



The Husky Herald

A monthly newsletter from the Brunswick Junior High School

Volume 17, Issue 1 September 2019

Greetings, BJHS families!

I am excited to share that our students have had a busy week! Our grade level teams planned many fun connecting activities for the first day of school, ranging from “Come to the Mountain” to identifying themselves as superheroes. Our building was full of positive energy, enthusiasm, and kindness. Now that we have a few “regular” days under us, the comfort of routine is settling in.

As we wrap up our first week of school, I wanted to include a few reminders for you.

- If your student is a new-to-BJHS eighth grader or a current seventh grader, he/she must review our school policies around computer use with their parent/guardian. Many of you attended a presentation during our Open House that shared our procedures around the MLTI program. If you were not able to attend, please review the information on the BJHS Technology Department’s Main Page and pick up a technology use packet at BJHS. Once the information is reviewed, you need to sign along with your student that you understand the Brunswick School Department’s computer use policies, and turn the signature page in to the Main Office.
- Students being dropped off or biking/walking to school may report to the cafeteria for breakfast or to the gym for Morning Motion starting at 7:20.

Thank you to those who were able to join us for Open House on August 28! We hope that families who attended with their students were able to help make the transition back to school more positive. We would like to get your feedback regarding your Open House experience. If you would like to provide feedback, please visit the following link to complete an anonymous survey: <https://forms.gle/bUK2R55X7krB9F8R7> or go to our BJHS website for a linked announcement. Finally, I wanted to share with you four dates that will provide time for parents/guardians to come have conversations with me from 6:30-7:30pm: October 23, 2019; December 18, 2019; February 12, 2020; May 13, 2020. Each evening will have a focus topic that will be shared in advance. All are welcome to attend! Enjoy the rest of September, and I look forward to seeing you on our sidelines soon!

With gratitude,

Mandy Lewis





New Assistant Principal - Gabriel Schuft

Greetings Brunswick Junior High School community!

I am delighted and honored to be serving as the Assistant Principal at the Junior High. For 9 years I taught 7th and 8th grade language arts and social studies at RSU 40. I have a masters degree in social work and was a Clinical Social Worker in the school setting for 4 years. Last school year I was the Assistant Principal at Memorial Middle School in South Portland.

My educational philosophy is solidly centered around building positive relationships, fostering clear and honest communication and modeling student-centered decision making. I am deeply committed to a public education system that is efficient, responsive, equitable and rigorous, where the needs of students and families are at the center of everything we do.



I'm looking forward to a great year!

-Gabriel Schuft



Celebrate Attendance Awareness Month!



What can you do to keep your teen on track?

Make school a priority:

- ☐ Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- ☐ Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during school.
- ☐ Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.

Help your teen stay engaged:

- ☐ Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats.
- ☐ Encourage meaningful afterschool activities including sports and clubs.

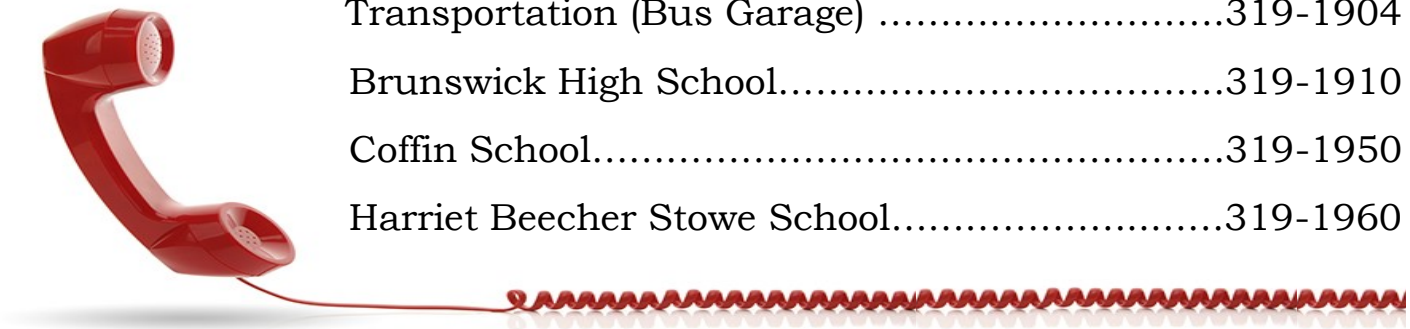
Communicate with the school:

- ☐ Know the school's attendance policy, and check on your child's attendance.



Useful Brunswick School Department Phone Numbers

Superintendent's Office.....	319-1900
Nutrition Program (School Lunches).....	319-1906
BJHS - Main Office.....	319-1930
BJHS—Guidance Office.....	319-1932
Transportation (Bus Garage)	319-1904
Brunswick High School.....	319-1910
Coffin School.....	319-1950
Harriet Beecher Stowe School.....	319-1960



Backpack Reminder:

Those big backpacks are a good way to transport items to and from school, but they are a safety concern in the hallways due to their size and the amount of students we have at the school. To assist with this, we ask that students use a smaller bag when moving from class to class, or to simply carry their materials. We offer a sturdy canvas string bag for only \$5.00 each in the Main Office. Thank you for supporting this practice.



Mark your Calendars:
School Picture Day is
Wednesday October 16



Mrs. Granholm

egranholm@brunswick.k12.me.us

Miss O'Leary

moleary@brunswick.k12.me.us

LATE PASSES: The warning bell rings at 7:47. At the 7:50 bell, the front doors are locked and students should be seated in their advisor classrooms. If students are late, they will need to come in through the front doors to the main office, sign in and have their hall pass signed (in the

back of their assignment notebook). If the student has a parent/guardian or doctor note, or the parent/guardian signs them in at the main office, the tardy will be excused. If not, it will be unexcused until a parent/guardian note is received.

PLANNED ABSENCE: If you know that your student is going to be missing school for travel or any other reason, please complete a planned absence form available in the main office.

ABSENCES: Anytime a student is absent from school, a parent/guardian note with signature must be presented to your student's advisor or the main office in order for the absence to be excused. We also appreciate a phone call to the office in the morning letting us know that your student will not be present (319-1930).

EARLY DISMISSALS: If a student needs to leave school early for an appointment, the student should bring in a parent/guardian note to the main office to have the dismissal noted as a hall pass in their assignment notebook. This will allow the student to show their teacher the hall pass to be dismissed to the office to await their pickup. It is the student's responsibility to remember to dismiss from class at the appointed time.

BUS PASSES: If a student needs to ride a different bus than the one assigned, the student must bring a signed note from the parent/guardian stating which bus they should take, the address they will be going to, and the reason for the change first thing in the morning. The bus garage must approve every request via the BJHS main office. Students may only be allowed on a different bus with a signed blue bus pass from the main office. **Approved reasons for a bus change are a change in child care/after school care or a family emergency.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the main office at 319-1930

(This information is found in your Student Planner/Assignment Notebook).



Hello! My name is Helen Tetu, the school nurse at the junior high. Please contact me you have any questions regarding the health office and your child.

Contact: 319-1937 htetu@brunswick.k12.me.us

Office Hours: 7:30 am to 2:45 pm.

Flu Shot Clinic

The Brunswick School Department will be hosting a free flu shot clinic on Saturday, October 13th for all Brunswick students, staff and community members from 8 am to 1 pm at the Harriet Beecher Stowe School. This will be the only day that the flu shot will be provided through the school system.

Breakfast Program

Please encourage your child to eat breakfast. We do offer a breakfast program at the junior high. For \$2.00 your child can choose cereal, muffin or bagel, and includes a piece of fruit, juice and milk. For children who receive a free or reduced lunch, this breakfast is free. Your child may eat this breakfast in the cafeteria or in their homeroom during morning advisor time.

Illness

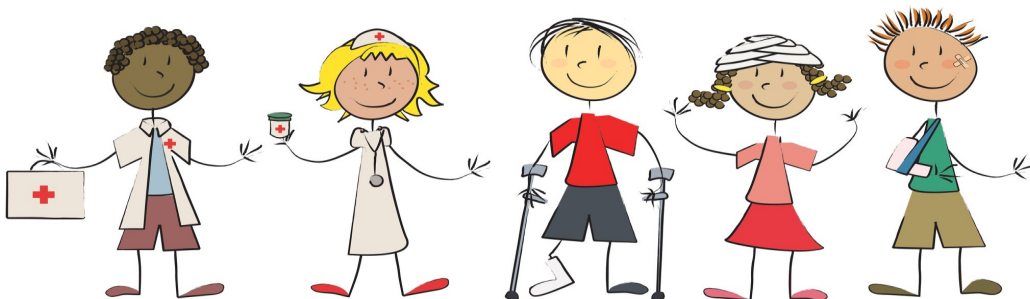
Please remember to call into the school's main office (319-1930) when your child is absent. It is helpful to know the reason your child is absent due to illness as this information helps me track the various illnesses that may be occurring.

**If your child is ill during school hours they must be
dismissed through the health office.**

Forms

Athletic forms signed by you and by a physician are mandatory for your child to participate in sports. They are available in my office or online on the school website.

Reminder – all medications must be sent in original containers and the medication in school form must be .completed for the medication to be given in school.



Helen Tetu, RN

BJHS School Nurse

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Mrs. Roy - aroy@brunswick.k12.me.us

Maquoit House

Islands: Bailey, Jewell, and Chebeague

Mrs. Nein - cnein@brunswick.k12.me.us

Merrymetting House

Islands: Birch, Great Diamond, Eagle

Welcome to the Jr. High School 6th graders, and welcome back 7th and 8th graders! We hope you had a wonderful Summer and are ready for an exciting school year. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you start school:

Junior high is an exciting time of change, growth, and discovery. It is expected for students to be excited and nervous about:

- New teachers, new building, and new classes
- Having more independence and responsibility
- A busy schedule
- New opportunities for clubs and sports

It will be important to start the year off in a positive way. Some ideas for heading off in the right direction include:

- Getting plenty of sleep and exercise, eating a healthy diet, and setting aside time to have fun with friends and family
- Talking to your school counselor or an adult that you trust if you are feeling upset, stressed, lonely or confused
- Practicing with a locker combination at home - this is one of the biggest worries for students starting off
- Choosing a club or sport to get involved in (contact Mrs. Roy or Mrs. Nein for the list of choices).

We look forward to seeing you soon!



6th, 7th and 8th Grade Math Teams will be starting on Wednesday, October 2. Mrs. Hebert coaches the 6th grade math team; Mrs. Russo coaches the 7th grade math team; and Mrs. Weddle coaches the 8th grade math team and the Math Counts team. Grade level math teams meet in the coach's classroom at 7:10am on Wednesday mornings. Listen to announcements for when the first practice will be. The Math Counts team will begin to practice after school as soon as the fall sports season is over. It is very challenging problem solving and it is open to all grade levels.



Brunswick School Department believes that our schools and students benefit greatly from the support of our community and consider volunteers to be valuable resources. We are committed to providing meaningful, well-supported opportunities for community members to enrich our school programming through the diverse expertise and experience they offer.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Brunswick schools, please complete and submit an online volunteer application through [Volgistics](#). Once the application is submitted and background check is completed, the appropriate school's Volunteer Coordinator will contact you with more information.

Thank you for being a part of the Brunswick School Community and for helping to create a valuable learning environment for each student in our schools!

Please feel free to contact the Central Office with any questions about this process at (207) 319-1900.

Volunteer Application Link: <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/parent-community-volunteer-information/>

Hello, it was great to see all the smiling faces both familiar and new during the first week of school. I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about some safety topics for parents and students here at the Brunswick Junior High.

The Junior High and Coffin School property has over 800 students present during the school day. The Police Dept. and the School Dept. share the responsibility of pedestrian and motor vehicle safety on the roadways and the parking lots adjacent to the schools. Every year, my office receives multiple complaints regarding reckless driving and speeding near the school. The streets adjacent to the schools are a posted 15 MPH school zone when children are present. Please abide by the speed limits on the road ways and drive with caution in school campus areas. Remember, if a school bus is displaying its red flashing lights while it is picking up or discharging students on school property or on the street, you may not pass by the bus until the driver turns off the red lights. There is a new law regarding this that will take effect on September 19th. This law will carry a mandatory license suspension. The above safety rules and laws were put in place to protect your children. Let's all try and do our part to keep the school campus a safe place for children to learn and have fun.

I welcome your comments or suggestions regarding school safety. Please contact me at the Junior High School at 319-1930 x3008.

Thank you.

Detective Thomas Stanton,

Brunswick Police Department



Garden Club



Join Mrs. Paquin on Friday afternoons from 2:45-3:45 pm to help with beautifying our Outdoor Classroom and front Garden.

Sign-up with Mrs. Paquin in room 103 or email kpaquin@Brunswick.k12.me.us

Adult Volunteers with proper school approval greatly appreciated.

This month we will be catching up on weeding and fall clean up.

On Friday September 13, we will meet in the back outdoor classroom by the Health Rooms





Fall Newsletter from BJHS Athletics

Brunswick Junior High School's athletic programs are designed to meet the developmental needs of students through age appropriate intramural and interscholastic activities. It is also a goal that students will develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding of activities along with a spirit of cooperation, acceptance, involvement, sportsmanship and healthy fun.

Mrs. Sharpe (grade 7 math teacher), after a two year hiatus, has returned to serve as the school's Athletic Director and students can find her in room 302. She can be reached via email as well.

ssharpe@brunswick.k12.me.us

Information about sports teams, paperwork, directions to away games, etc. can all be found on the Athletics Website.

In the fall season, we offer cross country, field hockey, and soccer.

Forms needed from each athlete:

Athletic Permission Form (parent & physician signature required before player can begin)

- *Athlete Contract (needed by Sept. 16)*
- *Eligibility Contract (being revised, players will get new contract after season begins)*
- *Emergency Contact form (needed by Sept. 16)*
- *Bus Transportation Agreement Form (needed by Sept. 16)*

Cross Country - This is a no-cut sport and all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are eligible to participate. The Cross Country Team will race in 4 regular season meets this fall. All runners will race in the Championship Meet at the end of the season. Cross Country practices are daily from 2:40-4:00pm

Field Hockey - This is a no-cut sport for girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. We have two teams. The "A" team is for experienced players and the "B" team is for players who may be less experienced. Some girls will swing and play on both teams to gain more experience. There are ten interscholastic games scheduled. Practices and games are Monday through Thursday. Fridays are optional "clinic days" with Coach Carrie Sullivan and her BHS Varsity Field Hockey players.

Soccer - We have soccer teams for both boys and girls open to 7th and 8th graders. Sixth graders play for Brunswick Youth Soccer League. Teams carry 16-20 players. There are ten interscholastic games scheduled. Practices and games are Monday through Friday. Practices are from 2:45-4 or 5-6:15.

NEWS FROM CURTIS LIBRARY

The most important school supply? A library card!

Now that your child is in middle school, it's the perfect time to get them their own library card. Stop by the Curtis Memorial Library at 23 Pleasant Street and fill out a library card application or go to the Curtis Memorial Library website: www.curtislibrary.com and fill the app online. It only takes minutes and the card – and everything a person can borrow with it – is free. Did you know the library has maker kits, a telescope, board games, e-readers and more in addition to the usual books, movies, music, audio-books, and magazines available to check out? All items go out for three weeks and, if no one is waiting for the item, can be renewed up to three times. Your student can order items from other libraries, download e-books, e-audios, and e-magazines, or do research from home using their library card. And the best part is that it won't cost anything.



Back by popular demand, a 6th Grade Book Club joins the 7th/8th Grade Book Club as an after school activity. The two clubs will alternate on Tuesday afternoons with the first meeting of the 7th/8th Grade Book Club in room 205 (Ms. LeBlanc's room) on Tuesday September 24, 2:30- 3:30. The first 6th Grade Book Club meeting is the following Tuesday October 1 in room 313 (Ms. Sullivan's room), 2:30 – 3:30. Hosted by Melissa Orth, teen librarian at Curtis Memorial Library, these clubs are for students who love to read and talk about books and do fun book related activities like LEGO challenges, scavenger hunts, and art projects. Come to the first meetings to learn more and if you can't make it due to fall sports, don't worry – join anytime!



Summer is a great time for engaging in creative play – sand castles, tree forts, and arts and crafts activities are memories that last a lifetime! Ms. Bucknam and Mrs. McCarthy are looking forward to seeing creative growth in all their students this year. Not only will your child take art class as part of his or her regular schedule, but there are also many other ways for you and your child to get involved in the arts here at the Junior High:

NEW ART NIGHTS! - We have exciting things planned for this school year! The Art Department will be hosting several fundraising Art Nights throughout the year open to both students and parents. On each Art Night a different fun and engaging art project will be created. Join us as we lead you through painting a masterpiece, create paint-your-own pottery as gifts for the holidays, make marbled paper to create your own sketchbook cover, and more! Our first Art Night will be a Paint Night on Friday, September 27th, from 7:00-9:00. Signups will be done online, and will be announced soon. **SAVE THE DATE!**

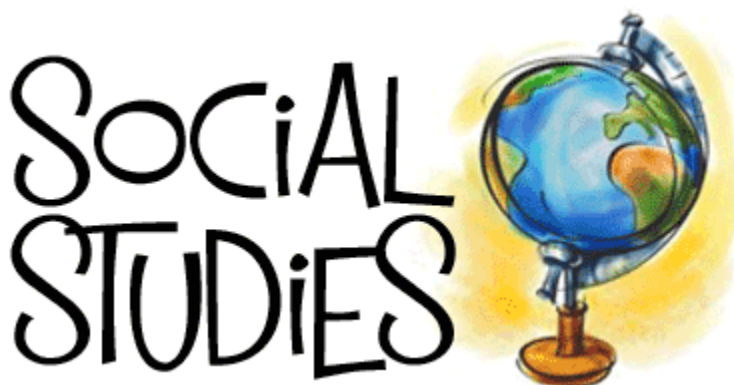
GIFTED AND TALENTED ART - GT Art is open to all grade levels, but is a very small program intended for those students who show significant talent and potential in the visual arts. The program offers accepted students unique opportunities, field trips and experiences beyond the art classroom. The application process involves the creation of an art portfolio and an artist statement – the Art Department will offer optional after-school help sessions for these requirements on October 1st and 3rd, and there will also be a help session during period 8 on Wednesday, October 2nd. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 9th.

ART CLUB - Art Club is an afterschool opportunity for any BJHS student who wants more opportunities for arts and crafts experiences in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Art Club is open to all students who wish to sign up, and is run as a winter intramural activity from January to April vacation. Art Club signups will be at the end of December.

Why Social Studies is an Essential Part of Middle School Education

Why is Social Studies such a valuable part of a student's education? There are many reasons for its importance.

For example, it teaches students to be critical thinkers and communicators about various issues. Learning about people's decisions in the past can help students when they make decisions now and in the future.



One of those decisions is how to engage in the democratic process. As Professor Stephanie Serriere writes, "Ultimately, we can't prepare children for living in a rich, diverse democracy if we don't expose them to topics inherent in our democracy." (<https://hechingerreport.org/how-social-studies-can-help-young-kids-make-sense-of-the-world>)

Another important outcome of studying social studies is that students can compare events and ideas of the past with what is happening now. Those critical thinking skills allow them to evaluate how decisions made in history affected people and the world in which they lived.

Having knowledge of issues and events, controversial or not, such as slavery, women's rights, workers' rights, and competing economic systems helps students make decisions about their own society.

Furthermore, those critical thinking skills are one of the top traits employers look for in a candidate. Unfortunately, a survey of employers done by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* found that these are the exact skills today's entry-level workers are lacking. (<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2013/09/bring-back-social-studies/279891/>)

Finally, students can become strong written and oral communicators who know how to structure and articulate their opinions.

Some Ways to Help Your Child Engage in Social Studies

- Discuss a news article, story or even podcast with your child and encourage your child to express his/her opinion. You can even ask how it's similar to or different from historical events or topics they've learned about in school.
- Talk about the process you use to create a family budget.
- Visit the Pejepscot Historical Society and learn about Brunswick's History. It's free (However, the Chamberlain and Skolfield-Whittier Houses do charge an admission fee)
- Learn about the Arctic by visiting the Peary-Macmillan Museum at Bowdoin. It too is free.
- Go to a Town Council or School Board Meeting with your child.
- Take the U.S. Citizenship test with your child. Here's a link <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/100q.pdf>