Braddock Is X-STREAM!

This school year, Braddock Elementary begins its X-STREAM Journey! We will utilize STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) in a school-wide focus to boost staff and students’ knowledge and skills. Braddock Elementary School staff, students and parents will be involved in numerous activities throughout the entire school year working with the XSTREAM Programs Coordinator, Ms. Joyce Matthews. The BE XSTREAM Program will be integrated across the grade level curriculums as well as in the before, after and summer activities.

During the school SOAR time (Braddock’s Student Intervention Block- where staff members remediate and enrich student learning), students will participate in activities that spark their creativity and critical thinking skills. The XSTREAM Program will also provide opportunities for Family Nights and Weekend events!

More information to come, Stay Tuned©

Meet the Kindergarten Team

Ms. Allen is a Northern Virginia native who has been teaching for 20 years. She loves learning, reading and her family.

Mr. Christiansen is our Spanish Two-Way Immersion teacher. He has traveled from Mexico to Argentina - Ecuador to Spain, but now calls Northern Virginia home. He just got a new house with his family.

Ms. Dornan is in her seventh year teaching. She grew up in the Northern Virginia area, but also has lived and taught in Sweden and Norway.

Mrs. Edwards just moved to Virginia from Arizona with her husband and sons. She has 8 years teaching experience and loves being out in nature.

Mrs. Taylor grew up in Northern Virginia, but started her teaching career in North Carolina. Now back in Virginia, she has married, loves to travel to East Africa, and loves teaching.
Braddock has a Tardy Desk located in the main lobby that is managed by parent volunteers and Jakelin Lake, Parent Liaison. If you wish to volunteer at our Tardy Desk, please let us know.
What is Responsive Classroom, and what does this have to do with my child?

Responsive Classroom is a researched-based and evidenced-based approach to elementary education. It is a way of teaching that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community.

The goal of Responsive Classroom approach is to enhance student learning. It is based on the premise that children learn best when they have both academic and social-emotional skills. The approach consists of classroom and school-wide practices for purposefully helping children build academic and social-emotional competencies day in and day out, year in and year out.

At Braddock, our classroom teachers have Morning Meetings each and every day. Morning Meetings usually take place first thing in the morning. At Braddock, we believe in the importance of building relationships with students (i.e., student to student, student to teacher, and teacher to student).

Morning Meetings create positive community. Teachers are tasked with nurturing a sense of belonging, significance, and emotional safety so that your child feels comfortable taking risks and working with a variety of peers. Additionally, Morning Meetings allow teachers to create a calm, orderly environment that promotes autonomy and allows for your child to focus on learning. If you want more information about Responsive Classroom or would like to see it in action at Braddock Elementary School, please let us know.

What is a Morning Meeting?

Each day, teachers and students gather in a circle/oval for a 15-20 minute meeting. The time is broken down into 4 parts:

1. **Greeting**: Students and teachers greet one another by name.
2. **Sharing**: Select students (2-3 students) share information about important events in their lives. Listeners offer empathetic comments or ask clarifying questions.
3. **Group Activity**: Everyone participates in a brief, lively activity that fosters group cohesion (i.e., reciting a poem, dancing, singing, or play a game that reinforces social or academic skills).
4. **Morning Message**: Students read a short message written by their teacher. The message is crafted to help students focus on the work that they’ll do in the school day.
Our teachers work in collaborative teams and independently to become crystal clear on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that all students must acquire. They monitor your child’s learning on a frequent and timely basis. This work is done during their team level collaborative team meeting. At Braddock, our teachers meet twice a week (one meeting for language arts and the other meeting for mathematics) to plan lessons, review student data, and create systematic processes to provide intervention for students who are experiencing difficulty and enrichment for those already proficient. Student work samples of learning is gathered and used to inform and improve our teachers’ instruction. We believe that our students’ academic and social-emotional success is a reflection of our staff and their ability to provide purposeful instruction.

In order to ensure high quality instruction, the administrative team has worked hard over the summer hiring the best of the best teachers to offset the current teachers that we have. We believe that the 2015-2016 school year will yield great results and with your support we know that we will make Braddock great!

School Health Room
Health Services are provided at Braddock ES through the Fairfax County Health Department and the School Health Room program. School Health Aides are employed and trained by the Health Department and assigned to our school. The School Health Aide is not a nurse, but works under the supervision of a Public Health Nurse who makes frequent visits to the school. School Health Aides are trained to administer emergency first aid, CPR/AED, do health screenings, and maintain records for the Health Department. For additional information please contact Tamie Thadi, School Health Aide, at 703-914-7310 or by e-mail at tathadi@fcps.edu or visit the FCPS web site for Health Services information.

When to Stay Home
Students with symptoms such as rashes, watery and inflamed eyes, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea should stay home until a doctor evaluates their symptoms and determines whether or not they are contagious. The Fairfax County Department of Health recommends that children remain home fever-free for 24 hours after an illness prior to returning to school. Remember to call the Attendance Line at 703-914-7333 to report your child’s absence and please state the symptoms of your child's illness.

A Physician's Note
Some rashes, pink eye, strep throat, impetigo, ringworm, and scabies can be passed from one student to another. To protect all our students, we require a note from a physician for any child with symptoms of these illnesses. The note must state that the child is not contagious before he or she can return to school. Also, please provide notes for limitations due to sprains, strains or fractures of the upper and/or lower body.
Taking Your Child Home
Our clinic works to control and manage student exposure to contagious diseases. We will call you if your child exhibits symptoms of illness, such as:

- Fever over 100 degrees
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Unexplained rash
- Diarrhea
- Head lice
- Inflamed eyes with discharge
- Persistent cough

We ask that you make arrangements to pick up your child as soon as possible. It is important to have all emergency numbers up to date in case we need to contact you. Anyone picking up your child must show identification.

Medication at School
Prescription and most over-the-counter medications require strict adult supervision. Forms to authorize school staff members to administer medications are available in the school office and online at www.fcps.edu/forms

Medication Guidelines

- A parent or guardian must bring the medication to and from school.
- Your child must have the first dose of any new medication at home.
- A parent or guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication.

Medications not claimed will be destroyed.

- A parent or guardian is responsible for submitting a new form to the school each time the dosage is changed or that the time at which the medication is to be taken is changed.

Remember
To limit the spread of illnesses, notify the school office if your child gets head lice, strep throat, chicken pox, or other contagious illnesses. Effective July 1, 2006, a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) is required for all students entering sixth grade. Medication Forms can be downloaded from Health and Medical section of the FCPS Forms Webpage: http://www.fcps.edu/forms.shtml

Quarter 1 Interim Reports for Parents

What is an Interim Report? An interim report is designed to inform parents about their child’s progress in each of the subject areas and their behavior. Braddock sends a quarterly interim to parents a few weeks prior to the progress report card being sent home.

How do I read the Interim Report? When you receive your child’s interim report, attached you will find a parent cover letter that explains how your child is being graded in each of the academic and social behavior areas. If you should have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.
**Holidays in United States**

**Religious and Cultural Observances**

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Free Parent Workshop: How to Help Your Child Succeed in School

This Spanish workshop is designed to help Latino parents understand their role in helping their children succeed in school through practical strategies presented by experts.

Light snacks and childcare will be provided.

**Thursday, October 8, 2015**

6-8:30 p.m.

Culmore United Methodist Church
5901 Leesburg Pike,
Falls Church, VA 22041

To confirm your attendance call Norma Lopez, 571-291-1960 or Alejandra Caballero, 703-531-4639, before October 6th.