



**Brentwood
Borough
School
District**



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH

We are looking forward to an amazing 2022-2023 school year. In this edition of the INBrentwood-Baldwin-Whitehall magazine our focus is on annual notifications and project updates.

Elementary Building Updates

- Planning for the new elementary school continues to move forward. The following items are in motion:
- The Borough is considering language changes to the building height ordinance. This change will be necessary to meet the proposed building height requirements.
 - Requests for proposals for a traffic study were sent.
 - Requests for topographical surveys and geotechnical surveys were sent.
 - Architectural firm, HHS DR and district representatives met to discuss how to proceed with including students, parents, faculty, staff, and community in the design process. More information will be released soon.

New School Safety Funding

In 2018, the Pennsylvania School Code was amended to allow for the creation of the School Safety and Security Committee. Since that time school safety grants were established in partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Originally, school districts competed for funding, but that changed with the 2022-2023 State budget. Brentwood was awarded funding in the amount of \$117,931 for behavioral health and \$117,931 for physical security. The district will the Baseline Criteria in the areas of behavioral health and health and physical security to determine the best use of the new funding.

Comprehensive Planning and Climate Survey

The Comprehensive Planning process is used to assist with goal setting and measuring progress on goals. Students, faculty, staff, administration, parents, and community members will all be invited to complete a voluntary survey to assist with the planning process. More information will follow in October of 2022.

NEW DIRECTOR, CAFETERIA PRICES AND APPLICATIONS

We would like to introduce **Ms. Lily Briggs** from The Nutrition Group. Ms. Briggs will serve as the Food Service Director for all schools in the Brentwood Borough School District. She is a recent graduate with a degree in Nutritional Sciences from Penn State University and possesses a passion for food service. Please feel free to contact Ms. Briggs at 412-881-4940 ext.2500 or lily.briggs@bb-sd.com.



Families are again required to complete an application for free or reduced meals for the 2022-2023 school year. Please review the information below for the upcoming school year.

MEAL PRICES FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR:

ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

BREAKFAST- \$1.55

ELEMENTARY LUNCH \$2.65

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH \$2.90

Families that qualify for reduced meal prices:

BREAKFAST \$0.30

LUNCH \$0.40

Families who completed applications in the past will apply online for free and reduced meals at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/>.

For families completing the online applications for the FIRST TIME please go to <https://www.bb-sd.com/Downloads/SchoolCafeSetup32.pdf> for instructions on how to set up an account to apply for the free/reduced application. This site enables families to view student cafeteria transactions, add money electronically, and place restrictions on a child's ability to purchasing a la carte items.



STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE OPT-OUT

Federal Public Law 114-95, Section 8528 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. The law also requires school districts to notify students and parents of their right to "opt-out" of having this information released to military recruiters. If you would like to exercise your right to "opt-out," please submit this request in writing to your child's building principal as soon as possible.

All schedules for middle school and high school athletics and activities can be found on the Brentwood Borough School District website <http://www.bb-sd.com>. Any other information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Rick Huffman at (412) 881-4940 Extension 2720, or by e-mailing at rick.huffman@bb-sd.com.

Admission Fees Set for Athletic Events

The admission fees for various athletic events sponsored by the Brentwood Borough School District are as follows:

Football	Adult \$6.00	Senior Citizen \$4.00	Students \$4.00
Basketball	Adult \$6.00	Senior Citizen \$4.00	Students \$4.00
Volleyball	Adult \$4.00	Senior Citizen \$2.00	Students \$3.00
Swimming	Adult \$4.00	Senior Citizen \$2.00	Students \$3.00

In addition, active military personnel will be admitted free of charge with military identification. For any athletic events not noted above, admission is free.

GOLDEN AGER CARD AVAILABLE



As in previous years, the "Golden Ager" card will be available to Brentwood residents 65 years of age or older. The card provides free admission to all events sponsored by the Brentwood Borough School District. Please note that the "Golden Ager" card is only valid for Brentwood HOME events. The card is not valid at away events, or WPIAL and PIAA playoff events. The "Golden Ager" card is available at the district Administration Offices in the lower level of the middle/high school during regular office hours 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday.

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS SUMMER MINICAMPS



During the 2021 school year, the administration and teaching staff worked collaboratively to offer fun educational minicamps. The response from families and students was so favorable, the Brentwood Borough School District offered minicamps again during the summer of 2022. These camps were offered to students in grades K-12. The camps offered activities and topics that would be enjoyable to the students and would allow them to explore interests and have fun.

Below is a list of minicamps that were offered:

- Adventures at Sea
- Creative Book Blast
- Fun Board Games
- Fun with Foods
- Summer Book Club
- Clay! Clay! Clay!
- Camp Glam
- Science of Sports
- Backyard Basketball
- Basketball Basics
- Diving into Dance

The camps were hosted at Brentwood Middle/High School, Elroy Elementary and Moore Elementary and were made possible with ESSER funding. We would like to offer a special thanks to: Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Ferkett, Mrs. Mindy Golvash, Mrs. Lynne Golvash, Ms. Kortze, Ms. Manolis, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Rodi, Mrs. Weaver, and Mrs. Ziegler. All the teachers and staff members planned and implemented each of the minicamps that were offered. We appreciate their dedication to our students and to the school district.

These Voluntary Participation Student Accident Insurance Plans offered through your school can be purchased easily online at:

www.BollingerSchools.com

AVAILABLE COVERAGE OPTIONS

Depending on which program your school provides, some or all of the following voluntary insurance products are available for purchase on a voluntary basis:

- \$500,000 School Time Only Student Accident Insurance
- \$500,000 'Round The Clock – 24 Hour Accident Coverage
- \$10,000 Student Life Insurance
- \$5,000 Student Dental Accident Insurance



Kids will be kids!

Make sure your child is properly covered against unforeseen accidents.

Purchase coverage at your convenience from any computer.

Follow the easy step by step instructions and you're done in minutes!



Bollinger Insurance • 101 JFK Parkway • Short Hills • NJ • 07078
www.BollingerSchools.com

Did you know that you can voluntarily purchase student accident insurance for your child in grades K-12? You can! The Brentwood Borough School District has partnered with Bollinger Specialty Group to provide a number of insurance options to offer coverage for your child. This is an affordable and reasonable option to insure your child and/or add additional supplemental coverage for your child. Please visit www.BollingerSchool.com for plan options and pricing.

BRENTWOOD MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES MR. TED ULMER



The Brentwood Borough School District is proud to welcome Mr. Ted Ulmer to our educational family as the Assistant Principal for Brentwood Middle-High School. Mr. Ulmer will be working with both the middle and high school programs and all of our students grades 6 through 12. He was hired in February of 2022 and began working with the district in April.

Mr. Ulmer is a fourteen-year veteran in public education. He previously spent his career in the Clairton City School District. At Clairton, he served as a Social Studies instructor and was the Athletic Director. He has a keen knowledge and experience working with the same age range of children at his previous district. He also gained administrative experience working with the community, other schools within the WPIAL, and stakeholders as the Athletic Director. These attributes made him a natural fit for the Assistant Principal role at Brentwood.

Mr. Ulmer is a 2004 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where he majored in History and Political Science. Originally, he had majored in education at West Virginia University. After undergrad, he decided to take his professional working career in a different direction and completed a four-year apprenticeship program with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. However, the calling to work in the field of education

never left, and he embarked on a new path earning a Master of Education degree at California University of Pennsylvania. He became a certified professional teacher in Social Studies 7-12. Mr. Ulmer displayed qualities of leadership during his tenure at Clairton City Schools and soon he earned his Principal's Certificate from Point Park University while enrolled in their Educational Leadership certificate program.

Mr. Ulmer is married to Danielle (Barletto) who is a native of Staten Island, New York. They have two beautiful children together, Zoë (14) and Aaron (12). Mr. Ulmer is active in his home community. He coaches baseball and is a member of the board of directors for Elizabeth Forward Youth Athletics organization.

Mr. Ulmer values the impact that can be made by working in community schools. The smaller size and ability to develop relationships with students and their families is a key component to helping students be successful. He values the personal relationships that can be formed through academic, athletic and activities programs that are offered in the Brentwood Borough School District. Immediately, Mr. Ulmer recognized the sense of community, tradition and pride that is displayed by the students and parents at Brentwood. The Brentwood Borough School District is certainly proud to welcome Mr. Ulmer as a member of the Administrative Team and we are confident that he will make a difference for our children.

ELROY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

BY ALYSSA BRUTSCHER

Elroy Elementary was thrilled to bring back the Science Olympiad for students in fourth and fifth grades. Students in those grades were divided into twelve teams to develop team names and slogans that would represent them as they competed against their peers. To complete the Olympiad, students on each team worked together to earn as many points as possible at each event. Students rotated through six science related events titled, Block Party, Take the Plunge, Egg Drop, Pentominoes, Shake it Up/ Calculator Calculations, and an obstacle course. Each event was run by a teacher, parent volunteers, and NHS students who tallied and recorded points for each team. After final points were totaled, each team received a participation medal, and the top three teams received a trophy. We were so proud to see how well the students worked together and supported each other in completing each activity. Thank you to Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Very, Mrs. Duing, Mrs. Brutscher, and Mrs. Nicklaus for their hard work and dedication to planning and preparing such a wonderful, enjoyable day for our students. Thank you also to our staff, parent volunteers, and NHS students for your participation in making the Science Olympiad a memorable day for our fourth and fifth graders.



WELCOME BACK TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!!



The signs that school will be back in session start to appear earlier and earlier each year. By mid-July Target and Walmart will be in full swing with their back-to-school supplies and sales. At that point in the summer, it seems too soon for anyone to be thinking about backpacks and early bedtimes. However, that may be the perfect time to start on your checklist for back-to-school!

Over the summer, your student may have had an annual check-up or exam; they may have even had a medication change. That type of information should be shared with your child's school. Please remember, if your student takes medications at school, the nurse will need an up-dated Prescription Medication Form. That form, along with all other health forms can be found under the health department on the district website.

While on the district website, you can also access information about our food services. Monthly menus are posted for both breakfast and lunch. Families should fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch form to see if they qualify for free and reduced lunches. This form needs to be completed annually and should be done within the first 30 days of school so that qualified families are not charged for meals.

The first student day is August 29, 2022. Kindergarten students have a staggered start and will receive letters with their specific start days. Families who would like to take advantage of back-to-school supply sales can find copies of the grade level lists on the school website. All students will receive a Chromebook during the first few days of school and the teachers will use those devices in their classes.

Student schedules and homerooms can be found in Skyward at least one week prior to the start of school. On the

first day of school staff members will have homeroom lists and will be available to help direct students to their classes.

Finally, as the first day of school approaches, slowly start to adjust bedtimes for what may be an early wake-up. Students are admitted to school at 8:10 am and first period begins at 8:30 am. Students should be in their homerooms by 8:20 am. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that elementary students get between 9 and 12 hours of sleep each night. Therefore, assuming a 7:00 am wake-up, elementary students would need to be in bed between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

A Back-to-School Checklist

- School supplies
- Free and reduced lunch form completed
- Up-dated health information
- Homeroom and schedule
- A week before school starts- adjust bedtimes if necessary
- Pick out that first day outfit

Get excited; the first day is just around the corner and we are happy to have you back!

Tech Tips for Chromebooks- Insights from the frontline

Every day, Moore School's secretary juggles many different tasks. Those tasks include triaging and troubleshooting Chromebooks when students bring them into the office for repair or problems. I asked Miss Sarah for her top tips on keeping student devices running and what to do when they stop running.

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Charger Care

When you receive your child's devices they come with their names on the Chromebook, but the charger does not have any identifying information. Consider adding a return address label or use a sharpie to write your student's name and homeroom.

Chargers go missing- almost as often as socks from the dryer. Try to keep them at home and in the same place. Pick one outlet and choose that as the area for charging, even place the bookbags there and charge the devices in the bags.

Avoid bringing the chargers into school. An overnight charge should be sufficient to keep the device running all day long.

Handling Chromebooks

Students may be used to carrying tablets or Nintendo DS around. Although the devices come with cases to keep them safe from most minor drops, care should be taken with them.

Never carry the device by the screen. This puts a lot of pressure on the screen -damage has occurred with this carrying method.

When opening the device, try to do so from the middle. Again, this evenly distributes the pressure on the device's screen and can prevent damage from opening by the corners.

Keep the juice boxes and milks away from the devices at all costs! No matter how quickly you dry off a Chromebook, even a little bit of milk and juice can do damage within seconds.

Check your child's backpacks. Many backpacks include a laptop sleeve to transport devices. The sleeves are usually directly against the wearer's back and have some extra padding to protect the devices on their journeys. If your child's backpack has a laptop sleeve, put the Chromebook in the sleeve when coming to school.

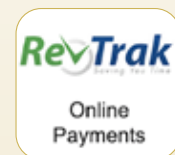
General Tips

Purchase the insurance! It may not cover every possible problem, but it can save you in the long run

Avoid letting others log into the students' devices. Only the student to whom the device is issued should be using that device. Along that same line, never share passwords. The Chromebooks have software installed that monitors student use both inside and outside of school.

If a device is damaged or broken, report it to the office right away. If there are pieces of the device, please send them to school in a bag labeled with the student's name and homeroom teacher.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, send the device into school every day. Teachers use the devices and their apps daily in classes starting in kindergarten.



Cafeteria News Online Payments Coming for the 2022-23 School Year By Melissa Fulmer

The Brentwood Borough School District is excited to announce a new option for parents/guardians to pay for technology, textbook, testing fees, and much more. The district has partnered with RevTrak, an online payment company, that works with Skyward, our student information system. One family's set-up a RevTrak Account, you will be guided to make online payments (via debit or credit card) for various fees at Brentwood Borough School District. A guide will be available in the near future on the districts website as well as a date in which families may start accessing the portal.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS BRENTWOOD- BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



CHILD FIND AND ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS (CFR 300.125)

In compliance with state and federal law, the Brentwood-Borough School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students or eligible students, contact Dr. Christine Winiarski at (412) 881-4940 Ext 2215 or email Christine.winiarski@bb-sd.com.

Each school district, along with other public agencies in the Commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, offer assistance to parents and describe the parent's rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during the process. Each school district shall also conduct awareness activities to inform the public of gifted education services and programs and the manner by which to request these services and programs.

The content of this notice has been written in English. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the school district and request an explanation.

IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITY

Child Find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing in the State, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available. The types of disabilities, that if found to cause a child to need services are: Autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, intellectual disability (mental retardation), multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment due to chronic or acute health problems, specific learning disabilities, speech or language, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment including blindness, in the case of a child that is of preschool age developmental delay. Screening activities are also conducted to determine student need for gifted support services.

The Brentwood-Borough School District provides educational services for all eligible students either through district- operated classes, contracts with Intermediate Unit #3, or Approved Private Schools. Classes providing Learning Support, Life-Skills Support, Emotional Support, Physical Support, Multiple Disabilities Support, and Autistic Support are available for students at beginning school age through age 21, if necessary. Additional services include

hearing, vision, and speech and language support. Students found to meet eligibility criteria as "mentally gifted" may receive services through district's Gifted Support programs.

Each school district is required to annually provide notice describing the identification activities and the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information. This notice is intended to meet this requirement.

Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected as having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. Children suspected of being "mentally gifted" who need specially designed instruction not ordinarily provided in the regular education program also go through screening activities. The activities include: review of group data, conduct hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior and determining the student's response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a suspected child with a disability, he or she is evaluated, but is not evaluated before parents give permission for their child to be evaluated.

The school district will follow procedures outlined in the special education regulations (Chapter 14) for determining eligibility and need for special education services. Chapter 16 regulations will be followed to determine eligibility and need for Gifted Support services.

CONFIDENTIALITY (CFR 300.127)

If after screening, a disability is suspected, upon your permission, your child will be evaluated. Written records of the results are called an education record, which are directly related to your child and are maintained by the school districts. These records are personally identifiable to your child. Personally identifiable information includes the child's name, the name of the child's parents or other family member, the address of the child or their family, a personal identifier such as student identification number, a list of characteristics that would make the child's identity easily traceable or other information that would make the child's identity easily traceable.

The school district will gather information regarding your child's physical, mental, emotional and health functioning through testing and assessment, observation of your child, as well as through review of any records made available to the school district through your physician and other providers of services such as day care agencies.

The school district protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information by one school official being responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of the records, training being provided to all persons using the information, and maintaining for public inspection a current list of employee's names and positions who may have access to the information. The school district will inform you when this information is no longer needed to provide educational services to your child and will destroy the information at designated intervals, except general information such as your child's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record

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Annual Notification Requirement of District Policies

There are multiple policies that require annual notification. The Brentwood Borough School District has provided a link under the School Board tab of the bb-sd.com website for all active policies. The policies may also be accessed by clicking the link:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/bren/Board.nsf/Public>



and classes attended, grade level completed, may be maintained without time limitation.

As the parent of the child you have a number of rights regarding the confidentiality of your child’s records. The right to inspect and review any education records related to your child are collected, maintained, or used by the school district. The school district will comply with a request for you to review the records without unnecessary delay before any meetings regarding planning for your child’s special education program (called an IEP meeting). Should you and your school district disagree about your child’s special education supports and services and a due process hearing is requested, the school district will furnish you with the opportunity to inspect and review your child’s records, within 30 days.

You have the right to an explanation and interpretations of the records, to be provided copies of the records if failure to provide the copies would effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the records, and the right to have a representative inspect and review the records. This review is conducted with the assistance of an appropriate school district staff member.

Upon your request, the school district will provide you a list of the types and location of education records collected, maintained, or used by the agency. Additionally, the school district has a right to charge a fee for copies of records made in response to your request except, it will not charge a fee if doing so will prevent you from inspecting and reviewing your child’s records. A current list of reasonable fees relative to records request is available in the district’s central office. The district will not charge a fee to search or retrieve information.

You have the right to request in writing the amendment of your child’s education records that you believe are inaccurate or misleading, or violate the privacy or other rights of your child. The school district will decide whether to amend the records within 45 school days of receipt of your request. If the school district refuses to amend the records you will be notified of the refusal and your right to a hearing. You will be given at that time, additional information regarding the hearing procedures. Upon written request, the district will schedule and provide written notice of the hearing to challenge information in your child’s education files.

Parent consent is required before personally identifiable information contained in your child’s education records is disclosed to anyone other than officials of the Brentwood-Borough School District collecting or using the information for purposes of identification of your child, locating your child and evaluating your child or for any other purpose of making available a free appropriate public education to your child. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Additionally, the school district, upon request, discloses records without consent to officials of another school district in which your child seeks or intends to enroll.

A parent may file a written complaint with the Pennsylvania Department of Education at the address below alleging that the rights described in this notice were not provided.

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
Division of Compliance
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

The Department of Education will investigate the matter, issue a report of findings and necessary corrective action within 60 days.

The Department will take necessary action to ensure compliance is achieved.

Complaints alleging failures of the school district with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information may also be filed with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

The Brentwood-Borough School District will provide ongoing screening services. If you wish to learn more, have questions, or believe your child may need to be identified, please contact Dr. Christine Winiarski at (412) 881-4940 Ext 2215 or email winiarski@bb-sd.com.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

EARLY INTERVENTION IDENTIFICATION

In Pennsylvania, a child between three years of age and the school district’s age to begin school who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental conditions listed above, will be identified as an “eligible young child.” The parents of these children have the same rights described above.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention Services System Act. Screening for preschool children is available through the DART Program operated by Intermediate Unit #3. To schedule an appointment for screening call Dr. Susan Sams at 412-394-5816. For additional information, contact your local school district.

POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF WEAKNESSES IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAIN AREAS AND OTHER RISK FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY (REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 14.212(B))

A developmental delay is determined by the results of a developmental evaluation. The results of one or more domain areas (adaptive, personal-social, communication, motor or cognitive) have to show at least a 25% delay or a score of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean (Standard Score of 77 or below). The delay results in the need for specially designed intervention/instruction (SDI) in order to participate in typical activities and routines.

Children with a developmental delay may show weaknesses in the following areas:

Adaptive – Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty dressing/undressing; using utensils to eat, removing shoes without assistance, distinguishing between nonfood/food substances, or have difficulty with toileting needs. One may have difficulty moving independently around the house, understanding that hot is dangerous, putting away toys when asked, indicating an illness or ailment to an adult, or demonstrating caution and avoiding common dangers.

Personal-Social – Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty responding positively to adult praise, rewards or promise of rewards; greeting familiar adults spontaneously, enjoying simple stories read aloud, helping with simple household tasks, initiating social interaction with familiar adults, expressing affection/liking for peers, playing cooperatively with peers, stating first name, last name, age, or whether he is a male/female; using objects in make-believe play, using ‘I’ or ‘me’ to refer to himself, or recognizing facial expressions of common emotions.

Communication - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty following 2-step verbal commands, associating spoken words with pictures, recalling events from a story presented orally; engaging in extended and meaningful nonverbal exchanges with others, using words to get his needs met, responding to ‘yes’ and ‘no’ questions appropriately, or asking ‘wh’ questions.

Motor - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty running without falling, kicking a ball without falling, walking up and down steps alternating feet without assistance, walking backward, imitating the bilateral movements of an adult, pointing with his index finger independent of the thumb and other fingers, scribbling linear and/or circular patterns spontaneously, using the pads of fingertips to grasp a pencil, holding a paper with one hand while drawing or writing with the other hand, fastening clothing without assistance, cutting with scissors, copying a circle, or imitating vertical and horizontal markings.

Cognitive - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty attending to one activity for 3 or more minutes, reciting memorized lines from songs or TV shows, showing interest in age-appropriate books, matching/naming colors, responding to one and one more, giving three objects on request, matching shapes, identifying objects by their use, identifying items by size, identifying colors of familiar objects not in view, or identifying simple objects by touch.

OTHER FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY

Developmental disabilities are birth defects related to a problem with how a body part or body system works. They may also be known as functional birth defects. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems. Researchers have identified thousands of different birth defects. Birth defects can have a variety of causes, such as:

Genetic problems caused when one or more genes doesn’t work properly or part of a gene is missing, problems with chromosomes, such as having an extra chromosome or missing part of a chromosome, environmental factors that the expectant mother is exposed to during pregnancy, such as Rubella or German measles or if she uses drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING MENTAL GIFTEDNESS

1. The child performs a year or more above grade achievement level in one or more subjects as measured by a nationally normed and validated achievement test.
2. The child demonstrates rates of acquisition/retention of content and skills reflecting gifted ability.
3. The child demonstrates achievement, performance, or expertise in one or more academic areas as evidenced by products, portfolios or research, as well as criterion-referenced team judgment.

4. The child demonstrates early and measured use of high level thinking skills, academic creativity, leadership skills, intense academic interest, communication skills, foreign language aptitude, or technology expertise.

5. The child demonstrates that intervening factors such as English as a second language, disabilities, gender or race bias, or socio/cultural deprivation are masking gifted abilities.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE SERVICES

The Brentwood Borough School District operates a K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) Program which serves linguistically diverse students enrolled in the district. This program provides English Learners daily instruction in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing in English by certified ESL teachers. Generally, this instruction is delivered to students by way of small group, pull-out instruction. Students are grouped with students of similar age, grade, and language proficiency level. They are provided with daily instruction which is aligned to PA Core Standards, PA English Language Development (ELD) Standards, and supported by a high quality, research-based language acquisition curriculum. Students are assessed annually with the WIDA ACCESS test to monitor growth in language proficiency and to determine the continued need for support with English language development. The amount and duration of ESL pull-out instruction may decrease as the student’s language proficiency increases. Students have the opportunity to exit the ESL program annually and the Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements for exit are followed. Each child’s ESL teacher collaborates with his/her classroom and content area teachers to monitor progress in the general curriculum. Information, strategies, and resources are regularly shared to assure that the child’s language needs are met. Parents are informed of the child’s progress in English language development through both grades on the school district report card as well as student performance on yearly WIDA ACCESS testing. Once a child is no longer in need of daily support with language development and they exit the ESL program, their progress is monitored for a period of 4 years. Upon registration in the district, a Home Language Survey is completed by every parent/ guardian seeking enrollment of their child. The survey seeks to determine if the student speaks a language other than English or a language other than English is spoken in the home. Based upon this and other information, the school conducts a family interview to gather more information to determine if the student should be further screened to determine need for services. The screening instrument assesses the student in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing to determine eligibility for placement in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The goal of our ESL program is to help students acquire the English necessary to attain language proficiency and access grade level content instruction for grade promotion and graduation.

Parents do have the right to opt out of specific, specialized ELD instructional programs. This right to opt-out does not include initial assessment and identification or continuing annual assessment of the child’s English proficiency. If you wish to consider exercising your right to opt your child out of specific ESL instruction, please contact your child’s building principal to arrange a meeting. Individuals requiring further information regarding the ESL program at Brentwood Borough Schools are directed to Dr. Chris Winiarski, (412) 881-4940 ext. 2215 or christine.winiarski@bb-sd.com.