

BRIGHTER CHOICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE

An evolving guide to school and community resources for families from the desk of Deittra Wilder, Parent Coordinator of Brighter Choice Community School.

This parent resource guide provides a centralized hub of information and links to key resources that can support families within the Brighter Choice Community School. From academic support to health and wellness, NYC DOE important links to important Brooklyn Community insights, this outline covers a wide range of helpful topics and tools. If there is ever a topic or organization you'd like to see added to this guide, feel free to contact Deittra Wilder, Parent Coordinator of Brighter Choice Community School at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov.

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE

Brooklyn Community District 16

Equity. Empathy. Equity. Engagement

<https://www.d16leads.com/>

New York City Schools Account (NYCSA)

NYCSA is a secure online portal that allows families to access their child's academic information. Features include viewing student schedules, attendance, grades, and more.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/nyc-schools-account>

Summer Rising 2025

NYC DOE is excited to offer Summer Rising once again to NYC students in grades K-8 this summer. Any student attending school in New York City, who is currently in kindergarten through eighth grade (in the 2024-2025 school year) is eligible for Summer Rising.

Summer Rising is a partnership between New York City Public Schools and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Summer Rising is free and available to all NYC students in grades K-8, pending seat availability.

Students in Summer Rising will have access to both academic and enrichment programming over the course of the day, including field trips, arts activities, and outdoor recreation. Programs will be planned and operated collaboratively by school principals and community-based organizations (CBOs). The environment will be safe and supportive with staff prepared to respond to children's social and emotional needs. Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be served.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/summer/summer-rising>

The Aster Initiative/The Katmint Summer Program

The Aster Initiative is our 3K PreK afterschool program. During the summer they also have a summer program. The Katmint Learning Initiative was founded in 2013 by two parents who saw the desperate need for a preschool alternative for families in the Bedford –Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn that offered quality enrichment, flexibility to compliment the complex work schedules of parents in NYC and affordability to ensure that everyone can have the opportunity to give their children something better.

<https://thekatmint.com/summers-at-katmint/>

NYC DOE 2024-2025 School Calendar

This is the 2024–25 school year calendar for all 3K–12 NYCDOE public schools.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/calendar/2024-2025-school-year-calendar>

NYC DOE 2025-2026 School Calendar

This is the 2025–26 school year calendar for all 3K–12 NYCDOE public schools.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/calendar/2025-2026-school-year-calendar>

Enrollment: 3K

Apply to free, full-day 3-K programs the year your child turns 3. Information on the 3K enrollment process. Resources for finding and applying to 3K programs

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/3k>

Enrollment: PreK

Apply to free, full-day PreK programs the year your child turns 4. Information on the PreK enrollment process. Resources for finding and applying to PreK programs

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/pre-k>

Enrollment: Kindergarten

Your child will enter kindergarten in the calendar year they turn 5. Apply even if your child is a current pre-K student. Information on the kindergarten enrollment process. Resources for finding and applying to kindergarten programs

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/kindergarten>

Enrollment: Gifted & Talented Programs

Eligible children entering kindergarten (in the calendar year they turn 5), grade 1, grade 2, grade 3 or grade 4 can participate in G&T admissions. Information and resources for applying to Gifted & Talented programs.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/gifted-talented>

Enrollment: Middle School

Guidance on the middle school enrollment process. Tools for researching and applying to middle schools. Apply during your child's 5th grade year (or 6th grade for students in K-6 schools). Middle School Enrollment at Brighter Choice Community School is handled by our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Deardra Zahara Duncan. Feel free to email Ms. Zahara,

dduncan7@schools.nyc.gov

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/middle-school>

Enrollment: Family Welcome Centers

Assistance with enrollment, registration, and more

www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers

News & Tools: The Morning Bell

News and tools you can use, from NYC Public Schools for NYCPS families.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/morning-bell>

News & Tools: NYC Public Schools PS + YOU from Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos

Updates for New Yorkers about our NYC Public Schools, from the Chancellor

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/newsletter---nyc-public-schools-plus-you>

News & Tools: School Meals

For all things regarding School Meals including menus, missions, initiatives, nutritional information on foods being served and food service jobs

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/school-meals>

News & Tools: School Meals: Menus

Breakfast, lunch and afterschool meals are free to all NYC public school students during the school year.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/menus>

Special Education Services

It is more important than ever to create inclusive, welcoming learning environments for every student so that they feel safe and experience success. Truly inclusive schools recognize the interdependence of each member of the school community, and that there is huge collective benefit when we acknowledge, value, and promote each member's strengths. Ensuring inclusion will enable us to address areas of inequity while continually strengthening and renewing our commitment to high quality instruction for every student.

Special Education includes services, programs, and specially designed instruction to meet the individual needs of a student with a disability. Students with disabilities who require special education services have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The IEP is created by a team that includes you, the family.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education>

Special Education Services: The IEP Process

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/the-iep-process>

Special Education Services: Specialized Programs

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/school-settings/specialized-programs>

Transportation

All things NYC DOE transportation details including eligibility and expectations for NYC DOE Transportation

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation>

Transportation: Student OMNY cards

Student OMNI cards can be picked up from the BCCS Main Office

The NYC DOE is evolving with technology and providing our students with OMNY tap-to-go passes for subway and city buses. Schools will distribute OMNY cards this Fall 2024. This will allow eligible students to get to and from school and school-related activities for free—and ride for free on weekends and all year, too!

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/student-omny-cards>

Multilingual Learner Support

For all NYC DOE Resources and topics for Multilingual Learner Families

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/multilingual-learners>

Multilingual Learner Support: Community Organizations that Help Multilingual and Immigrant Families

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/multilingual-learners/community-organizations-that-help-english-language-learners>

Multilingual Learner Support: Multilingual and Immigrant Student Support Resource Site

<https://sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/ml-immigrantstudentsupport/home>

Technology Help

NYC Doe Families sign in with their NYCSA Account

<https://supporthub.schools.nyc/>

The Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn is a vibrant, diverse community with a wealth of resources to support local families. This guide will highlight the key businesses, organizations, and services that can benefit the families of a school community in this area.

FREE & LOW-COST TUTORING

New York City Public Library: Brainfuse

Get free online homework help from one-on-one tutors, daily from 2–11 PM. Available in English, Spanish, and French, from early elementary through high school grades, in core subject areas. Video content and other resources are also available 24 hours a day. All you need is an NY CPL card.

<https://www.nypl.org/education/kids/brainfuse-homework-help-tutoring>

NYC 311 Tutoring and Educational Support

Public school students can receive academic assistance and homework help resources. Available programs vary by school, including private and group tutoring and services provided by Community-Based Early Childhood Centers or CBECCs (formerly known as CBOs or community-based organizations). Call [311](tel:311) or 212-NEW-YORK ([212-639-9675](tel:212-639-9675)) for help.

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03029>

Dial-A-Teacher

During the school year, students and parents can receive free homework help from teachers over the phone from Monday to Thursday 4 PM to 7 PM starting in September.

The Dial-A-Teacher service is not available during the summer.

What: Homework helpline for students, run by classroom teachers

Where: Call [212-777-3380](tel:212-777-3380)

Who: Students in kindergarten through 12th grade

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 4 to 7 p.m. when school is in session

Languages spoken: Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog

Subjects available: English, math, science and social studies

<https://dialateacher.org/>

READ 718

A Brooklyn-based nonprofit dedicated to building strong, confident readers through individualized instruction.

<https://www.read718.org/>

LIBRARY SERVICES

Brooklyn Public Library

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/>

The Free Black Women's Library

226 Marcus Garvey Boulevard. The Free Black Women's Library is a social art project that features a collection of over five thousand books written by Black women and Black non-binary writers, a free store, a period pantry, a virtual Reading Club, a weekly book swap, and a wide array of workshops and free public programs.

<https://www.thefreeblackwomenslibrary.com/>

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Local Support Services: Food Pantries and Aid

Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Enrichment Center

Whether you are job hunting, looking to network, or just curious, we've got something for everyone! Family enrichments, community closet, fun family programming!

Bed-Stuy N.E.S.T. (Neighbors Embracing Strengths Together)

Provider Name: Little Flower

FEC Director Name and Contact Info: [Edison King](#)

FEC Address: [410 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216](#)

FEC Neighborhood: Bedford-Stuyvesant (Bed-Stuy)

Social Media: [Instagram](#) @bedstuyfec

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/fec.page>

Bed-Stuy Strong

Bed-Stuy Strong was founded in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis, as an online community and a mutual aid network. We are a group of neighbors helping care for each other and organize to meet each other's needs in a spirit of solidarity. Bed-Stuy Strong is not a non-profit or government agency or food pantry. We are a network of people committed to each other and to a set of guiding principles, and together have built a series of community initiatives, from food and PPE provision, to voting and vaccine access, to political education reading groups and support for incarcerated neighbors.

<https://www.bedstuystrong.com/>

Bed-Stuy Strong Map of Open Food Pantries

Including addresses, open hours, and contact information.

<https://www.bedstuystrong.com/resources/#food-pantries>

Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger

Food pantry, soup kitchen, and community programs

www.bedstuyagainsthunger.org

Mutual Aid NYC

We are a network of groups organizing to provide aid and support to New Yorkers. Extensive resource and aid directory and library.

<https://mutualaid.nyc/>

Mutual Aid NYC Resource Library and Directory

Our community-sourced, volunteer-curated library is a collection of the many resources available to New Yorkers.

<https://mutualaid.nyc/community-resources/>

HOUSING RESOURCES

Neighborhood Housing Services of Bedford Stuyvesant

A not-for-profit community development organization dedicated to providing affordable housing in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/resources/neighborhood-housing-services-of-bedford-stuyvesant/>

Coalition for the Homeless

The Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless individuals and families. The Coalition's effectiveness derives from our unique role as both an advocacy and direct service organization.

<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/>

JOB SEARCH & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Brooklyn Public Library

Business & Career Services at BPL are for entrepreneurs, freelancers, job seekers and anyone seeking a secure financial future. Our services are designed to help you expand your horizons with workshops and programs, research emerging trends and market opportunities, learn marketable skills and digital tools, discover your career path or master your finances. Career help and resources available.

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/business>

Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center: Kings County

Job placement assistance and career center resources.

<https://dol.ny.gov/location/brooklyn-workforce1-career-center>

New York City Small Business Services: Careers Businesses Neighborhoods

Access to job resources, trainings and apprenticeship details, career discovery resources.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/careers.page>

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH CARE RESOURCES

PEDIATRIC & FAMILY CLINICS

ABC Pediatrics

<https://www.abcpediatrics.com/>

Bedford Family Health Center

<https://www.bedfordfamilyhealth.org/>

PRIMARY CARE CLINICS: NORTH & NORTHWEST BROOKLYN

Community Healthcare Network | Williamsburg

94 Manhattan Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11206

<https://www.chnyc.org/williamsburg/>

NYC Health + Hospitals Gotham | Williamsburg

279 Graham Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11211

844-692-4692

https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/locations/?distance=10&facility_type=168&view-type=list-view

PRIMARY CARE CLINICS: BUSHWICK/BEDFORD STUYVESANT

Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center | Broadway

1238 Broadway

Brooklyn, New York 11221

718-443-2428

<https://bsfhc.org/broadway-family-health-center.php>

NYC Health + Hospitals | Woodhull

760 Broadway

Brooklyn, New York 11206

844-692-4692

<https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/locations/woodhull/>

URGENT CARE

AG Urgent Care Bushwick

1295 Broadway

Brooklyn, New York 11221

(718) 682-3903

https://agurgentcare.com/locations/bushwick-urgent-care/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj4KQCQiA8fW9BhC8ARItACwHqYo9Qj5o4Hv7qzOiE7L9Ra9eLYNmPzQ6yI0ZzYmirDrBrwqIk8ZazDpLGgIfoRAC8P8HAQ

CityMD Bed-Stuy Urgent Care - Brooklyn

1243 Fulton Street

Brooklyn, New York 11216

(646) 647-1257

https://www.citymd.com/urgent-care-locations/ny/bed-B_listings

VISION CARE RESOURCE LIST**Woodhull Hospital**

760 Broadway

Suite 2B

Brooklyn, New York 11206

718-963-8603

Kings County Hospital Center

451 Clarkson Avenue

East Building, 8th Floor, Suite A

718-245-3325

718-245-3326

N.Y.U. Langone Hospital (Formerly Lutheran Medical Center)

149 Pierrepont Street

Brooklyn, New York 11201

718-834-1976

DENTAL CARE BROOKLYN CLINICS**The Brooklyn Hospital Center – Dentistry and Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery Center**

155 Ashland Place

Brooklyn, New York 11201

718-250-8963

<https://www.tbh.org/>

Woodhull Medical Center Department of Dentistry

760 Broadway

Room 2C320

Brooklyn, New York 11206

718-963-8308

NYU Langone Flatbush Family Health Center

3414 Church Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11203

718-630-6875 or 347-377-4646

https://nyulangone.org/locations/flatbush-family-health-center-at-nyu-langone?cid=syn_yext&y_entity_id=1074&y_source=1_MTU4MDkwNDUtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D&y_source=1_MTU4MDkwNDUtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Mental Health Continuum | Woodhull Hospital

Brighter Choice Community School in-house counselor, Xavier Gonzalez, gonzalex1@nychhc.org
<https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/woodhull/services/behavioral-health/>

Brooklyn Community Services

BCS works in neighborhoods impacted by systemic poverty. We believe all Brooklynites should have the resources, education, opportunities, and safety they need to thrive.

<https://www.wearebcs.org/>

CLOTHING & SUPPLIES

The Salvation Army Brooklyn Bedford Corps Community Center

601 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11216
(718) 622-0614

<https://bedstuy.salvationarmyny.org/>

Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Enrichment Center

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<https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/fec.page>

Bed-Stuy Goodwill

<https://www.goodwill.org/store-locator/ny/brooklyn/bedford-stuyvesant/>

Community Solidarity Bedford-Stuyvesant Food

Distribution of clothing alongside free groceries at the corner of Lafayette and Marcy Avenue, near Tompkins Park; this is a great option as it doesn't require any paperwork or documentation to access the clothing.

Key points about the Community Solidarity Food Share:

Location: Lafayette and Marcy Avenue, near Tompkins Park

Distribution: Usually on Saturdays

What to expect: A selection of free clothing alongside groceries

Access: Open to everyone, no need to register

COMMUNITY CENTERS

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Bed-Stuy YMCA

1121 Bedford Ave

Brooklyn, New York 11216

718-789-1497

<https://ymcanyc.org/locations/bedford-stuyvesant-ymca>

Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza

Community gathering place with a theater, shopping, and dining, plus venues for events.

1368 Fulton Street

Brooklyn, New York 11216

718-636-6900

<https://www.restorationplaza.org/>

IMMIGRATION

Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens (CCBQ) is a nonprofit, non-denominational organization dedicated to helping our neighbors in need with mercy and compassion for over 125 years. As one of the country's largest faith-based affordable housing providers, we offer more than 4,500 low-income housing units. We sponsor over 160 programs and services for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, serving 500,000 people in Brooklyn and Queens as of 2025.

<https://www.ccbq.org/>

Immigration Advocates Network

Database for immigrant rights organizations and volunteers

<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/volunteer/>

Documented .info

An interactive tool where immigrants can ask real-time questions in English, French, Spanish, and Haitian Kreyòl across various online platforms (e.g. email, Facebook Messenger, Facebook, and WhatsApp). Trained journalists and experts respond with answers, guide people to services, and share helpful information and resources. Developed by Documented NYC and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

<https://www.documented.info/en-us>

CONCLUSION

This parent resource guide is designed to connect families with the information, programs, and services that can support their child's success and overall well-being. Explore the resources highlighted in this guide to connect your family with the services and support available.

Together, we can build a strong, resilient school community!

We encourage all parents to explore these resources and reach out to the school with any additional questions or needs. Always feel free to contact Brighter Choice Community School's Parent Coordinator, Deitra Wilder, dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov