



August 16, 2016

Dear Brooklands Parents/Guardians,

It is with great enthusiasm, I welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year! Hopefully, the summer has provided you with many memorable moments to spend time with your family and friends amid the glories of summer weather. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as the principal of such an exemplary school and community where learning is visible, valued and stimulates deeper thinking. As the days grow shorter and the geese begin to gather for their trek south, I am reminded that the beginning of a school year is truly a special time, and I am eagerly looking forward to partnering with you as we continue to nurture the ongoing growth and development of your child.

During the 2016-2017 school year, we will continue to build upon and refine our proven foundation of hard work, revered traditions and continued excellence in education. The Rochester Community Schools vision remains.... College Ready. Career Ready. Live Ready.

I am proud to say our staff of highly qualified professional educators and support personnel is committed, refreshed and ready to continue providing our students many opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom. We invite and encourage students and parents to work in partnership to seize opportunities in supporting our mission where Brooklands encourages responsibility, respect and integrity.

This summer, the 1927 Brooklands School building (no longer inhabited) was carefully demolished. Many of the staff and community have memories of beautifully crafted, quaint school building which housed many generations of students with the comfortable sense of family and community. In fact, I was a student teacher in the "old" Brooklands School back in 1981, with memories that this part of Oakland County still had a countryside feeling!! My drive from my family home in Birmingham seemed so far away! I taught in the private sector for years, operated a home group daycare and returned to RCS in 1998 only to complete a full circle by returning to the "new" Brooklands in 2002.



Also, this summer IT upgrades were made in our building providing us with smooth and quick access in the use of computers and other technology dependent on Wi-Fi. These changes are just two of many improvements made to Brooklands so far. These improvements are tied to our district's strategic plan and as a result of passing the Bond in 2016! We are ever so grateful for your involved support of the Bond and Rochester Community Schools Strategic Plan.



GCA, our custodial staff, Mr. Chris and Ms. Zena have been working diligently to thoroughly prepare classrooms, halls, and bathrooms to make ready for another school year.

The halls are shiny, polished and classrooms look beautiful!

Our PTA board has been busy too, diligently planning meetings and family activities like Father- Daughter Dance, Mother- Son Bowling, Fall Harvest and more! They have also continued to encourage participation in maintaining our grounds especially the outdoor classroom enjoyed by our teachers and students. If you would like to help spruce up the outdoor classroom on August 20, please contact our PTA President, Kim Perkins at [Kim\\_Perkins@ajg.com](mailto:Kim_Perkins@ajg.com).

### **Summer Book Club Professional Learning**

The Brooklands teachers fill their summers with fun in the sun, and time with families and friends too, but they also draw on opportunities to take graduate classes, join book clubs and work in committees to continue growth in their professional development. This summer many teachers joined me in reading and studying the book; **Creating Cultures of Thinking; The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools** by Ron Ritchart. As we continue to grow as learners ourselves, we are able to create a culture of thinkers where each individual's thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted on a daily basis.



## Positive Behavior Intervention Committee

Another group of teachers spent many hours working on ways the school staff can promote positive behavior choices. Part of that work includes working with our social workers to support their classroom lessons. These lessons, facilitated by our social workers, teach students healthy ways to identify and



regulate their feelings and behaviors. The Zones of Regulation curriculum provide students with common language and clear visuals to support their growth toward self-regulation. This committee is also very involved in creating character lessons for the monthly Bear Den, multi-age group meetings. We are also looking at the work of Stephen and Sean Covey by reading their book **The Leader in Me**. This resource will support our efforts in empowering children to be in charge of their daily actions and learning.

### Opening Day!!

Brooklands will open its doors for students on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, which will be a full day beginning at **8:55 a.m.**, and ending at **3:58 p.m.** Upon arrival to Brooklands, returning students should line up at their identified grade level posted on the doors in front of the school. Parents can wait with their children and enter the building when the teacher meets the class at the door (this is a little different than years past). Parents can escort the children to class on the first day and join the PTA in the media center for a welcome meeting where coffee and treats will be served.

### FOOD SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch is available on the first day of school. Breakfast is \$1.30 and lunch is \$2.80. Ala carte milk is \$ .50. Meal menus can be found on the RCS website under Food Services. Free and reduced food applications are available in the front office.

### Important Information Provided to the Oldest/Only Student

Each family will receive one copy of Rochester Community Schools' Code of Conduct. Please take a moment during the first few days/weeks of school to review the content of the Code of Conduct and other important information arriving from the office and your child's teacher.

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL** Parents driving their child to school must use the "parent drop-off, and pick-up area", which is located on the east side of the school. During arrival and dismissal times (8:45 -9:00 and 3:45 – 4:05) the drive directly in front of the main entrance is reserved for busses **only**.

**Please mark your calendars for the following events in September:**

***World of Welcome*** –Meet your child’s teacher before the first day of school on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2:00 -3:00 p.m. and meet the PTA!

***First Day of School*** – Tuesday, September 6 ~ PTA Welcome Meeting 9:15 in the Media Center

***School Picture Day*** – Tuesday, September 13

***Fall Family Harvest*** - Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 -8:00 p.m. - PTA sponsored event with more details to follow.

***Curriculum Night***- Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Grades K-2 6:30 -7:15 PM

Grades 3-5 7:30 -8:15 PM

***Students -Detroit Lions Assembly*** – Friday, September 23 ~ 9:30 – 10:15 AM

We look forward to a very positive and productive school year! With warm regards we extend a yearlong invitation to join us at all of our school activities, PTA meetings, and special events whenever possible. We encourage you also to speak to your child’s teacher about volunteer opportunities in the classroom! We continue to value your involvement and support in your child’s education. Your active involvement is key to the success of your ‘Brooklands Bear’!!

Again, I welcome you to Brooklands Home of the Bears and to our learning community where a culture of thinking is established and learning is a consequence! (Ron Ritchart).



Together in teaching and learning,

Teresa Simonetti, Principal