



OCTOBER 2022  
NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our school year got off to an excellent start this past September. The kids are doing a great job with their schoolwork and attendance. As you walk through our hallways, you hear inquisitive questions and laughter from the classrooms. Having so much positive energy in our school is a wonderful feeling!

I want to thank all parents for encouraging their children to attend school daily. Data shows that chronic absenteeism, 15 or more days, will have a negative impact on grades. School not only provides educational opportunities, but it also is a place to socialize and learn how to work with others. Face-to-face interactions help to form better relationships and create positive life experiences. Good attendance helps build better life skills.

A big part of our successful school year can be attributed to the positive communication between parents and the school. Parent Square has become a reliable form of communication for everyone. It is an excellent way to leave a message during the school day. I appreciate all the parents that have called to talk about school events or to verify information. Personal conversations always work better than emails.

We have a lot to look forward to over the next few months. Look for information about the return of the Good Morning Program. The staff and students have been rehearsing for the musical Mary Poppins. They have also been busy preparing scenery and props. The musical will take place at school on November 11th and 12th. Our winter concert will be in December.

Thank you for your continued support. Our collaboration makes Brookfield Central a special place to grow and learn.

*Ron Pavlus*

Principal

## OUR MISSION

The Brookfield Central School District community provides diversity of academic and co-curricular programs/activities with emphasis on the development & demonstration of knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and personal growth for our students and community so that they may reach their fullest potential in an ever-changing society.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWS

*Mrs. Colby Thall*

Pre-kindergarten is a year of firsts! It is the students' first experience in school and they are doing a great job! Our first unit is all about getting set for school. Throughout this unit, we begin with foundational concepts such as using our manners, how to be a friend & beginning exposure to letters and numbers. We have fun every week with our parrot puppet named Squawker who teaches us our new vocabulary words. We also have learned all about our pieces such as a big line, little line, big curve and little curve. All of these pieces and formations will help us learn how to write and recognize letters. We are learning our friends' names and the letters that our names start with. We also have been working on a lot of phonological awareness skills as well as foundational math concepts. Our classroom rules and routines are important components of our day. We look forward to filling our marble jar to reward our good school choices. So far, we have already filled it twice and celebrated our positive choices with marble parties! We are looking forward to more firsts as the year continues.



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## KINDERGARTEN

*Mrs. Hafelin*

Our kindergarten class is off to an absolutely great start this year! The class has been learning their letters, counting to five, and talking about both families and communities. The kindergarten class has enjoyed our discussions during our Positivity Project time as well as creating new crafts this year. We are working hard to become a strong team of kind kindergarteners. We are looking forward to more learning and fun this year!



*Pictured Here, our Kindergarten students are showing off their Johnny Appleseed hats.*

## FIRST GRADE

*Miss Viscomi*

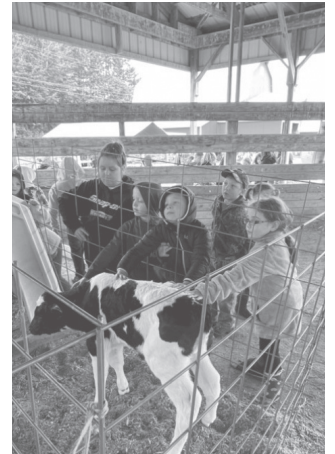


First grade is off to a wonderful start this school year. The students quickly demonstrated understanding of our classroom routines and expectations. They are so kind and helpful to each other. We have been working hard on mastering all our letter sounds and reading fun stories. The students are learning many new strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems and picking out which one works best for each of them. We started off social studies by talking about families, traditions and what makes each of their families unique. In science, we are learning about the human body and doing a bunch of hands-on activities. First grade also took a field trip to participate in Agriculture Day where they learned about different animals and dairy products. Mrs. Bugbee and I are super proud of this group of students as they earned September's Class of the Month!

## SECOND GRADE

*Mrs. Gregory*

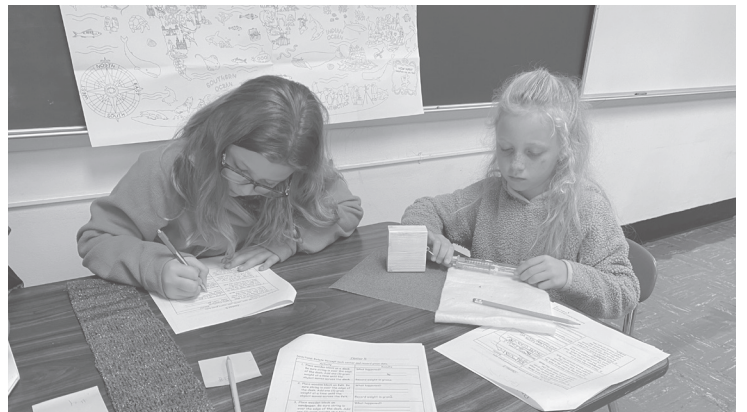
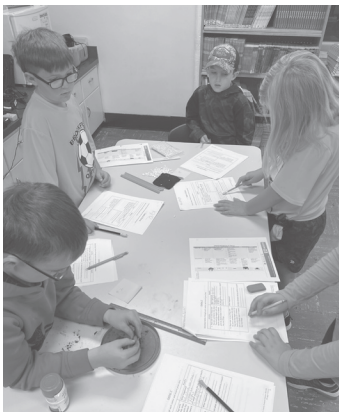
Second grade is off to a great start this school year! Students are back in a routine and working very hard in all subject areas. Second graders are doing a wonderful job of collaborating and building an awesome community of learners through various STEAM activities. Our class also went to Morrisville State College for Agriculture Day! Students were able to pet animals, learn about the milking process and enjoyed a long hayride. Additionally, the North Brookfield and Brookfield Fire Departments were kind enough to swing by and offer some fire safety information. Students thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the equipment and fire trucks! Thank you, Brookfield Fire Department!



## THIRD GRADE

*Mrs. Mead*

Third grade has been busy exploring the different types of forces during science class.



## FOURTH GRADE NEWS

*Miss Head*

The fourth grade has been engaged and participating in many exciting learning activities since early September. We have been working to build positive relationships with each other as well as getting used to routines and center rotations.

We have just completed our New York State geography social studies unit. In this unit, we took a virtual reality tour of Times Square, Liberty Island and Fort Montgomery. Students also created their own map of New York State. Feel free to ask the fourth grade students about the geography of New York State! We will soon begin studying Native American groups and during this study, students will have the opportunity to create their own longhouse.

In math we have learned about place value, rounding and addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are now going to begin working with different methods of multi-digit multiplication! Students have been working hard in small groups during math and incorporating technology into math time. Students have been engaged with Waggle, a new online math program.

Students have been working hard to fill the pom-pom bucket, which is our class reward system for showing positive behavior, bravery and working hard during the school day. We will have our first class reward day next week! In addition to this, students have been working together on different character strengths through the Positivity Project. We have discussed and experimented with other people mindset, curiosity, teamwork and open-mindedness. We have worked on many fun activities to help bring our class together through the Positivity Project. One of these activities during teamwork was finding ways to describe how to draw an object to a partner without telling them what the object was.

I am very proud of all the fourth graders have accomplished so far and I am looking forward to a great year of learning and growing together!



## FIFTH GRADE NEWS

*Mrs. Cossette*

Fifth grade students are very busy settling into the year. We have worked hard and have had many successes so far! In October, we had a visit from the Brookfield and North Brookfield Fire Departments to learn about fire safety and explored the fire trucks and equipment. We are thankful to have such awesome community members to help keep all safe.

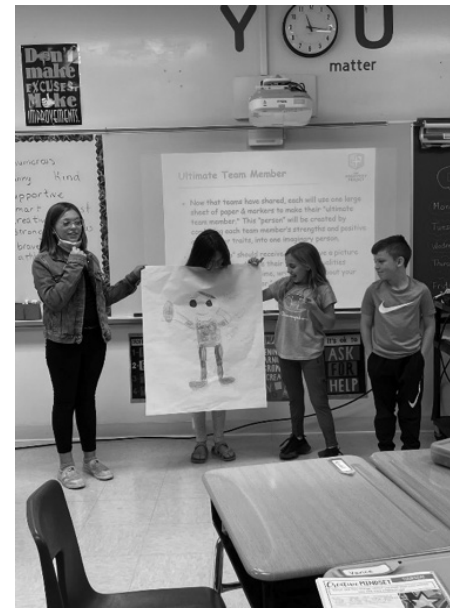
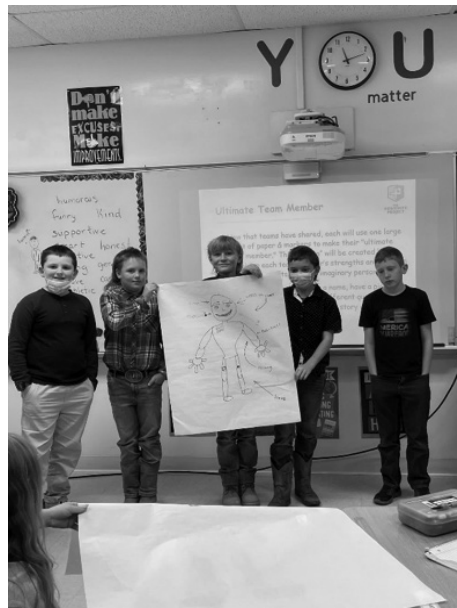
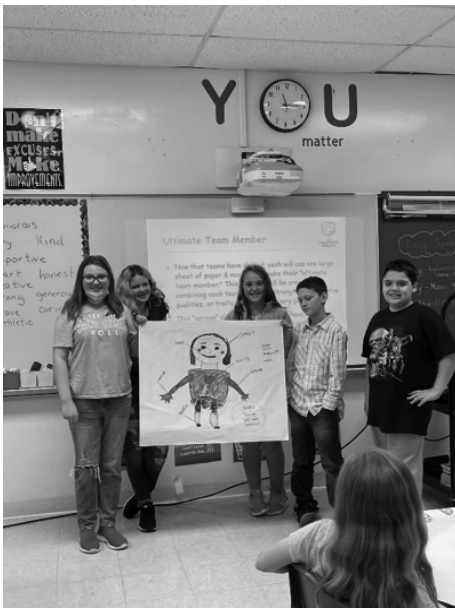
In ELA students read the book "Frindle", a story about a boy who makes up a new word for a pen. This was a fun story and enjoyed by all. We have also been working out of the "Journeys" textbook. The first unit has been focused on the stories about different cultures and activities. The second unit focuses on nature and animals in nature. We have worked on subjects, predicates, verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs, along with weekly spelling words and spelling patterns. We are working on writing opinion essays, and focusing on writing five paragraph essays. It is hard work getting used to writing paragraphs with five-seven sentences so five paragraph essays are very challenging!

In science, we are studying Earth systems, layers of the atmosphere, the water cycle and precipitation. We are also learning about wind patterns.

In social studies, we have completed several map skills and are learning about early civilizations. Students have studied where humans originated from and where they migrated to. They have learned why early humans migrated and what early lands were like.

In math students have been studying multiplication, division and estimation of numbers. We have found that many students need to work more on their multiplication facts to be successful, so we made flashcards to practice at home. We are working on the order of operation; PEMDAS (parenthesis, exponents, multiplication, division and subtraction). We will soon be working on volume, rectangular prisms and cubic feet.

Lastly, students have been learning more from the Positivity Project. This program requires students to think about character and relationships with others, learning the best way to communicate with their friends and treat them with respect. Students have discussed helping others and showing how to be good listeners. We look forward to learning more about positivity towards others and ways we can show kindness this year.



# HERE'S THE SCOOP ON SIXTH GRADE!

*Miss Jardines*

We have started the year with a lot of energy and excitement over what's to come this year. There have been some new positive additions to the curriculum such as a new math curriculum, keyboarding program and the Positivity Project, which the students have really come to enjoy. With the addition of these, we are working on building skills that the students will need to be successful in their future academic endeavors. Some of these skills are teamwork, social and emotional skills to improve communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills and increased vocabulary knowledge. While we will be working on these skills, it's important to point out that although both the curriculum and the academic side of sixth grade can/will be rigorous, it's important to take time and teach the students that learning can be fun and rewarding. Here are a few images of our math centers where our students can hone their math skills & have fun!



## History Day Returns for the 2022-2023 School Year

*Mrs. Zaia*

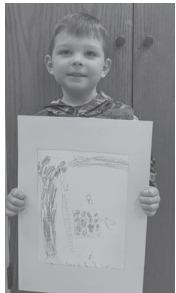
Brookfield Central School students in grades 6-11 have begun their National History Day projects for the year. Ms. Jardines sixth grade class is a new addition to the program this year. The theme for the year is "Frontiers in History: People, Places & Ideas." Students have selected their topics and project categories based on this theme and are well on their way to researching, creating their thesis and finding their primary sources to back up their thesis. This year's competition will be held at BCS on February 15, 2023 with a snow date of February 16. Be sure to ask your historian about their topic for this year.

## STUDENT COUNCIL STARTS ANew

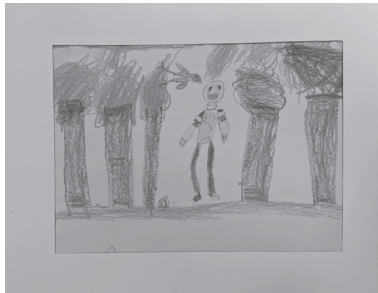
After suspension of the student council through the toughest part of the COVID-19 pandemic, BCS Student Council has returned to action. Students held campaigns, gave speeches and voted to give students at Brookfield a voice in the happenings at school. Students learn about representative government, working as a team and time management throughout the year. The Student Council has big plans and has already begun plans for the first dance of the year on October 28 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. We are also soon to vote for officers in the club and will work to establish a new constitution. Keep an eye out for special school spirit events in the coming weeks and months.



# October's FEATURED ARTISTS



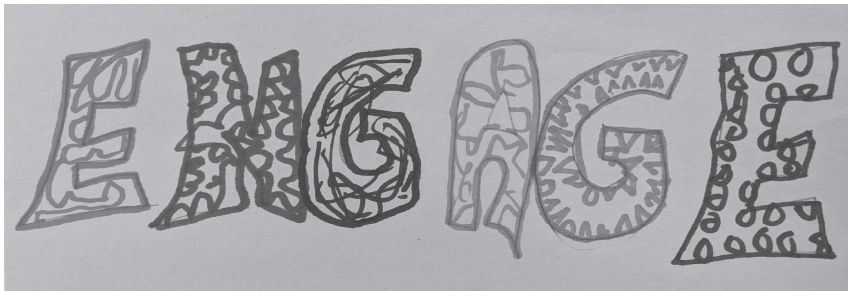
*Liam*  
Kindergarten Artist



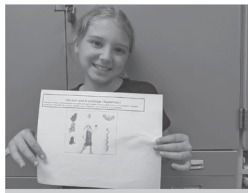
*Leia*  
1st Grade Artist



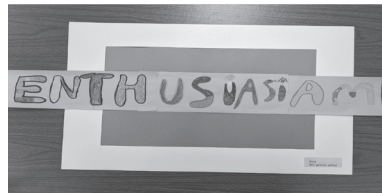
*Nataleigh*  
2nd Grade Artist



*Leo*  
3rd Grade Artist



*Charley*  
4th Grade Artist



*Ava*  
5th Grade Artist



*Chole*  
6th Grade Artist



HAVE A SMARTPHONE?

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Our school has recently implemented a new point of sale system. This includes a new online account management program [ezschoolpay.com](https://ezschoolpay.com). This website and app will allow you to monitor your students' accounts and make payments using a credit card. You can still make payments using checks made out to OHM BOCES Lunch, or cash in a labeled envelope. **MySchoolBucks is no longer active.**

All existing balances, PIN numbers and eligibility statuses have transferred from the old system to the new system. No children will be denied a meal at any time regardless of whether or not there is money on their account.

**Please remember, unless you've applied and qualified for free/reduced meals, lunch is \$2.75 and breakfast is \$1.50.**



GUIDANCE  
CORNER*Mrs. Phillips*

It's been a very busy start to the year in the guidance office. The seniors are deep into planning their futures. Some are beginning the journey by filling out college applications and financial aid while others are working on career goals. In a few short weeks, I will be sitting down with the juniors to discuss next steps for them and their future plans. Also happening in November, Ms. Smith will be taking interested students on college visits. While on the campuses, students will go on tour and sit in on an admissions discussion. This is an excellent way to become familiarized with colleges. Last June, several of our high school

staff members went through a mental health first aid training provided by the Madison County Rural Health Foundation. We were the first school in our area to go through this training. I am very happy to say that since we have had several of our staff complete the training, we are able to offer this program to our 10th-12th grade students. Over the past several weeks and the coming 2 weeks our students will be attending six 43 minute sessions to educate them on the importance of mental health, not only themselves but others around them. At the end of the six sessions, our 10th -12th grade students will be the first group to be certified in mental health first aid. We are very thankful to be able to offer this program and would like to thank the Madison County Rural Health Foundation for making it possible. On October 11 our 9th grade students, along with 2,200 other 9th grade students from 23 neighboring districts, attended a program titled Overcoming Obstacles at SUNY Poly in Utica. This program was hosted by the OHM BOCES, Westmoreland CSD, Utica National Insurance and iCAN. The students were separated into breakout groups where they listened to different motivational speakers and participated in a question and answer session regarding overcoming several obstacles. After lunch, the whole group joined back together where the students listened to Ms. Liz Murray, who wrote "Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard" and Ms. Erin Grunwall, author of "The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them."

We have lots of exciting things going on here at BCS! If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact me at [jphillips@brookfieldcsd.org](mailto:jphillips@brookfieldcsd.org) or by calling the main office.

OUT OF  
DARKNESS WALK

On October 1st, Brookfield Central School participated in the Out of Darkness Walk at the Brookfield Town Park. Our team raised over **\$800.00!** In all the community raised over \$16,000 for AFSP. The weather was perfect. We would like to thank everyone for their support. Let your light shine!

Not pictured: Patsy and Jeff Beehm, Karen Witter and Charlie Jones.



## HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

*Miss Jaquay***SMALL ANIMAL CARE**

In the Small Animal Care class, we have been busy with learning about proper care for small animals, proper handling, the types of digestive systems as well as nutrition. Students in Small Animal Care have had the pleasure of welcoming some speakers to their class. The first speaker to talk with us was Lauren Jaquay. Lauren is a final year vet student who shared her experiences in vet school and how to balance a life caring for small animals as this can be a high stress field of work. We also had Deputy Sheriff K9 Handler Thornhill and her K9, Tracer. This team was able to talk to us about how handling working dogs is different from working with other pets. Students were also able to see Tracer work and talk about how care at home looks much different from other house pets. Most recently, we had Heather O'Hara come in. Heather is a nutritional feed consultant for Nutrena. She talked to the students about the key components in all small animal nutrition and how they compare from a chicken to a dog. She also let students put their hands on some of the different feeds and explained why they may smell, feel or look the way they do. The Small Animal Care class thanks all of our speakers that have taken time out of their busy schedules to come in!

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

The Environmental Science class has been learning about the different cycles that we impact. Students have been diving deep into the environmental industry and finding out ways that we, as humans, impact the world we live on and the resources we use. Students are also looking into the new technology that is arising to help preserve these resources.

**LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

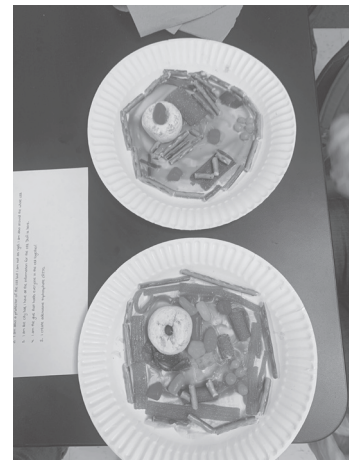
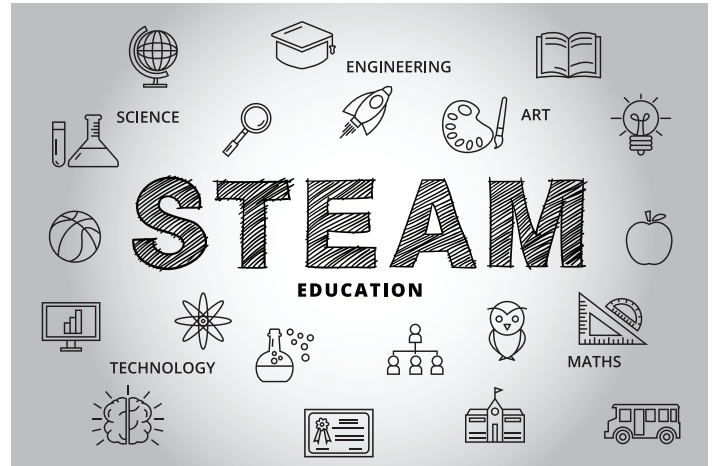
In the Living Environment class, we have begun talking about what exactly makes something living or nonliving. Students are also looking into cells and their structures, functions and behaviors. Students are identifying the differences between types of cells as well as classifying cells. Students were able to build their own edible cell and eat some of it, too!

**7TH GRADE SCIENCE**

In seventh grade science, students have been looking into cells! Students are identifying the cell organelles and related those structures and their functions to something that is tangible to us; such as lysosomes being the garbage men of the cell. Students have been working on cell city projects where they construct a city/building that represents a cell and its organelles!

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE**

Students in Horticulture are learning about plants! Students have been reviewing plant cells as well as structures and functions of a plant and its root system. Students have also gotten their hands dirty working with soil to learn about the essential nutrients as well as proper ways to care for the soil. Students have begun planting herb gardens and learning the best way to water and care for their herbs!



## MEET THE NEW TEACHERS



*Ms. Gwilt*

Hello everyone,

My name is Amanda Gwilt, I am the new Special Education teacher in the elementary school. I am from Waterville, NY and I am a recent graduate of SUNY Potsdam. I am so excited to be a part of the Brookfield family this year and I can't wait to see where the school year takes us!!

Thanks,

*Amanda*



*Ms. Head*

Hello! My name is Miss Head and I am the new Fourth Grade teacher at BCS. I grew up in Hubbardsville, NY and graduated from BCS in 2016. After graduating I went on to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Childhood/Early Childhood Education from SUNY Cortland. I graduated from SUNY Cortland in May, 2021. I am currently working towards earning a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. I live in Hamilton, NY with my 5-year-old son. In my free time I enjoy traveling, spending time with family, and in the summers, I enjoy playing softball. It is so great to be welcomed back into the community and to have the opportunity to give back to my Alma Mater.

Thank You!



*Mrs. Heiner*

Hi Brookfield!

My name is Ann-Marie Heiner and I'm one of the new math teachers in Brookfield Central School district. I got my Master's degree from Syracuse University and I'm happy to be here in NY. I have been teaching for many years. This year I'm teaching Geometry, Algebra 2 and Consumer Math at the high school. I live with my three daughters, husband and my cat Luna. We love to travel, swim, bike and be outdoors as much as possible. Can't wait to see what the year brings!

Best,

*Ann-Marie*



## MEET THE NEW TEACHERS



### *Miss Jaquay*

Hello! My name is Kallie Jaquay. I grew up in Hamilton, NY and graduated from HCS. I obtained my Bachelors of Science in Community Behavioral Health (sociology, biology, and psychology) from SUNY Polytechnic and I am finishing up my Masters degree in Adolescent Education from Utica University. I am excited to be teaching Living Environment and 7th Grade Science as well as some new-to-BCS classes! These new classes are Small Animal Care, Environmental Science and Horticulture! Students in these classes are primarily learning through hands-on activities and real world experiences! Outside of the classroom, I run a closed herd beef cattle farm with my father and have many other hobby animals as well. I enjoy walks with my rescue dogs, working on the farm with the animals, working with farm machinery, being outdoors as well as riding my performance horses. I am excited for what this year has to bring!



### *Ms. Melnikow*

I'm very excited to be a part of the Brookfield family as one of the new high school math teachers. I was born and raised locally in New York Mills where I still live. I received my BA in Math from SUNY Geneseo and my MS in Adolescent Education from Utica College. I love playing board games and doing puzzles in my free time.



### *Mrs. Peck*

Hello, I am Rachel Peck, one of the new Special Education teachers in Brookfield. I am in high school working primarily with seventh, eighth and eleventh grade students. I graduated from Utica College with my Bachelors and Masters Degree in Special Education. Previously, I have worked in Rome City School District and VVS School District filling in for many different roles as teacher, support staff and long term substituting while finishing my masters degree this past summer. In my free time I like to spend time helping out at my family's farm, and to travel as much as I can. I am currently expecting my first child so we are very excited to welcome him in the next few weeks! I am excited to be at Brookfield and have enjoyed my time with students thus far, and am looking forward to working with them the rest of the year!



### *Ms. Santana*

I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I Learned French and English in high school, did 7 years of pottery, play the guitar and danced in Modern Dance group for 10 years. I also used to take my students to NY every year for plays. I have been at a detention hall for undocumented boys in Texas. I work with immigration/USCIS. I love sushi, traveling, meeting new people/culture, and strawberry ice cream!





## BROOKFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Box 60, Brookfield, NY 13314

# Resident

### Flu Information



## Flu: A Guide for Parents

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is different from a cold, and usually comes on suddenly. Each year flu viruses cause millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospital stays and thousands or tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.

Flu can be very dangerous for children. CDC estimates that since 2010, between 6,000 and 26,000 children younger than 5 years have been hospitalized each year in the United States because of influenza. The flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from flu.

### If Your Child Is Sick

#### What can I do if my child gets sick?

**Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.**

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids.

If your child is 5 years or older and does not have long-term health problems and gets flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed.

Children younger than 5 years – especially those younger than 2 years – and children with certain long-term health problems (including asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system), are at higher risk of serious flu complications. Call your doctor or take your child to the doctor right away if they develop flu symptoms.

#### What if my child seems *very* sick?

Even healthy children can get very sick from flu. If your child is experiencing the following emergency warning signs, you should go to the emergency room:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish lips or face
- Ribs pulling in with each breath
- Chest pain
- Severe muscle pain (child refuses to walk)
- Dehydration (no urine for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)
- Not alert or interacting when awake
- Seizures
- Fever above 104°F
- In children less than 12 weeks, any fever
- Fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen

- Worsening of chronic medical conditions

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

#### How long can a sick person spread flu to others?

People with flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to up to 5 to 7 days after. Severely ill people or young children may be able to spread the flu longer, especially if they still have symptoms.

#### Can my child go to school, day care, or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid spreading flu to other children or caregivers.

#### When can my child go back to school after having flu?

Keep your child home from school, day care, or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C)\* or higher.

\*Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number can vary depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person.

**For more information, visit  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm)  
or call 800-CDC-INFO**



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