Welcome Back!

In just one week we will all be back at school. The halls will again be bustling with the chatter of excited students and the sound of bells will be a daily reminder that we are embarking upon a new year.

Establishing Relationships Is Essential

While there are many initiatives in the 2015-16 academic year, the one I am most eager to begin is establishing a relationship with you and your student. As previously mentioned, I believe that creating and maintaining exceptional relationships is essential to the foundation of a healthy school community and I am committed to making this happen. Through our great campus events and day-to-day school life, there will be many opportunities for us to get to know one another but my ultimate goal is meet with each of you individually.

Let’s Get Together - Schedule Time Now

I would like each family to schedule a time to meet with me. Through an open exchange of dialogue, ideas, and general goodwill, I hope to establish integral relationships with each of you. Please click here to schedule your Head of School Meeting. This link can also be accessed on the home page of brownell.edu through the end of the school year. Once there, simply select the date and time and we’ve already taken the first step to building a greater foundation for our community.

Strong Leadership Team

I remain impressed by my BT Team for their professionalism and commitment to excellence. Our time together over the summer has been productive and rewarding. A new yet strong leadership team has been established and the smart and innovative work we have accomplished is just a sneak peek into what is to come throughout the year. I am fortunate to be working alongside such dedicated professionals.

Guided Focus - Key Pillars Of Knowledge

As a community we are focused on continuous improvement through the established Strategic Plan. And through the second NAIS Parent Survey, we learned we are on the right track. Armed with key knowledge as we head down an established and planned path, I feel confident that the success of Brownell-Talbot School is sustainable and that we are positioned to grow beyond what we know is possible.

I am thrilled to be leading an organization where traditions are held in such high regard, and a caring community dedicated to academic excellence exists. I look forward to seeing and meeting with you very soon!

Kristi Gibbs, Ed.D
Head of School

Student/Parent Handbook 2015-16 Edition Now Live

Campus Life

Click here to view the 2015-16 Student/Parent Handbook. Please note the following updates of particular importance:

- Attendance Policy
- Out-of-Uniform/Blue & Gold Days Guidelines
- Tobacco/Alcohol/Drugs Policy

Dennis Uniform Clearance Sale Happening Now

Get in on the savings while supplies last. Click Dennis Uniform to take advantage.

Aquatics

Plunge in and read the Aquatics Good Times Newsletter to learn about the upcoming events happening at our pool. There is no shortage of activity this year!
Kami Landenberger  
Head of Lower School

The LS faculty and staff are eagerly awaiting your child’s arrival on August 31. Earlier this month, you should have received a letter from me sharing your child’s classroom teacher assignment. Please contact the main office 402-556-3772 or kami.landenberger@brownell.edu if you did not receive this mailing.

A very important change to LS this year is the new start time of 8am. If you are using the morning Raider Zone Program, students will be dismissed or escorted to classrooms at 7:55 am. If you are delivering your child to the classroom, teachers will open the doors for students at 7:55am. Parents are encouraged to make appointments to speak with teachers later in the day if necessary. Your support of making the new start time a success is very much appreciated.

If you have not already done so, mark your calendar. Parent Information Night is Tuesday, September 1. Grade level teachers will be hosting two 30-minute sessions in the classroom, 4:30pm and 5:15pm. These sessions are designed to give parents the information and tools needed for a successful year.

Recap:
- Lower School NEW START TIME - 8 am.
- Parent Information Night  
  Tues Sept 1 - 4:30pm and 5:15pm

Bill Harrell  
Head of Upper School

The students in the Upper School are always on the lookout for opportunities to expand their horizons outside the classroom. Two BT students were recently recognized for their work and talent.

Zoe Gaupp (2018) was one of 45 area high school students from 30 schools whose art was showcased at the Joslyn Art Museum’s Kent Bellows Mentoring Program summer young artist exhibition. “The Kent Bellows Mentoring Program at Joslyn is about youth development through creativity,” the statement said. “Individuality and self-expression develops our personalities, social skills, and artistic abilities with the objective of creating a community. Community is where the concept of a false mirror comes from. Looking into a mirror, one does not just see themselves; they see the influence of others.”

The reception “False Mirror,” was held on August 8 at the Kent Bellows Studio in Omaha. Students from the program set up the exhibition, including hanging the art and developing a curatorial statement for the show. The “False Mirror” exhibition will be on display through Aug. 24. Available viewing times are 11am to 4pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. Call (402) 661-3891 for an appointment.

Brett Graves (2017) completed a summer internship at Creighton University in the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Brett worked with several other area high school interns on a very innovative mobile app project. According to Mark Panning, a member of the CU DoIT Team, “Brett did a tremendous job for us this summer working on the mobile app project and really hit a home run with it!” The DoIT department newsletter can be viewed by copying and pasting the following link: https://doit.creighton.edu/about-doit/doit-newsletter.

Thank you Zoe and Brett for so proudly representing BT in the community.

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Thank you Zoe and Brett for so proudly representing BT in the community.

Bridget Collins  
Head of Middle School

It’s hard to believe but August 28 is nearly upon us. I want to take a moment to remind our new MS students and parents of the schedule on this day, and that attendance is required. Parents are also required to attend from 4-5pm during which time iPad education and paperwork will be covered. Students will not be allowed iPad usage until parents participate in this session and sign off on the technology forms.

Fifth Grade Students Only
9am - 12pm – Fifth Grade Retreat
12 - 1pm – Lunch provided by school
1 - 5pm – iPad Training

All New Middle School Students
1 - 5pm – iPad Training

All Fifth Grade Parents and All New Middle School Parents
4 - 5pm – Parent Technology Session

If you have any questions regarding this information, please don’t hesitate to call me at 402.556.3772 x1044 or email me at bridget.collins@brownell.edu.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Christina Ramon and Fatima Basith  
Co-Presidents

The Brownell-Talbot Parents Association invites you to stop by our table at the Welcome Back Picnic in the Scott Gymnasium on August 28, from 5-6:30pm. Learn what BTPA is all about! Also, please save the date for our first meeting of the year - Thursday, September 3 at 8am in Worthington Dining Hall. Our featured speaker will be new Head of School, Kristi Gibbs, Ed.D. We are looking forward to sharing all the new and exciting happenings on campus this school year.

Thank you Zoe and Brett for so proudly representing BT in the community.

Christina Ramon and Fatima Basith  
Co-Presidents

We would like to welcome the following professionals to Brownell-Talbot School and update you on a shift in responsibility.

**New to Brownell-Talbot this summer are Jen Udron and Jeff Chubb.**

**Jen Udron - Executive Assistant to the Head of School**
Jen comes to us from Ralston Public Schools where she worked in Human Resources and also in the Business Office. Prior to her time at Ralston Public Schools she owned and operated Crescent Moon/Huber Haus/Beertopia. Jen has a longstanding working relationship with our Head of School, Kristi Gibbs, and we’re happy they are continuing their positive synergies at BT! Jen can be reached at jen.udron@brownell.edu and at 402.556.3772 x1003.

**Jeff Chubb - Assistant Director of Campus Safety**
Jeff joined Brownell-Talbot this summer as our Assistant Director of Campus Safety. He is a former Omaha Police Sergeant who retired in March 2014 after serving 21 years on the police force. We are particularly pleased to have his level of experience on the grounds of our campus. Jeff can be reached at jeff.chubb@brownell.edu and at 402.556.3772 x1039.

**Serving in a different capacity is Pam Kirkpatrick.**

**Pam Kirkpatrick - Receptionist and LS Administrative Assistant**
Pam is the former Assistant Kindergarten Teacher in Mrs. Hiley’s classroom. She took on her new role in July and has been a tremendous addition to our front office staff. Prior to Brownell-Talbot Pam was the office receptionist for Brown Transportation.

We are happy to have these professionals at Brownell-Talbot serving in these roles. Look for more professional updates in the September 11 issue of HEADS Up! And please help us welcome these individuals to our community!

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Retrain Your Brain! Summer Camp Happenings

Images of summer camp activities and participants.