

BRAHAM AREA SCHOOLS, ISD #314

Isanti, Kanabec, Chisago & Pine Counties
531 Elmhurst Avenue South
Braham, MN 55006

Ken Gagner, Superintendent
Shawn Kuhnke, HS Princ/ Act Dir
Jeffrey Eklund, Elem. Principal
Tammi Johnson, Dean of Students

District Office 320-396-3313
HS Office 320-396-4444
Elem Office 320-396-3316
www.braham.k12.mn.us

Steven Eklund, Board Chair
Mike Thompson, Vice Chair
Allison Londgren, Clerk
Anthony Cuda, Treasurer
Angie Flowers, Director
John Paitl, Director
Robert Hughes, Director

2017-2018 Braham Area School Staff:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying a relaxing and fun filled summer.

“If you are always racing to the next moment, what happens to the one you are in?” (author ?)

At this time last year I marveled at how hard it was to believe a year had passed since my arrival. Sitting here today and realizing two years are now in the books reminds me, and I’m guessing many of us, **time** is our most precious commodity. In the spirit of the above quote I would encourage us all to enjoy the moments this year brings. Spend an extra minute truly listening to your family members, to our students, and to each other. Spend an extra minute ensuring the task is done right, no matter how big or how small. And spend an extra moment watching the sun rise or the geese flying overhead.

If I might share one bit of personal news I’m happy to say this Superintendent enjoyed an especially big moment this summer. Daughter Jessica and husband Jesse are the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy. Enzo Thomas joined the family on July 30:)

Speaking of changes, please be aware of a few of the more significant:

- Michelle Becker takes over as Elem. Media Center / Sp. Ed. secretary
- Nickie Nelson will be secretary for Activities / Community Ed / District Assessment Coordinator support.
- We welcome several new staff, including a new district wide technology coordinator (welcome attached):

Name	Position		Name	Position
Amanda Tessmer	.5 School Counselor		Meredith Salus	EC Special Ed. Teacher
*Drew Klemz	Technology Coordinator		*Andrew Shaw	.4 EC Teacher
*Kalyn Heitkamp	2 nd Grade Teacher		*Ryan Ferrin	HS Business
**Mariah Skalicky	Chemical Dependency Counselor		**Heather Hislop	First Light Counselor

○ *Current as of mailing. *Must receive board approval on Aug. 21, 2017. **Not employees of district*

Our back to school kick-off (Monday, August 28) will begin at the **Braham Event Center** and we’ll be joined by our neighbors from Mora and Ogilvie. With nearly 400 people attending you are encouraged to arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. (continental breakfast) to alleviate the potential for long lines. The program will start promptly at 8:30 with ALL EMPLOYEES expected to attend. After the featured speaker we will transition to C100 (5-12 building) for the traditional opening from yours truly - this will start promptly at 10:55 a.m. Lunch for everyone (thanks school board members:) will follow, at which point you are asked to carefully examine the attached schedule for remaining events.

See back side

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Items needing your attention:

- Are you interested in a staff T-shirt (email sent July 24)? The district office is offering t-shirts to all employees who place an order by noon, Tuesday, August 15. Only paid orders (\$10.00) will be accepted and checks may be made out to Connie Gelle. T-shirts will be heather gray, with white lettering; **#BrahamProud** on the back, **'Above the Line'** on the front. Staff are encouraged to wear the new shirts at the Open House (5:00 - 7:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, August 30.
- **All employees are required** to watch the following videos [Hazard Communication: Right to Understand - 26 mn and Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Prevention - 23 mn] and successfully complete the questions prior to the end of the day September 1. An email from 'SAFESCHOOLS' with directions was sent to you Aug. 1 (contact our office if you did not receive an email). You may complete videos at any time, however the following times will be set aside for certain employee groups who may not have access to a computer. If you finish these at another time you are excused from attending. Completion date is September 1, 2017. *Those new to the district will need to watch an additional training - **Return to Work Program Information** - 15 mn.*

Employee Group	Details
Paras	Computer labs in either building will be open Aug. 28 - Sept. 1. This will count for one of your required 17 hours of paid training.
Custodial	12:35 p.m. on Monday, August 28 in HS Computer Lab #E106

- All employees were sent information on August 1 (email) regarding fringe benefits (contact our office if you did not receive an email). Decisions must be shared with Marie Sward prior to the end of the day September 1, 2017.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with all of you as we embark upon this new school year. As always, I am committed to serving your needs and the needs of this community. Please feel free to contact me through email: kgagner@braham.k12.mn.us, phone: (320-396-5199 office) / (320-288-6634 cell), or simply stop in for a visit. You can also follow me on Twitter @Supt_Gagner. While I welcome drop ins, I would encourage you to set up appointments through my email or contact Connie to assure my availability.

Warmest Regards,



Ken Gagner
Superintendent of Schools

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Welcome letter from new Technology Coordinator Drew Klemz:

I would like to introduce myself as your new Technology Director. For those who do not know me, or haven't seen me in quite some time, I will give you some background. I lived and grew up in Braham and graduated from BAHS in 2012. I worked as the Student Technology Assistant for both schools in Braham for 5 years under Betsy Grant and Shane Knutson. I moved to St. Cloud for five years while getting my Bachelors of Science in Information Systems and am so excited to move back to Braham, a place that will forever be called "home". For my personal life, I am engaged to the love of my life, Sarah (who also happens to be my HS sweetheart from Braham) and we are getting married on April 28th of next year. Most of you also probably know my Mom (Jonelle Klemz) who has been a part of this district for many years.

I am so excited to come back and be able to work somewhere that had such a positive impact on my life. I can't wait to connect and build strong relationships with all of you, I am looking forward to this coming school year and can't wait for it to start!

As for technology requests, I would ask that the easiest way for me to keep track will be for you to send your requests via email to: IT@braham.k12.mn.us

Obviously, I will be available through chat, my email (dklemz@braham.k12.mn.us), you can call me on either my desk or cell phone, or stop down at my office. I will do my best to be available for your requests at any time. Please note that I will be working very hard to get all of the chromebooks ready for students as this is my top priority and getting to your tasks may take longer during this transitional time.

Drew Klemz

Drew Klemz | Information Technology Coordinator | Braham Area Schools ISD 314

531 Elmhurst Ave. South Braham, MN 55006

Desk Phone: 320-396-5206

Cell Phone: 763-291-5134

Braham Area Schools Back to School Workshops

August 28-30, 2017

Date	Time	Location	Event	Who Attends?
8/28	7:30* - 8:30 a.m.	Event Center	Breakfast <i>*attendance not required until 7:45 a.m.</i>	All employees Mora & Ogilvie
	8:30 - 10:30	Event Center	Top 20 Teachers Live Above the Line: How Our Thinking Governs Our Experience. Presenter: Willow Sweeney	All employees Mora & Ogilvie
	10:55 - 11:05	HS C100	Braham Education Foundation - Tim Nelson	All employees
	11:05 - 11:55	HS C100	Superintendent Welcome	All employees
	11:55 - 12:35	HS Cafe.	Lunch:) Thanks to Braham School Board	All employees invited
	12:35 - 2:25	HS C100	WBWF, TDE, Curriculum Review, PLC's, Bomber Pride	E-12 teachers
	12:35 - 2:25	HS Media	Handbook / Review IEP's / Working with Challenging Students	All paras
8/29	7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	HS B100	Coaches and directors meeting with Mr. Kuhnke	Coaches & Directors
	7:30* - 8:00 a.m.	HS Foyer	Continental Breakfast:) Thanks to Frandsen Bank & Trust <i>*licensed staff attendance not required until 7:45 a.m.</i>	All employees invited
	8:00 - 9:30	HS C100 Elem. B100	Principal meetings	All licensed staff
	9:30 - 9:45		Break	
	9:45 - 10:15	HS C100	Homeless students / Mandated reporter / Mental health	All licensed staff
	10:20 - 12:00	HS C100	PLC / IGDP / 11:15 a.m. 'Sp. Ed. 101 for the classroom teacher'	7 - 12 teachers
	10:20 - 12:00	B100	Using FAST to support learning <i>Please bring Chromebook or Ipad</i>	E-6 teachers
	12:00 - 12:45		Lunch on your own	
	12:45 - 2:25	HS Media	Content Area Reading Strategy / presenter: Billie McQuillan	7 - 12 teachers
	12:45 - 2:25	HS C100	12:45 'Sp. Ed. 101 for the classroom teacher' / PLC / IGDP	E - 6 teachers
8/30	7:45 - 8:15 a.m.	HS Foyer	Rolls and Juice:) Thanks to Friendship Assembly of God	All employees invited
	7:45 - 2:25	Own rooms	Teacher work day	E - 12 licensed staff
	5:00 - 7:30 p.m.		Open House [hot dogs, chips, water] <i>*New student/7th gr. orientation at 6:00 p.m. in C100</i>	E - 12 licensed staff