We want families who are new to Briarwood to feel welcome and informed!

A **movie and popcorn** will keep the kids entertained while parents receive a **New Parent Packet** and hear important information from Principal Lori Morris.

**Monday, August 5, 2019**
**5:30 - 6:30 PM**

Register at
dawnlong@sckyrealestate.com
or 270.791.4072

Briarwood Elementary School
265 Lovers Lane
Bowling Green, KY 42103

Follow #BE PTO for more info and updates!

@Briarwood Elementary PTO
@Briarwood_PTO
warrencountyschools.org/11/Home
www.sites.google.com/view/briarwoodpto
Welcome to Briarwood Elementary School!
Home of the Huskies

We want families who are new to Briarwood to feel welcome and informed! So while some of the information shared today and in this handout may change after the start of the school year, we hope it will help make your family’s adjustment to Briarwood easier. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions!

Briarwood Elementary School
265 Lovers Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42103
Office: (270) 782-5554
http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Home
Principal: Lori Morris, lori.morris@warren.kyschools.us
Assistant Principal: Scott Jones or “Mr. J” william.jones@warren.kyschools.us
Family Resource Coordinator: Janice Lockwood, 270-904-8965 or janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us
Transportation: briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us
Warren County Public Schools: https://www.warrencountyschools.org/index.aspx

WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (WCPS)
If you haven’t already, please be sure to visit the WCPS’ website at https://www.warrencountyschools.org/. There you will find important schedule and policy information that impacts all schools in the district including Briarwood Elementary, such as the 2019-2020 School Calendar, Attendance Policy, Parent/Caregiver Handout, Report A Bully/Threat, Safety Information and Inclement Weather Procedures. There are still changes being made to the site for the new year, but being familiar with it will be very helpful. Superintendent Rob Clayton shares reports and updates regularly throughout the school year as well and will direct you to this site for additional information.

#BE COMMUNICATION

Have a question about your child’s classroom experience? Begin with the teacher! All teachers have an official email address. You can find it using this link: http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Staff.

Technology plays a huge role in our communication at Briarwood, so many teachers send home a weekly newsletter (electronically or on paper) and share information on a classroom Facebook page, Twitter or a Remind account. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you will be in the loop with #BECommunication!
In addition, the **Infinite Campus Parent and Caregiver Portal** requires an email account to register your child and to access important information throughout the school year. This system is administered through Warren County Public Schools (WCPS) and is still being updated for the 2019-2020 school year. So please look for updates and further instructions during the school year. WCPS maintains a link at [https://www.warrencountyschools.org/index.aspx](https://www.warrencountyschools.org/index.aspx).

For general school information, *like and follow Briarwood’s accounts to stay current!*

**Facebook: 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](http://www.warrencountyschools.org/11/Home)

Our Briarwood Elementary PTO also just launched a new website [www.sites.google.com/view/briarwoodpto](http://www.sites.google.com/view/briarwoodpto) to help maintain important information parents and caregivers need to plan ahead and get involved. See PTO section for more information about what PTO is and how to get involved.

And finally, be sure to read the school’s **Husky Happenings** weekly newsletter and the electronic sign at the entrance on Lover’s Lane.

**SAFETY & SECURITY**

Keeping students safe is taken very seriously at Briarwood! **When you come into the building, wait to be buzzed into the office. Parents and caregivers must sign in and wear visitor tags when in the building.** The following drills take place on a regular basis:

- 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)

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Important!** **Transportation changes** must be made in writing either by sending a note in your child’s folder or emailing briarwood.transportation@warren.kyschools.us by 2:30 pm. Please write the child’s name and the teacher’s name in the note.

**Parking:** Park in the lot in front of the school or park along the street off of Ironwood. *Please do not park and leave your car in the Bus Loop.*
Car Rider: (Enter from Ironwood Drive) *Please Remember!* 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 and don’t block driveways or intersections. ~ *Be Alert!*

- **Morning Drop Off**: Please use the car rider line, which opens at 8 am. 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. For the first few weeks, **K-kids Ushers** walk kindergartners and other new students from the busses and the car rider lines to morning meeting.

- **Afternoon 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.**

**Bus Riders: (Bus Loop & Main Entrance)** Buses and their routes are identified and announced at school by colors, so it’s important that you and your child know your correct assignment. WCPS maintains an updated roster on their site under Parent/Student tab, then Bus Routes. Please don’t hesitate to call the numbers provided or the Briarwood office to confirm your child’s assignment before the first day of school.

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Briarwood participates with Before and After School Programs to support families with busy schedules. While the programs are provided on Briarwood’s campus, they are administered through Community Education. To learn more and apply, visit https://www.commed.us/school-age-programs/.

**LUNCH DATES & ALLERGIES**

**Lunch Dates**: Having lunch with students is welcomed and encouraged. **ALL visitors wishing to eat with a student must be listed 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 want all of our kids to be healthy and safe! 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 and caregiver to insure that appropriate considerations are being made for classroom parties.

• When sending food or beverages that are to be shared with others, please send only store-bought items with the ingredient label.

• Peanut allergies: The cafeteria has designated peanut-free tables for students with peanut allergies.

**LEADER IN ME INITIATIVE**

The *Leader in Me* initiative is a huge part of Briarwood’s spirit and success, so you will see the *Seven Habits of Happy Kids* in action in many ways and places! If not familiar with it, you can learn more at [https://www.warrencountyschools.org/briarwood/Content2/2338](https://www.warrencountyschools.org/briarwood/Content2/2338) and [https://www.franklincovey.com/Solutions/education/TLIM.html](https://www.franklincovey.com/Solutions/education/TLIM.html).

**Morning Meeting**

Students gather every morning for 10-20 minutes at 8:30. This time is used to make announcements and to recognize students for individual accomplishments, so email your teacher if your child has an achievement we can recognize! The meeting also uses strategies from *Essential 55 Rule’s for Discovering Children’s Potential* based on a book by Ron Clark.

**Leader of the Month:** Each month teachers select a leader of the month from their class. Parents and caregivers are notified and invited to attend the morning meeting when it is presented.

**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.

**TESTING**

**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 typically at the end of August.

**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, and Briarwood plans several practice events to help prepare students and reduce anxiety. Please be sure your student
attends. Testing can be a fun way to show how much students have learned over the year!

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Enrichment Classes**
Contact: 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 typically 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 Infinite Campus Portal. For security reasons, parents and caregivers must wait by the glass doors in the entryway for staff to release their students at the end of each session.

**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 parent and caregiver and caregivers’ written authorization. Parents and caregivers may or may not be asked to volunteer and participate depending on the grade and activity. Parents and caregivers must have completed a volunteer training and background check with Janice Lockwood to participate in field trips. Contact her at [janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us) for assistance.

**Clubs**
Clubs are a great 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 that are offered at Briarwood and their advisors as they are known at this time. PTO will share an updated list with more details after school gets underway.
- K-Kids (Kiwanis-affiliated service organization; Mrs. Heather Lasley)
- BETA (Service organization for 5-6 grades; Mrs. Leslie Smothers)
- Running Club (Mrs. Janice Lockwood)
- Academic Team and Future Problem Solving (Mr. Christopher Spachman)
- Robotics
- 6th Grade Showcase
- Chess
- STLP/Student Technology Leadership Program
- Energy Team
- Student Lighthouse
- Archery
- 5th Grade Chorus (Mrs. Andrea Nance, Practice at 8 am, Tuesdays)
- 6th Grade Chorus (Mrs. Andrea Nance, Practice at 8 am, Wednesdays)
- All-State Choir (Mrs. Andrea Nance, auditions in the fall)
• Band (6th grade) and Strings (5th-6th grade)
• *Primary Lego Club (Mrs. Robin Burton)
• *Fellowship of Christian Athletes
• Law Club
* Includes kindergarten and first grade students!

**S.U.M.M.I.T. & GIFTED & TALENTED (GT) PROGRAMS**
Curriculum Coordinator to be announced shortly.

S.U.M.M.I.T. (Services for Unlimited, Multi-talented Minds and Inspiring Talent) is designed to offer students a continuing experience of support, challenge and success. From primary through high school, students are encouraged to maximize abilities and prepare for a wide range of opportunities. WCPS supports a flexible, inclusive and broad-based program utilizing a multi-dimensional teaching approach. Placing emphasis on learning processes involving the cognitive and affective domains enables the students to become intellectually and creatively productive adults.

WCPS provides a “gifted and talented student services plan,” which is an educational plan that matches a formally identified gifted student’s interests, needs, and abilities to differentiated service options and serves as the communication vehicle between the parents and school personnel.


• **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**: A STEAM Enrichment School that meets once a week for activities at the Warren County Education and Academic Complex (Behind Briarwood), the 212 Academy serves some of our GT students in grades 5 and 6. Identification for 212 occurs at the end of 4th grade. For more info visit [https://www.warencountyschools.org/28/Home](https://www.warencountyschools.org/28/Home).

**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 or briarwood.pto@warren.kyschools.us.
New Website!! This is a very active group! So please make a point to like and follow PTO on social media and visit our brand new website frequently at www.sites.google.com/view/briarwoodpto for projected dates and ongoing updates on school activities and events. But here’s a few big ones coming up this fall to get you started…

- **Fall Fundraiser:** This annual fundraiser kicks off August 13th with the start of the new school year. You will receive info packets shortly through your teacher and PTO. Students and families are asked to sell items such as magazines, cookie dough, and other items to support the PTO’s efforts for our school. Visit the PTO website for a report from last year’s PTO efforts.

- **Fall Festival: (TBA)** Fun for the whole family, this carnival-style event features games and food with an online silent auction that raises thousands of dollars that will go directly back into the classrooms. Your teacher or Room Parent will share details about how to get involved. Parents and caregivers are asked to contribute an item or financially to classroom gift baskets for the Silent Auction, and baked goods for the Cake Walk.

- **Halloween Parade and Class Party: (Oct 31):** Students arrive to school in costume (no masks or play weapons permitted), and parents and caregivers are welcome to watch the parade; Parents and caregivers may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parent. Please remember to sign yourself and child out at the end of the party;

GET INVOLVED!!

Just like with your children, getting involved in your new school is the fastest way to make friends and settle in. Here are just a few ways to jump in and get started!

- **Volunteer in your Child’s Classroom!** It’s hard to find a better way to support your child’s learning experience than to get involved in the classroom! Remember! Parents and caregivers must have completed a volunteer training and background check with Janice Lockwood to participate in field trips. Contact her at janice.lockwood@warren.kyschools.us for assistance.

  - **Room Parent:** Parents and caregivers coordinate class parties, teacher gifts, fall festival contributions and more. Most teachers provide a volunteer sign-up sheet at the Open House. But if not, just send them an email. They will greatly appreciate your help!
  - **Classroom Room Volunteer:** Volunteer in your child’s classroom, beginning by attending a Parent/Caregiver Volunteer Orientation and filling out required paperwork. 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!!
• **Join PTO!** 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, volunteer for a committee or sign up to help for a couple of hours at a time. You get to decide how much time you can dedicate and all efforts to help are greatly appreciated!!

**SCHOOL WIDE EVENTS**

As you can see, there are many events that take place throughout the school year that you and your child can get involved in and enjoy.

**Grandparent and Caregivers Lunch:** (Sep) Sign up using the form sent home in your child’s folder. Children whose grandparent and caregivers cannot attend may bring an “adopted” grandparent and caregiver or other family member.

**Halloween Parade and Class Party:** (Oct 31): Students arrive to school in costume (no masks or play weapons permitted), and parents and caregivers are welcome to watch the parade; parents and caregivers may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parent. Please remember to sign yourself and child out at the end of the party;

**Primary Musical:** (Nov) Grades 1-3 host amazing musical performances every year. Mrs. Andrea Nance will announce dates and details through your child’s folder;

**Thanksgiving Lunch** (Nov) Sign up using the forms sent home in your child’s folder; Parents, caregivers, families and friends are invited to attend.

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

**Holiday Concert:** (Dec) Strings, Band, Choir for Grades 5-6 (Mrs. Andrea Nance)

**Winter Party:** (Fri, Dec 20th) Parents and caregivers may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parent. Please remember to sign yourself and child out at the end of the party;

**Love of Reading Week.** (Early Spring) This fun event is coordinated through our library and includes a Book Fair and different activities each day of the week. Students get really creative and dress up as their favorite book character for the Book Character Parade. Another day students carry flags from all over the world in the International Parade. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend and take pictures of the parades.

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

**Talent Show:** (Mar) Mrs. Andrea Nance will announce dates and details for auditions and the show through your child’s folder;

**Spring Party & Egg Hunt:** (Friday before Easter) Grades K-3 have parties and egg hunts; Grades 4-6 have other fun activities. Parents and caregivers may attend and are encouraged to help with parties coordinated by the Room Parent. Please remember to sign yourself and child out at the end of the party;
**Derby Day:** (Fri, May 1st) 2nd Grade celebrates The Kentucky Derby in a BIG way with its own Derby races for all grades to cheer them on! One of the biggest events of the school year, 2nd 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 caregivers 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. 2nd Grade Room Parents organize this special event;

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** Held the first full week of May of every year, this week provides an opportunity for students, their parents, and school principals to show their appreciation for the hard work teachers do and the long hours many of them put in to give students a fun learning experience all year long. PTO coordinates and offers sign up opportunities for events held every day of the week. Room Parents also coordinate activities at the classroom level as well;

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