahon High School as a resource person for parents and staff. The work involves some individual testing, but the main emphasis is to work with teachers and students in the classroom.

OUTREACH WORKER

The Outreach Worker works within the community to foster more parental participation and conducts home visits at the request of the principal. Outreach workers offer community workshops for parents and attend PPT or teacher conferences when requested.

SPEECH

Speech pathologists provide language and speech services as needed for the students. This may include individual or group therapy, classroom support in language areas and consultation with parents and teachers regarding communications skills.

SCHOOL NURSE

School nurses are available to provide services to meet the needs of students with identified special health needs. The student's individual health care plan determines how the special health services will be provided.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PROGRAM

The School to Career Program identifies students in their sophomore year at Brien McMahon High School. They interview for job placements at local companies and accrue a minimum of 400 hours on the job in Grades 11 and 12. The goal of the School to Career Program is to expose students to various opportunities and to prepare them for the world of work. The Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce co-sponsors this program.

CAREER CENTER

The Career Center provides all high school students and staff with current occupational, educational and self-awareness information. It promotes thoughtful career planning and decision making, both on individual and group levels.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

The Center for Global Studies (CGS), an inter-district Magnet School, offers Japanese, Chinese and Arabic language, history and literature through interdisciplinary Asian study. An annual student exchange program with high schools in Japan and China is a feature of the program. For more information, visit the CGS website at www.centerglobalstudies.org or call 852-9488 ext. 11007.

DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS & GUIDELINES

Please refer to your District Handbook for Student & Families for complete information about the school district, its policies and practices, and expectations for student behavior. A few important guidelines are highlighted below.

DISCRIMINATION & SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS

The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age or over who reach age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, and each such child shall have and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation; provided boards of education may, by vote at a meeting duly called, admit to any school children under five years of age.

The Norwalk Board of Education ("the Board") is an equal opportunity employer. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Board to educate all children within the Norwalk Public Schools in an atmosphere that is free of discrimination/sexual harassment. As part of the Board's commitment to these policies, the Board has established the Human Relations Office for the Norwalk Public Schools, located at the Board's offices at 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut. The Human Relations Office is supervised by the Director of Human Relations, at 854-4013.

BULLYING

The Norwalk Public Schools does not tolerate bullying behavior of any form.

All students have the right to attend a school that promotes a secure and safe school climate, that is conducive to teaching and learning, and that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior.

The NPS policy on bullying behavior seeks to accomplish the following goals:

- To promote a secure and safe environment free from threat, harassment, and all types of bullying behavior
- To take preventive action to prevent bullying from occurring
- To require any staff member who witnesses acts of bullying or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators
- To inform parents and students of the school's expectations through the published student code of conduct
- To foster productive partnerships that promote a bully-free environment
- To enable parents or guardians to file written reports of suspected bullying
- To develop a recording and reporting system that documents verified incidents of bullying behaviors
- To establish procedures for school administrators to investigate and respond to written complaints or anonymous reports of bullying
- To notify parents or guardians of the student(s) who commit acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student(s) against whom acts of bullying were committed of verified reports of bullying including a description of the response by the schools staff

and consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying

- To make the staff aware of their role in fostering the knowledge and attitudes that will be required to achieve the above goals

Bullying is defined as any overt act or acts by a student or a group of students directed against another student, which are repeated against the same student over time, with the intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds (including transportation) or at a school-sponsored activity.

Bullying takes many forms and may include many different behaviors, such as, but not limited to:

- Physical violence and attacks
- Verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically- or racially-based verbal abuse and gender-based put-downs;
- Threats and intimidation;
- Extortion or stealing of money and possessions;
- Exclusion from the peer group.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasonable and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is protected by state or federal law.

PARENTAL RIGHTS REGARDING STUDENT INFORMATION

Parent/Student Notification Prior To Destruction of Student Records

Enrolled Special Education Students: Parents will be notified verbally or in writing by the Custodian of Records if after a review of the records, it is determined that certain student information is no longer necessary for educational purposes. It is recommended that whenever possible this review takes place at or immediately after a PPT (but while the parent is present).

Graduated Non-Special Education Students: A notification will be placed in local newspapers in the month of December stating that confidential records for students who were not identified as handicapped at the time they graduated or left the school system before graduation will be destroyed by the end of the month. This notice will appear six years following the student's expected graduation date.

Graduated Identified Special Education Students: A letter will be mailed to the last known address and a notification will be placed in local newspapers regarding the destruction of confidential records for students who were identified as handicapped at the time they graduated or left the school system. This notification process will take place in the month of December six years following the student's expected graduation date. The Supervisor of Special Services will only implement procedure if he/she feels the information in the records will not be helpful to the handicapped student to obtain benefits from other government or private agencies in the future.

Cumulative Records: Notification will be placed in local newspapers regarding the destruction of cumulative records fifty years after the student's expected graduation date.

Permission for Destruction of Student Records

Before records are destroyed, the written approval of four officials must be obtained: (1) The School Superintendent, (2) The Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality, (3) The State Public Records Administrator and (4) The State Librarian.

Parental Rights Regarding Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.
Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.
Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.
If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

The PPRA affords parents as well as students who are 18 and emancipated minors (“eligible students”) certain rights regarding the conduct of student surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

1. *Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more the following subjects (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)*
 - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
 - Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 - Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of-
 - Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 - Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 - Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others, except to the extent notification of such activities is not required by law.
3. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use-
 - Protected information surveys and students;
 - Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
the School Principal
Or
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

The following types of information contained in the educational record of an enrolled student are hereby designated as directory information and may NOT be disclosed by school officials without the prior consent of a parent or eligible student, except as provided below:

- The student’s name
- The student’s photograph/yearbook
- The student’s dates of enrollment
- The student’s grade level

- The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- The student's weight and height as a member of an athletic team
- Honors and awards received by the student
- Alumni parent or student addresses

A parent or eligible student may refuse to allow Norwalk school officials to designate any or all of the above listed types of information as directory information. Any such refusal must be made in writing to and must be received by the principal.

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO RELEASE STUDENT INFORMATION
TO MILITARY RECRUITERS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT**

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, the school district is required to provide, upon request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. In addition, the school district is required to provide military recruiters with the same access to secondary school students and on-campus recruiting opportunities, as well as to directory information as provided for herein, as is provided generally to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students.

A parent or eligible student may refuse to allow school officials to designate any or all of the above listed types of information as directory information. A parent or eligible student may also request that school officials not release the student's name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters or an institution of higher education without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student. Any such request must be made in writing to and received by the Principal.

PROGRAMS FOR HANDICAPPED STUDENTS - SECTION 504

It is the policy of the Norwalk Board of Education to identify and evaluate students who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services or programs in order that such students may receive the required free appropriate education.

For this policy, a student who may need special services or programs within the intent of Section 504 is one who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including; or
- Has a record of such impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such impairment.

Students may be eligible for services under the provisions of Section 504 even though they do not require services pursuant to the Education of the Handicapped Act, P.L. 94-142 (EHA/IDEA). Students who are identified as individuals with exceptional needs, according to EHA/IDEA criteria, are not addressed under this policy.

If you believe your child might be eligible for services, please contact the building principal.

NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norwalk, Connecticut

2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approved 3/18/08

M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
July 2008					February 2009				
	1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		(15 days)				
August 2008					March 2009				
				1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C
18	19	20	21	22NT	*23C	*24C	*25C	*26C*	*27PD/S
25TR/CV	26PD/NS	27SE	28	29	*30C	*31C			
(2 days)					(21 days)				
September 2008					April 2009				
							*1C	*2C	*3C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
29	30	(20 days)			(16 days)				
October 2008					May 2009				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
									8
6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	28	29	30	31	(20 days)				
November 2008					June 2009				
3	4PD/S	5C	6CN*	7C	1	2	3	4	5
10C	11	12C	13C	14C	8	9	10	11	12
17	18C	19C	20C	21	15	16	17HD	18HD	19HD
24	25	26ED	27	28	22HD	23HD	24SD	25SD	26SD
(16 days)					29SD	30SD	(17 days)		
December 2008					July 2009				
1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3
8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10
15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24
29	30	31	(15 days)			27	28	29	30
January 2009					August 2009				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	(19 days)				
August–January – 92 days					February–June – 89 days				

SUMMARY OF HOLIDAYS AND/OR NO SCHOOL DAYS

September 1 – Labor Day	Nov. 27-28– Thanksgiving	March 27 – Professional Day
September 30-Oct.1 – Rosh Hashanah	Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 – Holiday Recess	March 23-April 3– Kdg. Registration
October 9 – Yom Kippur	January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day	April 10 – Good Friday.
October 13 – Columbus Day	February 16-20 – Winter Recess	April 13–17 – Spring Recess
November 4 – Prof.Day/ Election Day	February 16 – Presidents' Day	May 25 – Memorial Day
November 11 – Veterans' Day		

BEGINNING AND END OF SCHOOL YEAR

Notes: August 22(NT)—New teachers report; August 25 (TR) – All teachers report; August 26—Professional Day
 August 27(SE) – Staggered Entry (Grades 1-5, all Grade 6 students, all Grade 9 students and Grade 12 at Brien McMahon High and ½ Kindergarten).
 August 28—First Day of School for all other students.
 June 23 – Last Day of School (not counting possible snow make-up days – SD)

KEY

<p>-- Holiday</p> <p>CV – Convocation</p> <p>C – Conference</p> <p>CN* -- Conference Night (90 min. early dismissal)</p> <p>ED – 90 minute Early Dismissal</p> <p>HD – 2 hour Early Dismissal</p> <p>* Kdg. Registration</p>	<p>NS – No School For Students</p> <p>NT – New Teachers Report</p> <p>PD – Professional Day</p> <p>SD – Possible Snow Make-up Day</p> <p>SE – Staggered Entry</p> <p>TR – All Teachers Report</p>
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