

# THE CROSSING – WELCOME BACK EDITION

2022-2023

## BROOKS CROSSING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### BC MAIN CAMPUS

50 Deans Rhode Hall Road



### BC DEANS CAMPUS

848 Georges Road

## WELCOME TO BC'S 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Brooks Crossing Families,

Welcome back to Brooks Crossing's 2022-2023 school year! As a school community, we have used the summer months to reflect, plan, learn and adjust. We are confident that this year will be a great one. This year's district theme is "1% is all it takes . . . What's your 1%?" and Brooks Crossing's theme is "We GROW through what we GO through."

For those new to our school, we are a two campus community. Most preschool classes and all kindergarten classes are held at our Deans Campus and all of our first through fifth-grade students attend our Main Campus, along with one preschool class.

Our teachers are excited to welcome your child(ren) into their classrooms. They are energized and prepared to make a connection and provide the quality instruction that Brooks Crossing

students are accustomed to. We've learned some lessons from last year and we will be focusing our efforts on creating a comfortable, safe learning environment where students can practice their social skills and grow their skills. We know that a child's greatest growth happens when they are comfortable taking risks and exploring.

As always, we are here to support you and your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out by email or by calling the Main Office. We also want to ensure that you have the information that you need. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and read our Brooks Crossing's weekly [Online Friday Folder](#) to stay up to date about events, information, and also to view pictures and videos of the happenings at Brooks Crossing. We will also be sending regular newsletters as updates become available. If you have not already done so, please log into your Genesis Parent Portal and make sure that all contact information is up-to-date, and that you have chosen to receive [both emergency and non-emergency notifications](#). This will ensure that you won't miss any school or district communication. Don't forget to allow us to send text messages to you. This is the quickest, easiest way to communicate!

Be sure you have also updated your *Emergency Contacts* in the Genesis Parent Portal. These may include friends, family or neighbors that we can contact to come for your child if we are unable to reach you.

Are you ready for school? Do you have:

- A working device to join classes (or have you already completed the form saying you need one)? This applies to grades 2-5 only. If you are in need, please see information below.
- Your grade level supplies? [Click here for our '22-'23 Preschool and Grades K-5 School Supply List.](#)
- Is your positive attitude ready to go?

If you are having any trouble with the top two items, and we can help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The new school year always brings so much excitement. These school buildings are not the same without our amazing school community. Know that we will work our hardest to keep our children safe and happy. We look forward to welcoming them on September 6th! Enjoy the last little bit of summer- make memories, have fun, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Jaime Maccarone, Principal

Aju Mathews, Assistant Principal

## **A NOTE FROM MR. MATHEWS**

Greetings and Salutations, Bear Families!

I am so excited to be starting this school year with you as your Assistant Principal. Thank you in advance for your kindness, patience and warmest of welcomes. Things I love: a good laugh,

Marvel/DC comics, basketball/football, and freshly baked cookies (accepted all year round). I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

## GOODBYE FROM MRS. ROGOL

Dear Brooks Crossing Families,

I hope this message finds you well and that you have enjoyed a restful, fun, and relaxing summer with your families and friends.

Shortly after school ended in June, I found out that I would be moving to Greenbrook Elementary School to be the Assistant Principal there for the 2022-2023 school year. While I am excited for this opportunity, I am so sad to leave the beautiful community of Brooks Crossing. It has been my privilege to be the Assistant Principal at Brooks Crossing since 2017. I watched as this lovely community banded together during the pandemic, and got to see how the families were so supportive of the school during extremely challenging times. There is no greater gift as an educator than to be a part of such a close-knit and unified community.

I will miss the amazing smiling faces that greeted me each morning, the jokes students delighted in telling me, and all of the enthusiastic waves I received as I strolled the hallways at both campuses of Brooks Crossing. Please know that if you or your child should ever need something from me, or just want to say hello, please do not hesitate to reach out. My email remains the same- [lisa.rogol@sbschools.org](mailto:lisa.rogol@sbschools.org).

Have a wonderful remainder of the summer and an excellent school year!

## BC'S PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Brooks Crossing Families,



Welcome to the 2022-23 school year at Brooks Crossing! We are so happy to have your family be a part of our school community. Our PTO is committed to supporting our school community in every possible way.

**What is the PTO?** PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization. It is a nonprofit group of parents, teachers, and staff dedicated to improving the educational experience of all students at South Brunswick Schools. PTO goals are to encourage interaction between family and school, serve as a source of support, and work with teachers, staff, and the community at large to improve our children's educational experience. The PTO works closely with the school administration to meet this goal. We are one PTO and are dedicated to serving both our campuses.

**What does our PTO do?** We plan and organize events, including: **Popsicles on the Playground, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Boosterthon, Book Fair, Author's Visit etc.** All of the money the PTO collects is used to further the school community, aiding in the success of all children.

**Ways you can get involved:** Anyone with a child at Brooks Crossing is invited to be a part of all the volunteer opportunities.

- ❖ Become a Member
- ❖ Participate with your family in our family fun events and enjoy our school community
- ❖ Participate in our PTO sponsored events
- ❖ Attend our Public PTO Meetings to learn about what is happening at the school
- ❖ Submit Box Tops for Education
- ❖ Order Spiritwear

We wish you the best of luck in the 2022-23 School Year!

Sincerely,  
PTO President Nicole De Mattia

PTO Executive Board Members:

Nicole De Mattia - President  
Dhruti Chokshi - VP Fundraising  
Yorelys Joao - VP Fundraising  
Girija Thanga - VP Events  
Deepa Unny- Treasurer  
Diana Sanger- Secretary  
Rupa Devi Unguturi -Bylaws Specialist

**Connect with us:**

Email : [brookscrossingpto@gmail.com](mailto:brookscrossingpto@gmail.com)

Website : <https://sites.google.com/view/brookscrossingpto/home>

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/groups/1397496623856382/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1397496623856382/)

WhatsApp: Grades Pk-2 <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lfop0FCVtPi5ouHWHI3kxp>

Grades 3-5: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FNmSqeY0gBT89YbF4bnztp>

Please click on this link to join the PTO <https://brookscrossing-sbschool-ptomembership-2022-23.cheddarup.com>

**All Brooks Crossing families are invited to attend our *Popsicles on the Playground* welcome back for the 2022-2023 school year event! We hope your family can join us on Friday, September 16th, 5:00pm-6:30pm at the BC Main Campus!**

Did you order School Supply Kits in June through our 1st Day School Supplies sale? If so, our PTO volunteers will have them ready for your child in their classroom for their first day of school.

We are kindly asking all of our BC families to become a BC PTO member and join today! Just \$11 per family, the membership fees support the goals we have for your child and our school.

Membership does not require volunteering, but we'd love for you to consider supporting our fundraising efforts and sharing your much-needed skills from time to time throughout this new school year.

*We are looking forward to implementing many fun, family-friendly events that were put on hold in recent years. With your support and membership, we can join together as a BC school community and contribute to making a memorable '22-'23 for our families, students and BC staff!*

### **PTO OPT Out**

If you do not want to receive email information regarding Brooks Crossing opportunities from the PTO, please [click here](#) to complete this form by September 15th.



<https://brookscrossing-sbschool-ptomembership-2022-23.cheddarup.com>

## **TECHNOLOGY USAGE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Grades K & 1:** The school will provide any technology needed during the school day. Please do not send technology to school with your child.

**Grades 2 - 5:** Students will be expected to bring a fully charged device to school each day to use in class. Please know that you will have the option to borrow a district Chromebook for the year, if needed. Please see below for steps to follow so your child can be prepared for the first day of school.

## **IF YOUR CHILD IS IN NEED OF A DISTRICT CHROMEBOOK**

1. [Click this link](#) and pay the non-refundable \$35 technology insurance fee.
  2. Print and sign the agreement form, here: [Chromebook Agreement Form](#) - you will not be able to fill the form out digitally
- \*\*\*NOTE: The Chromebook Asset Number and Serial Number will be added once the device is assigned to your child.

3. Email your Shopsite receipt AND the completed Chromebook Agreement form to [Michelle.Cima@sbschools.org](mailto:Michelle.Cima@sbschools.org). Once she receives it, she will arrange for a Chromebook to be distributed to your child during the first days of school.

## RENEWING INSURANCE ON DISTRICT CHROMEBOOKS

There is a **YEARLY** technology insurance fee.

The yearly non-refundable \$35 technology insurance fee can now be paid online using the link below! Free and reduced lunch recipients are automatically waived. Requests for non-free/reduced student waivers due to financial hardship can be sent to [Rachel.Kolibas@sbschools.org](mailto:Rachel.Kolibas@sbschools.org).

[Click here to pay the annual technology insurance fee online.](#)

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

The first day of school for students is **TUESDAY, September 6th** and it will be a full day for all students. **We strongly recommend that your child arrive by bus if they have a bus route assignment.**



**Riding the bus from the very first day will help the bus driver get to know your child and begin to associate your child with their bus stop and family members who have permission to receive them.** Riding the bus also helps us to ensure that we have smooth arrival and dismissal procedures at school.

Our Transportation Department does not mail bus passes home. **You must obtain the BUS ROUTE #, pickup/drop-off location, and time through the Genesis Parent Portal.** You may want to print and place a copy of the bus pass in your child's backpack, but the bus pass will not be needed to board the bus. Drivers will refer to their bus rosters for attendance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Know your child's **BUS ROUTE #**. Transportation will need the route # to assist you. We do not use the number painted on the bus. The **BUS ROUTE #** should be posted on a sign, to the left of the entry bus door.

If unsure, please confirm with the driver that it is the correct bus prior to boarding your child.

Bus ROUTE #s will be a three-digit number this year. (i.e. 232). Brooks Crossing's buses will also be noted with "BC" (i.e. 232BC).

The bus stop is the location where your child will be picked up and dropped off each day. **Bus times may fluctuate by up to ten minutes for arrivals and departures, please be ready and waiting.**

Our system updates daily and with additional summer registrations expected, you will need to check the night before school starts to make sure the times or routes have not been adjusted.

Non-Emergency questions or concerns regarding bus transportation should be emailed to:

[Transportation@sbschools.org](mailto:Transportation@sbschools.org)

Call (732) 297-7800 extension 5108 for urgent and time sensitive concerns.

### Select, VIEW BUS PASS in Genesis Parent Portal

Sample Bus Pass will appear as below:

#### BUS PASS (AM)

Student:	Last name, First name	Grade: 02
Bus Route:	202BC AM	Time: 8:34AM
Bus Stop:	MARC DRIVE & HANNAH DRIVE	

#### BUS PASS (PM)

Student:	Last name, First name	Grade: 02
Bus Route:	202BC PM	Time: 3:45PM
Bus Stop:	MARC DRIVE & HANNAH DRIVE	

## GRADES 1-5 - BC MAIN CAMPUS - ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Each day BC Main Campus starts and ends 5 minutes earlier than the Brooks Crossing Deans Campus (NOTE: This is a new change from prior years, as Main Campus will now start BEFORE the Deans Campus.) This allows parents time should they need to travel between the two campuses. Students arriving AFTER the official start time will be recorded as tardy.

**STUDENTS WITH A BUS ROUTE ASSIGNMENT:** It cannot be stressed enough how sending your child to school on the bus is essential for timely arrivals between our campuses. Bus/car traffic may be held up making a left onto Georges Road from Deans Rhode Hall Road. Your cooperation to send your child to school on a bus will be greatly appreciated. ALL drop-off arrivals after the start of day school bell will be recorded as tardy and those students will need to be signed in after parents find parking and walk them to the front entrance.

### BROOKS CROSSING MAIN CAMPUS - GRADES 1-5

#### REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL

7:00 AM Before School Program begins

9:00 AM Students may enter BC Main Campus

9:10 AM Class begins – Students should be in class

3:35 PM Ending time for BC Main Campus

6:00 PM After School Program concludes

### **EARLY RELEASE DAY OF SCHOOL**

**1:40 PM Ending Time**

### **DELAYED OPENING (2 Hour Delay)**

9:00 AM Before School Program Begins

**11:00 AM Students may enter BC Main Campus**

**11:10 AM Class begins - Students should be in class**

## **KINDERGARTEN - ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES**

### **KINDERGARTEN REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL**

7:00 AM Before School Program begins at the BC Main Campus

**9:05 AM Students may enter Deans**

**9:15 AM Class begins – Students should be in class**

**3:40 PM Ending time for Deans Campus**

6:00 PM After School Program concludes at the BC Main Campus

### **EARLY RELEASE DAY OF SCHOOL**

**1:45 PM Ending Time**

### **DELAYED OPENING (2 Hour Delay)**

9:00 AM Before School Program Begins at the BC Main Campus

**11:05 AM Students may enter Brooks Crossing**

**11:15 AM Class begins - Students should be in class**

## **HOW TO STAY CONNECTED & INFORMED**

*Please continue to monitor your email accounts that are in the Genesis Parent Portal for important news and information sent by Principal Maccarone, Superintendent Feder and your child's teacher, that are sent throughout the school year to keep you informed!*

Many questions may be answered by checking on the homepage of our school website:

Brooks Crossing Elementary School Website: <https://bcde.sbschools.org/>

Brooks Crossing's homepage has convenient links for:

- [BC's weekly Online Friday Folder](#), that includes our monthly school newsletter, *The Crossing*. (The Crossing school newsletter will also be sent via SchoolMessenger.)
- [BC's Facebook Page](#)
- [Brooks Crossing's Parent Teacher Organization \(PTO\)](#)
- [Parent Note to School / Dismissal Change Form](#)
- [Instructions - How to Report Absence in Genesis Parent Portal](#)
- [Champions Before/After School Program](#)
- [BC's School Supply List for 2022-2023](#)

- [SBSD '22-'23 School Closing & Early Release Days Calendar](#)

SB School District Website: <https://www.sbschools.org/>

Set up your phone numbers and email accounts for notifications. Monitor you email account for SchoolMessenger announcements that we send periodically. [CLICK HERE for Steps to follow to update your notifications in the Genesis Parent Portal.](#)

**SCHOOL MESSENGER TEXT MESSAGES** - Our school utilizes SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. **Sign up by opting in from your mobile phone. Just SEND A TEXT MESSAGE OF "Y" or "YES" to 67587.** *You may opt out at anytime by replying to one of our messages with "Stop".*

## 2022-2023 SCHOOL CLOSING CALENDAR & REPORTING ATTENDANCE



**THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th!**

Are you already making travel plans & appointments for the 2022-2023 school year? If so, please first refer to the [SBSD 2022-2023 School Closing Calendar](#). Refer to the [South Brunswick District Policy 5200 - ATTENDANCE \(M\)](#), and attendance information in the Elementary Code of Student Conduct 2022-2023. In accordance with the State, the SBSBD requires students to attend school regularly to ensure continuity of instruction and classroom participation.

NOTE: Students who will be on extended trips of **ten or more consecutive school days**, will be dis-enrolled from school. The parent will assume educational responsibility through parental instruction or enrollment of student in school at their destination. Students who return to District will be required to make an appointment with [Central Registration](#) to complete the registration process again. **If your child will be absent from school for 10 or more consecutive school days, it is required that you [complete this Extended Student Absences South Brunswick District Form](#) as soon as possible.**

\*\*\*\*\*

All absences and late arrivals for all students should be entered promptly in the Genesis Parent Portal. **These can be entered in advance, 24 hours a day, but no later than 8:00am.** Go to <https://parents.sbschools.org>

IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE LATE TO CLASS, enter this in the Genesis Parent Portal, making note the reason they will be late in the comments. Attendance will be adjusted when your child arrives/attends class and the teacher informs the office.

NOTE: # of tardy & absences will be noted on the report card because attendance matters! [CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REPORT AN ABSENCE, OR IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE LATE, IN THE GENESIS PARENT PORTAL.](#)

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

*To stay informed and not miss an opportunity you or your child may be interested in, please read our weekly Online Friday Folder for news and events that may not be included in our monthly newsletter.*



**Thurs. Sept. 1** - Sneak-A-Peek, 3:30pm-5:00pm, Main Campus and Deans Campus

**Tues. Sept. 6** - **First day of school for students.** *This is a regular full day.*

**Thurs. Sept. 8** - Board of Education Meeting

**Fri. Sept. 16** - PTO's Popsicles on the Playground, 5:00pm-6:30pm, BC Main Campus

**Mon. Sept. 19** - **School Picture Day.** *Details to follow in the Online Friday Folder.*

**Thurs. Sept. 22** - Board of Education Meeting

**Mon. Sept. 26 & Tues. Sept. 27** - Schools Closed. Rosh Hashanah

**Mon. Oct. 3** - **Back to School Night.** *Evening program for parents only. Please make childcare arrangements so at least one parent can attend. Details to follow.*

**Tues. Oct. 4** - **EARLY RELEASE DAY**

**Wed. Oct. 5** - Schools Closed. Yom Kippur

## CHARTWELLS BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

**Buying lunch at school:** For your convenience, you may save time by using our cashless lunch card system and create an account.

**Elementary Board Approved Prices for 2022-2023: Breakfast \$2.25 Lunch \$3.10 Milk \$0.75**

[Note: Lunch cards remain at school, readily available for your child to buy breakfast or lunch on all days you choose.]



**To create your child's lunch account, go to <http://www.myschoolbucks.com>** and login using your email address and password. Parents will have the ability to view recent purchases, check balances and set-up low balance alerts. It's convenient, available 24/7 on the web or with the app on your mobile phone.

If you are new to this service, follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) and register for a free account.
2. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. Add your child using their school name and ID. (You can find your child's ID in the Genesis Parent Portal.)
4. Make a payment to your students' accounts with your credit/debit card or electronic check. A program fee may apply. You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose, before you are charged.

**Lunch menus for our schools can be found at: <https://sbschools.nutrislice.com/menu/>**

**For K's select "Deans", for Gr.1-5 select "Brooks Crossing".**

Students have lunch everyday, even on early dismissal days.

For more information on the SBSB lunch program, read [Chartwells Welcome Letter](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The state of New Jersey is no longer providing free breakfast and lunch for all students. Qualifying for free or reduced-price meals may provide your family with additional benefits, so please be sure to fill out a free and reduced application when applicable. Information for the 2022-2023 school year will be posted on the district website in September.

## CHAMPIONS BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE

Will you need childcare before and/or after school when we return September 2022? If so, please register today! [Click here for Champions Before and After School Program information.](#)

Questions? Email Area Manager, Paula Vargas [paula.vargas@discoverchampions.com](mailto:paula.vargas@discoverchampions.com) or call Champions Customer Care: 1-800-246-2154 8:00am-8:00pm for online registration assistance.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BC HEALTH OFFICE

If you have medication/treatment requests, or activity restrictions that are a change to your child's daily participation in school, ***you must speak with the nurse directly.*** For your child's safety and well-being, do not email this information. Any change to your child's daily participation in recess or gym must be reported directly to the nurse. A child may be excused from physical activity for three consecutive days with a note from a parent/guardian. If the restriction is beyond three days, a note from the family physician is required.

Unless notified otherwise, it is anticipated that your child will be able to participate in gym, recess and physical activities coordinated by their teacher daily. Due to this fact, **sneakers or rubber soled shoes with closed toes should be worn daily.** For your child's safety, no open toed shoes should be worn to school.

### ***Medications/Treatment Requests***

The school MD has given standing orders for basic medications that can be given at the discretion of the nurse, unless otherwise stated by parents. These include, but are not exclusive of, Tums, Visine, Chloraseptic Spray, Orajel, Cough Drops, Benadryl Cream, and Hydrocortisone Cream. Children are not allowed to carry ANY type of medicine with them throughout the day unless special permission has been granted by the Health Office.

**Whenever a student requires medication at school, the medication must be brought in by the parent directly to the nurse at the beginning of the day.** Only medication in its original pharmacy container will be accepted. Prescription medication also requires written permission from the parent. If your child suffers from asthma or allergies that require medications to be kept in school, please contact the health office for further instructions.

The School Nurse may administer any form of medication that is accompanied by the District's Medication Form completed and signed by the child's doctor and parent/guardian. Forms can be obtained by visiting the District's website at [www.sbschools.org](http://www.sbschools.org), or contact the nurse in the health office at (732) 821-7478 ext. 3782 or 3709.

**Questions may be directed to our school nurses at:**

Susan Kneis, R.N. - BC Main Campus (732) 821-7478 ext. 3709 [Susan.Kneis@sbschools.org](mailto:Susan.Kneis@sbschools.org)

Yuen Tang, R.N. - Deans Campus (732) 821-7478 ext. 3782 [Yuen.Tang@sbschools.org](mailto:Yuen.Tang@sbschools.org)