

The **BEE** **MAIL**

NAOMI L. BROOKS
ELEMENTARY **PTA**[®]

August 17, 2021

Dear Brooks Families!

Welcome to the inaugural school year of Naomi L. Brooks Elementary! We are very excited to welcome new families to Brooks Elementary as well as all of our current families who will continue at our same school with a new name.

I wanted to introduce myself to you as your new PTA president for the 2021-2022 school year. I'm Kara Macek, mom to Simon (3rd grade) and Alden (Kindergarten). I'm honored to be leading the PTA this year as our children transition back into the classroom, and I congratulate all of you (including myself) on making it through this very challenging past school year. My primary goal as PTA president is to help build community, inclusivity, and engagement. While we are currently unable to hold meetings in person on school property or host formal events at the school, the PTA is thinking about how to bring families and children together off-campus. We created a brief survey to gauge interest in a number of ideas (see below), and we'd love to hear your thoughts as well.

As we wish fair winds and following seas to the "Tuesday Tidings," we welcome to shore this new Brooks PTA e-mail format, **The BEE-MAIL!** Every week, you'll receive news and information about all the happenings. Naomi L. Brooks. Our goal is to give you all the information you need in a short and simple format for our busy-bee families.

Another change we are making this year is to introduce a voluntary dues structure. With this "pay what you can" approach, anyone can join the PTA, whether they can give \$0 or \$50. Financial hardship should not prevent anyone from being a member. I'm also encouraging teachers and staff to join. In fact, membership in the PTA is open to anyone who cares about our kids, so grandparents or friends of the family are certainly welcome, too! We are still working out the kinks on the financial and technology sides to facilitate this new system, so stay tuned for instructions on how to join or renew your membership.

Your membership contribution helps to fund the costs of our many programs and

resources we provide to the school, including community-building events, health and wellness initiatives, the school garden and outdoor learning, playground enhancements, tutoring to help close the achievement gap, books for students, field trips, classroom materials, and much more.

We could not do all this without the help of our fantastic Executive Committee (EC) volunteers: Fran Boller (Past President), Katy Lambert (Secretary), Rick Westfall (Treasurer), Armita Cohen (VP Programs), Maya Mahoney (VP Fundraising), and Marty Zager (VP Communications), not to mention the literally dozens of other parents who continue to amaze me with their hard work, creative ideas, and - most importantly - dedication to the kids.

Speaking of volunteers, we are always looking for folks to help and have a number of current open positions, most notably President-Elect, whose primary role this year would be to sit in on all EC meetings and shadow me in preparation to lead for the next school year. If you are interested, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any EC member directly.

I look forward to serving you this year.

BEE well,
Kara

Step Up to School Orientation Day for New Students

'Step Up to School' Orientation Day

Friday, August 20, 2021

8:00 a.m. to noon:
Kindergarten and grade 1

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.:
New ACPS students in grades 2-5



Get ready to step up!

Brooks Elementary has updated the Kindergarten Prep program to be a half-day orientation for kindergartners and first graders on the morning of August 20, 2021. Also, students new to ACPS in grades 2-5 will have an orientation that same afternoon.

8:00 a.m. to noon: Kindergarten and grade 1

12:30 to 2:30 pm: New ACPS students in grades 2-5

About 'Step Up to School' Orientation Day:

- Simulates school day for kindergarten and first grade (bus transportation, grab and go meal, shortened schedule)
- Provides orientation for new students (school tour, schedule, expectations)
- Utilizes the availability of staff to assist/interact with students with school-based work

A more robust assessment of each kindergarten student will be conducted by their kindergarten teacher from August 24 to September 3, once students have returned to school. ACPS will provide in-class staff support for kindergarten teachers to complete these student assessments.

www.acps.k12.va.us/stepup

Twitter: @ACPSk12 @ACPSespanol

Brooks PTA will have a table set up in front of the school on August 20 - stop by to learn more about the PTA and pick up a free t-shirt for your child!

Frozen Treats on Monday, August 23



After the Virtual Open House on Monday, August 23, Naomi L. Brooks Elementary is pleased to invite families and students to the school to meet teachers outside, and have ice cream, courtesy of the PTA and Scoops2U.

K, 2nd & 4th Grades: 11AM-11:30AM

1st, 3rd & 5th Grades: 11:30AM-12:00PM

Please see the below schedule where each grade level can meet outside and at what location:

Monday, August 23rd

Grade	Location	Time
Kindergarten	Playground	11-11:30AM
1st Grade	Playground	11:30-12PM
2nd Grade	Turf Field	11-11:30AM
3rd Grade	Turf Field	11:30-12PM
4th Grade	Garden Area	11-11:30AM
5th Grade	Garden Area	11:30-12PM

PTA Meetings To Continue on Zoom

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All Brooks PTA meetings will continue to be held over Zoom until further notice. Please join us online for our first meeting to be held Tuesday, September 7 @ 6pm. You can see all upcoming PTA meeting dates on the [Brooks PTA calendar](#) .

2021-2022 PTA Event Interest Survey

We understand families are eager to get back to normal and enjoy the events the PTA has hosted in past years.

Due to current COVID restrictions in place by ACPS, we are unable to have our typical in-person events at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary.

The PTA Executive Committee has put together [this survey](#) to gauge what events families are most interested in participating in. [Please complete the survey](#) to help us make alternative arrangements where possible.

Campus Survival Kits

Thank you to everyone who purchased the Campus Survival Kit. Over \$485 worth of supplies has been donated to help every student get what they need to kick off the year as well as receive re-stocks mid-year. This year, kits will be delivered directly to the school and will be distributed directly to students by their teachers.

Special School Board Meeting August 19

There is a Special Called School Board meeting on **Thursday, August 19** at 7 pm during which the school board will vote upon whether to institute a COVID vaccination requirement and testing policy for ACPS employees. If you wish to provide comments and feedback on this vote, they can provide written or public comments [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

- **August 20:** 8am to 12pm. In-person orientation for K-1 students.
- **August 20:** 12:30 to 2:30pm. New students in grades 2-5.
- **August 23:** Frozen Treats on the Playground - 11-12pm. Students and parents can meet their teachers! See above for locations and details.
- **August 24:** First day of school 2021-2022 school year.
- **September 7:** 6pm, First Brooks PTA General Membership Meeting

Frequently Requested Links

PTA MEMBERSHIP

- Please join or renew your Brooks PTA membership today! This year, more than ever, we need as many voices as possible weighing in as we navigate this school year. Together we can make things happen for our school.

STAY CONNECTED

- Make sure you've subscribed to Ms. Hess' weekly emails and ACPS updates.
- Get PTA updates: Just text the message "@nlbrooks" to the number 81010 to sign up for this service provided by the PTA. Email brooks-bees+subscribe@googlegroups.com to receive emails. Like our Facebook page and follow Brooks PTA on Twitter.
- Miss an email? Looking for PTA meeting minutes? Catch up on our website at brookspta.org
- Need internet access? Submit an Internet Access request.

OTHER INFORMATION

- If you are interested in receiving updates from the TAG AC, find ACPS Friends of TAG in Google Groups, click "Apply for membership" and "apply to join this group." If you have trouble joining the group, contact Laura Rose.
- Need to add school closings to your calendar? Import the Brooks PTA calendar!
- Need help with PowerSchool?
- Food access information for ACPS families

Why am I getting this e-mail?

You are receiving this because you are either a member of the Brooks Bees Listserv or signed up on our website - to remove yourself from this e-mail list, click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Thank you for supporting the Brooks PTA!