

Barnard Environmental Magnet School

Bob McCain, Principal
Cassandra Thomas, Assistant Principal



Lana Rowan, Theme Coach
Katheasha Hinton, Administrative Assistant

August 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I am sure we share the common hope that it will be one filled with health, happiness, challenge, and growth for your child. I would like to take this opportunity to say how excited I am to work with your children and how truly fortunate they are to attend such an outstanding school. As parents eagerly await the start of school, so do children who are anxious to see their friends and be a year older. Teachers are busy preparing lessons and the building is being cleaned and prepared for the upcoming year. I was hoping that the Covid 19 pandemic would be more under control at this point but, unfortunately, it isn't. The safety your children is our utmost concern and again we will be requiring masks, washing hands/mask breaks, sanitizing and social distancing as much as possible. Students will not have access to lockers or drinking fountains this year.

Our school will open on August 30 for all students in grades K – 8. Students in PreK3 and PreK4 will begin on September 10. Our hours are 9:15 AM – 3:30 PM (Preschool is dismissed at 3:15 PM). We will have our “**Annual Meet and Greet**” on August 27 for Grades K – 8 and the Pre-School 3/4 Meet and Greet will meet on September 2. Teachers will be calling you soon to arrange a time that is best for you and your family to attend. At this meeting, we will pass out schedules, computers and set up Goggle/PowerSchool accounts for each family. You will also hear about learning expectations for the year.

Barnard has undergone significant changes over the summer. We will be adding two Hydroponics units to our school where students will learn to grow plants and vegetables without soil and an Aquaponics unit which is a way of growing plants and aquatic animals (fish) in water together in a recirculating ecosystem. Basically, fish waste feeds the plants, and the plants clean the water for the fish. Students will be hands-on learning with these systems throughout the year. We are also have renovated the garden area adding three 10 foot by 50 foot raised bed systems to grow vegetables and plants. Classes will be assigned to areas in the garden to take care of their plants to ensure our plants thrive. We are adding a “Food Science” class where students will take the produce from the garden and learn how to prepare healthy meals that we can eat. Additionally, we have expanded our technology offering and will be having classes in robotics and coding. We will be offering an afterschool Barnard VEX Robotics Club in which will compete in competitions throughout the State against other middle schools. Our school will also be using VR (Virtual Reality) learning to enhance science classes. Please check out our new webpage for details and announcements <https://sites.google.com/nhps.net/barnard/home>

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I have been working with the school's Planning Team and have outlined our new vision and mission statements below. These will be the driving force behind all our initiatives for the next few years as we strive to become a world-class school!

- **School Vision:** Barnard Environmental Science Magnet School is a dynamic and diverse science and technology-based learning community. Students are inspired and prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century through a robust academic program where collaboration, innovation, and critical thinking skills ensure that our students will be college and career ready.
- **School Mission:** Empower learning, unleash talent and lead a culture of creativity to solve global problems.

We are no longer a “uniform” school. Students can wear clothes that they are comfortable in but part of the back-to-school ritual is usually the purchase of new clothes and shoes. Students’ clothing should reflect the fact that we are a public school and all student dress should be appropriate. Below are regulations for dress code.

Clothing that is **NOT** permitted to be worn in school:

1. Tank tops, tube tank tops, spaghetti strap shirts or dresses, halter tops, bare midriff shirts, cutoff tops or "see through" blouses.
2. Skin tight stretch shorts or pants, mini-skirts, short shorts.
3. Clothes that have logos that advertise or display alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or contain improper or suggestive language.
4. Black soled shoes or boots, which may cause problems by leaving scuffmarks on the floor.
5. Hats and do-rags, bandannas, long wallet chains or sunglasses.
6. Pants worn below the waistline and/or exposing a student's underwear.
7. Outside jackets or coats may not be worn in school unless required by the teacher.
8. Footwear is required. No plastic/rubber beachwear flip-flops.

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9. Pajama's or slippers
10. Any clothing that presents a possible health or safety hazard.

Also please keep in mind:

1. Students are not be use Cell Phones during the school day. They must stay in their backpacks at all times
2. Shorts should be worn during the months of warm weather.
3. Shorts will be permitted as long as they are mid thigh length and of appropriate fit. We understand that fashion is dictated by what stores sell but what might look fine in the summer may be inappropriate for school.
4. Skirts should be of moderate length.
5. Excessive make-up or jewelry is not appropriate.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Policy

Please do not drop off your child before 9:00 A.M. as we do not have staff available to supervise them before 9:00 AM. You may pick up students starting at **3:15 PM** at the designed school sites (see below)

- **Entrance/Exit (North Side next to Derby Ave):** Grades 5/6 only
- **Entrance/Exit (Front stairwell next to main doors) -** Grades 7/8 usage only
- **Entrance/Exit (North Side next to Derby Ave) – (old wooden doors)** Grades 1 and 2
- **Entrance/Exit (South Side along playground) -** Grades Kindergarten, Grades 3 and 4
- **Entrance/Exit (In Courtyard – next to shed) -** Pre K3 and Pre K4

Food Service

Breakfast and lunch are served daily at no cost to students. Breakfast is served starting at 9:15 A.M. and a lunch menu is available at www.nhps.net. If you choose to send your child in with a bagged lunch, please refrain from sending in: soda, candy, glass bottles, and items with peanuts/peanut butter due to food allergies.

Health Service

Nursing Services

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A school nurse is assigned daily to our school. It is important that all students entering Kindergarten and Seventh (7th) grade must be properly immunized and must receive the required physical assessment. Any students entering from out-of-state must also have a physical before entering school. NHPS medical forms may be obtained from your child's Pediatrician, our school nurse, or the New Haven Department of Public Health.

Transportation

All bus operations are handled by the Transportation Department, including information about bus stops and schedules. Please make sure students are at their bus stop 10 minutes before their scheduled stop time. Buses are considered "on time" ten minutes before/after their designated stop time. All Kindergarten and first grade students, along with all van students must be met at the bus by an adult. If an adult is not at the stop, the driver will return the student back to the school and repeated returns will result in a loss of bus privileges. Please direct specific transportation-related questions to the following: NHPS Transportation Department: 475.220.1600 First Student Bus Service: 203.772.0606 or First Student Van Service: 203.787.7433

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will hold its first meeting on **September 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.** The meeting will be an open forum to discuss the school. The PTO consists of many hardworking parents who have the welfare of Barnard at heart. It is a valuable asset to us and we encourage and appreciate any degree of involvement you can offer. If you are interested in becoming a grade level representative or want more information, please call the school.

As always, I want to extend an invitation to parents to visit the middle school whenever you wish and encourage you to participate in various school functions throughout the year. Please check our website for additional information you might be looking for as we keep it updated on a regular basis. Email addresses for the staff are also listed on the website, to enable parents to reach staff effectively. Please note that Barnard communicates with parents primarily by email. This is the most timely, and cost-effective way of "getting the word out" to our parents. Please make sure we have a current email address on file.

Lastly, to assist you in preparing your child for school, I have included our BARK philosophy which we try to model and have students learn as soon as possible. It is the driving force behind helping children to become young adults. Again, thank you for entrusting Barnard for your child's success in education!

Sincerely,

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Robert McCain

Robert McCain
Principal

BELIEF

Believe in yourself
Believe that you are important
Believe that you can accomplish anything
Believe that there are people who love you
Believe that you can make a difference in this world
Believe that there are people who want to help you
Believe you are the best !!!

AWARENESS

Aware of your family
Aware of your community and friends
Aware of the goals you must set for yourself
Aware of the consequences to the decisions of the things you do
Aware of those who will help you achieve your goals
Aware that your life is what you make of it
Aware that there are people who love you!!!

RESPECT

Respect yourself
Respect your family
Respect is earned each and every day
Respect the rights and decisions of others even if they are different than yours
Respect those who are older than you
Respect your school and teachers
Respect is the key to your future

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Do the right thing
Be helpful without being told to be
Offer to do things for free - volunteer to help
Be kind to yourself - You must learn to love yourself before you can love others
No one stands so tall when they stoop to help a child
Be kind to all people and kindness will find you
Open your heart!!!