



Brighten Academy Parent Orientation

Brighten Basics
2019-2020

Administrative Team

Lisa McDonald, Executive Director
lmcdonald@brightenacademy.com

Connie Arnold, Assistant Director
carnold@brightenacademy.com

Kelly Bemus, Operations Administrator
kbemus@brightenacademy.com

Angi Andrews, Business and Student Services
Manager
aandrews@brightenacademy.com

Brighten Academy's Mission

The mission of Brighten Academy is to provide a productive learning environment with a highly qualified staff committed to using an innovative, research-based instructional model that produces measured growth in every student every year.

FAQ about CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Charter schools--non-profit public schools--publicly funded by federal, state, and local education funds--may not charge tuition
- Charter schools may request waivers from any state or local rule, regulation, policy, or procedure relating to schools in the district.
- Bound by contract to be held accountable for meeting the performance-based objectives specified in the charter (according to the Charter Schools Act of 1998, as amended)
- BA--authorized by the Douglas County School Board
- State Board of Education also approves charters

FAQ about CHARTER SCHOOLS

- BA—residents of Douglas County
- Lottery takes place if more enrollees than openings
- Governed by independent Governing Board
 - majority of parents
 - representation from the community
 - school staff
- Operate like a business--must demonstrate fiscal responsibility.
- Often offer unique instructional approaches
- Use creative ways to improve student achievement and learning.

7 C's of Character



Craftsmanship

Commitment

Critical thinking

Creativity

Curiosity

Community

Culture

*transitioning to
crew culture then
crew

Hours MTThF
School Hours 8:00-3:15
Office Hours 7:10-4:00

- Students may arrive at 7:10 a.m.
- Car rider line (curbside drop off) ends at 7:45 a.m.
- Drop off at sidewalk along the media center entrance
- Parents park and walk student to sidewalk 7:45 a.m. (media center entrance) until 7:59 a.m.

Wednesday Hours: 8:00-1:00
Office Hours 7:10-2:00

School Hours 8:00-3:15

Office Hours 7:15-4:00

- Tardy--7:59 am—media center doors will be closed
 - Students must be SEATED in homerooms by 8:00 am
- All students must be signed in tardy at front office after 7:59 am
 - Time will be kept on LED sign for consistency. Please be courteous to those enforcing this.
- Breakfast served 7:10-8:00 am for \$1.55

Wednesday Hours: 8:00-1:00

Office Hours 7:10-2:00

Hours–Continued
School Hours 8:00-3:15
Office Hours 7:15-4:00

- Dismissal begins at 3:15 MTThF/1:00 W
 - Park and walk in to pick up students
 - K – 5: enter media center doors and go to first floor classroom
 - 6-8 and all siblings of 6-8: enter the atrium doors and pick up in the gym
- After School Program for K-8, open until 6:00 pm (preregistered only)
- Early Dismissal days are 8:00 – 1:00

Carpool Courtesy Check

7:10-7:45 am Curbside Dropoff

- Keep moving until all traffic stops at the cones
- Put down the cell phone
- Drive slowly
- Be aware of students walking along the walkways
- Be courteous
- No cutsies—be considerate 😊
- Encourage your student to open their own door and step straight to the sidewalk
- Students should exit only on the passenger side
- No curbside drop off after 7:45 a.m.

7:45-7:59 am—park and walk students to sidewalk

Student Discipline Code

- Positive Behavior Interventions at classroom and school level
 - Reward Days, Tickets, Rise Up Slips, Counselor, Conflict Resolution
- Classroom level discipline
- Office/Administrative level discipline
 - Administrator will notify you
 - Parent/teacher conference
 - Observations
 - Student Support Team interventions
- Offenses
 - Zero Tolerance Offense
 - Chronic Behaviors
- Close contact with parents/teachers/administration

Parent Volunteer Requirements

- 20 hours per family per year (Due May 1st)
- 10 hours completed by January 1st
- For mid-year enrollment, 2 hours x months remaining in the year
- Log hours at www.trackitforward.com
- Various Ways to volunteer
 - Classroom
 - At Home
 - Outdoor school workdays
- When in classroom:
 - Cell phone off
 - Leave smaller siblings at home

Student and Staff Safety

- Armed security officer
- Closed circuit monitoring
- Swipe cards to enter buildings
- Exterior doors locked
- Buddy system when traveling between buildings
- IDs checked with sign in and sign out of student
- Student tags utilized for dismissal/pick up
- Chaperones/volunteers required to have fingerprints every 3 years and local background check yearly
- Visitors sign in and sign out with location
- Staff ID badges

Dress Code

- Shirts
 - Style: polo, oxford, turtleneck
 - Color: red, navy, white—solids only
 - No adornments (rhinestones, etc.)
 - Logos must be smaller than 2" x 3"
 - Spirit shirts sold by school (red, white, or navy base)
- Jackets/sweaters/coats (if worn during school day)
 - Color: red, navy, white, black, brown, gray
 - Must be solid in color
 - Can have a trim color, but no patterns allowed
- Backpacks
 - No wheels please

Student Dress Code

- Pants/shorts/skirts
 - Navy or Khaki in color
 - 2" above BACK of knee
 - Free from tears, patches, etc.
 - No leggings without shorts or skirt (no more than 2" above BACK of knee)
- Shoes
 - Solid navy blue, brown, black, white, or gray (may have an accent color)
 - Athletic shoes on PE days
 - Back straps
 - No flip flops
 - Closed toe for K-5 always
- Modesty Prevails (jewelry, hair color, hair style, accessories)

Special Days and Events

- ▶ Middle school 6th-8th grades
 - Fridays—shirts in dress code, but may wear jeans (free from holes, tears, fraying)
 - Fridays—may also purchase a team jersey or hat pass for \$1 each
- ▶ Wear What You Want Wednesday
 - Dress down (out of dress code)
 - Modesty prevails
- ▶ Seven Cs Shirt/Hoodie
 - Only for students who earned them
 - Allowed any day
- ▶ Field Trips--teachers determine dress code
- ▶ Clothes Closet is open every day

Student Attendance

- Excused Absences
 - Written excuse
 - Make up work
 - Doctor's note required for more than 3 days
- Unexcused Absences
 - Possible Behavior Referral
 - Notification to administration after 4 unexcused absences

Lunch Options

- Student may bring lunch
- Student may purchase lunch
 - Daily choices, hot and cold
 - Students \$3.15 meal, includes milk
 - Adults \$3.50 meal, includes milk
 - Manage student accounts and make deposits at www.SLAlunch.com
- Early Release Days
 - Lunch is served on an alternate schedule
- Charge Policy--\$8.00 limit

NSLP Info

- BACS participates in NSLP
- New application needed for free/reduced lunch asap to prevent charges
- Additional charges:
 - Separate/additional milk and juice \$.75
 - Cereal bar \$1.00
 - Side salad (without entrée)
 - Not covered by the GA free/reduced policy
- Breakfast: \$1.60

After School Program

- Registration fee \$25.00 per family
- Limited spots available
- Hours
 - Open on early release days
 - Open until 6:00 p.m.
- Snack every day
- Homework help
- \$55.00 week
 - No drop ins
 - Wednesdays only is an option
- Prepaid program

Miscellaneous Information

- Club sign up—coming late August
- Book Fairs
- School events calendar
- Governing board meetings—very informative
- Governing board work sessions—come and join a committee
- Refer to the parent handbook for full details
- Myschoolbucks.com--payment portal—sign up details coming soon

Grade Level Open House

- Information pertinent to your child's grade and teacher
- Homework
- Classroom expectations
- EL Education/ Expeditions
- 7 Cs and Crew
- Grading/Assessment information
- Conferences
- Schedule overview
- Question/Answer session

Grade Level Open Houses—Dates/Times

Tuesday, Aug. 20 6:00-7:00 pm

Kindergarten

5th Grade

Thursday, Aug. 22 6:00-7:00 pm

1st Grade

4th Grade

Wednesday, Aug. 21 6:00-7:00 pm

3rd Grade

Tuesday, Aug. 27 6:00-7:30 pm

6th-8th Grades

Thursday, Aug. 29 6:00-7:00 pm

2nd Grade

Contact Us

- 5897 Prestley Mill Road
Douglasville, GA 30135
- Phone: 770-615-3680
 - Choose from the options
- Fax: 770-575-3614
- www.brightenacademy.com
- Volunteer hours:
 - Contact the front office
 - www.trackitforward.com
- ASP—Dana Weeks, Director
- dweeks@brightenacademy.com
- Staff—first initial last name (no spaces)
@brightenacademy.com

Questions?