Dear Brown Families,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather as we come to the close of the first full week of school. I am pleased to report that faculty and students are beginning to settle into their routines and adapt to this new way of doing school. Teachers are reporting that students are utilizing their google calendars to get to class successfully. Now that the initial logistics have been established, teachers are working hard to plan engaging lessons that allow students breaks from the screen. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we all discover what works best in a virtual classroom. If you are in need of support or resources regarding technology, I invite you to explore the NPS Student and Families Technology Resources Page.

I am excited to share with you some additional opportunities for students to engage in activities at Brown. These are all optional activities, but we encourage students to choose those that interest them.

**Chorus, Band and Orchestra:**

Our ensembles will look different this year: live, virtual, full ensemble performance isn't a reality for our current technology. We will be working hard to provide alternative learning tools to make this year a musically rich and rewarding one for our musicians at all levels. Mr. Bailey-Adams, Music Teacher and Chorus Director and Ms. Nelson, Music Teacher and Band/Orchestra Conductor have created this google form for students to sign up for their offerings: Brown Middle School Ensemble Sign Ups

These activities will happen during extensions starting the week of October 5 as outlined below. Weeks will alternate “Gold Week” and “Silver Week”. To simplify this for students, the teachers will send a google calendar invitation that will show up on students calendars at the specific time each occurs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold Week (starting Oct. 5)*</th>
<th>Silver Week (starting Oct. 13)*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday Extension - 6 Chorus, 7/8 Band.</td>
<td>Monday Extension - 6 Chorus, 7/8 Orch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Extension - Orch (sectionals)</td>
<td>Wednesday Extension - Band (sectionals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Extension - 7/8 Chorus, 6 Band</td>
<td>Friday Extension - 7/8 Chorus, 6 Orch.</td>
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*Weeks alternate Gold, Silver, Gold Silver, throughout the year.

**Art Extension:**
Starting on September 30 during Extension one of our art teachers, Ms. Walsh, will be offering Art Extension for students interested in exploring their artistic side. These will be organized by
grade level (see below for specific days). Please email Ms. Walsh at 
walsht@newton.k12.ma.us if your child would like to participate. Team teachers will also be 
communicating about this opportunity with students.

Mondays at 11:15--6th Grade  
Wednesdays at 11:15 --8th Grade  
Fridays at 11:15 --7th Grade

**Brown After School Athletics and Enrichment:**

Given the unprecedented events due to Covid-19, all varsity sports for the fall 2020 
season at the Middle School level are canceled. We are working on opportunities for 
our students to engage in enrichment activities both remotely and in-person. In-person 
activities will need to be limited in number and will require students to follow a Safety 
Self Check prior to arriving. Our enrichment activities will begin the week of October 5, 
2020. Details regarding these activities can be found on this [document](#). I encourage 
you to review it with your child to increase opportunities for socially engaging with their 
peers in a fun way.

We are open to enrichment suggestions, so if you or your child would like to make a 
suggestion, please feel free to email Ms. Antonellis our athletic/enrichment director. 
She can be reached at antonellisk@newton.k12.ma.us.

We will provide further updates and information as they are determined and become 
available. In the meantime, we hope that everyone stays healthy, positive and all of our 
students and athletes are able to get back to what they love to do as soon as possible.

I hope this weekend provides you all with time to rest and relax. Wishing a meaningful 
fast to our Brown community members observing Yom Kippur this weekend.

Be well,

Kim Lysaght  
Principal  
Charles E. Brown Middle School