

2025-2026 Parent Handbook



Principal Josh Pertraglia
Assistant Principal Kim Nunes

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Introduction

Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year, Brighter Choice Community School families! Let's make this year a great one in both academic success and community! This handbook outlines the policies and practices of Brighter Choice Community School (BCCS) for the 2025-2026 school year, serving as a guide for scholars and their families. The handbook is available electronically on Google Drive and the school website. Hard copies can be requested from Parent Coordinator Ms. Deitra Wilder, at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov. Please note, all policies are subject to revision for the best interest of the scholars, with updates communicated promptly. Families are encouraged to review it regularly as there may be updates. If you have continued questions on review of this handbook, please contact Principal, Josh Petraglia, jpetrag2@schools.nyc.gov and/or Assistant Principal Kim Nunes knunes@schools.nyc.gov.

Mission Statement

At Brighter Choice Community School, we are committed to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, safe and respected and is inspired to reach their full potential and achieve readiness for college and careers. Our Core Values are Communication, Honor, Open Mindedness, Integrity, Contribution and Excellence. These values set the foundation for the work that we do every day, and are embedded in our "everyday" interactions. Our mission is to provide high quality instruction that promotes critical thinking, curiosity and creativity while empowering students to develop strong social skills, make good choices and become responsible, compassionate members of our community.

Vision

At Brighter Choice Community School, our vision is to cultivate a community of lifelong learners who are empowered to always succeed and be the best that they can be. We envision a school that is a happy place where every student wants to be and a place that inspires them to reach their full potential. We also envision our school as a place for our students to embrace their individual strengths and engage them in challenging learning and positive social experiences so they are able to contribute positively to the diverse and dynamic world around them.

PROSE

Brighter Choice Community School is a PROSE School. PROSE is the acronym for Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools of Excellence. PROSE gives schools additional flexibility and independence in how they structure the design and philosophy of their designated school, all the while still operating within the parameters of the NYC Department of Education. The Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence (PROSE) program was established as part of the contract between the UFT, CSA and the DOE. The PROSE program enables schools who have a demonstrated record of effective school leadership, collaboration, and trust to implement innovative practices outside of existing rules.

Administrators and teachers in PROSE schools collaboratively engage in reflective conversations that surface changes and improvements to existing practices and systems with the goal of increasing student achievement and teacher effectiveness. PROSE enables collaborative schools to engage in an application and voting process to modify certain existing regulations and work rules for a period of five years. Ultimately, the goal of PROSE is to improve teacher practice and student learning outcomes and drive innovation across the community of PROSE schools by supporting schools with a history of collaborative practices. PROSE schools also seek to develop a culture of reflection and continuous improvement at every level, in order to create structures that encourage the sharing of lessons learned and promising practices across the school system.

Philosophy of Inclusion

Brighter Choice Community School is an inclusive community. Our foundations are built on the strengths of individuality, kinship, allyship, equity, kindness, empathy, joyful, and healthful learning. We welcome, honor, and celebrate students and families that represent the diversity of our community and the world around us.

BCCS Core Values

- C = COMMUNICATE
- H = HONOR
- O = OPEN-MINDEDNESS
- I = INTEGRITY
- C = CONTRIBUTE
- E = EXCELLENCE

These core C.H.O.I.C.E. values set the foundation for the work that we do every day, and are embedded in our “everyday” interactions. They are a small set of guiding principles that have a profound impact on how everyone in our school strives to think and act. They have intrinsic value and are of significant importance to the staff at Brighter Choice Community School.

BCCS Race and Equity Statement

Brighter Choice Community School takes pride in preparing our young leaders to be creative critical thinkers that will contribute positively to the world at large. We are an Anti-Racist school that is committed to ensuring that every student receives an education that is truthful, free from bias, liberating, and in a supportive learning environment. Our community is focused on creating safe, affirming environments in which students and families can be their authentic selves.

Brighter Choice Community School welcomes and celebrates our community’s diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, physical and learning abilities. We encourage our students to use their voice, listen and learn from each other’s individual stories as well as honoring both our differences and our commonalities using culturally responsive approaches.

BCCS Administration & Support Services			
First Name	Last Name	Title	Email
Josh	Petraglia	Principal	jpetrag2@schools.nyc.gov
Kim	Nunes	Assistant Principal	knunes@schools.nyc.gov
Anika	Caesar	School Secretary	acaesar@schools.nyc.gov
Deitra	Wilder	Parent Coordinator	dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov
Deandra	Duncan	Guidance Counselor	dduncan7@schools.nyc.gov
Eleanor	Morgan	School Nurse	emorgan@schools.nyc.gov
Monica	Shephard	Social Worker	mshepherd5@schools.nyc.gov
Abeygail	Ramlal	Director CBO New York Edge	aramlal@newyorkedge.org
Ann Marie	Christopher	School Psychologist	AChristopher@schools.nyc.gov
Mary	Garcia	Bilingual School Social Worker	mgarcia72@schools.nyc.gov

Who to contact?

For all questions or concerns related to classroom matters, BCCS Families are encouraged to reach out to classroom teachers via Class Dojo or email. Brighter Choice Community School has a 24-hour response policy for all teachers and staff to respond to emails and Class Dojo messages.

For more pressing matters see the list below:

Concern(s)	Support Staff	Contact Information
Parent Concerns	Ms. Wilder, Parent Coordinator	dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081 Ext 1082
Registration, Student Records, etc.	Ms. Caesar, Secretary	acaesar@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081
Academic, Attendance, Social/Emotional, Behavioral & Bullying, Supports, Middle School Applications, etc.	Ms. Duncan, Counselor	dduncan7@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081 Ext 2101
Academic, Attendance, Social/Emotional, Behavioral & Bullying, Supports, Temporary Housing Matters, etc.	Ms. Shepherd, Social Worker	mshepherd5@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081 Ext 2361
Academic, Safety, Behavioral, Instructional, etc.	Ms. Nunes, Assistant Principal	knunes@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081 Ext 2141
Academic, Safety, Behavioral, Instructional, etc.	Ms. Petraglia, Principal	jpetrag2@schools.nyc.gov 718-453-4081

The Main Office number is 718-453-4081

School Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00AM-2:20PM (3K-5)

Arrivals and Dismissal

Grade	Arrival Time	Arrival Location	Dismissal Time	Dismissal Location
3k & Pre K	Doors Open 8am	Exit 4 (Pulaski St by School Yard)	2:10pm	Exit 4 (Pulaski St by School Yard)
K-2	Doors Open 7:30am	Exit 5 (Pulaski St by Marcus Garvey Blvd)	2:15pm- 2:20pm	Exit 4 (Pulaski St by School Yard)
3-5	Doors Open 7:30am	Exit 5 (Pulaski St by Marcus Garvey Blvd)	2:15pm-2:20pm	Exit 5 (Pulaski St by Marcus Garvey Blvd)

Arrival

3K & PreK Parents may enter into the building at **8am** to transition their child to their classroom. 3K & PreK eat breakfast in the classrooms. K-5 parents must remain outside. Doors for Grades K-5 Open at 7:30am. K-5 Students go straight to the cafeteria for breakfast.

Breakfast

Cafeteria doors will open for breakfast for K-5 students at 7:30 am. At 8:00 am, students will make their way to their classrooms to begin their day. Please ensure that your child arrives at school early if they need breakfast. 3-K and Pre-K students will eat breakfast in their classrooms at 8am and should not be dropped off early to the cafeteria.

Dismissal

3K & PreK Parents may enter into the building to transition their child to their classroom at 2:10pm.

Once outside the building, K-5 students will line up outside with their teacher in their assigned spots. Students will not be dismissed until the teacher gives clearance to do so. All parents, caregivers, etc. picking up students may be asked to sign children out and need to be over the age of 18 and listed on the Emergency Blue Card.

Late pick up students will be located in the Main Office. If you are late you need to sign in at the front desk with the School Safety Agent and sign your student out in the Main Office.

Students in grades 3rd - 5th can walk home from school with permission from their parents/guardian. Parents/Guardians can give permission on their students' Emergency Blue Card or in writing. Written Permission will be kept on file in the Main Office.

Please ensure that any changes in custody or emergency pick-up information is brought to the school's attention immediately as the school needs to be aware as to who is authorized to pick up your scholar(s) from school.

If there are any changes to the end of the day pick up routine (ex- running late, emergency situation, different person picking up students, etc.) please notify the main office before 1pm. If you are unable to reach someone, please email and/or message the teacher or Ms. Wilder via Class Dojo.

Custody Agreements/Legal Documents

Parents or Guardians who have shared custody and/or custody agreements need to ensure all contact/arrangement information, and an Emergency Blue Card are provided to the school's Main Office. Please be sure to provide any formal legal documents (Ex- Court Papers) restricting pick up and/or school visits to the Main Office ASAP.

Additional Contact Information

To add additional guardian names to email distribution lists, please contact our parent coordinator, Ms. Deitra Wilder, at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov.

Emergency Blue Cards

All students must have a current Emergency Blue Card on file. Blue Cards will be distributed to students on the first day of school. Please fill out the card and return it to the school as soon as possible. Inform the school of any changes to the Blue Card that may take place during the school year. Please contact the main office at 718-453-4081 when someone who is not on the Emergency Blue Card will be picking up your child. Please make sure the pickup person has identification.

Absences/Punctuality and Attendance

If your child is going to be absent and/or late on any school day make sure to:

Call the school's main office first at 718-453-4081

Inform your child's teacher via email or Class Dojo. Please make sure to include dates and reasons for the absence or lateness. If your child is absent due to an illness or medical visit, please send a note or doctor's note the following day.

Students are considered late if they arrive after 8:15 am. Students who are late need to go to the Main Office in order to get a late pass. Once the teacher receives the late pass from the student, the teacher will update the attendance. If the student does not provide the teacher with a late pass, the student will be redirected to the Main Office to receive a late pass. Teachers will log onto GAMA Attendance through TeachHub to take their daily attendance. After attendance is taken, automated communication will go out daily via the GAMA app.

Absence Categories

Student absences are recorded in one of the following categories based on the information provided (or not provided)

1. **Excused** - Absences are still absences. Schools can excuse absences when a student is absent from school for religious, medical or emergency reasons, but excused absences are a legal part of the student's record and are still considered an absence and recorded in the school's system.
2. **Unexcused** - Absences accompanied by a doctor's note are not excused. The school notes medical absences in their system, so it is important to send your child in with a note. Vacations are also considered unexcused absences.

Please see our School's Attendance Policy [Here](#)

Parent Responsibilities and Information

Your role as parents, guardians, and families are essential to your child's success.

Please review the below responsibilities and the contents of this handbook. Always keeping in mind that TOGETHER, we can make this year and each year to come, Brighter Choice Community School's BEST EVER! Welcome to 2025-2026!!

Parents/guardians are crucial to their child's success. Key responsibilities include:

- Ensuring on-time arrival and pickup daily.
- Maintaining 95% or better attendance.
- Ensuring students wear uniforms daily unless otherwise specified.
- Checking school bags, folders and Class Dojo for notices and announcements.
- Labeling clothing and water bottles.
- Active participation in the BCCS PTA and considering joining the School Leadership Team (SLT).
- Keeping all contact information current at school, including the Emergency Information Blue Card.
- Returning signed items promptly.
- Reading with children nightly and discussing books.
- Familiarizing with and reviewing school rules and requests.
- Inspecting your child's notebooks and reviewing homework/test scores regularly.
- Helping organize homework and school materials.
- Assisting with care of DOE-issued electronic devices, returning all devices immediately on request.
- Ensuring children are prepared with necessary school supplies.
- Staying in touch with teachers via Class Dojo.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are now held virtually

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on the following dates:

- November 6, 2025
- March 5, 2026

Nurse Visits/Health and Safety Information

For any health-related questions or concerns, feel free to contact Brighter Choice Community School's resident school nurse, Ms. Eleanor Morgan, at emorgan4@health.nyc.gov.

Families will be contacted if their child is taken to the Nurse during the day. Each child will be sent home with a note documenting their visit.

Medical Forms and Immunization Records

A record of immunizations and physical examinations within the past twelve months must be completed and on file at the school. Health records that include prescriptions, descriptions of student medical accommodations/restrictions must also be kept updated and on file with the school's Main Office and with the School Nurse. Parents of students who need regular medication must fill out a **504 Form**, including students that need an EPI pen for life threatening allergies. The School will inform all staff health and allergy alerts. All children must have a **DOE Health Examination** form filled out by their doctor each school year.

A copy of New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Child & Adolescent Health Form also accompanies this handbook. If a condition or concern regarding a student's health arises during the school day in which they need to be picked up, the child's teacher, school nurse, or school personnel will notify the parents/guardians listed on the child's emergency blue card.

Allergies

BCCS is a **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**. All student allergies must be on file with the main office and with Nurse Eleanor Morgan at emorgan4@health.nyc.gov. Nurse Morgan's office is Room 106, 718-453-4081, Ext 1062.

A completed and up-to-date [Child & Adolescent Health Examination Form](#) is required and must be kept on file with up to date vaccination and physical information by your student's physician. Parents of students who need regular medication must fill out a **504 Form**, including students that need an EPI pen for life threatening allergies. The School will inform all staff health and allergy alerts. All children must have a **DOE Health Examination** form filled out by their doctor each school year.

A copy of New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Child & Adolescent Health Form also accompanies this handbook. If a condition or concern regarding a student's health arises during the school day in which they need to be picked up, the child's teacher, school nurse, or school personnel will notify the parents/guardians listed on the child's emergency blue card.

School Meals and Allergies

BCCS is a Nut Free School. We ask that families are conscientious and considerate of all students when packing snacks and meals. All NYC DOE students are offered free breakfast and lunch (including After School). We ask that families who pack breakfasts, lunches and/or snacks ensure they make them as healthy as possible. We also ask that families send students to school with labeled water bottles. Students have access to cold drinking water during the school day.

If your family has meal or dietary preferences please notify the main office or teacher and note them on the Blue Emergency Contact Card. Meetings can be arranged with staff for dietary protocol. School Food Menus (Breakfast Express, PreK-8 Breakfast/Lunch, Afterschool Hot/Snack) are available online.

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

Grading Policy (K-5)

Grades represent a student's achievement and proficiency in subject areas. This grading policy, applicable to all students, details the timing and manner of feedback on their content and skill mastery. This policy aims to provide a clear and consistent framework for evaluating student performance and progress.

Grading Scale:

The school uses the NYC DOE 1-4 grading scale that awards marks 1, 2, 3, or 4 based on performance level.

- **Level 4 (95-100%) - student is exceeding proficiency standards.**
- **Level 3 (80-94%) - student is meeting proficiency standards.**
- **Level 2 (65-79%) - student is meeting basic standards.**
- **Level 1 (0-64%) - student is performing below standards.**

Report Cards

Grades are issued three times a year—in December, March, and June—in the following subjects: English Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Listening/Speaking and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and History, Physical Education and Health, Music, and Academic and Personal Behaviors.

Report cards will be handed out to students at the end of the school day. Overall report card grades will be accessible on NYC School Accounts about a week after distribution. For any grade-related questions, please contact the classroom teacher directly. The June report card will display both the final marking period grade and the overall average course grade for each subject for the school year (in the last column).

Report card grades are based on the following components:

- **Assessments**
- **Classwork and Participation**
- **Homework**
- **Assignments and Projects**

Marking Period Dates	Progress Reports Distributed	Grades Due	Report Card Dates
Marking Period 1 9/4/25-11/26/25	10/24/25	12/4/25	12/11/25
Marking Period 2 12/1/25-3/13/26	1/23/26	3/19/26	3/26/26
Marking Period 3 3/16/26-6/10/26	5/1/26	6/17/26	6/26/26

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the instructional program, reinforcing learning by reviewing material covered during the school day. It offers opportunities for individual growth and facilitates in-depth study and supplementary reading. Students in all grades receive literacy and math homework, which is checked in various ways. Please see our school's homework policy [here](#)

Promotion Policy

Throughout the year, teachers and administration will review students' performance to identify those who may be at risk of not meeting promotion standards for their grade level. If a child is at risk of not meeting promotion standards, the following steps will be taken:

- **Families will be notified during Fall Parent Teacher Conferences if their child's performance is not approaching standards.**
- **Families will receive written notice in February if their child's performance is not approaching standards.**
- **Families will be updated on their child's progress toward meeting promotion standards during spring parent teacher conferences.**

Teacher Medical Leave or Maternity Leave

Our expectation is for students to continue their learning during the expected or unexpected absences. Students will receive work created, planned and taught by BCCS educators and the assigned substitute teacher. Grades will be entered as scheduled.

Student Transportation and Busing

If your child receives bussing, all route information can be found with the student's New York City Schools Account ([NYCSA](#)). To determine if your student qualifies for busing, for a transportation metro card, or with additional questions, please contact the school's main office at 718-453-4081. **Details as to qualifications for NYCDOE School Busing can be found [here](#).**

Students who receive special education services may receive other transportation services. When a child is assigned to a bus route, please make note of the route number and bus number. This information may also be found in your New York City Schools Account ([NYCSA](#)).

More information may be found on the Office of Pupil Transportation website www.optnyc.org or by calling 718-392-8855

For busing qualifications, Metro Cards, or questions, please contact Ms. Anika Caesar, in the main office, via telephone at 718-453-4081 or via email at acaesar@schools.nyc.gov

Visitor Policy

All visitors must sign in with School Safety at the Main Desk, present ID and then proceed to the main office, room 102. All Parents/guardians and other visitors must be accompanied by staff when walking through the building. Unauthorized or disorderly persons will be reported to Principal Petraglia or designee and asked to leave. They may receive a Limited Access Letter restricting future access to school grounds.

Strollers, Shopping Carts, Bikes and Scooters

Strollers or shopping carts are not allowed inside the building. Brighter Choice Community School unfortunately does NOT have designated scooter or bike parking. Bikes or scooters are NOT allowed to be left inside the building and or blocking entrances/exits outside of the building. Brighter Choice Community School staff are NOT responsible for any items.

Recess

Daily physical activity promotes academic achievement. All students will have at least 25 minutes a day of supervised recess. We encourage classrooms to have instructional time, learn, and play outdoors whenever possible. Recess is held indoors during inclement weather.

Cell Phone Policy

To create an environment conducive to learning by minimizing distractions caused by cell phones and other personal internet-enabled electronic devices, ensure the safety and focus of all students during school the school day, and follow Education Law §2803, effective August 1, 2025, all New York State schools are required to adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day on school grounds. An "internet-enabled electronic device" is defined as an electronic device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet. Examples of such devices include cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, iPads, and portable music and entertainment systems. Chancellor's Regulation A-413 establishes the DOE policy on the use of cell phones and electronic devices in schools. The Department of Education's Policy and the full regulation can be accessed [here](#)

Students will not be permitted to use or access their personal internet-enabled electronic devices upon arrival at school until the end of the school day. The school day is defined as the period from the moment students enter the school building until the last class of the day ends, including during lunch. The school day starts at 8am and ends at 2:20pm. Students will be able to use school/NYCPS-issued devices during the school day. Cell phones will be collected by designated staff members during morning arrival. Phones will be secured during the school day and returned to students at dismissal. If your child attends an After School Program, they will receive their phone when they are dismissed from that program.

In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, parents or guardians can call the Main Office at 718-453-4081 to reach their child. In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, students may access phones in the Main Office to reach their parents or guardians. In case of emergency or exigent circumstances, the school will use GAMA to communicate information to parents or guardians. Parents/guardians can access the automated messaging system by creating a NYSCA Account [here](#). If you need assistance setting up an account, please contact Parent Coordinator, Deitra Wilder at 718-453-4081 or via email at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov.

Students are allowed to use their device if they have an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan that includes use of an internet-enabled device and do not have a DOE-issued device for such purpose. Parents/guardians must contact Parent Coordinator, Deitra Wilder at 718-453-4081 or via email at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov if a student requires an exception for reasons such as: medical monitoring/treatments (for example to monitor blood sugar or other similar circumstances), if student is a caregiver, for approved language purposes (such as translation or interpretation services if no other means are available), or where otherwise required by law.

Students who use electronic devices in violation of the NYCPS Discipline Code, the school's policy, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, and/or the NYCPS Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy ("IAUSP") will be subject to progressive discipline. This means that the disciplinary responses will escalate based on the nature and frequency of the violation. As provided in the State law, a student may not be suspended solely on the grounds that the student accessed a personal internet-enabled device in violation of school policy. Repeated incidents of insubordination (i.e. refusal to surrender or store device) may result in a suspension if approved by the Office of Safety and Youth Development. If your child is found with a cell phone or device, the principal or designee will contact the student's parent. The first time the school confiscates a cell phone or device a warning will be issued to the student. The second time a school confiscates a cell

phone or device, the student's parent will be contacted and required to come to school to pick it up. If your child is found with a cell phone and/or refuses to turn it in, a parent will be called immediately to come up to school to retrieve the phone from the student.

In the unlikely event that an electronic device is stolen or damaged at school, parents can submit a claim to the Comptroller's Office. More information on submitting a claim is available on the [Comptroller's webpage](#).

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe, focused and productive learning environment. If you have any questions or need further clarification regarding these policies, please do not hesitate to contact Principal, Mr. Petraglia at 718-453-4081 or via email at jpetrag2@schools.nyc.gov

Uniform Policy

Students wear Gold Polo Shirts and khaki bottoms Monday-Thursday, unless otherwise specified. Fridays are reserved for BCCS Freestyle Fridays, where students can dress down and uniforms are optional. BCCS also schedules school spirit/themed dress up days where students can wear clothing aligned with the theme. Students can wear rubber-soled shoes (any color/style), however, shoes that light up, contain rolling capabilities or are open-toed are not permitted. When attending trips, students are required to wear their uniform shirt and adhere to our School Uniform Policy.

While the school will provide 2 Uniform Shirts at no cost prior to the school year to start, uniforms can be purchased from the BCCS PTA at www.bccsuniforms.com once they have stock of new shirts with the updated logo.

Photo Consent

New York Department of Education Photo Consent Forms are distributed each year to new and returning Brighter Choice Community School Families. Photo Consent Forms covers the usage of student images and or voice for school sponsored and NYC DOE events.

Brighter Choice Community School posts images on their website: www.welovebccs.com, [Instagram Page](#) and on Class Dojo. If you haven't already done so, please download, sign, and return all photo consent forms to your classroom teachers to be kept on file at the main office.

[NYC DOE Photo Consent Form \(Click Here\)](#)

Social Media

[Instagram Page](#)

Website

www.welovebccs.com

BCCS School Calendar

An electronic version of the BCCS monthly calendars are posted to Class Dojo and emailed to families each month. We will also provide monthly paper copies of parent calendars in our Main Office. In addition, you can view our School's Parent Google Calendar on our website. It is located in the Parents Tab. Please see it here <https://welovebccs.com/calendar/> Please note that the calendar is updated in real time and there can be some changes.

New York City Department of Education Calendar

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

Communication Methods

Class Dojo

Brighter Choice Community School uses the Class Dojo app for school communications. Class Dojo can be used either from your computer or mobile devices. Download the mobile app for iOS and Android devices and create a new account, or log in if you already have an account. Brighter Choice Community School Teachers consistently use Class Dojo to communicate with families via Class Stories and Direct Messages. It is necessary that all parents have access to an account.

To create an account [Click Here](#)

Email

Email is also another effective way to reach BCCS Administration, Teachers, and Staff.

School Newsletter

Families will receive our school's newsletter (The Buzz) on a monthly basis. The newsletter contains information about celebrations, events, highlights, etc. The newsletter is distributed electronically on Class Dojo and is available as a hard copy in our Main Office.

Report Cards

Student report cards can also be viewed, downloaded, and printed any time from families' New York City Schools Account (NYCSA). Report Cards will be distributed on the following dates:

12/11/25

3/26/26

6/26/26

Assessments

To regularly gauge student progress and support instructional planning, academic screeners in Reading and Math are administered to our K-5 students 3 times per year. Please see the assessment information below:

K-2 - Acadience Reading, Acadience Math, IReady Reading and Math

3-5 - Acadience Reading, Ready Reading and Math

New York City Schools Account NYCSA)

It is imperative to have a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA). The account allows parents access to important information (ex- Report Cards, Attendance, Busing, etc.) with the New York Department of Education (NYCDOE). The website is translated into nine languages.

To access all the benefits of your NYSCA, you will need an Account Creation Code. This unique code is for each parent/guardian. This unique code can be provided by school administrators and parent coordinator, Ms. Deitra Wilder, dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov.

In addition to a unique creation code, families also need their student's 9-digit OSIS/student ID number to create an NYC Schools Account or to add additional students to an existing account.

1. Visit <http://mystudent.nyc> and select the "Create Account" link on the login page.
2. Enter your child's 9-digit student ID number.
3. Enter the unique Account Creation Code.
4. Enter your email address and create a new password.
5. Select "Create Account" and then select "SIGN IN" to log in with your email and password.
6. Upon signing in for the first time, you will need to select and answer three security questions and validate your email address.

Each parent or guardian associated with an NYC DOE student is asked to create their own individual NYSCA account. If families have any questions regarding the creation of their NYSCA Accounts, please contact Ms. Deitra Wilder at dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov.

Behavioral Expectations

Brighter Choice Community School promotes a progressive, positive, and mutually respectful learning environment that contributes to the success of all students. BCCS is a place where all students are safe, valued and respected. All staff members use intervention strategies to help redirect students to make successful decisions regarding their behavior in and out of the classroom. BCCS uses the [DOE Discipline Code](#) when supporting student behaviors and providing the necessary interventions. BCCS also has [School Wide Expectations](#) as well. Please review both the Discipline Code and School Wide Exceptions with your child.

At BCCS each student, regardless of age, race, gender, ability level, religious beliefs, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes, deserves the right to be educated. Our primary goal is to create an environment that does not interfere with their educational opportunities or ability to participate in school related activities. Any forms of harassment and/or bullying towards another student or groups of students will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in an immediate manner. The Discipline Code and Chancellor Regulations (A-831, A-832) are followed by the school (see below)

[Link to NYC DOE Discipline Code](#)

[A-831 Student to Student Sexual Harassment](#)

[A-832 STUDENT-TO-STUDENT DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND/OR BULLYING](#)

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday Celebrations are permitted during the last twenty (20) minutes of the school day. Teachers will coordinate with families on choosing the date for the celebration. Parents should reach out to the classroom teachers via Class Dojo, two weeks prior to the birthday to make arrangements. Teachers will facilitate the celebration. Parents are not permitted to join the class for the celebration.

Please be aware of any food allergies which may pose a health risk for your class and discuss this with the parent when arranging the birthday celebration. Teachers need to inform our PC Ms. Wilder of the celebration. Parents must check in with the Safety Agent and the main office on the day of the celebration. Items will be picked up and brought to the classroom.

General Response Protocols

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, evacuation, shelter-in, lockdown, bus safety drills are routinely conducted. Our school has a Building Response Team that is trained to activate and respond to different incidents that may occur in our school. In accordance with DOE policy and NYS Law, we will conduct a minimum of 12 evacuation drills, 4 lockdown drills and 3 bus safety drills throughout the course of the school year. These exercises follow General Response Protocols (GRP) and are designed to assure that in the event of an emergency, prudent safety measures will be employed in a knowledgeable and panic-free manner. Please see the [General Response Protocols](#)

PTA

BCCS PTA Executive Board is a dynamic group of parent leaders. These gracious volunteers are elected each Spring. PTA works jointly with BCCS Administration and community to support the vision of the school through fundraising and the implementation of programming and student enrichment. The PTA Executive Board and PTA meetings are held monthly.

PTA Executive Board

Jade Harris - President

Latisha Samuels - Treasurer

Grace Syres - Secretary

School Leadership Team (SLT)

The School Leadership Team (SLT) develops educational policies for BCCS. The SLT is composed of teachers and parent leaders that work together to refine and develop the school's Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). SLT 2025-2026 Meeting Dates are posted on Calendars, Website, and Platforms.

Title I

Brighter Choice Community School Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings are held monthly. The team operates school-wide programs to ensure all children, especially the lowest-achieving, have access to high-quality education and meet state standards. BCCS Title PAC works closely with BCCS SLT to help determine how to spend the 1% of BCCS Title I Parent Engagement funding allocated to BCCS.

Family Workshops & Volunteers

BCCS encourages family enrichment. If you have an interest, hobby, or career to share, contact Ms. Deitra Wilder (dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov) for workshop ideas or to volunteer.

Edible School Yard

Brighter Choice Community School has a strong nutritional and wellness point of view. Our partnership with Edible Schoolyard NYC provides both our students and families with education opportunities associated with healthy eating, gardening, sustainability, etc. The Brighter Choice Community School Garden is an active learning environment for our students as they learn about planting and gardening basics. To deepen our students' knowledge of healthy eating, gardening, etc. Brighter Choice Community School also has a Hydroponics Lab. For more information on Edible School Yard please visit www.edibleschoolyardnyc.org

After School Programs at BCCS

3K & Pre-K: Early Childhood Afterschool Program 2025-2026

Program: The Aster Initiative

Website: <https://theasterinitiative.org/after-school>

Hours: Monday – Friday 2:20 PM – 5:30 PM

La’Ron Edwards, Director of BCCS Afterschool

Adrianna Villar, BCCS Group Leader

Kindergarten - 5th Grade Afterschool Program 2025-2026

Program: NIA NIA Empire/ExpandedED

Website: www.niabklyn.org

Jeremy Mendez, NIA Empire/ExpandedED Program Director

Mobile: (718) 490-4930

Student Government (Grades 3-5)

The members of Student Council work together to help our school by representing their class ideas/suggestions, having discussions, taking part in decision-making, and presenting to students, teachers and administrators. The Student Council is committed to service and works in the community in order to help and assist others. Students in the council learn about how they can help in the school community, advocate for others and take action. Some of their duties include organizing fundraisers, supporting events, making posters, doing research, voting to decide how to use money, etc. Student Council is made up of two representatives (President and Vice President) from each class in grades 3-5. Other Officers on the Council will include MBSK Ambassadors. This Council makes up The BCCS Student Government. The Student Government will have 4 core members: school president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The students join the student council by running for and winning their own classroom's president or vice president positions. After all of the in class elections take place, the Council will get together and vote for their president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Other members will serve as BCCS Officers in the Student Government.

Student Council Mission is aligned with our school's Core Values :

- Communicate: Be an excellent communicator in sharing their ideas and advocating for others.
- Honor: Be an outstanding citizen at BCCS and serve as a positive role model to others.
- Open-Mindedness - Have an open mind and listen to each other's ideas without judging others.
- Integrity - Upholding strong moral principles and values such as fairness, justice, and respect for others.
- Contribute: Provide service and help make positive changes in both the school and community.
- Excellence - Striving for good grades, engaging in good behaviors and interactions with peers and adults.

Honor Roll Criteria

Grades 3-5 Honor Roll

Gold Honor Roll

1. Students must have “4’s” in all subject areas: Reading, Math, Science/Health, Social Studies, Music, PE, etc.
2. Students must have all “4” in all areas of Citizenship, Behavior & Work Habits
3. Student must achieve over 95% Attendance

Silver Honor Roll

1. Students must have “4’s” in at least four subject areas (Reading, Math, Science/Health, Social Studies, Music, PE, etc) and “3’s” in all other subject areas.
2. Students must have all “4” in all areas of Citizenship, Behavior & Work Habits
3. Student must achieve over 92% Attendance

Bronze Honor Roll

1. Students must have “4’s” in at least two subject areas (Reading, Math, Science/Health, Social Studies, Music, PE, etc) and “3’s” in all other subject areas.
2. Students must have all “4” in all areas of Citizenship, Behavior & Work Habits
3. Student must achieve over 90% Attendance

BCCS Brighter Minds Honor Society Criteria

Membership to the BCCS Brighter Minds Honor Society is contingent upon the Criteria (**LEAD**) listed below:

LEADERSHIP: Participate in a minimum of 3 of the internal service opportunities listed below. Internal service is defined as activity that either assists a faculty, staff, or student during the course of a school day or being involved in school/afterschool activities. Some examples of internal service include but are not limited to:

Cafeteria Monitor	Performance in one or more school shows	Contest Participation Ex- Spelling Bee,	Classroom Monitor
Recess Monitor	School Committee Ex- Student Government, MBSK Ambassador, Sustainability Team	Assistance at Extra Curricular Event Ex- Literacy Night, Math Night, Literacy Symposium, Saturday Academy, etc.	PTA Monitor Ex- Assist PTA in a PTA related function

EXCELLENCE: On their report card for all three marking periods, students must achieve a score of 4 in the areas of Academic and Personal Behaviors, Social Emotional Development, at least two academic subjects, and a minimum of a 3 in all other areas. Students must also follow school expectations and have no write ups, reports or parent outreach about behaviors.

ATTENDANCE: Students must have no more than 8 unauthorized absences (95%) within the school year.

DETERMINATION: Display ownership and responsibility of the criteria listed above by self-monitoring, collecting and organizing evidence for submission by a provided due date.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to secure official proof of attendance at school sanctioned community service events by checking in with a designated staff member and receiving a certificate of service. These certificates must be submitted along with their application for the Brighter Minds Honor Society. Please note it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to supervise their child during the school sanctioned activities and provide transportation to and from the event.

Acknowledgements:

New Members (first year member): BCCS LEAD Pin

Continuing Members (two year member): BCCS LEAD Certificate

Inducted Member Status (three year member): BCCS LEAD Honor Cord to wear at graduation and name displayed on the BCCS Brighter Minds Honor wall.

[Link to Student Documents](#)



RE: BRIGHTER CHOICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILY HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Brighter Choice Community School acknowledges that it has given you, as parent/guardian of a Brighter Choice Community School Scholar this Parent Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. All students and parents/guardians are responsible and accountable for knowing the rules, policies, and procedures at Brighter Choice Community School during the 2023-2024 school year. Parents/guardians are asked to review the handbook. Please keep the handbook accessible for easy reference during the school year. Any revisions to this handbook will be immediately effective and forwarded to parents/guardians.

Parents/Guardian acknowledges:

I have received and read the information in the Brighter Choice Community School Parent Handbook. I understand all the information stated in it. I agree to follow all policies stated in the handbook. I understand that if any time I have any questions regarding these policies that I can contact **Brighter Choice Community School at 718-574-2378.**

Student's Name: _____

Student's Grade: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone #: _____

Date: _____