

Burns Bruins Back to School Newsletter

July 27, 2021



615 Brooker Road

Brandon, FL 33511

(813) 744-8383

<http://burns.mysdhc.org/>

Matthew DiPrima, Principal

Burns Family,

I am very excited to welcome you back for the 2021-22 school year. As we transition from a very eventful summer; I want to reassure you that your child's safety and wellbeing are at the top of our priority list. We will stay in communication with our school community using electronic communication. Be sure you have an updated email address and phone numbers with us. I have included very important information in the following newsletter to assist with making an efficient and informed transition to the school year.

We are looking forward to having our **students return to school on Tuesday, Aug. 10**. Students start school ten minutes earlier this year compared to last. First period begins at 9:25 and seventh period ends at 4:20 except on Early Release Monday when we release an hour earlier at 3:20. We have been an "A" rated school for over 19 years. We will always be the "best leading the rest."

Please review the district website for the most up to date information regarding the district's Covid-19 response plan at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us. Masks will be optional this year. Students can voluntarily wear masks if they choose.

The district website can also provide families interested in our before and after school childcare program. [HOST \(Before and After School, Summer Care\) Programs / Overview \(hillsboroughschools.org\)](http://www.hillsboroughschools.org)

I will be communicating with Burns' families using email, text and phone. Updates will be frequent. We will also be posting to our website (<http://burns.mysdhc.org/>) information pertinent to the opening of school. Bus routes, student code of conduct, lunch information and our school volunteer online application can be found on our website. In middle school, students can participate in our extramural program. We offer competitive sports teams in girls and boys basketball, track, soccer, volleyball and

flag football. Access to the extensive middle school extramural application is accessible via our school website.

Canvas is our communication and digital classroom platform. Parents can use our website to register in Canvas to access student schedules, current grades, assignments, etc. All parents should take the time to register so they can monitor their child's progress and easily communicate with teachers.

We value our parents and have included a link to further provide information the district has to offer parents. Please right click and open the link below to find additional information for parents from the district website.

[Parents / Homepage \(hillsboroughschools.org\)](http://hillsboroughschools.org)

Our OPEN HOUSE will be on Thursday, Aug. 5. Student lists with first period location information will be posted in our courtyard for all families to locate their first period teacher. Report to your first period teacher who will have your child's schedule.

Our 6th graders will be on a structured bell schedule from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. See schedule below. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers and see the layout of campus. 6th graders will also be able to experience transitions between 7 classes. Items will be available for purchase such as yearbooks pre-orders, PE uniforms, spirit shirts and PTSA memberships. If paying by check, please bring multiple checks as we can't combine purchases.

6 th Grade Open House Schedule:

Teachers distribute schedules 1:30 – 1:45

Period 1 1:45 – 1:53

Period 2 1:59 – 2:07

Period 3 2:13– 2:21

Period 4 2:27 – 2:35

Period 5 2:41 – 2:49

Period 6 2:55 – 3:03

Period 7 3:09 – 3:17

This schedule provides 15 minutes to hand out schedules during 1st period. 8 minutes per class and 6-minute passing period to allow time to move through the hallways

7th and 8th grade Open House will begin at 4pm and end at 5:30 pm. Parents and students and come anytime during the open house and meet their teachers.

Gym - PE Uniforms

Cafeteria – PTSA Memberships



Open House

Thursday, August 5th

6th graders

1:30-3:30

7th & 8th graders

4:00-5:30

6th grade families will report to 1st period at 1:30. We will run through your student's schedule in order, beginning at 1:45.

Burns Middle School

Use this newsletter as a tool to assist with many of our general procedures for the upcoming year. A great beginning to a new school year starts with all students understanding the expectations associated with middle school. I appreciate you taking the time to review this with your child. We look forward to seeing you at Open House and to a start of a fantastic year!

Respectfully,

Matthew DiPrima

Principal

Information in this newsletter is relevant as you begin the year. Additional information and several items that need your attention will be distributed the first day of school. Return the items promptly with necessary information completed and signatures where required. PLEASE VERIFY THAT YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT ON YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY CARD. IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS BE SURE TO ADD IT TO THE CARD (We send most of our communications to parents electronically.) IF YOU HAVE HAD AN ADDRESS CHANGE, YOU MUST BRING IN TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCE (TECO BILL, LEASE AGREEMENT, PROPERTY TAX, HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, OR WARRANTY DEED ARE ACCEPTED DOCUMENTS). It is important for students and parents to understand and respond to policies and procedures that are sent home. Student code of conduct are online and can be accessed on our website.

BICYCLES: The bicycle rack is located between the office and Brooker Road in the fenced area. By law, students must wear helmets while riding bicycles. Bicycles are to be walked from the road to the bike rack. Securing bicycles and helmets is the responsibility of the student. The School Board is not responsible for lost or stolen property.

BUS TRANSPORTATION: Masks will be necessary for students riding on the bus. Buses are assigned to students that are not on Choice and are beyond the two-mile radius of the school. Students are assigned to a specific bus stop, based on their address, by the Transportation Department. If your address has changed, two forms of proof of residence will be required to update records (TECO bill or current Homestead Exemption are accepted). Updated bus routes will not be available until closer to the end of July. Check our website for bus route information a week prior to the first day. Students are transported to and from school from assigned stops. Any requests for additional bus stops or a change in a bus stop must be referred to the Transportation Department, where the bus schedules are created. In the first day packet is a bus conduct letter that all students and parents must sign even if the student doesn't ride a bus to and from school (students take fieldtrips during the year). If you have any questions about transportation, please feel free to call the school.

BULLYING AND CIVILITY: In order to provide a safe, caring and orderly environment, the School District of Hillsborough County expects civility from all who engage in school activities. During the first week and throughout the year we teach students about bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment and other forms of disrespect. We advocate for a growth mindset and teach students social emotional curriculum to support student diversity and unity. Mutual respect, professionalism and common courtesy are essential

qualities that all need to demonstrate in promoting an education environment free from disruptions, harassment, bullying and aggressive actions. Bullying, either physical or verbal, will not be tolerated. Bullying is a third-degree felony! Students who engage in bullying are subject to punishment to include a verbal/written reprimand, in-school/out-of-school suspension, change of placement and or expulsion or referral to law enforcement. Students and parents should report bullying. Students can report it to any adult on campus, make a written or verbal report, use the district's web portal from www.sdhc.k12.fl.us or phone the school of the issue.

CELL PHONES may be brought to school but must be turned off and secured from 9:05 AM—4:20 PM. The school is not responsible for cell phones lost or stolen and administration does not guarantee an investigation due to limited time and resources.

CELL PHONE USAGE POLICY: Consequences of cell phone / devices usage during the day: First Offense: Cell phone / device taken, parent notified, and will return the device to the student at the end of the day. Second Offense: Cell phone / device taken, parent called, and will return the device to the parent after school, until 4:45 PM. Third Offense: Cell phone / device taken, parent called, parent will arrange to pick up device, and disciplinary action will be imposed by administration.

INDEBTEDNESS – Students on the indebtedness list from last year are not issued textbooks or until their debt is cleared.

DRESS CODE POLICY:

1. No bedroom slippers or shoes with wheels.
2. No tube tops, spaghetti straps, or shirts that expose the entire shoulder- Unless they are under a blouse.
3. No cleavage.
4. No midriff.
5. No pajamas.
6. No underwear or undergarments showing.
7. No hats, beanies, or head coverings of any kind are allowed to be worn, unless they are associated with a religious norm.
8. Blankets are not to be worn as jackets. Students may not wear or utilize blankets on school campus.
9. Shorts must be at or below fingertip length.
10. Boys' shirts must have sleeves.
11. If pants have rips or tears, they must be below the fingertip length, unless tights, shorts, or leggings are worn underneath. (No skin showing above the fingertip length).
12. Pants should be secured around the waist.

13. Garments and/or jewelry that display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, gang, weapons, or alcohol-related wording or graphics or may tend to provide violence or disruption in the school shall not be worn.

First Offense: conference with student; notification of parent or guardian, and/or; change of appropriate attire.

Second Offense: conference with student; notification of parent or guardian; change of inappropriate attire; detention or "other consequence" determined by the site administrator.

Third Offense: conference with student; notification of parent or guardian; change of inappropriate attire; in-school suspension or "other consequence" determined by the site administrator.

Fourth Offense: considered disobedient subject to referral to the school administrator for further disciplinary action, which may include out-of-school suspension.

DROPPING OFF STUDENTS: Parents should pull as close to the drop-off point as possible before stopping to let students out of cars. Left turns back onto Brooker Road are prohibited as posted. **For safety reasons students are not to be on the school campus before 8:55 AM. There is no supervision before 8:55 AM and it is unsafe for students to be alone.** H.O.S.T. provides supervision for students from 7:00 AM to 8:55 AM. Please email tonya.mathes@hcps.net for questions regarding H.O.S.T. or go to the district's website to register and pay online at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us and navigate thru "family" drop down menu. See below for more information. Parents of students with special needs can drop off adjacent to the bus ramp near the faculty parking lot. Our students with special needs should not be dropped off until an adult from the school is there to receive them.

EXTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM is an interscholastic competitive sports program. All paperwork must be approved and submitted prior to any try-out. The first sport of the year is basketball followed by track and field, volleyball, soccer and flag football. Applications are accessible online at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us or at our Burns Middle School website. Use the student icon and go to Athletics for forms, application, insurance costs and required videos. Applications are submitted online for administrative approval prior to the first day of practice. Summertime is the best time of year to complete the paperwork because it takes several steps.

HOST(Childcare AM and/or PM): Hours for this program are 7:00 AM — 8:55 AM and end of school day (3:20 PM on Mondays and 4:20 PM on Tuesdays - Fridays) — 6:00 PM. The program is not operated during weekends, school vacation, holidays or teacher in-service days. Tuition payment is paid on a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or yearly basis, not including holidays listed in the Student Handbook. Fee Schedule: There is a \$15 non-refundable registration fee per family. Weekly Fees are: Before School Care: \$15 per week After School Care \$27 per week (includes snack). Before School and After School service is \$42 per week. Early Release Monday Afternoons only \$20 per month. Application window opens at the end of July and can be accessed from the district website.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Florida law requires an additional immunization for students entering the sixth and seventh grades. The new immunization requirement for a student entering 6th grade is they must have 2 varicella vaccines. The immunization for a student entering 7th grade is they must have a Tetanus-with Pertussis (TDAP) booster and two (2) varicella. Any student who does not provide documentation of these updated shots will NOT be allowed to enter school on the first day of school per state policy.

Documentation of all immunizations MUST be brought to the school BEFORE the first day of school. Your child will be excluded from school on August 10th (the first day) if the records are not complete and at the school by 4:00 PM on August 9th. Immunization forms may be dropped off prior to August 9th during the hours of 8:00 AM — 4:00 PM. For a list of immunizations go the following web site: <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/health-services/documents-forms/60-363/>

LUNCHES: for students are \$2.75. Students may pre-pay for lunches by cash or check (payable to Burns Middle School), or log on to <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/SNS> for additional pre-pay options. Students who forget their money or lunch may charge a lunch a limited number of times. Lunch program applications can be accessed at <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/SNS>

MEDICATIONS: All student medications (prescription and non-prescription) must be kept in the clinic located in the Assistant Principals' office. Medications must be brought to school and picked up by a parent. Medical information sheets and parental authorization for administration forms are in the clinic office. Medication may be brought to school beginning August 1st. Burns MS has a full-time nurse on campus to assist with medical needs of students. Please contact Ms. Amy Hester at extension 233 if you have any questions.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON CAMPUS FOR LUNCH OR SHADOWING: If you plan to be on campus for lunch with your child, please give school 24 hours' notice. The visitor must be on the emergency card and must arrive during the student's scheduled lunch time.

PE UNIFORMS: We will be having our students dress out again this year. We will be selling PE uniforms for \$15.00 at Open House and during school. Students' names must be permanently written on the PE uniforms. Students that do not have PE on their schedule would not need to purchase a PE uniform.

PICK-UP PROCEDURES AFTER SCHOOL: may seem inconvenient but are necessary for student safety. All "car rider" students should be picked up in the supervised carline. Citations may be issued for illegal parking in the posted "No Parking" areas on the north side of Brooker Road, in the bus loop entrance area, and along Bryan Road. Except for pre-approved students with special needs, students should not be picked-up in the bus loop area or on Bryan Road.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS: (see Student Online Handbook) Middle School students must have seven courses including passing language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies all three years. To pass an annual course, students must earn a passing semester grade in each of the content area classes. Seven courses per year are also required. If you are taking a core class online be sure to have guidance approve seven classes to meet the class load requirement to meet promotion.

RELOCATION SITES: In the event of an emergency and we would have to evacuate our students to off-site relocation area we two school sites that are possibilities. Bloomingdale HS would be our priority off-site relocation area. We have also worked with Bell Shoals Baptist Church as an off-site non-school relocation area.

REVOCAION OF CHOICE: Excessive absences, tardies or late pick-ups and/or behavioral referral(s) can lead to a removal of Choice privileges. Students who are at Burns on Choice must stay in good attendance and behavioral standing to continue admittance to Burns via Choice.

SCHOOL HOURS: School will begin at 9:25 AM and end at 4:20 PM. Students are not to be on campus before 8:55 AM. Parents will be charged HOST for students who are dropped off or who arrive prior to 8:55 AM. H.O.S.T. provides supervision for students from 7:00 AM to 8:55 AM.

SIGNING OUT: Parents must arrive in the office by 3:50PM (2:50 on Early Release) to sign their child out early for an appointment. Only those names listed as parent/guardian and emergency contacts on the Student's Emergency Card are authorized to sign the child out. Please allow extra time if you are signing out your child during their lunch time or during their PE class. Students signed out during PE will not have access to locker rooms to dress back in or retrieve books and personal property. Students can notify their coach prior if they know they will be signed out during PE. Coaches will allow them to keep their belongings during class. Students are responsible for making up any work missed because of signing-out.

WATER: To promote good health, students may have a water bottle with them during classes. ONLY PURE WATER WILL BE PERMITTED OUTSIDE OF THE CAFETERIA. Water bottle filling stations are located throughout campus.

YEARBOOKS: You can pre-order yearbooks online. Information regarding the website will be in a parent email closer to the beginning of the school year. Yearbook prices will go up after school begins. The final opportunity to purchase a yearbook will be no later than mid-January.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN: In accordance with 40 CFR Part 763.84 (c) and Subpart E, Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) all employees, building occupants, or their legal guardians are notified of the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan for Burns Middle School. Management plans for Burns are available during normal business hours for review in the main office. Copies of the plan can be made for a nominal price per copy. The plan is also available for review by employees; without cost or restriction, before work begins in any area of the school or building. Information provided in the management plan includes the recent facility survey, response actions planned or taken, and post periodic surveillance and re-inspections activities.

Have a great year!