

BROOKLIN SCHOOL PARENTS TEACHERS FRIENDS (PTF)



September 17, 2019

Dear Brooklin Friends,

School is off to a wonderful start and the Brooklin School Parents, Teachers, and Friends (PTF) organization has the events and celebrations that bring the Brooklin community and the school community together. These include the Back-To-School Barbecue, Community Thanksgiving, Holiday Craft Fair, 5K Fun Run, School Clean-Up Day, Teacher Appreciation Week and Soup/Chili/Chowder Challenge.

With the money we raise from you and other generous community members, we support a variety of enrichment programs for our students. Here are just a few of the things that the PTF funded and/or organized:

- Our astonishing teachers compiled our students' stories and investigative journalism into professionally bound books and magazines.
- Our school hosted Chris Van Dusen, Maine-based children's author, and illustrator. He spent the entire day working with and coaching students on the inspirational aspects of authorship.
- We earmarked funding to send the upcoming 7/8-grade class to Camp Kieve for a full week of youth empowerment activities.
- We bought specially sized hoops to encourage our youngest learners to try sports through a new Peewee basketball program.
- We supported a team of students to build Solar Cars and race them at the Maine Junior Solar Sprint National Competition. We took second place in the state!
- We hosted the three-day Dutch Soccer Clinic for Brooklin students as well as other local children. The PTF provided full and partial sponsorships to Brooklin School students in need.
- We helped send our eighth graders to explore Washington D.C. with their class advisor, Julia Baird.
- We added a new Winter Fair to encourage physical activity in our students, which included school-wide snowshoeing, an obstacle course and bouncy house.
- We funded a sandbox for our Pre-K class.

One of the largest costs that the Brooklin PTF currently incurs is our Backpack Program. Over half of the families of our school student population choose to participate in the program. On extended weekends and vacations, a bag that contains breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and at least one serving of fruit and vegetables for each day each student is out of school is sent home. All of this food is provided to children free of charge. It is our hope that these resources will support the health, behavior, and achievement of every student that participates. We estimate this program costs over \$8,000-\$10,000 per year.

We are so grateful to everyone that supported our Summer Auction and Dance in July this year. It was a huge success not just simply because of the many amazing artists and community members who donated, but also because of all you folks that snatched up such great items. Did you know that you can get an advance copy of the auction items and then can bid by phone? This year, we had over 100 items/experiences, ate great food and danced the night away with the Soulenders!

To continue supporting the health and wellness of our students as well as bringing unique experiences to them at school, we need your help. Please consider donating to our annual appeal. The PTF is lucky to receive donations throughout the year from friends and community members, and we thank you whether you donate every year or make a one-time gift.

We encourage you to visit our website if you would like to know more about the goings-on at our school brooklinschool.org. If you'd like to attend more school events, simply email lmunson@brooklinschool.org to receive the school newsletter weekly along with occasional letters from our outstanding principal, Jil Blake. If you are on Facebook, please consider joining the Brooklin School PTF Facebook page as well.

Sincerely,
The Brooklin School PTF
P.O Box 120
Brooklin, Maine 04616

Name: _____ Enclosed is my check for _____.

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Please make your check payable to Brooklin School PTF. Thank you!

Brooklin School Check-In Survey



The Brooklin School is conducting a strategic planning process to continue moving forward toward our vision for learning. We sought broad community input in developing our mission/vision/beliefs a year ago and we are very excited about them. They were adopted by the Board, and a plan of action is now needed to guide our work to achieve that vision.

Please explore our core beliefs about learning and complete the brief survey questions that follow each part of the vision and beliefs. Educating our students is a community effort and we need your involvement by telling us what's important to you in this vision. We value your ideas and want to make sure we do what's needed to move forward.

OUR BROOKLIN VISION

WE COME TOGETHER TO LEARN, TO GROW & TO EXPLORE. "We are respectful, curious, and kind. We are all unique and learn together as equal members of one community. We care about each other, we care for ourselves, and we work to make the world a better place."

1. What ideas or specific action steps do you recommend to move our school closer to this description of our school community? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING

"The Brooklin School combines academic rigor with an engaging curriculum. Learning is enhanced by hands-on experiences and community-based projects rooted in a real-world context."

2. What action steps should we take to consistently achieve this approach to learning? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

"The Brooklin School is a safe, welcoming space that nurtures the development of healthy and confident students. A lively, rich, and warm educational setting sets the tone for joyful and purposeful learning."

3. What ideas do you have that would move our school closer to achieving this kind of learning environment? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR STUDENTS

"Brooklin School students are resilient, compassionate community members who appreciate their differences, follow their curiosity, and strive for excellence. Each student's individuality is embraced and supported as they pursue their unique educational path."

4. What are the two - three most important things we should do to create learning experiences for all our students that are consistent with this description? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR STAFF

“A dedicated and passionate group of highly skilled educators lead the Brooklin School, fostering a collaborative approach to teaching and learning. Teachers, staff, and school partners find joy in learning and model that enthusiasm for students.

5. What action steps should we include in the strategic plan related to supporting our staff? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR COMMUNITY

“Broad community support and involvement enriches the Brooklin School experience and anchors Brooklin students with a strong sense of self and place.”

6. What are the things we should do to build stronger community relationships? (Top 2-3 ideas)

OUR CORE BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

All students can learn and have the ability to do extraordinary things.

Each student is unique and learns in different ways at different rates.

Learning is a lifelong endeavor sparked by curiosity.

Successful learning includes taking risks, making mistakes, and persevering through challenges.

Students learn best in a safe, nurturing environment.

Positive relationships empower, engage, and motivate learners.

Learning is enhanced when schools, families, and communities create true partnerships.

Each person at the Brooklin School is expected to be a positive member of the learning community.”

7. In what areas do we need to increase/improve our consistency with these beliefs? (Top 3-4 ideas)

8. Overall, what 2-3 areas would you want us to focus on to move our school toward the vision?

9. Any closing thoughts or advice for the strategic planning committee?

Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback. Please return your survey to the Brooklin School or any member of the Brooklin Board.