

Brighten
Academy
Parent
Orientation

Brighten
Basics
2021



Administrative Team

Lisa McDonald,
Executive Director lmcdonald@brightenacademy.com

Connie Arnold, **Assistant
Director** carnold@brightenacademy.com

Kelly Bemus, **Assistant
Director** kbemus@brightenacademy.com

Steven Littles, **Assistant Director**
slittles@brightenacademy.com

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

Parent Handbook

- Parent Handbook is available online
www.brightenacademy.com
- Subject to Change as guidance changes
- Changes will be communicated via Remind and future parent meetings as needed

Brighten Academy's Mission

The mission of Brighten Academy is to nurture habits of scholarship and ethical character in a joyful, engaging, rigorous, and equitable learning environment.

Inspired educators, in partnership with parents and the community, will ensure measured growth in every student every year and empower students to create a brighter future for our world.

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 of Crew

EL Education



COVID-19 Safety

- Information related to COVID-19 and the Delta Variant changes daily.
 - We will continue to monitor the trends related to Douglas County, and we are reviewing our mask policy.
 - We will communicate changes to everyone by Aug. 2 (open house) or before.
 - We will provide more updates about our COVID precautions via Remind (our schoolwide communication system).
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- **UPDATE—REVIEWING MASK POLICY NOW IN LIGHT OF RECENT UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM THE DPH AND CDC—7.27.2021**

Arrival

Arrival--Media Center Entrance

- Students may arrive at 7:10 a.m.
- Drop off at sidewalk along the media center entrance
- Car rider line (curbside drop off) ends at 7:30 a.m.
- Parents park and walk student to sidewalk 7:30 a.m. (media center entrance) until 7:50 a.m.

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri Hours: 7:50-3:15
Office Hours 7:10-4:00

Wednesday Hours: 7:50-12:00
Office Hours 7:10-1:00

Arrival

- Tardy--7:50 am—media center doors will be closed
- All students must be signed in tardy at front office after 7:50 am
 - Time will be kept on LED sign for consistency.
 - Please be courteous to those enforcing this.
- Breakfast served 7:10-7:50 am for FREE

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri Hours: 7:50-3:15

Office Hours 7:10-4:00

Wednesday Hours: 7:50-12:00

Office Hours 7:10-1:00

Carpool Courtesy Check

7:10-7:30 am Media Center 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 & considerate**
- **Make sure your student is ready to exit the car**
- 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 7:30 a.m.

7:30-7:50 am—park and walk students to sidewalk **from Media Center Parking Lots**

Morning Drop Off Route



**Dismissal
3:15 pm
(Mon/Tues/
Thurs/Fri)
12:00 Wed.**

- Dismissal 3:15-3:35 Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri
- Dismissal 12:00-12:20 Wed.
 - Bring your pick-up card (our safety procedure)
 - Park and walk to the dismissal area/door to pick up your student
 - Older siblings will go to younger siblings' dismissal location (give us a few days)
- Communicate changes through the office
- After School Program for K-8, open until 6:00 pm (preregistered only)
- Wednesday Dismissal at 12:00 pm

Dismissal 3:15 MThF
Wed. 12:00

Atrium/playground door
Playground/Gaga
Pit doors

Sidewalk (weather
permitting or Media
Center Entrance doors

Atrium

Cafeteria
doors

Media Center
Entrance
doors

Brighten Academy

Media center back door

Back doors by picnic tables

Timber Ridge Dr

Timber Ridge Dr

Timber Ridge Dr



Student Discipline Code

Responsive Classroom and Restorative Justice

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**

Strong communication with parents/teachers/administration

Parent Volunteer Requirements

- 20 hours/credits per family per year (Due May 1st)
- 10 hours/credits 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 (if permitted this year):
 - 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 local background check yearly
- Visitors sign in and sign out with location
- Staff ID badges

Student 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
 - Jeans—free from holes, rips, tears, frays
 - No more than 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
 - Athletic shoes on PE days
 - Back straps required
 - No flip flops
 - Closed toe for K-5 always
- Modest Accessories (jewelry, hair color, hair style)

Dress Code Special Days and Events

- ▶ Wednesdays—Dress down option
 - May wear non-uniform clothes
 - Modesty prevails (no rips, holes, tears, frays)
 - Refer to the handbook for full details

- ▶ Seven Cs Shirt/Hoodie
 - Students earned these
 - Allowed any day

- ▶ Field Trips--teachers determine dress code

- ▶ Clothes Closet—more information to come; available Open House

Student Attendance

- Excused Absences
 - Written and emailed excuses accepted
 - Make up work should be completed
 - Doctor's note required for more than 3 days
- Unexcused Absences
 - Possible Behavior Referral
 - Notification to administration after 4 unexcused absences

Lunch Options

- Students may bring lunch from home
- Students may purchase school meals
 - Daily choices, hot and cold, breakfast and lunch
 - Students receiving a complete meal are charged \$0 (FREE!)
 - Adults \$3.50 meal
 - Students who only select portions of the meal will be charged accordingly
 - Manage student accounts and make deposits at www.SLAlunch.com
- Early Release Days
 - Sack Lunches will be provided to any BACS student for \$0
- Charge Policy--\$8.00 limit
- Students enrolled in ASP receive a snack

After School Program

- Registration fee \$10.00 per family
- Limited spots available
- Hours
 - Begins Monday, Aug. 9
 - Open until 6:00 p.m. daily
- Snack every day at a cost of \$0
- Homework help and learning activities
- \$55.00 per week
 - Wednesdays only is an option = \$20 per week
 - 4 days (MTThF with no Wed.) = \$40 per week
- No drop ins
- Prepaid program; families may not accrue a balance
- Not grant supported/subsidized

Miscellaneous Information

- Club sign up—coming late August
- Book Fairs
- School events calendar
- Governing board
 - Stay up to date on school operations!
 - Come join a committee!
- Refer to the parent handbook and school calendar for full details
- Myschoolbucks.com = school payment portal; sign up details at Open House

Open House Information

Monday, August 2, 2021

4:00-7:00 pm

Outside, along sidewalks and field

- To help with traffic and crowd control, we ask that families arrive during these times on Monday, August 2:
 - Last names A-L arrive between 4:00-5:30
 - Last names M-Z arrive between 5:30-7:00
- Wear your walking shoes!
- You may bring supplies or wait until first few days.
- We will have people to help kids get to class and help carry supplies to class.

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

IN PERSON!

SAVE THE DATE!

6th Grade Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 5:30 pm

7th Grade Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 6:30 pm

8th Grade Thursday, Sept. 9 at 5:30 pm

Kindergarten Monday, Sept. 13 at 5:30 pm

First Grade Monday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 pm

2nd Grade Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 pm

3rd Grade Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 pm

4th Grade Thursday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 pm

5th Grade Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 pm

IN PERSON!

Contact Us

- Remind code—text "@brightena" to 81010 to join our school-wide communication group
- Address:
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
 - Visit our website for the link

- ASP—Dana Weeks, Director
- dweeks@brightenacademy.com
- Staff
 - first initial last name (no spaces)
@brightenacademy.com
- Questions?