

Middlebrook Elementary School

220 Middlebrooks Avenue

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Debbie Ponte, Principal



August 16, 2021

Dear Middlebrook Families:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I hope you are as eager as I am to start the new school year. I hope you have enjoyed the summer with your family and friends. The staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your children to make this a successful school year!

In addition to this letter, you will be receiving **three** important separate emails early **next week**. If you don't receive these emails by Thursday, August 26th, please contact us at school, 203-452-4411.

- The first email will include a letter from your child's teacher for the upcoming school year, along with additional classroom and grade level information.
- The second email will ask you to access a website hotlink to update your child's important student information for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as, how your child will be dismissed. This form will need to be filled out for every student who attends Middlebrook. Please be sure to have this information filled out by **Thursday, August 26th**.
- The third email will include an electronic copy of the Middlebrook Parent Handbook. Please be sure to carefully read through the handbook and to save a copy for yourself for future reference. In this handbook, you will find important information. Be sure to sign and return the last page of the Middlebrook Family Handbook on the first day of school.

It is required that all staff and students wear masks each day. Please refer to our "Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan" <https://www.trumbullps.org/Attachments/covid/SafeReturntoIn-Person.pdf> on our district website. The district will continue to add information to this part of our website as we receive it.

The first day of school for **ALL Students** will be **Tuesday, August 31st**. School will begin at **8:35 AM** and will be dismissed at **3:20 PM**.

Bus service to and from school will begin for all children on the first day of school. Be sure to view the bus schedule on the Trumbull Public School website at: www.trumbullps.org to locate your child's bus stop and time. Bus routes will be available late August. Please have your child at the stop at least five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Also, please be aware that the bus routes can run late the first few days, as the drivers become more familiar with their routes.

All students taking the bus are to enter Middlebrook School through the front entrance of the building where the bus drops them off and walk directly to their classrooms. If you are driving your child to school, please be sure to use the student drop-off circular area on the side of the building. Staff members will be at both entrances to greet students and help them find their classrooms. Students can begin entering the building at 8:20 AM.

Please join me in welcoming some new staff members...

- Mrs. Gomez - School Secretary
- Kelli Meeker - Security Officer
- Michelle Consolati - Math Specialist
- Mikayla Natal - Speech and Language

I welcome our new staff members and I look forward to having them join our Middlebrook Family!

We have an exciting year ahead of us! In addition to meeting new staff members, we will have new books to read, new friends to meet and new skills to master. To be certain our students are educated to the highest standards, we will continue to align our curriculum instruction and ways of reporting student progress with the Connecticut Core Standards. These K-12 standards are informed by the highest state standards from across the country. They define what students should know and be able to do at all grade levels. It is our vision that every student will be successful at meeting these standards.

Another way to help our year go smoothly is to frequently visit the Middlebrook School website at <https://middlebrookelementary.com/> . We are in the process of updating our website and will be updated often throughout the school year. In addition, I will be sending a weekly newsletter as well to keep our school community engaged in what is happening at Middlebrook School.

If you would like to volunteer and haven't done so already, please complete the attached volunteer form

<https://www.trumbullps.org/Attachments/boe/volunteerforms201920.pdf>

I thank you for your commitment to your child's education, and I look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

I am so excited to begin this school year!

Best Regards,
Ms. Debbie Ponte, Principal

School Hours:

8:35 AM – 3:20 PM

Arrival

Doors Open at 8:20 AM

Students who arrive at school on time and have good attendance have a higher level of academic achievement. Please encourage daily on-time attendance of your child.

Dismissal

Pick-up

3:20 Pickup is at the student drop-off circular area on the side of the building

Bus students

Students will need to take the bus that they are assigned to when traveling to school and back home. Our staff cannot change bus assignments from e-mails or phone calls they receive throughout the day.

BUS ROUTES will be available late August. Please go to the district website and locate routes under transportation. <https://www.trumbullps.org/departments/transportation.html>

Delayed Opening:

90 minute delay 10:05am - 3:30pm

2 hour delay 10:35am-3:20pm

2 ½ hour delay 11:05am - 3:20pm

Important Dates:

Friday, August 20th - 10-11:00am NEW Families (ONLY) tour

PTA representatives will be available for tours. Teachers will not be available. Meet at the front entrance.

Wednesday, August 25th 10-11:30am

Kindergarten Meet and Greet on Middlebrook Playground

Thursday, August 26th 4-5:30pm

Kindergarten Meet and Greet on Middlebrook Playground

Thursday, August 26th 5:30-7pm

New Families Welcome Picnic on Middlebrook Playground

Monday, August 30th - Meet the Teacher

This is a time when students can visit the school to meet their teacher and see their classrooms.

➤ **1:15-1:45** – Grade K-2 students are welcome to meet their teachers

➤ **2:00-2:30** – Grade 3-5 students are welcome to meet their teachers

As a reminder, staff members will be attending a number of meetings on August 26th and 27th and will be unavailable for classroom visits outside of the Meet the Teacher visitation hours on August 30th. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as our staff prepares for the new school year!

Tuesday, August 31st – First Day of School

Students will begin school at 8:35 AM and they will be dismissed at 3:20 PM. Students will have a lunch period so be sure to either send a lunch with your child or send money so your child can purchase lunch. You can also send a check to deposit money in your child's SNAP account or you can set up an account at MySchoolBucks.com. The following link can be used to find more information:

<https://www.trumbullps.org/departments/food-service/my-school-bucks.html>.

Children will also have a snack time so please send one healthy food item and a drink, preferably water. I would also recommend that you send a water bottle to school with your child each day as the weather is usually hot the first few weeks of school.

Monday, September 6th – No School – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7th - No School - Rosh Hashana

Thursday, September 16th - No School - Yom Kippur

Having a Successful Start to the School Year!

(Recommendations from the National Association of School Psychologists)

Getting a new school year off to a good start can influence children's attitude, confidence, and performance both socially and academically. The transition from August to September can be difficult for both children and parents. Even children who are eager to return to class must adjust to the greater levels of activity, structure, and, for some, pressures associated with school life. The degree of adjustment depends on the child, but parents can help their children (and the rest of the family) manage the increased pace of life by planning ahead, being realistic, and maintaining a positive attitude. Here are a few suggestions from the National Association of School Psychologists to help ease the transition and promote a successful school experience.

Prior to School Starting:

- ✓ *Re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines.* Plan to re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines (especially breakfast) at least 1 week before school starts. Prepare your child for this change by talking with your child about the benefits of school routines in terms of not becoming over tired or overwhelmed by school work and activities. Include pre-bedtime reading and household chores if these were suspended during the summer.
- ✓ *Designate and clear a place to do homework.* Older children should have the option of studying in their rooms or quiet areas of the house. Younger children usually need an area set aside in the family room or kitchen to facilitate adult monitoring, supervision, and encouragement.
- ✓ *Select a spot to keep backpacks and lunch boxes.* Designate a spot for your children to place their school belongings as well as a place to put important notices and information sent home for you to see. Explain that emptying their backpack each evening is part of their responsibility, even for young children.
- ✓ *Freeze a few easy dinners.* It will be much easier on you if you have dinner prepared so that meal preparation will not add to household tensions during the first week of school.

The First Week:

- ✓ *Clear your own schedule.* To the extent possible, postpone business trips, volunteer meetings, and extra projects. You want to be free to help your child acclimate to the school routine and overcome the confusion or anxiety that many children experience at the start of a new school year.
- ✓ *Make lunches the night before school.* Older children should help or make their own. Give them the option to buy lunch in school if they prefer and finances permit.
- ✓ *Set alarm clocks.* Have school-age children set their own alarm clocks to get up in the morning. Praise them for prompt response to morning schedules and bus pickups.

- ✓ *Leave plenty of extra time.* Make sure your child has plenty of time to get up, eat breakfast, and get to school.
- ✓ *Establish an after school plan.* Review with your child what to do if he or she gets home after school and you are not there. Be very specific, particularly with young children. Put a note card in their backpack with the name(s) and number(s) of a neighbor who is home during the day as well as a number where you can be reached. If you have not already done so, have your child meet neighbor contacts to reaffirm the backup support personally.