



Barkalow Middle School
Freehold Township School District

John Soviero
Principal

Thomas Smith
Assistant Principal

...empowering students with skills and attitudes needed to succeed in a culturally diverse and changing world.

August, 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year at the Barkalow Middle School. It is our goal to make this school year a rewarding and balanced educational experience both academically and socially for all students.

Barkalow Middle School is continuing its commitment to being environmentally and fiscally responsible. To that end, we continue to communicate with you via e-mail for all notices. This would include schedules, report cards, parent teacher conference notices, etc. As a reminder, the PTO will not be providing agendas. All assignments and class information will be available on Schoology. Therefore, it will be very important that we have your most current e-mail address on file for your child. We will be asking, over this summer break, that you update your contact information via the Genesis Parent Portal, please check your emails for further information and instructions. The portal will reopen for this purpose on August 18th and will close again on August 27th. We are also requiring that you complete certain forms via the portal prior to the start of school year. These forms **MUST** be completed or you will not be able to access your child's upcoming class schedule. The date of the opening of the portal for schedules will be Tuesday, August 29th. Students will also receive the Genesis Student Information Forms on the first day of school, and we ask that you review them thoroughly and acknowledge that all the information is correct. This will ensure that we do have the most up-to-date and accurate information in your child's database. Please be sure that your email address is current so that we can communicate effectively with you. If you do not have access to e-mail, for your convenience, we will be posting all information that goes out on our district website for your review. If you do not have access to a computer, and this process will not work for you, please let us know.

Our appearance has continued to improve throughout the entire building this summer thereby giving our students an inviting academic work environment. Our technology program continues to be updated to challenge our students in getting them ready for an ever-changing technological world. We continue to update our security in the building. We will also continue to enforce the presenting of identification prior to entrance into the building and utilizing security cameras.

We offer a variety of sports and extra-curricular activities in the school. We encourage our students to get involved. Throughout the school year, our Student Council and PTO sponsor dances and events. There are also special events, assemblies and activities that are educational and foster school spirit.

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Barkalow is fortunate to have an extremely active and supportive PTO, which provides support to all aspects of our school community. They just finished upgrading our second courtyard to be used as an additional eating/teaching area in nice weather.

We hope that your child will seek assistance from our school counselors Ms. Colford and Mr. Lins. The counselors are available to provide academic, social and emotional support to all students. Ms. Colford will be working with students on team 6A and all 8th grade students. Mr. Lins will be working with students on team 6B and all 7th grade students.

Our arrival and dismissal times are the same as last year. Our school hours are 7:30 am to 2:16 pm. As was the procedure last year, students will be dismissed from busses and may enter through any entrance at 7:30 am and go directly to their lockers. Students **will not** be allowed in the building before 7:30 am unless they are involved in a supervised activity. Bagels and breakfast foods will be sold by the PTO in the cafeteria as students enter the building on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. These sales will begin on September 19th. Students report to homeroom by 7:30 am. The last class ends at 2:16 pm. **All** students, including walkers will be dismissed at that time. If a parent chooses to pick up their child early, enter the school to sign your child out. If you are picking-up any other children other than your own prior to the end of the school day, they **must** have a note from their parents authorizing them in your care. **Without a note** they cannot be released. As was the procedure in previous years, we do not allow locker decoration for birthdays and other events. Therefore, students should not be returning to the building after school unless they are returning for a forgotten or lost item. At that time, parents are to sign-in at the main office and the student only will go directly to their locker to obtain their book or item.

The drop off and pick up procedures remain the same as last year. During drop off and pick up, cars will proceed to the loop between Barkalow and the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). There will be no cars permitted into the front entrance lot while buses are present. After school, we request that you **do not** park directly in front of the building waiting for your child. You can park in the bus lanes once busses leave or park in the many parking spots that are available. The lanes directly in front of the building are fire lanes and must remain clear. As a reminder, there is no after school courtesy bussing and the GAM Center will not be available after school for students.

As was the procedure last year, students will not be allowed to ride another student's bus for any reason. This is due to the full capacity of those busses that are utilized. Students must ride on their assigned bus only. With regard to sports bussing, athletes will be dropped off at their practice location and parents are responsible for pick up there. For games, athletes will be brought to the game location. They will be transported back to Barkalow at the end of the game only if it is a location out of Freehold. Otherwise, parents will need to pick up their student athlete at the game.

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With regard to attendance, please be reminded that students will be considered tardy if they arrive to the building after 7:40 a.m. Also, please remember that after each absence, students are required to hand in a signed note from their parent/guardian explaining the absence. Each absence will be marked as unexcused until a note is received. Please be sure to read the attendance policy in its entirety in the district handbook which is available on the Barkalow website. After review of the policy, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

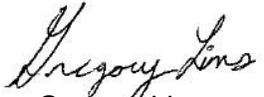
On the first day of school, students will be bringing home a packet which includes several forms that need to be signed and returned to the office. Again, please read through that packet with your children and submit any forms that need to be returned to your child/children's homeroom teacher. A listing of events and daily notices will be displayed on our website as information becomes available. Please visit the district website at www.freeholdtp.k12.nj.us and click on the Barkalow School link. For those who do not have access to a computer to get to the website, you may call the school at 732-431-4403 x 2101 and let us know. We will make arrangements for you to access the material.

We wish to take this opportunity to assure you that we will extend our best efforts in providing a stimulating and meaningful educational program for your children.

Sincerely,



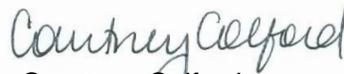
John Soviero
Principal



Gregory Lins
School Counselor



Thomas Smith
Assistant Principal



Courtney Colford
School Counselor

JS:sap