



*The Briarwood Elementary PTO presents*



## **NEW #BE FAMILY ORIENTATION**

**Tuesday, August 28th, 5:30 - 6:00 pm**  
**Parent Meet & Greet, 6:00 - 6:30 pm**

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**Welcome to the New Family  
Orientation Tuesday, August 28, 2018  
5:30 pm**

**Important information:**

Briarwood Elementary School  
265 Lovers Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42103  
(270) 782-5554  
<http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Home>  
Principal: Lori Morris ([lori.morris@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:lori.morris@warren.kyschools.us))  
Asst Principal: Wes Cottongim ([wes.cottongim@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:wes.cottongim@warren.kyschools.us))  
Janice Lockwood, Family Resource Coordinator, 270-783-4599  
Transportation: [briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us)

**Communication**

All teachers have an official email address. You can find it using this link: <http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Staff> If you have a question about your child's classroom experience, begin with the teacher! Many teachers send home a weekly newsletter electronically or on paper and share information on a classroom Facebook page, Twitter or a Remind account.

***For general information, Briarwood has active Facebook and Twitter accounts:***

**FB:** Briarwood Huskies and Briarwood Elementary PTO

**Twitter:** @BriarwoodES and @Briarwood\_PTO (Not on twitter? Follow @BriarwoodES using the school's webpage-- <http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Home> )

Be sure to read the school's Husky Happenings weekly newsletter and read the electronic sign on Lover's Lane.

**Transportation**

- **Parking:** park in the lot in front of the school or park along the street off of Ironwood
- **Morning drop-offs:** Please use the car rider line, which opens at 8 am (off of Ironwood Drive). Please pull your vehicle up to and let your child out in front of car rider staff. If you choose to come to the office doors, you must park your car in the main parking lot and walk your child into the building. The car line gate closes by 8:30 a.m.
- **Car Rider:** reminders: don't pass other cars in the car line unless directed to by staff; be sure your child can get in and out of the seat safely and independently; be respectful of our neighbors—stay alert!
- **Pick up:** Use the car-rider line to pick up your kids after school. For the safety of our children, we do not allow office pick up between 3:30-3:45 so that we can concentrate on getting our 800+ students home by bus or by car. All vehicles must clearly display the car rider tag with the child(ren)'s names. Please do not be offended if staff question who is picking up your child. It is intended to keep all children safe. When you have an appointment that occurs immediately after dismissal, please come to the front office.  
**Students must be signed out if leaving school grounds before classes are dismissed.**

- **New program!** K-kids Ushers will now be walking kindergartners and other new students walk from the busses and the car rider lines to morning meeting
- **Transportation changes** must be made in writing either by sending a note in your child's folder or emailing [briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us) by 2:30 pm. Please write the child's name and the teacher's name in the note.
- **Security:** When you come into the building, wait to be buzzed into the office. Parents must sign in and wear visitor tags when in the building.
- **Lunch dates:** We welcome your presence in our school! Visitors wishing to come to eat with a student must be on the child's emergency card and may only eat with that child at the designated tables at the back of the cafeteria (toward the food line). The peanut table should remain open for students with food allergies.

### Food Allergies

- We at Briarwood want all of our kids to be healthy and safe—so please share your concerns and help us to help you! If your child has an allergy, please alert your child's teacher and begin to work through the precautions that need to be taken. Work with your doctor to complete an "allergy action plan," which are available in the front office.
- If your child has a life-threatening allergy, you will need to initiate and develop a 504 plan.
- Be sure to collaborate with your child's room parent to insure that appropriate considerations are being made for classroom parties.
- When sending food or beverages that are to be shared with others, only store-bought items with the ingredient label may be brought in.
- Peanut allergies: The cafeteria has designated peanut-free tables for students with peanut allergies.

### Security Drills (Dr. C)

- Bus Evacuations (4 a year)
- Severe Weather (2 a year)
- Earthquake (2 a year)
- Fire (one a month)
- Bomb Threat (2 a year)
- Intruder/Active Shooter (2 a year)

### Morning Meeting (Mrs. Morris)

Students gather every morning for 10-20 minutes at 8:30. We use this time to make announcements and to recognize students for individual accomplishments (email us if your child has an achievement we can recognize!). We also have been covering the Essential 55 Rule's for Discovering Children's Potential based on a book by Ron Clark.

- **Blue slip winners:** staff and teachers award students blue slips throughout the week for good behavior (sitting down during car pick up time, sitting quietly in the cafeteria). At the end of the week, each teacher draws a winner from his or her own class; during morning meeting, winners are announced and can pick out a prize from the prize table.
- **Leader of the month:** each month teachers select a leader of the month from their class; parents are notified and invited to attend morning meeting where the award is given.

## Testing

Contact: Curriculum Coordinator (position to be filled shortly)

- STAR Testing is used to determine children's readiness level in Reading and Math. This information is used for grouping students and personalizing instruction. Our first STAR Testing window is Aug. 20-Aug. 27
- K-Prep is our state assessment and occurs late spring each school year for students in grades 3-6. Dates are announced well in advance; please be sure your student attends. Testing can be a fun way to show how much students have learned over the year!

## Enrichment

Coordinated by Mrs. Lindsey Deere

[lyndsey.deere@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:lyndsey.deere@warren.kyschools.us)

Enrichment classes are optional after-school fun classes. The topics vary based on the availability of the teachers. There are two enrichment periods—one in the fall and one in the spring. Classes meet once a week for 6 weeks after school from 3:30-4:30 pm. All grade levels are included; the cost is \$50 per student. Past offerings have included dodgeball, painting, drama, and ooey gooey science; look for notices and sign up on Husky Happenings, Twitter, and Blackboard Connect (text messages). For security reasons, parents must wait by the glass doors in the entryway for staff to release their students.

## Gifted program

Contact: Curriculum coordinator (Person TBD)

Warren Co GT Website: <http://www.warrencountyschools.org/Content/1746>

212 Academy Website: <http://www.warrencountyschools.org/28/Home>

- **Primary Talent Pool:** Serves Grades 1st - 3rd. (1st grade students will be identified later in the school year.) PTP Provides additional enrichment activities for students based on test scores, teacher recommendation, and other work samples.
- **Gifted and Talented Program:** Additional learning opportunities Grades 4-6, based on test scores, teacher recommendation, and work samples. Identification begins in grade 4, but students can be added to GT at any point from grades 4-12.
- **212 Academy:** STEAM Enrichment School that meets for Briarwood students on Tuesdays for activities at the Warren County Education and Academic Complex (Behind Briarwood) 212 Academy serves some of our GT students in grades 5 and 6. Identification for 212 occurs at the end of 4th grade.

## Field Trips

All field trips are coordinated by teachers and approved at the district level to ensure each child's safety and learning experience. These are intended to be days of fun learning, are announced well in advance, and require parents' written authorization. Parents may or may not be asked to volunteer and participate depending on the grade and activity. Parents must have completed a volunteer training and background check with Janice Lockwood to participate in field trips.

## Clubs (Dr. C)

Clubs are way for your child to pursue extracurricular interests. Each club has a faculty sponsor/advisor and meets regularly before or after school. The following is a tentative list of clubs and their advisors.

- Academic Team and Future Problem Solving (Mr. Christopher Spachman)
- Robotics (TBD)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Showcase (Dr. C)
- Chess (Mrs. Debbie Wilson)
- Student Technology Leadership Program (Mrs. Leslie Cherry)
- Energy Team (TBD)
- Student Lighthouse (Dr. C)
- Archery (Mr. Eric Smiley)
- K-Kids (Kiwanis-affiliated service organization, Mrs. Heather Lasley)
- BETA (Service organization; Mrs. Leslie Smothers)
- Running Club (Mrs. Janice Lockwood)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus (Mrs. Andrea Nance, Practice at 8 am, Tuesdays)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus (Mrs. Andrea Nance, Practice at 8 am, Wednesdays)
- All-State Choir (Mrs. Andrea Nance, auditions in the fall)
- Band (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Strings (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- \*Primary Lego Club (Mrs. Robin Burton)
- \*Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Student-led, faculty advisor tbd)
- Law Club (Mr. Zach Simpson)

\* Includes kindergartner and first grade students!

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## School-wide events

**Grandparents Lunch** (Sept. 5-6); sign up using the form that has come home in your student's folder. Children whose grandparents cannot attend may bring an "adopted" grandparent or other family member.

**Halloween parade and class parties** (Oct 31): Students arrive to school in costume (no masks or play weapons), and parents are welcome to watch the parade; parents may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parents and sign their child out at its end.

**Primary Musical:** Grades 1-3; Thurs, Nov. 15 and Mon, Nov. 19 (Mrs. Andrea Nance)

**Thanksgiving Lunch** (Nov)—sign up using the form that will be sent home. Parents and families are invited to attend.

**Family STEAM Night** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) (Curriculum Coordinator) A family activity night featuring learning activities and food for families.

**Holiday Concert:** Dec. 4, strings, band, choir (Mrs. Andrea Nance)

**Winter parties:** Friday, Dec. 14 (; parents may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parents and sign their child out at its end.)

**Love of reading week** (Book character parade, International Parade): Date TBD; spring semester. Parents are encouraged to attend and take pictures of the parades.

**Valentine's Day Parties:** Thursday, Feb. 14 (Parents may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parents and sign their child out at its end.)

**Talent Show:** Auditions on March 4-5, Show on March 25 at 6 pm (Mrs. Andrea Nance)

**Spring parties/egg hunts:** April 18 or 19; parents may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parents and sign their child out at its end. Grades K-3 have egg hunts; 4-6 have other activities.

**Derby Day:** May 3 (Activities mostly for second graders organized by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers and room parents) One of the biggest events in the school year, Derby Day is coordinated by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers and room parents. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students make and then race stick horses around the track set up in the gymnasium while the entire school watches and cheers them on. Parents and families are invited to dress in Derby attire, attend to cheer on their jockey, and then enjoy the spoils of victory with Derby fare and photographs in the cafeteria.

**Field Day:** Held at the end of the school year, this a day of fun and celebration for students and teachers. Weather permitting, students play and compete in various games led by teachers. Parents who want to volunteer and help should talk with their teacher.

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** End of the school year

### **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

PTO exists to raise funds and to build community; we also coordinate several of the teacher appreciation opportunities. Contact Katy Attanasi Barker if you are interested in becoming more involved: [k.attanasi@gmail.com](mailto:k.attanasi@gmail.com) or [briarwood.pto@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:briarwood.pto@warren.kyschools.us).

**Fall Fundraiser:** buy magazines, cookie dough, and other items to support the PTO and school!

**Fall Festival:** carnival-style games and food along with an online silent auction that raises thousands of dollars that go directly back into the classrooms. You'll receive an order form to pre-order your game tickets and food choices. Talk to your teacher or Room Parents to get involved—parents are asked to contribute an item or financially to classroom gift baskets for the Silent Auction, baked goods for the Cake Walk.

**Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance** (Date TBD)

**March Madness:** Basketball tournament fundraiser; BE Teachers and staff take on teachers and staff of a fellow Warren County school. Half-time fun, entertainment and food help raise funds to support our school.

### **Getting involved**

Want to get involved? Here are some ways:

1. Eat lunch with your child: you are always welcome to eat lunch with your child. Please sign in at the office and sit at the round tables with your child. See above for how to sign in, etc. Enjoy!
2. Throughout the year, we will send out notices of ways you can be involved in PTO based on your time and availability. You could bring an item for the teacher appreciation efforts or volunteer for a committee or sign up to help for a couple of hours at a time.
3. Volunteer to be a Room Parent and coordinate class parties, teacher gifts, fall festival contributions, etc. Contact Casey Strode, 270-438-9799 or [caseystrode@yahoo.com](mailto:caseystrode@yahoo.com) to join the private FB group for ideas!
4. Volunteer in your child's classroom, beginning by attending a Parent Volunteer Orientation and filling out required paperwork. Contact: Janice Lockwood, [janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us). If your child's teacher has enough help, there are ongoing opportunities to work with our English as a Second Language (ESL) students. We welcome your involvement!