August 2016

Dear Park Brook Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!

The mission of District 279 and Park Brook Elementary is “to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.”

This past school year Park Brook Elementary posted strong academic growth, which we have enjoyed the past few years. I care about the academic scores because I believe it is essential to provide students with an outstanding education, and I am determined to have Park Brook Elementary be an outstanding school for the children I am entrusted with each school day! While we carefully analyze our academic data so that we can increase academic achievement, I want Park Brook to be a school where children receive a well-rounded education, and enjoy learning and being in school. I want students to feel that school is fun!

Park Brook Elementary has a Focus on Fitness initiative because of the academic benefits for students. Focusing on fitness is about preparing students for learning so that the students are prepared to gain the most from academic instruction. This focus also benefits students physically, creates opportunities for students, and increases positive behaviors.

Personally, I have had some wonderful experiences this summer while so keenly aware of the hurt and pain both locally and around the world this summer. I have spent time on my bike, camping, a trip to Texas and reading. I feel prepared for the coming school year so that I can be a part of the change our world needs by preparing my students for a bright future. While the needs of the world are great, Park Brook is where I focus my energy to create change for the children I serve.

I hope the remaining days of summer for your family will be filled with wonderful memories, whether that be picnics, visiting the Como Zoo, going to Minnehaha Falls or the countless other opportunities available in the Twin Cities. You can prepare your child for the coming school year by enjoying time together—reading together, eating meals together, taking walks, and so on!

I look forward to greeting you at our Open House on Tuesday, August 30 and welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday, September 6!

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Taylor

Visit our website for valuable information!
http://schools.district279.org/pb/
Park Brook Elementary School Hours

8:30 am—Staff supervision of students in front of school
8:40 am—K-5 students enter building (*students should be here by 8:40*)
8:50 am—Instruction Begins
   9:00 – 11:30 am—Morning Pre-kindergarten
   12:40 – 3:10 pm—Afternoon Pre-kindergarten
3:20 pm—K-5 students dismissed

The school parking lot is small. It is not possible to fit all cars into the lot to pick up students right at 3:20. **It is a tremendous help if parents of K-5 students come between 3:20 and 3:30 rather than being here at 3:20 if you are picking up your child.**

For your child’s safety, if you are driving your child to school, please make sure that you are pulled all the way over to a curb so that your child enters and exits the car from/to a curb rather than the center of the parking lot. Students are not permitted to walk across the parking lot without an adult.

The bus circle is for busses, daycare vehicles and transportation provided by the district. Please do not pull into the bus circle to drop off/pick-up your child. We kindly request that you not walk-through the bus circle.

Parents or guardians are responsible for sending a note or calling the school if there is a change in how your child will go home after school. Please call or send a note with your child if there will be a change; please do not ask your child to tell us that they are going home in a different way.

We do not have supervision for students prior to 8:30 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m.

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**Breakfast & Lunch:**

Costs:

- Breakfast: **Free** for all students.
- Lunch: (full lunch with milk): **$2.55** (see information below regarding free lunch)

The electronic lunch system works like a checking account. Parents deposit money into each student’s account. When a student buys lunch, it is automatically deducted from their account. When the student’s account falls below $3.00, the child is notified. Please send money to cover a week or two of lunches. **Make checks payable to ISD #279, or Park Brook.**

Each year families are required to fill out the forms for free/reduced lunches in order to receive the reduced or free lunches. There is a short grace period, but if forms are not filled out families will be charged for lunches and families are responsible for the lunch charges prior to the forms being filled out.

There is a link on our website or you can fill out the form at Open House.

Please return this application to school **as soon as possible.** We are glad to receive them in August. Without an approved application form, your child will be charged full price for lunch.

If you have any questions about lunch, please call (763) 561-6870 extension 317.
**Absences & Tardies:**

Please call the school to report that your child will be late for school or will be absent. If the absence is not reported, it is **UNEXCUSED**.

⇒ Before 8:00 a.m. call 763-549-2408
⇒ After 8:00 a.m. call 763-561-6870

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** When students are absent, leave early or come late to school due to an appointment, **they are required to bring a note from the doctor, dentist, etc. for this to be an excused absence or tardy.**

**Important Information:**

Park Brook Elementary office will be **closed** the following times the week before school:

- Monday, August 29 until 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 30 after 3:00 p.m. to prepare for Open House.
- Wednesday, August 31 for staff development.

**Summer Office Hours**
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(The office is closed for an hour sometime between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.)

**Office Hours beginning Tuesday, September 6**
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

⇒ Park Brook Elementary and ISD 279 are not responsible for toys or electronics that students bring to school. Please supervise what students bring to school. Generally there is no need for students to bring toys to school. If students need to bring a cell phone to school they are highly encouraged to bring it to the office, turn it in, and pick it up at the end of the day. By keeping the cell phone in the office, it is safe. If a situation arises where an electronic device or toy is a disruption, the device may be confiscated and a parent or guardian must come in to pick it up.

⇒ Parents are responsible for reading and understanding the information in the ISD 279 Parent Handbook. We ask that you read it, not necessarily for agreement, but for understanding. There will be a Park Brook Behavior Expectation Handbook going home in the first couple weeks of school that we ask you to read and review with your child. After it is reviewed in the classroom, we will ask parents to sign that they have received a copy of the handbook.

⇒ All information/communication regarding Park Brook is sent home EVERY WEDNESDAY. **It is very important that you check your child’s backpack** daily but especially on Wednesdays to stay current on important information.

⇒ **All students will** participate in physical education every other day and will go outside for recess unless the weather is below negative 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Please make sure they are dressed so that they can participate and have fun while being safe.
Focus on Fitness

Park Brook Elementary is intentional in increasing opportunities for students to be engaged in physical fitness activities for the purpose of increasing academic achievement and for the health benefits for each student. Research indicates that increasing movement and fitness increases academic achievement because it prepares the brain for learning.

Fitness Stations

There are two sets of fitness stations outside that can be used by the public during non-school hours. During the school day the stations can be used during physical education classes, Morning Move, Boot Camp, and during recess. These stations were paid for by NFL’s Fuel Up to Play 60.

Boot Camp

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
3:20-4:15 p.m.
Monday, September 12 – Thursday, October 6
Kindergarten-5th grade

Boot Camp is designed to increase physical fitness for the benefit of academic achievement. In addition, this is designed to be a fun time to engage students in school!

Register at Open House!

Students who are enrolled in Park Brook the first week of school must register by Friday, Sept. 9 to participate.

Morning Move

Morning Move is a before school exercise program designed to give students an opportunity to have fun and get exercise before school to prepare them for learning. This program will begin in October.

Girls on the Run

This is an afterschool program that incorporates running and character education. The program meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:20-4:50 for girls in grade 3-5, beginning the first day of school. Space is limited. Students will be selected after applications have been turned in from all interested students. The girls will run in a 5K on Saturday, November 12!

Applications will be available at Open House and on the Park Brook website.

Twin Cities 5K

Sponsored by: Medtronic and Twin Cities in Motion
Saturday, October 8

Students in grades K-5 are welcome and encouraged to join the fun! Registration information will be coming home after the beginning of the school year.
Wellness Committee

Students in fourth and fifth grades will have the opportunity to serve on the Wellness Committee. This committee meets once-a-month before school to plan and implement ways to keep the wellness initiative moving forward at Park Brook Elementary.

Parents are welcome to join the Wellness Committee which meets at 7:45 a.m. once-per-month on Tuesdays. The schedule of meetings will be available at Open House.

Kinesthetic Seating

Stability Seats
Stability seats are used in a number of classrooms at Park Brook Elementary. The purpose is to have students using their core muscles during instruction. Not only does it build core strength, moving during instruction benefits academic achievement.

Hokki Stools
Hokki Stools are used in several classrooms. The stools have a rounded bottom which means the students must use their feet for stability. These stools are designed to increase attentiveness during instruction.

Brain Boosts
Each morning we begin the day with an all-school exercise to prepare students for learning. Throughout the day teachers will incorporate movement to increase student attention and academic growth.

Salad Bar
Park Brook Elementary is the only elementary school in District 279 to have a salad bar as a lunch entrée option for students. This option is open to students in grades 3 – 5. We will be teaching the students how to take enough so that they have plenty to eat but to judge how much to take so that there is not waste. While students are charged the same amount as if they were taking the main entrée the cost to offer the salad bar is more and therefore we try to minimize waste as much as possible. Encourage your child to eat from the salad bar when it is offered.

Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge
Students at Park Brook Elementary have the opportunity to achieve the Presidential or National Physical Fitness Challenge Awards. The program has changed from strictly physical fitness tests to participation in physical fitness activities to develop a lifestyle of physical fitness. More information will be shared in physical education classes and you can find specific assessment requirements on Park Brook’s website.

Field Trips
Field trips will be offered outside of the school day to provide both fitness opportunities and new experiences for students. The field trip will determine the grades that the field trip is open to. While there is no charge for field trips, we do require a ‘commitment fee’ when turning in permission slips for field trips outside of the school day. The commitment fee is returned to all who notify us prior to the trip that they are not able to attend and to all who participate. There are costs associated with field trips and we must have an accurate count of students participating.

Applications will be available at Open House and on the Park Brook website.
The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) released new research on sleep. A link to the full article is available on the Park Brook website. This research is based upon review of 864 scientific articles related to sleep and health in children.

- Children three to five years of age should sleep 10 to 13 hours per 24 hours (including naps).
- Children six to twelve years of age should sleep 9 to 12 hours per 24 hours.

Getting the sleep mentioned above is associated with better overall health outcomes, including:
- Improved attention,
- Positive behaviors,
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotional regulation (better moods)
- Mental health
- Physical health

Tips to increase sleep:
- Keep computers, iPads, cellphones, televisions and electronics out of kids’ bedrooms. Perhaps have a rule that electronics are kept in the kitchen, living room or parents’ room at night. Kids are tempted, just as adults, to continually use their electronics and will stay up to use it instead of sleeping,
- Avoid having kids drink caffeine (pop) at night,
- The caffeine in chocolate can keep some kids from sleeping,
- Have routines to start slowing down for the night—brushing teeth, a story in bed to begin relaxing, and so on,
- Make sure kids get enough exercise during the day so their bodies need the sleep!

**DRESS CODE**

*Children are expected to be clean, neat and dressed appropriately for the school day. Clothing must not interfere with the educational process, and must comply with requirements for health and safety.*

Parents, please monitor your child’s choice of dress by adhering to the following guidelines:

- **Shirts must** cover the entire midsection, have no language or illustrations that are offensive, nor have “spaghetti straps”. Straps should be at least 1.5” wide.
- **Shorts/skirts must** come to the bottom of the finger tips when the student is standing.
- **Jackets and coats** may not be worn during the school day.
- **Hats, caps, or headwear** (including hoods) is prohibited, except during school-sponsored events and/or for cultural, religious or medical reasons, with the principal’s approval.
- **Pants** must be at a length so that the student will not trip on them and fit so that the student can run during recess and physical education without having to hold their pants with their hands. No undergarments should be showing.

*Park Brook Elementary does not have a supply of clothing for students dressed inappropriately or for use during physical education or recess.*
upcoming Events

AUGUST 30, 2016
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Meet your teacher, tour the school, deposit money in your lunch account and bring school supplies to your classroom.

First Day of School
Tuesday
September 6, 2016
8:50 a.m.

JOIN US at PARK BROOK for a
New Families Dinner
Pre K—Kindergarten—All families new to Park Brook
Tuesday, September 20
(Details to follow)

P.T.O. MEETING
Tuesday, September 20
6:00-7:00 p.m.

WHO IS MY TEACHER?
Class lists will be posted at the front door at 1:00 p.m.
on Tuesday, August 30.
STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP AND VISITOR PARKING INFORMATION

Students may be dropped off in the SouthWest parking lot. There will be NO STOPPING OR PARKING in the drive through lane. This is a fire lane, and violators could be ticketed.

If you are DROPPING OFF students, you should pull into the zones on the FAR RIGHT.

If you are PARKING your car, you should continue on through the lot and pull into the parking spaces on your RIGHT as you drive through.

Students are never permitted to walk across the parking lot without an adult.

ONLY BUSES and commercial daycare vans are permitted to use the SouthEast bus circle.

You may also drop off students at Hartkopf Park by driving into the small parking lot in the park across from the school. Patrols will be stationed there to cross students safely.

Walk—good exercise and helps our parking situation!

Thank you for your attention to the safety of all of our students.

Safety First!
PARK BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

The following supplies are needed by students to start the 2016-2017 school year. All children will need to have tennis shoes that tie or velcro (no slip-ons) for Physical Education.

**KINDERGARTEN**

- 1 LARGE backpack  (*no wheels please*)
- Small plastic school box  
  (*approx. size 10 x 5 x 2*)
- 2 spiral notebooks (*wide ruled*)
- 2 (#2) yellow pencils  (*sharpened*)
- tennis shoes

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.

- 1 low odor or odorless dry erase marker  
  *NOT labeled*
- 1 box kleenex (*large*)  *NOT labeled*
- disinfecting wipes  *NOT labeled*
- 1-ream of white paper

**1st GRADE**

- 1 scissors
- 1 LARGE backpack (*no wheels please*)
- 1 wide rule spiral notebooks
- 2 folders – 1-blue, 1-color choice
- 2 boxes of 24 crayons
- 1 water color paints
- 20 yellow #2 pencils-sharpened
- 1 pkg of 12 glue sticks*
- 1 highlighter markers*
- 2 black dry erase markers (fat)*
- 1 box basic color markers
- Clipboard
- School box (*10 x 5 x 2*)

*Items with an asterisk* will be used as community supplies, no need to label them.

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.

- 1 box Ziploc sandwich size bags
- 2 pkg disinfecting wipes
- 1 large box of kleenex
- 1-ream of white paper

**2nd GRADE**

- 10-#2 yellow pencils
- 1 box crayons
- 1 large rubber eraser
- 1 scissors
- 1 large bottle **WHITE** glue
- School box
- 2 wide line **SPIRAL** notebooks
- 1 water color paints
- 1 box basic color markers
- Dry erase markers (fat)
- tennis shoes
- 3 pocket folders – laminated
- 1 pair of earbuds (*inexpensive/cheap*)

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.

- disinfecting wipes
- 1 large box kleenex
- 1-ream of white paper

Be sure to **LABEL** all supplies and bring them to school at open house in the fall or the first day of school.

**Osseo Area Schools**

**ISD 279**
3rd GRADE

- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 ink pen or fine liner
- 1 box color crayons
- 1 wooden ruler (inches and centimeters)
- 1 scissors
- 3 glue sticks
- 4 wide line 1-subject SPIRAL notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
tennis shoes
- 2 boxes #2 pencils-sharpened if possible
- 1 large rubber eraser or
1 pkg. pencil top erasers
- 1-1 inch - 3 ring binder with transparent slip
cover and folder pockets inside.
NOT a Trapper Keeper
- LARGE pencil zipper pouch
- book bag

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.
- disinfecting wipes
- 2 large boxes kleenex
- 1-ream of white paper

4th GRADE

- REGULAR sized pencil box to hold the following:
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 ink pen or fine line
- 1 highlighter-yellow
- 1 box color crayons
- 1 scissors
- 1 large glue stick
- 1 wooden ruler (inches and centimeters)
- 4 wide line 1-subject SPIRAL notebooks
- 5 pocket folders
tennis shoes
- 10 #2 pencils – sharpened
- 1 inch - 3 ring binder with transparent slip
cover and folder pockets inside.
NOT a Trapper Keeper
- 1 large rubber eraser
- backpack

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.
- disinfecting wipes
- 2 large boxes kleenex
- 1-ream of white paper

5th GRADE

- 1 pack colored pencils
- 3 glue sticks
- 1 ruler
- 1 calculator
- 1 3 ring binder
- pencils & pens (replenish often)
NO mechanical pencils
pencil sharpener-optional
- 5 pocket folders- 1 ea. red, blue, yellow, green, 1 choice
- 5 – 1-subject spiral notebooks (1 ea. red, blue, green, yellow, 1 choice)
- 1 highlighter
- 1 scissors
- tennis shoes
- large pencil box or pouch
- 3-pack standard post-it-notes
- ear buds for iPad

We are asking for the following items as a voluntary donation for the classroom.
- disinfecting wipes
- large box kleenex
- 1-ream of white paper

Park Brook Supply List

The supplies listed are needed by students to start the 2016-2017 school year. All children will need to have tennis shoes that tie or velcro (no slip-ons) for Physical Education.

Be sure to LABEL all supplies and bring them to school at open house in the fall or the first day of school.