

BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL 2010- 2011

RESOURCE HANDBOOK

IMPORTANT BROWN TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Brown Main Number: (617) 559-6900

Student Services Office: (617) 559-6907

Fax: (617) 552-7729

Web: <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown>

Student Attendance Line: (617) 559-6980

* * * * *

IMPORTANT BROWN DATES

FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS: Tuesday September 7, 2010 @8:30AM

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:
Tuesday September 28, 2010 @ 7:00PM

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY:
Monday October 4, 2010 **Retakes :** TBA

EARLY RELEASE DAYS @ 11:30:
Wednesday October 6, 2010
Thursday, December 16, 2010
Wednesday, January 26, 2011
Thursday, March 17, 2011

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES:
Tuesday, December 21, 2010 Tuesday, January 4, 2011
Tuesday, January 11, 2011 Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Conferences are held from 2:30PM - 4:00PM

WINTER CONCERTS:
Tuesday, November 23, 2010 (Vocal & Strings)
Tuesday, December 7, 2010 (Instrumental)

JUNIOR DISTRICT AUDITIONS:

January 2011

SCHOOL MUSICAL:

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 & Thursday February 17, 2011

JUNIOR DISTRICT FESTIVAL:

Friday, March 4, 2011 & Saturday, March 5, 2011

SPRING CONCERTS 2011:

Thursday, March 17 (Special band concert)

Tuesday, May 31 (Vocal) Tuesday, June 7 (Instrumental)

School Calendar 2010-2011:

First Term

September 7 (Tuesday)–December 3 (Friday)

Mid-Term: October 25-29

Early Release: Dismissals @ 11:30

October 6 (Wednesday)

December 16 (Thursday)

Holidays: No school

September 9 (Thursday) Rosh Hashanah

October 11 (Monday) Columbus Day

November 11 (Thursday) Veterans Day

Thanksgiving :

Dismissal @ 11:30 -November 24 (Wednesday)

School reopens November 29 (Monday)

Second Term

December 6 (Monday)-March 25 (Friday)

Mid-Term : January 24-28

Early Release: Dismissals @ 11:30

January 26 (Wednesday)

March 17 (Thursday)

Holidays: No school

January 17 (Monday) Martin Luther King Day

December Vacation:

School closes at the end of the day December 23

(Thursday)

School reopens January 3 (Monday)

February Vacation:

School closes at the end of the day February 18 (Friday)
School reopens February 28 (Monday)

Third Term

March 28 (Monday)-June 23 (Thursday)

Mid-Term: May 9-13

Holidays : No school

May 30 (Monday) Memorial Day

April Vacation:

School closes at the end of the day April 15 (Friday)

School reopens April 25 (Monday)

GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

School Hours

School hours for all students are from **8:30A.M. - 3:00P.M.** except on Tuesdays when school dismisses at **2:15P.M.** It is advisable to arrive a few minutes earlier so as not to be late for class.

Lateness to school: Students arriving after 8:30AM. will be marked tardy by their first period teacher and given the appropriate consequences. If they arrive later than 8:30AM. they should report directly to the office for a pass. A written note from a parent or guardian must accompany a request for excused tardiness. Repeated lateness will result in a detention and parents will be notified.

Lateness to class: A student who is late to class must present a pass from the staff member who detained him or her. If the student is late for class and does not have a pass, he or she is admitted to class and should make appropriate arrangements with the teacher for resolving the problem of lateness.

Absences

In order to report an absence, please be sure to call our **Student Attendance line (617) 559-6980** and leave your child's name, and date(s) of absence on the voice mail. Call the attendance line at any time prior to 8:30AM. in the morning so that we know that you know of your child's whereabouts. **Please call each day your child is absent from school. If we do not hear from you we will call you.** If a student is absent, upon return the student must bring a note from home signed by a parent or guardian, giving the reason for the absence.

Early Dismissal

Students who require an early dismissal from school must bring a note signed by a parent or guardian to the main office before the first class. If a note has NOT been presented to the main office before the dismissal time it is requested that the **parent or guardian** sign the student out at the main office. If a student returns after a dismissal the student should check in at the main office.

Extended Illness

Parents may contact the school office concerning arrangements to be made to collect homework for students who are out of school **three days** or more because of illness. **Please call as early as possible in the morning to facilitate collection of homework assignments. The main office is open from 7:30AM-3:30PM.**

Messages

Please limit calling with messages for your child to emergencies only.

The office telephones may only be used in an emergency.

AFTER SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All Brown Middle School extracurricular activities operate under the umbrella of the *Triple E Program* (Excellence, Enrichment, and Exploration)

Interscholastic Sports

This athletic program is open to 7th and 8th graders. Each season is eight weeks long and consists of up to 12 games or meets, depending on the sport.

Clubs and Intramural Sports

Club activities appeal to a wide range of student interests. They vary with each term. Clubs and Intramural sports are open to ALL students. The Triple E program includes musical and theatrical productions.

***Athletic Program**

The middle school athletic program offers seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to participate in the following sports: baseball, boys and girls basketball, cross-country, football, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls soccer, softball, and track.

It is the intent of athletic programs to provide opportunities for participation for as many students as possible. Budget constraints, safety concerns, and available facilities, however make a “no cut” policy difficult. Prior to the start of a season, coaches should make parents and students aware of the try-out and participation policy for each sport. Every effort will be made to accommodate as many students as possible with regard to safety, playing time, and available facilities, but coaches may follow pre-established and announced cutting policies.

The fostering of participation and sportsmanship, as well as the physical, emotional, and ethical development of a student in a competitive situation are emphasized. Inherent in this philosophy is the belief that winning is not the major goal of an athletic program. Coaches are encouraged to play every team member when game circumstances permit use of substitutions.

***Club Program**

The club program in each middle school includes intramural sport activities for sixth graders and an optional activity program for grades six, seven and eight. The intramural program provides opportunities for sixth graders to participate in sports, as they are not eligible for school athletic teams.

The optional activities program (Triple E) provides for a variety of clubs that respond to the needs and interests of students. Some examples of these club activities are: Math Team, Community Explorers, Lego club, Games club, Yearbook club, etc.

*Information from Health and Physical Education Department, Newton Public Schools.

BUSES

BROWN’S SAFE BUSING CHECKLIST

Parents- please review this checklist with your children

TIME FOR SCHOOL

- ✓ **Don’t miss the bus!** Give yourself plenty of time to reach the bus stop. Walk, don’t run!
- ✓ **Walk safely!** Stay on the sidewalks or, if there are none, walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic. Cross streets only at intersections or crosswalks.

WAITING

- ✓ **No horseplay!** Running around and playing may be okay for the playground, but not the bus stop. Stay out of the street while you wait for the bus. Traffic often is heavy in the morning, and you could be hit by a car or cause an accident if a car is forced to stop quickly for you.
- ✓ **Respect property!** Don’t run across people’s yards, climb their trees, or go into their garages. Stay at the bus stop.
- ✓ **Sshhh!** People in the area may still be sleeping when you leave for school, so keep down the noise in consideration of your neighbors.
- ✓ **Wait!** Make sure the bus has come to a **complete stop** before stepping off the curb.
- ✓ **Never in back!** Never cross in back of the bus because children cannot be seen.
- ✓ **Never in front!** Never cross in front of the bus **when the door is closed** unless the driver instructs you to do so. The bus has a blind spot and children cannot be seen.
- ✓ **Never underneath!** Never reach under the bus for paper, clothing, toys etc. Wait until the bus has moved and it is safe to do so. Ask an adult for help if necessary.

BOARDING THE BUS

- ✓ **Form a line!** Don’t push or shove; you’ll get on the bus eventually. If you have to cross the street while the bus is stopped, cross carefully (even though motorists are *supposed to* stop for a school bus, they often don’t and you could be hurt).

- ✓ **Move along!** Step quickly and use the handrail when you are entering or leaving the bus. Watch your step.
- ✓ **Sit down!** Go directly to your seat and sit down. Don't wait for a friend to get on before you take a seat.

THE RIDE

- ✓ **Stay in your seat!** The driver needs your help and he/she may have trouble concentrating if there is a commotion on the bus.
- ✓ **Be respectful of others!** Do not mistreat others: physically, verbally or in any other way.
- ✓ **Be respectful of the bus itself!** Do not mark or vandalize the bus in any way.
- ✓ **Keep the aisles clear!** Nothing.....books, bags, legs, arms or bodies ...should block the aisle. Do not stand in the aisle. If the driver is forced to make a quick stop, you could be thrown around, hurting yourself and others.
- ✓ **Everything inside!** If the driver lets you open a window, keep your hands, arms and head inside.
- ✓ **No pets allowed!** Animals, including pets on leashes, in boxes or in cages are not allowed on the bus.
- ✓ **Share your seat!** Don't save a spot for a friend, but keep the seat open for anyone who wants to sit down.
- ✓ **No throwing!** Do not throw any objects including small objects such as candy or coins. *Don't throw anything out of the windows.*
- ✓ **Never touch or tamper with the emergency door!** This door is for emergencies only.

GETTING OFF

- ✓ **Be organized!** Be ready to leave when you reach your stop. Don't keep the driver and other bus riders waiting while you gather up your books and other belongings.
- ✓ **Stay put!** Wait until the bus has stopped completely before you get up from your seat. Always let people in the front of the bus get off first.
- ✓ **Don't push!** You'll get out *faster* if no one shoves or pushes. Also, chances are better no one will trip and fall causing delays.
- ✓ **Leave immediately!** After you get off the bus, leave the area quickly so that you are out of the way of other buses bringing more children to or from school.
- ✓ **Stay clear!** Keep away from the side of the bus. If you must cross the street, cross in front of the bus. Wait for an "all clear" signal from the driver before you leave the curb. Look both ways before crossing.

IT'S UP TO YOU

- ✓ **Stay calm!** In case of an emergency, listen to the driver and follow his/her instructions.
- ✓ **Set a good example!** You are getting older...we expect you to show leadership.

DANCES AT BROWN

Several times during the school year all-school dances are held in the school cafeteria or gymnasium. Tickets are **ONLY** sold in advance and **ONLY** Brown students are allowed to attend. Dances typically begin at 7:00 PM. and end at 9:00 PM. Any student who leaves a dance early will not be allowed re-entry.

DRESS FOR SCHOOL

What is appropriate dress for school?

In order to promote a positive self-image for our students and to keep the learning environment free from distraction, we have formulated the following guide to appropriate school dress.

Although the definition of appropriate attire will differ from setting to setting, there are some basic standards that our students should adhere to while they are in school:

- Skirts and shorts should be fingertip length when standing with hands at sides
- Jeans should not be ultra low-rise

- All tops should be long enough so that they reach the waistband of your skirt or pants and high enough so that they do not reveal cleavage
- Spaghetti strap style tops are not appropriate for school
- Clothing should not reveal any part of the student's underwear

If a student comes to school dressed inappropriately, we will ask the student to change his/her outfit and call the parent if needed.

GROWING AND CHANGING-HIV/AIDS CURRICULUM

As part of the 6th grade Science curriculum, Newton students participate in a Puberty/Reproduction unit called "Growing & Changing". The "Growing and Changing" unit was developed by our professional staff and approved for inclusion in our curriculum by the School Committee several years ago.

Overall goals of the unit are:

- To help students gain an understanding of the physical, social and emotional changes experienced during puberty
- To help students develop awareness that puberty can be confusing and difficult at times, but that the changes they and their peers experience are normal
- To help students learn the appropriate terminology for the structures and functions of the male and female reproductive systems
- To help students learn accurate information about human growth and development from conception through birth
- To provide accurate information about HIV/AIDS, including what HIV/AIDS is, how HIV is transmitted, and healthy behaviors that reduce the risk of contracting the virus

The instructional materials for the course include a teacher's guide, a student workbook, a reading book, and three videos. If you would like to review these materials at the school, you are welcome to do so. Please call the Principal or your child's Science teacher to arrange a convenient time.

In addition to the 6th grade unit, the 7th grade Science curriculum includes a unit on HIV/AIDS. Topics addressed in this unit; what HIV/AIDS is; symptoms, diagnosis and treatment; characteristics of viruses; description of the immune system; how HIV is and is not transmitted; ways to avoid /reduce the risk of contracting the virus; current research; and social issues related to HIV/AIDS. Outlines of the unit and course materials are also available for review in the Principal's office. Health Education is also offered to students at grades 6, 7, and 8 through Health Education.

During both the 6th, 7th and 8th grade units, students will be able to ask questions which will be answered factually and in an age appropriate manner. Each student's privacy will be respected and no one will be put on the spot to ask or answer questions or reveal personal information. Unit content will be presented in a factual way that makes it clear that people often have strong religious and cultural beliefs about human sexuality and that these beliefs will be respected.

The Newton schools recognize and encourage the role of parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children. The "Growing and Changing", "HIV/AIDS", Health units are designed to support the partnership between schools and families in this important area, and we urge you to talk with your child during the units so that you are involved in his/her learning.

Under Massachusetts's law and School Committee policy, you may exempt your child from any course or portion of a curriculum that primarily involves Human sexual education or Human sexual issues. To receive an exemption, simply send the Principal a letter, requesting an exemption for your child.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a positive and educationally enriching experience at Brown Middle School. If you have questions about the Health units, please call the Principal or your child's Science teacher at

(617) 559-6900

HOME OR HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

Parents of students who, in the judgment of the child's physician, will have to be absent from school or in the hospital for health or safety reasons for a period of not less than ten school days may request home or hospital instruction. These services may also be provided for a student who is chronically ill for recurrent periods of less than fourteen days, each with written documentation from the child's physician. To obtain home or hospital instruction, parents must contact the Assistant to the Principal for Pupil Services at (617)

559-6907 and provide the requested written documentation from the physician. Home and hospital instruction is provided under Chapter 766. (See Chapter 766 regulation, section 502.7 Mass. Department of Education, September, 1991.)

METCO

The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, (METCO) is a state funded desegregation program involving the enrollment of children from Boston and Springfield in public school systems in surrounding suburban metropolitan communities.

The initiative for the Program can be traced to the concern for quality education in the African-American community, as demonstrated in the Boston Chapter of the NAACP. In 1963, the NAACP's Education Committee challenged the Boston School Committee on educational policies, including the racial imbalance of schools. Subsequently, legislation was filed making imbalance illegal and penalizing school systems by withdrawing State appropriations until suitable plans to alleviate racial imbalance were approved by the State Department of Education. The Boston Public Schools were among the entities penalized. Furthermore suburban residents realized that their children were inadequately educated as well because of racial isolation. This combination of concerns resulted in the establishment of the METCO program.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Title IX and Section 504 Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or disability in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. The Director of Human Resources (617) 559-6005 and the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services (617) 559-6025 have been designated as the employees responsible for coordinating the school system's efforts to implement these non-discriminatory policies. Inquiries or grievances having to do with sex discrimination (Title IX) may be referred to the Director of Human Resources; those having to do with discrimination because of a disability (Section 504) may be referred to the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services. Inquiries may also be made to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, DC. 20201.

NO SCHOOL SIGNALS

School will be closed in cases of extreme weather conditions when the safety of our students is jeopardized. On stormy days, the school asks that parents use their own judgment about conditions on the way to school. "No school" announcements will be broadcast over the television & radio stations and the "Connect Ed" phone notification system

OUT OF DISTRICT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Out-of-District placements for Newton students who wish to attend a school in Newton other than his/her district school are limited. **Such placements are made on a space available basis only.** Interested families requiring more information should refer to the Out of District Policy statement included in the Students Right's & Responsibilities handbook or call the Newton Public school's Office of the Deputy Superintendent at 617-559-6115 for information.

PARENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The PAC is an organization of parents of children with special educational needs and parents of children without special educational needs, Special Education staff, and interested members of the community. Chapter 766 requires that every school district establish a PAC, "to advise the school committee on matters that pertain to the education, health and safety of children with special needs." The role of the PAC is to ensure that the local school department is responsive to the needs of children receiving Special Education services

PARKING AT BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please park along Wheeler and Meadowbrook roads when visiting Brown before, after or during school hours. There is a handicap space in the circular driveway for visitors who qualify for handicap parking. Otherwise, the circular driveway is off limits to all vehicles (except school buses) at all times unless you

are picking up a sick child at the nurse's office. Please observe the "no parking" and "no turning" signs posted on Wheeler and Meadowbrook Roads. They will be enforced. If you must drop off or pick up a student, you may park along Wheeler Road. ***Please do not use the Faculty parking lot on Meadowbrook Road or the rotary on Wheeler/Meadowbrook Road as a drop off/pick up area.***

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Each grade is divided into teams of students and teachers. There are **three 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade teams**. Teams are the heart of the middle school structure. They allow teachers to get to know their students well and to be responsive to their developmental needs. Teachers and counselors can readily confer on curriculum projects, as well as educational plans for individual students. Team teachers teach English, Social Studies, Math, and Science courses. Cross team courses include **World Language, Fine and Applied Arts, and Physical Education**.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Federal and State laws require schools to provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to students who, because of a disability, are unable to make effective progress in the general education program. A disability may be a developmental delay or an intellectual, sensory, neurological, emotional, communication, physical, specific learning or health impairment or combination thereof that requires specially designed instruction or related services in order to develop the child's individual educational potential.

A student can be referred for evaluation for special education by a parent or a member of the school staff. The purpose of an evaluation is to gather comprehensive information to explain why the student is not progressing effectively. Based on the results of the evaluation, an interdisciplinary collaborative Team, consisting of the student's parents and school staff, determine eligibility for services and, if appropriate, develop an Individualized Education Program, (IEP). The IEP identifies goals and objectives for the student and the modifications and related services required to increase the educational opportunities available to that student so that he/she progresses through school. The responsibility of the evaluation Team is to ensure that each student receives the most appropriate educational program. Evaluation and program or placement decisions require the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

STATE PUPIL RECORDS POLICY

The pupil records policy mandated by the State is in effect at Brown Middle School. Regulations have been published by Massachusetts Department of Education and are available to parents and students through the school. Regulations call for the securing of records and the protection of student's privacy.

STUDENT E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

Students at Brown may not access personal e-mail accounts in school.

To send work to or from school, please use these instructions

Students may send documents from home to school using a student e-mail account by following these steps:

- 1) Save the document as a Text file. (Unless the file is in Word, Excel, or Power point X or 2003)
- 2) Open your home e-mail account and attach the document
- 3) Send the email to Brown_Student @newton.k12.ma.us
- 4) At the school, open the student e-mail account by starting Newton E-mail in the Dock
- 5) User ID: 65 brownstudent
- 6) Password: brown1

- 1) Use FILE: SAVE ATTACHMENT to save the file in the Documents folder
- 2) Choose FILE QUIT as soon as you have finished downloading so others can access the account
- 3) Open the documents folder and double click on your document

To send a document from school to your home:

- 1) If you have a Windows PC at home, save your document as usual. If you do not have Word at home save your document in Rich Text Format
- 2) Using a classroom or lab computer at Brown, open the student e-mail account from the Dock

1. User ID: 65brownstudent
 2. Password: brown1
- 1) Type in your subject and your home e-mail address. Be sure to press return
 - 2) Choose FILE: ATTACH FILE: and navigate to your document
 - 3) Choose MESSAGE: SEND to send the e-mail
 - 4) Choose FILE: QUIT

TESTING AT BROWN

Students in all three-grade levels will be participating in MCAS-state mandated assessment tests. MCAS aims to measure a broad range of skills, knowledge, and processes in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Results are obtained for individual students, schools, and school districts. Information which we gain as a result of testing gives us an opportunity to assess student progress, enables us to develop curriculum which most fully supports student needs, and permits us most effectively to tailor individual education plans.

MEPA SCHEDULE-Fall 2010

LEP Students in Gr. 6/8 MEPA-R/W October 18-October 25

MCAS SCHEDULE-Spring 2011

Grade 6	ELA Reading Comprehension	March 22-April 4
	Mathematics	May 10-24
Grade 7	ELA Composition A & B	March 22
	ELA Reading Comprehension	March 23- April 4
	Mathematics	May 10-May 24
Grade 8	ELA Reading Comprehension	March 22- April 4
	Mathematics	May 10-May 24
	Science & Technology/Engineering	May 11- May 24

VACATIONS

In recent years an increasing number of parents have taken their children out of school to go on family vacations. Although we understand the constraints and pressure placed on families regarding this issue, we must stress that taking children out of school is disruptive to a child's education.

We urge parents to make every effort to plan their vacation in such a manner as to avoid this problem.

If you are taking your child out of school, please send a letter to the Principal in advance.

VISITORS AND STUDENT GUESTS

Visitors to the school should report their presence and the purpose of their visit to the main office staff upon entering the building. All visitors are required to sign in at the main office.

Students may bring another student to visit our school on special occasions.

A special form requiring parental permission, which is available in the Main office, must be filled out several days before the visit, and should be submitted to the Main office for approval by the Principal/Assistant Principals.

Please note that the school reserves the right to limit these visits.

- * Permission will be granted for a one-day visit only
- * Visitor must be of middle school age
- * Visitor must have previously attended Brown, is a potential Brown student or, be visiting from another school district
- * Permission from all teachers involved must be obtained

Student visitors are not permitted in the two days prior to any school vacation period, or during the last two weeks of school.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED BY PARENTS

WHOM DO I CONTACT IF MY CHILD OR I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT AN ACADEMIC OR CLASSROOM ISSUE?

Parents and students are encouraged to speak directly to the teachers about homework assignments, tests, and behavioral and academic expectations. Brown's main office number is (617) 559-6900. It is the student's responsibility to seek extra help. If a student needs help from a teacher, s/he should meet with that teacher during team time.

TO WHOM DO I SPEAK IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH AN INDIVIDUAL STAFF PERSON?

If a problem arises with an individual staff person, you should attempt to speak to the individual directly. If there are further concerns, you should set up a meeting with an Assistant Principal or Principal.

TO WHOM CAN I SPEAK ABOUT MY CHILD'S LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OR SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL ISSUES?

Guidance counselors are assigned to each team. They are available to help with scheduling issues, individual education plans, social and emotional issues, and learning difficulties. Counselors also assist with the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade as well as review the high school course plan for each 8th grade student. The guidance counselors attend all team meetings and have a familiarity with the students and curriculum on their assigned team. You should call your child's counselor at (617) 559-6907 if you have concerns in one of the above-listed areas.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A STUDENT VIOLATES BEHAVIORAL RULES?

In general, teachers deal with minor discipline issues within the classroom. Physical aggression, inappropriate language, disrespectful behavior, harassment, and hallway, cafeteria, or bus discipline issues are referred to the Assistant Principals. Consequences may include detention, parent notification, a parent conference (scheduled if necessary), or suspension. Parents are always contacted before a suspension. The

counselor gets copies of all behavior and suspension reports. Parents are encouraged to call the Assistant Principals with any concerns about student behavior.

WHOM DO I CONTACT ABOUT PROBLEMS REGARDING THE BUS?

Problems involving scheduling, routes, or overcrowding should be addressed in writing or with a phone call first to an Assistant Principal. If problems persist, please call Regina Moody at the Education Center (617) 559-9051. The school reinforces appropriate bus behavior. If inappropriate behavior is reported, the student involved will be disciplined. Disciplinary actions may include warnings, detentions, and suspension of bus privileges. Because of the difficulty in monitoring bus behavior, parental reinforcement of appropriate bus behavior is particularly important.

TO WHOM DO I SPEAK IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM?

If you have a question or concern about the curriculum in a subject area, you should first speak to the teacher to ensure that the information you have about the curriculum is accurate. Further questions or concerns should be addressed to the citywide curriculum coordinators.

Below is a list of the Curriculum Coordinators located at the Education Center,
100 Walnut Street (617) 559-6000.

World Language:	Jody Klein
English:	Anne Mikulski
ELL:	Jody Klein
Mathematics:	Mary Eich
METCO:	Lisa Reed
Physical Ed. Health & Wellness	Gwen Smith
Social Studies:	Janet Buerklin
Special Education:	Judy Levin Charns
Science:	Jennifer Craddock
Fine Arts:	Richard King

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO DEAL WITH COMMUNITY-WIDE SCHOOL ISSUES?

The Brown School Council: This advisory group to the Principal is made up of four parents, three teachers and the Principal. The school council discusses curriculum and all issues that impact the Brown community. All meetings are open.

Brown Parent-Teacher-Student-Organization: The PTO helps Brown Middle School and supports many school projects and activities. It has provided funds for scholarships, creative arts programs, the school musical, and more. The PTO sponsors programs throughout the year, which inform the community on adolescent issues and give parents an opportunity to speak with counselors, teachers, administrators, and each other.

TELEPHONE CALLS

If you want to speak with teachers on the telephone, simply call the school at (617) 559-6900 and leave a message with your home/work numbers. Our teachers will return your calls as promptly as possible. Teachers also often initiate calls to you to inform, to commend or to discuss a problem.

HOW WILL I LEARN ABOUT MY STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PROGRESS?

Report cards are sent home three times a year at the end of each term. Letter grades indicate the following assessments: excellent (A, A-), above average (B+, B, B-), average (C+, C, C-), below average (D+, D, D-) and failure (F). Physical education classes are graded using A, P, F, and N (medically excused). Progress reports are issued three times a year in the middle of each term. They are sent home for all subjects for 6th grade students in the first term. During the second and third terms, subject teachers at the discretion of the teacher send progress reports home. Conferences between parents and teachers may take place at any time. Parents should contact the student's Guidance counselor at (617) 559-6907 to schedule a team meeting.

Counselors 2010-2011

6 Red Sharon Finelli
6 Orange Sharon Finelli
6 Yellow Aaron Lewis

7 Green Michele Shin
7 Blue Michele Shin
7 Teal Aaron Lewis

8 Indigo Sharon Finelli, Samuel Schneider
8 Violet Samuel Schneider
8 Maroon Samuel Schneider

* * * * *