

# **Ready for Brownell?**

Hello, fifth-grade families! **The Brownell Parent Club** is ready to welcome your family to middle school. We understand this is a big transition for many of you so we'd like give you some tips and ease some nerves. We're looking forward to welcoming a new class of Bruins this fall.

#### **BINDERS/SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

**Requirement:** Students are required to carry 3-inch binders and a specific set of school supplies. Binder checks happen throughout the year from any teacher, even P.E. Students receive stickers for successful binder checks, which count toward events throughout the year.

**Cost:** Brownell supplies a binder and supplies to all students at the beginning of the year. You can make a suggested donation of \$15.

#### **ORIENTATION & SCHEDULES**

Student orientation will be a week or so before school starts in August. That's when students receive their class schedules and hear from administrators.

You will get orientation details in the mail during summer break.

**Note:** GATE students have another orientation in the spring of their fifth-grade year.

#### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Keep an eye on the district school calendar. The middle school calendar doesn't always sync with the elementary school one. For example:

- Brownell students don't have short days on Wednesdays, like elementary students do.
- Brownell is off some days that elementary is in session, and vice versa.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Several clubs are on campus, including band, choir, mural/art club, gaming. Some are after school. Others are incorporated into zero period, like band, which meets every day at 7:30 a.m.

Also, school dances are held throughout the year. Info about dance times, prices, rules are communicated to kids at school and to families via Schoolloop.

**Note**: Brownell's robotics club has the equipment to get going -- but needs an adviser. Do you have some extra time and engineering skills to share? Contact school administrators for more info.

### **SCHOOLLOOP**

The Brownell website is on Schoolloop but it has more features than what you may have seen on your elementary school site.

It has a whole component for parents and students behind a secure login on a web browser or mobile app. School communication, grades/progress reports as well as email access to faculty and administration is available after you login. Updates are posted daily.

**Note:** This is the main way you'll receive info from Brownell; we encourage you to register ASAP once school starts.

### **SCIENCE CAMP & D.C. TRIP**

Parent club facilitates two big spring trips for interested students:

**Science camp** is a multi-day sleepaway camp for sixth-graders (seventh-graders can go, too, if spots are available). The cost is about \$330 per student.

**D.C./NYC trip** is for eighth-graders. The trip is nearly \$3,000 per student, so families are encouraged to organize as soon as possible.

The school does not plan these trips. Parent club volunteers are in charge, from organizing the details, planning meetings and fundraisers.

## P.E.

**Requirements**: Students have P.E. every day. They are required to dress in P.E. uniforms, which are stored in lockers during the school week.

Students aren't required to dress out the first two weeks or so the year. More details are sent home the first few days of school.

**Cost**: \$15 for t-shirt; \$15 for shorts from Brownell. You provide a combination lock for your child's P.E. locker.

## **SPORTS**

Sports include cross country, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, soccer, track and field, softball. Some teams have tryouts; some are no-cut. See the Brownell website for list of sports, seasons and more details.

**Note**: Brownell doesn't provide transportation to games or meets. Athletes (and their families) are responsible for finding rides to events.

## **PARENT CLUB**

Parent club raises money to help fund projects at school. This year, those funds bought sports uniforms, textbooks, a P.A. system.

The group meets once a month and has its own Facebook group to keep you informed. (The group is Brownell Middle School Parent Club; it's a private group that you have to request to join.)

Learn more about the parent club and its activities at brownell.schoolloop.com/parentclub.