Dear BMS Families,

I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying the fall weather and finding ways to get outside. This has been quite the week with the storm and subsequent power outages around the area that made distance learning all the more complicated. Our after school extracurricular activities began this week and are off to a great start. You can check out the opportunities at this link. We appreciate all that you are doing to support your children and us this year and are working on our plans for the hybrid learning that will begin in November. We miss seeing our students and having time with them. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

**Back to School Night - Save the date!**

The goal of our Back to School Night is to share a curricular overview and team specific information regarding how teachers are working to support students in this unusual environment. Teachers will also share specifics regarding expectations and technology platforms such as schoology. Specific questions regarding individual children and their progress will not be part of this meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please email the teacher or counselor directly.

**Metco Families:** We will have a 30 minute meet and greet with parents for each grade level starting at 6:30PM (prior to your child’s team zoom meeting) with our administrators and Metco counselor, Gillian vanDelft. Links will be shared next week.

Teams will hold zoom Back to School Night meetings with parents by grade level on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7PM - 8th grade teams (Turquoise, Emerald & Orange)**
- **Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7PM - 7th grade teams (Green, Blue & Teal)**
- **Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7PM - 6th grade teams (Red, Purple, Coral)**

Team teachers will be sending the zoom links to these meetings next week.

**Multi-team teachers** (World language, Physical Education & Health, Fine and Applied Arts) will be creating videos to share their curriculum overview and expectations along with contact information so you may reach them with any questions you have. These videos will be shared by the teachers during the week of October 19.

**SEL Survey Reminder - please complete this (link below)**
Last week I sent out a link to a survey for parents regarding social-emotional supports and needs for our students. We are working hard on making sure the programs and supports we have in place meet the needs of our students and families. If you have not already, please take this survey(click here). The information you provide will help us identify and develop the resources needed to support each student's social, emotional and academic needs and will be accessible to counselors and school based support staff who are responsible for supporting the social-emotional wellness of our students. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's guidance counselor or school building administrator if you have any questions about the survey.

**Chromebook Distribution**

Our IT department is currently receiving and prepping the new chromebooks for all middle school students. We will be distributing them at Brown (along with mini-whiteboards) using a drive up format. All students have been assigned a device and will be given one unless they already received one THIS year. Families who received a Chromebook LAST spring will return them to the school when they come to pick up their new Chromebook. As soon as we have more information we will share the dates and times for picking them up.

**School Pictures!**

The opportunity to see all students as they pick up their Chromebooks opens up the possibility to have school pictures! We will send more specific information regarding the entire process as soon as we have made the arrangements. Our idea is to have photographers on site during the Chromebook distribution. Please be on the lookout for emails from school next week.

**iReady**

In the near future you will be receiving an email from your child’s ELA teacher regarding the i-Ready Diagnostic reading assessment, which we will continue to use as part of our literacy program in the middle schools this year. i-Ready is a computerized, adaptive assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to provide your child’s teacher with information about how best support your child as a reader. iReady will be administered through the ELA teachers on Zoom sometime during the last 2 weeks of October. More information will follow.

**Private School Recommendation Process**

Our counselors have put together a letter that describes the process for students and families who plan to apply for private school. Please take a look at this checklist if you are planning to have your child apply to private school.

I want to wish you a safe and healthy long weekend!
Kim Lysaght
Principal
Charles E. Brown Middle School