



BURLEY SCHOOL

1630 West Barry Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60657 · 773 534 5475 phone · 773 534 5786 fax · <http://burley.cps.edu/>

Principal
Catherine Plocher

Assistant Principal
Michelle Nash

August 15, 2019

Dear Burley Families,

We hope that you have had time to rest, travel, explore, and enjoy time together this summer. Although it seems like just yesterday when summer began, we are quickly gearing-up for the 2019-2020 school year and are so excited to have our students back in the building on September 3rd! We have been hard at work learning, revising, and planning curriculum with a focus on social emotional learning and literacy. The building renovations are wrapping up with fresh paint in classrooms and hallways, beautifully renovated wood floors throughout the building, and numerous upgrades and repairs. Burley is beginning this school year better than ever! A big thank you to CPS for investing in the repair and renovation of our special school and all of the crews that worked tirelessly throughout the summer. We are continuously amazed and grateful for our Burley staff. They worked together relentlessly as a team to unpack the entire building, set up their classrooms to create a warm and nurturing environment for your children, and went above and beyond late into the summer nights and weekends to get the building ready right before the start of school.

In addition to our dedicated staff, Burley wouldn't be the incredible school it is without our community. Year after year our community is truly instrumental to our achievements. We want to sincerely thank our committed teachers and staff, students, parents, community, Local School Council, Friends of Burley, PTA, room parents, our countless volunteers for an outstanding 2018-2019 school year. It is a joy to work together each year with all of you to ensure every student experiences wonder and success. Thank you for all that you do, and for being such a very important piece of our community.

Burley is renowned for its unique and innovative curriculum, which centers in literature, writing, inquiry, and technology. A key to our success is that – just like our students – we never stop learning, growing, and improving. In the past several months we have reviewed and revised our social emotional curriculum, the majority of the staff have attended the Responsive Classroom Professional Development this summer, and of course we have read countless books to share and learn from with your children throughout the year together.

Join us for Early Bird Day!

Please come to Burley Early Bird Day on Friday, August 30th from 8:30-6:00 (see enclosed flyer). Sign your forms, pay your fees, and drop off supplies on Early Bird Day anytime from 8:30-6:00. If you'd like to meet your child's teacher, visit your classroom and drop off your supplies you may do so from 8:30-9:30am. Our Kindergarten Open House will also run from 8:30-9:30am (See enclosed flyer for specific presentation times). You can access back to school forms and your child's school supply list at <http://burley.cps.edu/>. Please be sure to complete the online Family & Emergency Contact Form in its entirety at Early Bird Day or at home before school begins. Every family needs to complete this important form before children arrive on the first day of school.

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 3rd** from 8:15-3:15. Students may be dropped off on the playground between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. After your children enter the building with their teachers at 8:15, please join us for coffee and refreshments in the North Lunchroom sponsored by the PTA. Families unable to attend the Early Bird Day may come to the South Lunchroom on the first day to pay fees and complete forms. Please use street parking in the neighborhood, as Burley families do not have access to the parking lot at the corner of Ashland and Barry. Cars parked there risk being booted and/or towed. Refer to the enclosed Parent Handbook Preview for other important details about morning drop off routines.



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Upcoming Events

We have an exciting year ahead of us, so mark your calendars!

- August 23: PTA Movie Night (Trolls) at dusk - 8:00pm-ish, *Burley playground*
- August 30: Burley Early Bird Day 8:30am – 6:00pm
Kindergarten Orientation & 1-8 Grade Open House 8:30-9:30am, *classrooms*
- **September 3:** **First Day of School 8:15am – 3:15pm**
Parent Welcome Coffee 8:15am, North Lunchroom
- September 4: New Parent Orientation at 6:00pm, *North Lunchroom*
- September 5: PTA Ice Cream Social at 6:00-7:00pm, *Burley playground*
- September 11: Volunteer Orientation at 8:30am, *North Lunchroom*
- September 19: Curriculum Night at 5:30pm, *gym & classrooms*
- September 25: 7th Grade High School Meeting (parents & students), 7:15am, *gym*
- September 26: 8th Grade High School Meeting (parents & students), 7:15am, *gym*
- September 26: FOB Parent Fall Social at Rizzo's (3658 N. Clark), 6:30pm

Volunteering at Burley

Burley would not be the community school it is without our numerous parent volunteers throughout the year. Burley is a special neighborhood school where we work together to enjoy, celebrate and showcase our children as a community. In addition to financial contributions to provide the extras that the CPS budget doesn't provide, we also rely heavily on parents and families volunteering their time to lead or assist in events. Without volunteers, the events are just not possible. So we need you! From help with a single event to long-term volunteering, there are many ways to contribute and participate. Every year, we ask that each family volunteer at least 10 hours in whatever capacity your schedule allows. Keep an eye out for the many events, programs, and school needs that arise throughout the year in upcoming emails and communications, and don't be afraid to sign up for something new and meet new people. Also, please do plan to attend our Volunteer Orientation on September 11th at 8:30am. A big thank-you to our parents and families for all that you do!

News & Updates from Principal Plocher

In order to stay updated on the latest news, events, volunteer needs, and other information from Burley, be sure you are signed up for our weekly parent email, News & Updates from Principal Plocher. To be added to our mailing list, please email infoburley@gmail.com and use the word "Subscribe" as the subject line. See the Parent Handbook Preview for more ways to stay informed.

We can't wait to welcome you September 3rd out on the playground! You are an important part of our Burley community and we appreciate you.

Warmly,

Catherine Plocher
Principal

Michelle Nash
Assistant Principal