



The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School — Home of the Bobcats

A Message from the Principal:

We're Getting Into the Swing of Things...

Greetings Brier Families,

What a terrific start to the school year we are having here at Brier! Having everyone back warms our school, brightens our spirits, and allows for learning to take place! I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of our families who were able to join us for Curriculum Night. This evening is always one full of information and a sense of direction as to where the learning for the year will lead. With such a talented group of teachers here at Brier, I know that your students are in safe hands and each and every classroom can look forward to a year of learning, community building, and growth. During our curriculum night, the opportunity to come and learn more about our new "Brier Pride Plan" was also available to our families.

I am so excited to share with you all our discipline policy, our new school pledge and our new student expectations here at Brier. All of these components together equal what we refer to as our "Brier Pride Plan." In this edition of the bulletin, you will find your families' very own copy of this plan. It is hot off the press and full of details about the discipline procedures and policies here at Brier. I hope that you find it to be well thought out, a document that supports student growth and learning, and a resource for understanding the steps we take to provide a safe and secure as well as successful learning environment for all students.

Many of our discipline policies are not brand new policies, however, the work we as a staff have completed over the last year is the work of putting all of our policies and procedures as well as expectations down on paper so that it is communicated to all of our families as effectively as possible. It is important to all of us here at Brier that we have a common understanding that discipline is a partnership. We ask for your support in our policies and procedures and in doing all we can to provide a positive, safe, and productive learning environment! Please find time at some point in the next week to read through your plan with your student(s), and when you have completed this reading, please sign the signature form and return it to school. This form allows for communication from home to school and signifies that we have a mutual understanding regarding our policies and procedures. Thank you!

On another note, I wanted to remind everyone that our school day does not start until 9:20. Our first bell rings at 9:15 and at that time, the doors are opened and students can begin to head to their classrooms. Students should not be arriving to school before 9:15. The only reasons a student may need to be here prior to 9:15 may be he or she is involved in: Beyond the Bells, a before school program, or is eating breakfast at school. If your student is planning on eating breakfast with us here at school, he or she can head into the gym for breakfast at 8:45 and he or she will remain supervised in the gym until 9:15. This being said, students who are not eating breakfast or involved with our childcare program or a before school program with us should not arrive at school prior to 9:15. Maintaining a safe school is our number one priority at Brier, and when students arrive prior to 9:15 we do not have the supervision available for them and we compromise our safety. This situation puts our school and your student in an unsafe situation, and one that we want to eliminate with your help and support. Just a reminder, childcare is available through our Beyond the Bells program before and after school, however there is a process for placing your student in this program. Please join us in an effort to maintain a school of safety and security for our students and staff by working with your student to arrive at school at the necessary time. Our Brier staff appreciates your concentrated effort on this very much. Have a Wonderful October Brier Families!

Fall Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal



Firm, Fair & Consistent

Guiding Students for School Success

Brier Elementary

Tori Thomas, Principal

Respond to lies appropriately

It's an unpleasant fact of life—children sometimes lie. To prepare for this, discuss honesty and plan how to handle fibs.

Experts suggest that you:

- **Expect the truth.** Send the message that honesty is a priority in your family. Your child will live up to your expectations.
- **Give examples.** Discuss stories (real and pretend) that teach values. A TV show character, for example, may have told a lie that got him into deeper trouble.
- **Encourage honesty.** You might say, "Sometimes it's really hard to tell the truth. But when people are honest, they feel better about themselves."
- **Be positive.** Don't go on and on about the negative aspects of lying. Explain that you appreciate honesty.
- **Learn lessons.** If your child tells a lie, consider its consequences. How does he feel? What would he do differently next time? What can he do about it now?
- **Set an example.** Show your child how to be honest. He'll learn from what you do, not just what you say.
- **Get support.** If your child's lying is out of control, consider talking with a professional. This is a problem that needs to be resolved.



Source: Matthew S. Robinson, "A Little Fib or a Big Fat Lie? Teaching Kids Honesty," [Parenthood.com](http://www.parenthood.com/article-topics/article-topics.php?Article_ID=8516), www.parenthood.com/article-topics/article-topics.php?Article_ID=8516.

Your child has the best chance of learning responsible behaviors when you set rules and limits that are:



- **Important.** Children have a hard time remembering too many rules at once.
- **Consistent.** Your child needs to know what to expect. If rules change from day to day, he will get confused—and learn to disregard them completely.

Avoid spoiling your child

What do milk and kids have in common? They're both pretty unpleasant when spoiled! To keep from spoiling your child:



- **Be her parent,** not her friend.
- **Give her chores** to do.
- **Talk about good behavior** and values.
- **Stay connected.** Eat breakfast and dinner together.
- **Make—and enforce—house rules.**

Source: Shmuley Boteach, "Spoiled Children," [Oprah.com](http://www.oprah.com), www.oprah.com/xm/shortcuts/200803/shortcuts_20080324.html.

Choose homework time with care

When is the best time to do homework? It depends on your child.



Ask yourself:

- **When does my child** have the most mental energy?
- **What motivates my child?** (Playing outside after studying?)
- **Does free time help my child** transition from school to home?
- **When does my child** start to get tired in the evening?

Once you find the right time, stay with it. Consistency will make it even better!

Source: Gwynn Metcalf, "When is the best time to do homework?" parentcenter.com, http://parentcenter.com/center.com/404_when-is-the-best-time-to-do-homework_71701.pc.

Raise a 'stick-to-it' kid

If your child gets overly frustrated when she falls short at something, teach her to persevere! To build a can-do attitude in your child:



- **Help her set goals** that are reachable. Whether her goals revolve around grades or scoring goals, encourage her to start small.
- **Celebrate her effort.** She didn't get an A on the science test? Applaud how hard she studied anyway!
- **Set a good example.** She's watching, so don't let setbacks derail you, either.

Source: Marie Faust Evtch, "How to Teach Kids Perseverance and Goal-Setting," Parents.com, www.parents.com/family-life/better-parenting/parenting-style/how-to-teach-kids-perseverance-goal-setting.



News Flash

We have changed our Brier Bulletin to a once a month format. Every student will bring home the bulletin on the first Tuesday of each month.



Brier Pride Pledge...

At Brier, we are Responsible,
Kind, Respectful and Safe.

I am ready to learn and
will encourage others
to be successful because
learning comes first!



MUSIC NOTES

Welcome back to Music at Brier! Our Brier Bobcats have been creating music already!

Our Cantare (Brier Choir) began on Sept. 30. If you are interested in joining, and haven't signed up yet, there is still time. Come by room 25 and get a sign up sheet, then come to rehearsal and have some fun! Our first performance will be at a school assembly. We will also be performing at the Brier Tree Lighting, and the annual SE Quadrant Choral Concert in the spring. We are having a grand time on Tuesday mornings from 8:10-9:10. Thanks for singing together!

Sixth grade band and orchestra students have begun rehearsals, and with a quick review of last year's work, are on to learning and practicing second year skills. Congratulations on your commitment to continuing your musical progress!

Fifth grade students have completed an instrumental exploration session, have chosen their new instrument and have even begun to make a few notes! What fun it is to see their excitement and joy in learning something new musically!

Many students in general music have begun to learn "Twinkle" on the piano keyboards. Others are going on to other pieces. We have reviewed singing breaths, reading rhythms and melodies and the younger students are really great at "So Glad to See You". See if they can sing it to you!

Students in Mrs. VeCera's, Ms. Hemphill's and Mrs. Gray's classes will begin or continue work with their soprano recorders. Those who are able will be challenged to play advanced pieces and those who are beginners, will, well, begin! They were very excited to receive their new recorders last week.

A very big thank you to Mrs. Julius and Mrs. Lafferty's classes who learned the new Brier Pledge Song and sang with accompaniment at the Giraffe Assembly in September. They really "stuck their necks out" to learn a new song quickly and bravely performed for the rest of the school. Great job.

Also, we would like to thank the O'Neil family who donated three sets of choral risers to Brier. They are easy to move, set up and tear down, look great, and make the singers look very professional. We appreciate your donation very much!

Thank you to the Brier community for your continued support of music. I wish you could feel the joy they exude as they create and perform music at Brier!

Reminders:

Please remember to sign-in in the office and get a visitor pass. Thank you for keeping our school safe!

Important Dates



October 10—No school



October 27-31: Early Release
K-6 Conferences 12:00

October 27-31: No school for
part-time Kindergarten

Conference letters went home on Tuesday, September 30th. Please complete this form and return to school no later than October 9th!!

Site Council minutes can now be found on our Brier Website. Find the link to Volunteers. Click on it and you'll be directed to the Site Council minutes.

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Picture Day! 	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 NO SCHOOL	11
National Bullying Prevention Week						
				Site Advl. Council 8:10am Conference Slips due back to school today Field trip--Mrs. Lohnes 10:00-2:00pm The Farm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Healthy Youth Survey this week --6th grade						
				Field trip--Mrs. Wilkening-Joly 11:00-1:30pm Everett Performing Arts Center		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Early dismissal K-5 Conferences 12:20pm NO SCHOOL FOR PART-TIME KINDERGARTEN						



Fall