



BRAHAM AREA HIGH SCHOOL / *North Central Accredited*

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Dear Families of Braham Area Schools,

On behalf of the staff at Braham Area Schools, I am happy to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year! Although the summer has flown by, I am excited to be writing to you today as we gear up for another successful school year. We are committed to providing service and excellence to all and look forward to another fantastic year! I would like to invite all of you to our **Open House** on Wednesday, August 30 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. On that evening we will also have our 7th grade and new student orientation at 6:00 p.m. in C100. After the short presentation your child will have an opportunity to get their class schedules and have time to find their classes. The night provides a great opportunity to meet your child's hard-working, caring, forward-thinking teachers and staff that we have here at Braham Area Schools. Throughout the evening we will also be having a free hot dog meal outside. We look forward to seeing you there, as it is sure to be a great night for Braham!

I am also excited to announce that we will once again be offering the **After School Study Lounge** every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for grades 7-12 from 3:15 - 4:15 in the High School Media Center, the study lounge will start on Monday, September 18. This is an excellent opportunity for students to work on homework, get homework help, study, etc. Licensed high school teachers will be in attendance each day. Come and check it out!

One change to note regarding our first hour Advisory class will be that it is now a graded class. Our teachers will be grading on a Pass/Fail option and will require attendance and proper participation in all that we do. Some examples of advisory content will include: Grade Check, Study Time, Character Education (Bomber P.R.I.D.E.) / College Readiness / Mentor Day / etc.

Most importantly, the safety of students and staff at Braham Area Schools is something the district is constantly aware of and continually looking to improve. Part of our safety planning is conducting Minnesota required drills, which include five fire drills, five lockdown drills, one tornado drill and one bus safety training each school year. While most of you are likely familiar with fire and bus safety drills, I would like to briefly share information regarding lockdowns. There are two types of lockdowns with the primary difference as follows:

- A **Code Yellow Lockdown** is used when there is a potential threat or situation occurring, which requires confidentiality. Doors are locked, there is a heightened sense of alertness and instruction continues although moving between classrooms is prohibited unless directed.

- A **Code Red Lockdown** is used when there is a perceived or actual threat to students, staff, or the public. All persons go to an area of safety, doors are locked and everyone is asked to remain quiet.

We encourage parents to discuss general safety tips and know that we will do the same in school. The district will generally not notify parents of safety drills when they occur, although teachers will certainly visit ahead of time with children in an age appropriate fashion. The purpose of conducting drills is to build routine – NOT to cause undue fear.

In the event the district actually conducts a safety procedure (not a drill), we will notify you through the School Messenger System – *please make sure the district has your CORRECT information and on the school website at http://brahamhs.ss5.sharpschool.com/parents_students/emergency_form*. This is the same system which announces weather related school closings, etc. While we understand receiving a message such as this may be alarming, you are asked NOT to call or come to the school in the event you receive such a message. **Coming to the school or calling the school will only worsen the situation.** The district, if needed, will continue to send updates as appropriate.

Additionally, for your information, Braham Area Schools will be having an evacuation and relocation drill taking place on Friday, September 15. This will be a structured opportunity for students and staff to practice evacuating off campus and to experience what would happen in the event we were not able to return to school immediately. The drill is part of our normal safety planning and helps us sift through potential problem areas in the event of a true emergency. If you would take time to discuss safety planning with your children, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about district safety procedures we ask that you contact the school and we would be happy to visit with you.

As our summer winds down, I would also like to invite you to take a look at a couple of websites that will be of great value to you. Our High School website can be found at: <http://www.braham.k12.mn.us>. Within this website you will find information including the student handbook (contact the school if you would like a hard copy), teacher pages, high school headlines, tweets by @Braham_Schools, Daily Bulletin, activity schedules among many other valuable bits of information.

The second website to visit is regarding the application to sign up for Free and Reduced lunches. This can be found at: <https://brahamfoodservice.heartlandapps.com/>. We invite all of you to sign up for this promotion as it is of no cost to you and can provide for free and reduced lunches for your children as well as to provide for more funding to Braham Area Schools! Please take the time to apply.

Our staff and I are also looking forward to a productive partnership with you throughout the entire school year to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1. Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience. Call in (396-5220) with all reasons for absence or send a note. All absences without a prior call or a post-letter become unexcused absences. Please note that all 7th through 12th grade students that live inside the city limits do not receive bus service.
2. Completes all homework assignments given by teachers.
3. Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills.
4. Informs you if they should need additional support in any area or subject.
5. Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school to become a responsible and contributing citizen.

I wish for you to enjoy the remaining days of the summer as we eagerly anticipate another fulfilling year of meaningful learning experiences for our students here at Braham Area Schools!

Warm Regards,

Shawn Kuhnke
High School Principal

Activities Director