It was exciting to welcome all our students and their energy into our school this past Tuesday! We are thrilled to be off to a wonderful start to the 2015-2016 school year, and look forward to partnering with both our new and returning families as we journey through this new academic year. Together we will ensure meaningful and fulfilling educational experiences for your child.

While we know it will be a busy first week for everyone, we ask that you take time this week to go through the First Day Packet and Friday Folder. There are important documents that need to be read, and in many cases, completed and returned to school with your child. As the year progresses, we will continue to provide our families timely and relevant communication, as well as offer a number of opportunities to get involved in school activities.

Mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATES for our annual Back-to-School Night (BTSN) Events that can be found in the Calendar Events section which is located to the left. During BTSN, our goal is: to provide an opportunity for you to deepen your knowledge and understanding of Fairfax County Public Schools, meet our faculty and staff that will be working with your child throughout the school year, and learn about grade level curriculum and specific grade level processes. For more information and a specific schedule, please see the flyer attached to this edition of The Eagle Express.

Upon arrival to BTSN, please be sure to go directly to the cafeteria where you will view a brief welcome to Braddock video via television broadcast. You will also get to meet the Braddock staff, PTA members, and a few of our business partners. After this brief meeting, parents will then here from the grade level team. This information session will provide parents with a brief overview of the grade level curriculum, homework and classroom expectations, interims and progress reports, and other valuable information. Once complete, parents will then proceed to their child’s teacher’s classroom where you will get to see firsthand the learning environment, your child’s schedule, and other pertinent information that you will need to ensure that your child has a successful school year.

Parents will be asked to provide feedback on our BTSN event, so we can make this important evening as informative and helpful as possible.

We look forward to having you as partners this educational year!

Keesha Jackson-Muir, Principal
Braddock’s annual Open House took place on Thursday, September 3, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are proud to announce Braddock had over 900 visitors and 470 students signed in and met their classroom teacher. On behalf of the Braddock staff, I want to thank our families for taking time out of their busy schedule to come to Braddock Elementary. We hope you had a great time. For those families who were not able to make it, please view the pictures below.

Thank you for coming to our Annual Open House😊
STUDENT ARRIVAL & DISSMISAL PROCEDURES

Braddock Elementary is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable learning environment. We also recognize the importance of the school and community working together and request that you read this information carefully and follow the policies and procedures outlined. In order to provide maximum safety for students as they arrive to and leave from school daily, we want to review with you the arrival and dismissal procedures for students.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Students may enter the building at 8:30 a.m. Students who are having breakfast may enter the building as early as 8:25 a.m. Parents who arrive earlier than this time are asked to remain with their child.

In order to drop off car riders (Kiss-N-Ride) in the morning, please proceed to the Kiss-N-Ride sign posted by the cafeteria entrance near the gymnasium, which is our primary parking area. Students will use the doors for exit 5 when entering. Students should exit the car on the passenger side only. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and be prepared to move quickly when students exit the car. There is only one carpool line and students should never exit their cars in the parking area to walk through Kiss-N-Ride traffic without a parent.

If you are bringing your child to school after 8:45 a.m., parents must accompany their child when entering the school using the front entrance (Exit 1). Please be sure to check your child in at our tardy desk. The tardy desk will be open from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m., we ask that parents come into the office and sign their child in.

Keep in mind that students will not be allowed to go to their classrooms until 8:45 a.m. Please remember that students should be seated in the classrooms and ready to start the day by 8:45 a.m., so it is important that they arrive between the hours of 8:25 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. If students are late to school, parents/guardians must sign their child in at the office. Do not send students to the office alone to sign in. Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to return to school to sign in late students who are sent into the building alone.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

All students will be kept in the building until it is their time to be dismissed. Please understand that Braddock has over 550 walkers. Safety is our first priority. We make every effort to help students connect with a familiar person so that they can get home safely. In order to ensure the safety of students during dismissal time, we ask parents/guardians/families to do the following:

1. Parents/Family Members should wait outside of the building in an orderly fashion in Area 2 or Areas 3 (See below in RED).
2. Parents/Family Members should inform their children how they will be going home. Students are often confused when their family members change the way that they come home. Therefore, we ask you to be clear and consistent with your child’s way of going home. A change in the routine should be in written form and given to the classroom teacher or the front office. Parents can also call the school and inform the front office.
3. Parents/Family Members should be patient with the process remembering Braddock has over 550 walkers.
3 DESIGNATED AREAS FOR DISMISSAL

Area 1: Front of the building (Exit door # 1) which is for students who ride the bus or take a van home

Area 2: Gym (Exit door # 4 & Exit door # 5) which is for students who walk home

Attention Parents with Students in Grades 3 through 5:
There are four options for older students who walk home:
1. I understand that my child is old enough to walk home from school and I give permission for my child to walk home by themselves. I understand that the school is not liable.
2. I give permission for my child to walk home with a sibling/buddy. I understand that school is not liable. The name(s) of the child(ren) my child will be walking home with are: ____________________________
3. I give permission for my child to leave Braddock ES at dismissal time and meet me on Braddock ES grounds. My child knows where to meet me. I understand that the school is not liable.
4. I will wait in line and pick up my child from the gym.

Attention Parents with Students in Grades 1 and 2:
There are three options for younger students:
1. I understand that my child is not old enough to walk home from school and still give permission for my child to walk home with a sibling/buddy. The name(s) of the child(ren) my child will be walking home with are: ____________________________
2. I give permission for my child to leave Braddock ES at dismissal time and meet me on Braddock ES grounds. My child knows where to meet me and I take full responsibility for my child’s safety.
3. I will wait in line and pick up my child from the gym.

Attention Parents with Students in Head Start and Kindergarten
There are two options for parents with Head Start and/or Kindergarten children:
1. I have older students at Braddock ES and I wish to pick them up with me Head Start and/or Kindergarten child. Please make sure that all of my children are located near the Head Start/Kindergarten dismissal area.
2. I will come to Exit door # 4 to pick up my Head Start and/or Kindergarten child.

Area 3: Cafeteria (Exit door # 3) which is for students who are car riders/ Kiss-N-Ride
- Because of our limited pickup area, we strongly encourage parents to remain in their cars.
- Individual students are called and escorted to their cars as their rides arrive.
- All families who opt to have their child participate in Kiss-N-Ride will be issued two carpool cards with their child’s name on it, which will help us with an efficient dismissal and ensure that we do not release students to anyone without a carpool card with their child’s name on it.
  - These cards should be visibly displayed in the front window so that our staff members can read the name of the student.

We apologize for any inconvenience our dismissal process has caused to our families.
Please remember that your child’s safety is our first and foremost priority. Therefore we ask for your patience as we continue to tweak the process.
EARLY CHECKOUT

- In order to maximize instructional time and maintain an orderly school environment and safe dismissal, **no student may be checked out of the office between 3:15 and 3:40 p.m. unless it is an emergency or you have made arrangements with the front office.** Your cooperation is appreciated.
- Parents should come into the building if they are signing their child out of school early (before 3:15 p.m.) or if they have a scheduled parent/teacher conference (after 3:40 p.m.). Because of dismissal responsibilities, teachers will not be available to converse until this time unless you have made previous arrangements. Teachers are providing instruction or supervising students and do not always have time to talk with you. Please request a conference time or leave a message and the teacher will respond as soon as possible.

VISITOR ASSIST- Signing-in and Signing-out at Braddock Elementary School

Braddock has been upgraded to a new sign-in/sign-out system. For first time visitors, which are everyone, please have a driver’s license available to use to sign into the system. If you do not have a driver’s license, then you will need to enter all of your information into the system. You will then need to have your photo taken. Our front office staff has been trained on how to use the system and will assist you, if you need assistance. Directions are also posted next to the machine for your convenience.

This process will be used for all Braddock family members, business partners, and visitors who come to our school. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding that we want to keep all of our students and staff members safe.

Parent Text Messaging Feature Coming to Keep in Touch (KIT)

Parent cell phone numbers listed in SIS will enable them to receive text messages the week of September 14. A short article that this feature is coming will be in this week’s edition My FCPS Family. FCPS will also send notification to parents via email (and voice message if the student record does not contain an email address) the evening before this occurs with opt out instructions if parents do not wish to receive text messages. The intention of this feature will be used for emergency messages, attendance, and essential communications from the school.

Braddock uses KIT messaging on a weekly basis to communicate with families. Each **Friday** you will receive a KIT message (voice mail) with or without an attachment (Family Newsletter- The Eagle Express). These KIT messages are to keep families informed about the events and happenings at Braddock Elementary School. Communication is Key!

**Holidays in United States**

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