

WELCOME TO BROOKLINE

A Guide for
Families New
to the
Public Schools
of Brookline





Welcome to Brookline: A Guide for Families New to the Public Schools of Brookline

Welcome Families new to Brookline,

This brochure was created to help familiarize you with the Town of Brookline and our schools. We hope you find this document helpful and welcoming.

A special thank you to the Steps to Success Program - for laying the groundwork of this publication, the PTO presidents - for their extensive editing and updating, and the Equity Project's Family Partnership Committee for enriching the content with their own experience and expertise.

If you have any ideas on how to improve this document, please call the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432 or email your ideas to equity_project@brookline.k12.ma.us.

If you would like any of the enclosed information translated, please call 617-264-6413.

在布克蘭的學校

במידה ואתם הייתם רוצים תרגום של המידע הזה, אנא התקשרו לטלפון 617-2646413

同封の情報について翻訳がお入用の場合は、電話番号617-264-6413へお電話ください。

Если вам нужен перевод этой информации звоните по телефону 617-264-6413

Ud. está interesado en recibir alguna sección de esta información en Español por favor llame al 617-264-6413.



New to the U.S.	1
Calendar of U.S. Holidays and Traditional Events.....	1
Understanding Telephone Numbers	2
Cooking Facts and Metric Conversions	3
Classes to Help You Prepare to Become a United States Citizen	4
Cultural Organizations	4-5
Places to Learn English	5-6
Brookline Public Libraries	6
Food for Low-Income Families	7
8 Tips to Help Your Child Learn English	8
U.S. Values about Parenting: An Important Message	9
Specialty Food Markets.....	10
New To Brookline	11
Town of Brookline Resources and Services	11
Brookline Public Libraries	11
Schools	12
Pre-School, Early Education and Day Care	12
ELL Screening Process	12
Frequently Asked Questions	13-15
The Parent-Teacher Conference	16
Parental Involvement in Schools	16
School Vocabulary	17-19
Transition to Brookline High School	20
Translation Services	21
MCAS/MEPA	21
System-wide Programs	22
Health	23
Brookline Health Department	23
Community Services	24
Health Insurance Vocabulary	25
Medical Emergency Rooms	26
Parenting Safety Tips	27
Transportation	28
Parking in Brookline	28
Transit System - The "T"	28
Recreation	29
Websites with guides to Events and Attractions in the Brookline area	29
Performance Centers	30
Activities for Children	30-31
Brookline Parks and Playgrounds.....	31
Brookline Recreation and Sports	32



Calendar of U.S. Holidays and Traditional Events

For the current year school calendar go to the Public Schools of Brookline website www.brookline.k12.ma.us/ or ask at your school's main office.

- JANUARY** **January 1** - reflect on new and past year, open house parties, watch American football on TV, Brookline schools, government, and most businesses closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - third Monday of January, birthday of civil rights leader, discuss race issues
 Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
- FEBRUARY** **February 14** - **Valentine's Day**, show love and affection, send cards, flowers, or candy to loved ones - no closings
President's Day-third Monday in February, honor US presidents, especially Washington and Lincoln, few traditions
 Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
- MARCH** **March 17** - **St. Patrick's Day**, honor the patron saint of Ireland and Irish culture, no closings
Passover - 14th day of Nisan, Jewish calendar, Jewish festival of freedom, celebrating the escape of the Israelites from Egypt, some schools closed
Good Friday - Friday before Easter Sunday, Christian, commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus, attend religious services, some schools and businesses closed
Easter - first Sunday after first full moon after vernal equinox, Christian, celebration of the rebirth of Jesus, attend religious services, dye and hunt for hidden Easter eggs always a Sunday so many businesses and schools are closed
- APRIL** **Patriot's Day** - third Monday in April, beginning of the American Revolution, re-enactment of battles at dawn in Lexington, MA, Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
- MAY** **Mother's Day** - 2nd Sunday of May, honor mothers, both living and dead, send flowers, card, gift, visit, or telephone call, no closings
Memorial Day - last Monday of May, honor those who died while fighting a war, parades, decorating graves of soldiers and other loved ones, Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
- JUNE** **Father's Day** - third Sunday in June, honor fathers, both living and dead, send card, gift, visit, or telephone call, no closings
- JULY** **Fourth of July** - **July 4**, commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence from England, in 1776, family picnics, fireworks at night, concert on Boston Esplanade, government closed; some businesses open
- SEPTEMBER** **Labor Day** - first Monday of September, honor the laborers of the US, family picnics, marks the informal end of summer
 schools and government closed; some businesses open
Rosh Hashanah - first day of Tishri, in Jewish calendar, Jewish New Year, symbolic family dinner, attend religious services, Brookline schools closed
Yom Kippur - 10 days after Rosh Hashanah, Jewish Day of Atonement, pray and fast, to be forgiven for sins of the past year, Brookline schools closed
- OCTOBER** **Columbus Day** - second Monday in October, commemorate the landing in the New World, of Columbus in 1492, few traditions, Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
Halloween - **October 31**, old pagan harvest roots, but now a light, fun children's holiday, children dress in costume and go from neighbor to neighbor asking for candy, no closings
- NOVEMBER** **Veteran's Day** - **November 11**, honor all veterans of armed forces, and the end of World War I, parades, wear red poppies, Brookline schools and government closed; some businesses open
Thanksgiving - 4th Thursday of November, commemorate the first harvest of the first English settlers in 1621, big family dinner of turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin pie, Brookline schools, government, and most businesses closed
- DECEMBER** **Hanukkah** - 25th day of Kislev, in Jewish calendar, Jewish festival of lights, to commemorate the return of the temple to Jews, light candles every night for 8 nights, children get small gifts, no closings
Christmas - **December 25**, Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus, family gathering, gift-giving, Brookline schools, government, and most businesses closed
Kwanzaa - **December 26-January 1**, celebration of African-American culture, family gathering, candle lighting to celebrate values, no closings
New Year's Eve - **December 31**, celebrate the end of the year, parties at midnight, closings common after 12 noon

To dial a phone number, dial a "1" then the area code and 7-digit number (for example, 1-(123) 456-7890).

➤ **911**

An emergency number, to get immediate police, fire, or medical help. See Emergencies Chapter

➤ **411**

Local and National Directory Assistance. If you cannot find a number in your telephone book, call this number. The charge varies, call your phone company for details.

➤ **800, 888, 877, 866, or 855**

Toll-free Numbers. When you dial any number with the area code of (800), (888), (877), (866) or (855) you do not have to pay for the call, whether you dial it from home or a pay phone.

➤ **(900)**

If you dial a number using a (900) area code, you will be charged a fee.

➤ **011**

To direct-dial an international call and have it charged to the telephone account you are calling from, dial 011, then the country code then the city code and then the telephone number.

➤ **01**

To have an operator help you make an international call, dial 01-country code-city code- telephone number.



Here are some handy measures to remember:

boiling water = 212°F = 100°C
 freezing = 32°F = 0°C
 moderate oven = 350°F = 180°C
 normal body = 98.6°F = 37°C

1 cup flour = 140 grams
 1 cup sugar = 200 grams

1 pound = .45 kilograms
 1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds

3 teaspoons (t) = 1 tablespoon (T)
 16 tablespoons (T) = 1 cup (C)
 2 tablespoons (T) liquid = 1 ounce (oz)
 1/4 cup (C) = 2 ounces (oz)

1 pint = 2 cups
 1 quart = 2 pints = 4 cups
 1 gallon = 4 quarts

"pinch" = less than 1/8 teaspoon
 "dash" = a few drops
 "stick" of butter = 1/4 pound

whole milk = at least 3.25% fat
 low-fat milk = 0.5 to 2.0% fat
 skim or nonfat milk = less than 0.1% fat
 Half-and-Half = 10.5-18% fat
 light coffee cream = 18-30% fat (cannot be whipped)
 light whipping cream = 30-36% fat
 heavy (whipping) cream = 36% fat
 sour cream = 18% fat

US recipes often list food measured in cups even though, in the stores, the food is sold by the pound. This will get you started:

3/4 cups all-purpose flour = 1 pound
 4/4 cups whole wheat flour = 1 pound
 3 cups shelled almonds, peanuts, or walnuts = 1 pound
 2 cups white sugar = 1 pound
 2 1/4 cups brown sugar (packed tight) = 1 pound

In day to day life, the US does not use the metric system. Here is a way to help you convert from metric units:

If you Know:	Multiply by:	To Get*:
ounces	.28	grams
grams	.04	ounces
pounds	.45	kilograms
kilograms	2.2	pounds
fluid ounces	.30	milliliters
milliliters	.03	fluid ounces
teaspoons	.5	milliliters
milliliters	.2	teaspoons
tablespoons	15	milliliters
milliliters	.07	tablespoons
cups	.24	liters
liters	4.22	cups
pints	.47	liters
liters	2.1	pints
quarts	.95	liters
liters	1.05	quarts
gallon	3.8	liters
liters	.26	gallons
inches	2.54	centimeters
centimeters	.39	inches
feet	.30	meters
meters	3.28	feet
miles	1.61	kilometers
kilometers	.62	miles
acre	.40	hectare
hectare	2.47	acre
Centigrade	9/5(C) + 32	Fahrenheit
Fahrenheit	5/9(F-32)	Centigrade



Adult Literacy Hotline (for information about classes near you)

Call 617-482-9483 extension 479
www.subes.org/hotline

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)

(in many communities)
 617-357-6000
www.bostonabcd.org

American Red Cross
 385 Columbus Avenue
 Boston, MA
 617-375-0700 x271
www.redcross.org

Chinese Progressive Association
 33 Harrison Ave. 3rd Floor
 Boston, MA
 617-357-4499
www.cpuboston.org

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
 18 Tremont St., Suite 600
 Boston, MA
 617-727-7888

Cultural Organizations



Alliance Française
 53 Marlborough St., Boston
 617-912-0400
www.frenchlib.org

Armenian General Benevolent Union
 247 Mount Auburn St., Watertown
 617-926-1373
www.agbu.org

Asian American Civic Association
 200 Tremont St., Boston
 617-426-9492
www.aaca-boston.org

Centro Presente
 54 Essex St. 2/F, Cambridge
 617-497-9080
www.cpresente.org

Chinese Progressive Association
 28 Ash St., Boston
 617-357-4499
www.cpuboston.org

Concilio Hispano
 105 Windsor St., Cambridge
 617-661-9406
www.conciliohispano.org

Dante Alighieri Society (Italian)
 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge
 617-876-5160
www.dantealighieri.net/cambridge

French Library and Cultural Center
 53 Marlborough St., Boston
 617-912-0400
www.bostonfrenchcenter.org

Goethe Institute (German)
 170 Beacon St., Boston
 617-262-6050
www.goethe.de/boston

Greek Institute
 1038 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge
 617-547-4770
www.thegreekinstitute.org

Catholic Charities
 For more information about ESOL classes, call:
Asian Center, Catholic Charities North - 781-593-2312
El Centro del Cardenal
 617-542-9292
Haitian Multi-Service Center
 617-506-6600
Catholic Charities South
 508-587-0815

http://www.ccah.org/services/education_and_training/english-for-speakers-of-other-languages.html

International Institute of Boston
 (includes affiliate cultural societies from many countries)
 One Milk St., 4th floor, Boston
 617-695-9990
www.iiboston.org

Irish Cultural Centre
 200 New Boston Dr.
 PO Box 246, Canton
 781-821-8291
www.irishculture.org

Israeli Complementary School
 Temple Sinai
 50 Sewall Ave., Brookline
 617-734-0053

Japanese Association of Greater Boston
 437 Cherry St., Newton
 617-332-0377
www.jgboca.org



Cultural Organizations

Japanese Language School
489 Winthrop St., Medford
781-395-9602 (Saturday only) or
361 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington
781-641-2370
www.jlsboston.org

La Alianza Hispana
409 Dudley St., Roxbury
617-427-7175
www.laalianza.org

Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
1046 Cambridge St., Somerville
617-864-7600
www.maps-inc.org

Oficina Hispana
125 Tremont St., Boston
617-338-0815
www.oficinahispana.org

Russian-American Center for the Arts (Janus)
77 Harvard St., Brookline
617-739-5769

Russian Community Association
215B Harvard Ave., Allston
617-731-7789 or
86 Lewis St., Lynn
781-581-5588
www.rusnetusa.com

Scandinavian Library and Information Center
206 Waltham St., West Newton
617-965-0621
www.scandinavianlibrary.org

Swedish Women's Education Association
253 Summer St. Suite 203, Boston
877-793-2267
www.sweaboston.org



Places to Learn English

Adult Literacy Hotline
1-800-447-8844
www.sabes.org/hotline

Approach International Student Center
196 Harvard Ave. #6, Allston
617-787-5401
www.approachusa.com

Asian American Civic Association
200 Tremont St., Boston
617-426-9492
www.aaca-boston.org

Boston Academy of English
59 Temple Place, Boston
617-338-6243
www.ascenglish.com

Boston Center for Adult Education
5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston
617-267-4430
www.bcae.org

Boston Language Institute
648 Beacon St., Boston
617-262-3500
www.bostonlanguage.com

Boston School of Modern Languages
814 South St., Boston
617-325-2760
www.studyenglish.com

Boston University Center for English Language
890 Commonwealth Ave.
2nd Floor, Boston
617-353-4870
www.bu.edu/celep/

Cambridge Center for Adult Education
42 Brattle St., Cambridge
617-547-6789
www.ccae.org

Chinese Institute of Language & Art
30 Kneeland St., Boston
617-350-7566

Chinese Progressive Association
33 Harrison Ave 3rd Floor, Boston
617-357-4499
www.cpaiboston.org

EF Language School
200 Lake St., Brighton
617-619-1000
www.ef.com

ELS Language Center
400 The Fenway, Boston
617-731-3600
www.els.com

Harvard University Division of Continuing Education
51 Brattle St., Cambridge
617-495-4024
www.ilboston.org

**International Institute of Boston**

1 Milk St., Boston
617-695-9990
www.liboston.org

Northeastern University English Language Center

360 Huntington Ave., Boston
617-373-2455
www.spcs.neu.edu/elc/

YMCA Boston

316 Huntington Ave., Boston
617-536-7800 X244
www.ymcaboston.org/

Newton Community Education Center

360 Lowell Ave., Newton
617-559-6999
<https://newtoncommunityed.org/index.php>

Pine Manor College English Language Institute

400 Heath St., Chestnut Hill
617-731-7145
www.pmc.edu/elc/

Brookline Public Libraries**Foreign Language Collection**

Main Library
361 Washington St., Brookline, MA
617-730-2370

Coolidge Corner Branch

31 Pleasant St., Brookline, MA
617-730-2380

Books and periodicals in Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish

Putterham Branch

959 West Roxbury Parkway, Brookline, MA
617-730-2385

www.town.brookline.ma.us/library

*Note: Library hours change from season to season, so please call to confirm hours.

Resources in Your Library

In your public library, you may find:

- newspapers, magazines, books, and videotapes (available in several languages)
- story hours for children
- membership cards for many Boston museums that will allow you to visit them for free
- music compact disks (CDs) and audio tapes
- lectures, films, concerts, and discussion groups
- English-teaching books
- tax forms and rules

Computer terminals at all Minuteman Network libraries allow you to use the Internet, and various databases (like Periodical Indexes and a Health Resources database). You can also access the Minuteman Network from your home computer at <http://www.mln.lib.ma.us>



Food for Low-Income Families

Here are some programs that help feed low-income families in Brookline. Each program has its own rules about who can receive the help. Call the number listed to learn more details.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program Free or less-expensive meals served in Brookline schools. Apply when registering your child for school or call 617-730-2415.

Brookline Emergency Food Pantry

St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline, MA

Bring referral letter.

Canned foods, pasta, rice, frozen meat, other.

Call 617-566-4953

Family Table

Greater Boston Jewish Food Pantry

Canned foods, pasta, rice, paper goods, other.

Food delivered monthly

Referral required from Jewish Family and Children's Services

(617-566-0333)

Asian Food Pantry

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry,

110 Arlington St., Boston, MA

Foods that are part of Asian diet — rice, sauces, fresh food vouchers

Call 617-542-6233 for eligibility (ask for Director of Programs)

Project Bread Food Source Hotline

Gives help (in 140 languages) in finding food support.

1-800-645-8333/ 617-723-5000

Food Stamps Help in buying food. State Supplemental Food Stamp Program is especially for non-citizens who have lived in Massachusetts 60 days or more.

Call or go to the Transitional Assistance Dept.

1010 Mass. Ave., Boston, MA

617-989-2200

Other Help for Low-Income Families

Here are some programs that help low-income families in Brookline. Each program has its own rules about who can receive the help. Call the number listed to learn more details. Or go to this web site: www.mass.gov/dph

Brookline Housing Authority

Help in finding less-expensive housing, for residents of Brookline or those moving to Brookline

Call 617-277-2022 (main office) or 617-277-1885 (to apply for housing)

Department of Transitional Assistance

Newmarket Square, 1010 Mass. Ave., Boston

617-989-2200

Administers various Massachusetts state programs that give cash, rent, or food stamps, including Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC), Emergency Assistance, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Employment Services, and Domestic Violence

Department of Public Health

800-531-2229

Information about various government programs and services, including Children's Medical Security Plan (health insurance), For Families, Healthy Start and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (food vouchers for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under age 5) (WIC telephone: 800-942-1007)

Division of Medical Assistance

888-665-9993

Administers MassHealth (a combination of federal programs Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program for low- and medium-income people) — insurance, medical services, prescription drugs

Brookline Community Fund

617-566-4442

Short-term emergency assistance: rental, utility, food. Referral required (from school counselor, social worker, government agency, etc.)

Kids' Clothes Club

617-734-9799

Provides winter coats & boots for families in need.

Brookline School-Community Partnership

617-879-4638

617-566-8795 Jody Garber

617-566-6011 Carol Lynch

Information and services for learning English, free computer classes, resume-writing, job skill-building for residents of Brookline Housing Authority developments. Home visits or private appointments available. Two computer/internet-equipped Family Learning Centers with free computer courses for children, teens, adults, elders.

- ▶ Continue to speak your native language at home, even if you are strongly committed to learning English. Children will more easily learn a second language if they are strong in a first.
- ▶ Continue to read to your child in your native language. You will be helping your child be a strong language learner, and will be sharing your home culture at the same time.
- ▶ At the same time, be a role model for learning English for your children. By speaking English some of the time for example, in stores or at school you will be showing your children that you think learning English is a good thing to do, and that making mistakes is OK. (But remember the first tip in this list, too.)
- ▶ Look for ways your child can practice English with one or two other people. It feels less risky to speak English to one person than to a group. Try arranging a play date with an English-speaking child.
- ▶ Understand that children often have a "silent period" when they first try English — a time when they will not speak English. Be patient. Your children are learning to understand English, even if they are not speaking it. Forcing a child to speak can have negative effects on how fast they learn English.
- ▶ Remember that young children who are learning two languages at once are processing both languages, and may appear to be slower at speaking and reading than their friends. Don't panic. They are doing something more difficult. The reward will be knowing two languages.
- ▶ Realize that it takes up to seven years to learn a language well. Your child may be speaking English competently within six months or a year, but to function fully in school (or for you, in your adult life), it takes much longer.
- ▶ Understand that there is an emotional aspect to learning a second language. If learning English has a positive tone to it (for example, if your children want to learn, they think their parents are happy about learning English, and English has pleasant associations to it) learning will be faster. Do not pressure your children or be critical of how quickly they are learning English.

As a newcomer to the US, you will notice some differences in the values parents use in raising children. You and your family must decide which values from home you will continue to teach as basic and important, and which, if any, American values you will adopt. As your children spend time in American schools, they may bring home challenges to your parenting values. For example, they may want choices, independence, or decision-making power that you do not want to give them. You will have to work with your children so they do not feel caught between the two cultures. Finding a way to raise your children within a set of new cultural values is one of the most important and interesting challenges you face.

There is a basic value in the US that the government should not be very involved in people's personal lives. But one exception involves the care of children. Professionals (like doctors, counselors, or teachers) must, by law, call a government agency if they believe a child is being abused (emotionally or physically hurt, or sexually used) or neglected (not given the physical or emotional attention needed). In addition, any neighbor or citizen can call the government agency to report suspected abuse or neglect. The agency will then investigate and decide whether it agrees. The parents may be required to meet with a social worker regularly. In cases of sexual abuse, the abuser may be required to live separately from the child. In the worst neglect and abuse cases, the children may be taken away from the parents, to live with another family.

There certainly have been cases in which parents were reported by a neighbor to be abusive but, after investigation, the agency decided the parents' behavior was acceptable. Even so the process of being investigated is extremely stressful and because parents may have to hire a lawyer it can be expensive.

Everyone agrees that children should be protected from harm. But there are many cultural differences in beliefs about how this protection should happen. Do not assume that all social service agencies will understand your culture very well—this kind of multicultural education is just now taking place. You should become familiar with American rules and beliefs about what is considered "neglect" and "abuse."

— by Anne P. Copeland, PhD
Psychologist and Executive Director, The Interchange Institute

88 Supermarket

1095 Commonwealth Ave.
Allston
617-537-2938
Asian foods

Babushka Deli

62 Washington St.
Brighton
617-731-0739

Bazaar International Gourmet

1432 Beacon St.
Brookline
617-739-8450

Beacon Kosher

1706 Beacon St.
Brookline
617-734-5300

Brazilian Corner Store

192 Brighton
Allston
617-787-4407

Berezka International Food Store

1215 Commonwealth Ave.
Brighton
617-787-2837

Brookline Farmer's Market

Coolidge Corner, Centre Street
parking lot, Brookline
(summertime and early fall only) fresh
produce and flowers
617-566-8005

Hi-Lo

415 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain
617-522-6364
Spanish foods

International Market

365 Somerville Ave.
Somerville
617-776-1880
Brazilian foods

International & Natural Foods

157 Sutherland Rd.
Brighton
617-277-9073
Russian foods

Kashmir Food & Spices

234 Harvard St.
Brookline
617-734-7153
Indian, Bangladesh & Pakistani foods

Kotobukiya

1815 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge
492-4655 or 492-5330
Japanese foods

Kurkman's Market

227A Cypress St.
Brookline
617-277-6500

Lotte

297 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge
617-661-1194
Korean foods

Madras Masala

191 Harvard St.
Brookline
617-566-9943
Indian and Pakistani foods

Mings Supermarket

1102 Washington St.
Boston
617-338-1588
Chinese foods

Miriam Oriental Groceries

152 Harvard St.
Allston
617-783-2626
Asian foods

Moscow

133 Harvard St.
Brookline
617-782-6644
Russian foods

Oriental Groceries

1617 Beacon St.
Brookline
617-232-0800
Asian foods

Reliable Meat Market

45 Union Square
Somerville
617-623-9620

Russian Village

1627 Beacon St.
Brookline
617-731-2023
Russian foods and Deli store



Town of Brookline Resources and Services

www.townofbrooklinemass.com

All Departments (617)730-2000

Health Department 11 Pierce Street
 General Information (617)730-2300
 Child Health/Medical Inquiries (617)730-2332
 Brookline Visiting Nurse/Public Health Nurses
 (617)730-2320
 Community Health (617)730-2336
 Dental Clinic (617)730-2323
 Drug & Alcohol Program (617)730-2326
 Environmental Information & Complaints
 (617)730-2306

Human Relations/Youth Resources Commission
Office of Ombudsman for CATV, Office of A-D-A
Coordinator
 General Information (617)730-2330
 TTY (617)730-2327

Housing Authority 90 Longwood Avenue
 Main Office (617)277-2022
 Application Office (617)277-1885
 Trustman-Egmont Apartments/150 Amory Street
 (617)232-2265

Recreation Department 652 Hammond Street
 Recreation Main Office/133 Eliot Street (617)730-2000
 24-hour Information Line (617)730-2083, 2084 or 2085
 Anderson Park Picnic Area (617)730-2081
 Larz Anderson Skating Rink (617)739-7518
 Amory Tennis Courts (617)730-2073
 Eliot Recreation Center (617)730-2069
 Evelyn Kirtane Aquatic Center (617)713-5435
 Program Information and Registration (617)730-206
 RAFT (617)739-7578
 Soule Recreation Center (617)730-2069
 Waldenstein Tennis Courts (617)730-2085

Brookline School Department 333 Washington Street
 Main Office (617)730-2402
 Adult & Community Education (617)730-2700
 Early Childhood (617)264-6408
 METCO (617)730-2464
 SPED (617)730-2440
 Summer School (617)713-5195
 Superintendent (617)730-2401



Brookline Public Libraries

Foreign Language Collection
 Main Library, 361 Washington St., Brookline, MA
 617-730-2370

Coolidge Corner Branch
 31 Pleasant St., Brookline, MA
 617-730-2380
 Books and periodicals in Chinese, French, German,
 Hebrew, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish

Putterham Branch
 959 West Rosbury Parkway, Brookline, MA
 617-730-2385

www.town.brookline.ma.us/library

*Note: Library hours change from season to season, so please call to confirm hours.

Resources in Your Library

In your public library, you may find:
 newspapers, magazines, books, and videotapes (available in several languages), story hours for children membership cards for many Boston museums that will allow you to visit them for free, music compact disks (CDs) and audio tapes, lectures, films, concerts, and discussion groups, English-teaching books, tax forms and rules.

Computer terminals at all Minuteman Network libraries allow you to use the Internet, and various databases (like Periodical Indexes and a Health Resources database). You can also access the Minuteman Network from your home computer at <http://www.min.lib.ma.us>.



Trash Removal and Curbside Recycling

Trash:

The town of Brookline will pick up trash from your street once a week. Call 617-730-2156 to learn what day they will come to your street. Trash should be left at the curbside in plastic bags. Leaves and yard waste should be in barrels or paper bags. Leave it no earlier than 3:30pm the day before your collection day and no later than 7am that day. If your collection day falls on a legal holiday, collection will happen the next day.

Visit the Town of Brookline website for further details. <http://www.townofbrooklinemass.com/Town/>



The Brookline Early Education Program (B.E.E.P.) and the Brookline Public Schools offer early education classes for children age 2.6-5 years. There is a tuition fee for each, to be paid by parents; scholarships are available for all programs. Programs are held at Baker School, Driscoll School, Heath School, Lincoln School, Runkle School, Brookline High School, and the Lynch Center (399 Brookline Avenue). Classes are held in the morning or afternoon, depending on the program, and follow the public school calendar. Call 617-713-5471 for information. Classes fill early - call no later than January of the year you wish to enroll a child in September.

Brookline Parent Child Home Program is a home-visiting "learning through play" experience for parents and their pre-school children, ages 1½ - 2½. Trained home visitors provide books and toys which encourage verbal interaction and creative play. Resource for advice on discipline and family problems, advocate for help with housing and day care, source of encouragement, and contact for parents. For income-eligible families. Call 617-738-7100.

You can get a free list of all licensed pre-school and day care programs in Brookline by sending a note requesting the booklet to:

Brookline Health Department

Attention: Joyce Stavis-Zak

11 Pierce St.

Brookline, MA 02445

(telephone: 617-738-2300)

Or, on the Internet, go to www.qualitychildcare.org for a list of licensed pre-school and day care programs in the Boston area.

ELL Screening Process



Students whose first language is not English or students who speak a language in addition to English are referred to the English Language Learners Program for a language screening. The 45-minute screening is conducted by a licensed ELL teacher and assesses a student's skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Once the language screening has been completed, the ELL teacher will make a program recommendation based on the student's performance. At the time of screening, parents/guardians are asked to complete a Parent Notification Letter that explains the ELL program, the services available, and parents' rights. Contact Mindy Paulo at 617-264-6413 to arrange for an ELL screening.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section aims to answer questions that parents frequently ask at the elementary level. Please check with your individual school to verify the exact procedures as they may vary.

How do I contact a teacher?

In most cases, teachers are able to respond to messages left at the main office through notes or phone calls. Teachers will share their preferred method of communication at least by the annual Open House, if not before. Messages may be sent through email, phone calls to the office or voice mail with those with phones in their classrooms or notes sent home with younger children in grades K-2.

If I have a concern, whom should I call?

You should always speak with your child's classroom teacher first. The teacher may suggest you speak with the school guidance counselor or the principal if he/she thinks it is an issue that would best be handled by them.

What is the dress code?

Most of the schools determine the specifics but generally any clothing which distracts from the learning environment is prohibited. See your school's handbook for more specific guidelines.

How do I volunteer as a parent?

Brookline schools enjoy an active PTO. This is a sure way to help your school with special events, including plays, book fairs, science fair, family math night, fund raising and cultural activities for the family. Classroom teachers also welcome parents to share an expertise, cultural customs, assist in the class or chaperone a field trip. Ask the classroom teacher about these opportunities. Parents who wish to volunteer must complete a CORI form.

How is class placement determined?

Each spring the class placement process begins with the guidance counselor meeting with the grade level teachers, specialists and administrators. Many variables are considered when creating the new class. They include racial, ethnic, gender diversity, academic strengths, friendships conducive to learning and supports required for student success. The goal of each class placement meeting is to create a balanced class which offers the best combination of students. Check with your school about any opportunities to weigh in on the placement process.

How will I know about events at the school?

Each school has a PTO newsletter that includes a school calendar. All important events are listed in advance. Some schools also notify parents via e-mail. It's always good idea to check with your child regularly to see if he/she has any notices from the school.

What do I do if my child is sick and cannot go to school?

In the event your child will be absent or tardy, all schools require that you call the school office by 8:00 a.m.

If I have to pick up my child early, what should I do?

A written request must be made if an early dismissal is anticipated. Children may not leave the building alone and must be picked up by a parent or guardian at the office. Parents should make every effort to schedule appointments outside of school time.

How will I know if there is a snow day?

In case of severe storms, "No Schools" announcements will be broadcast in the morning over the major radio and TV stations. The announcement will also be posted on the School Department website - <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/psb> under News and Announcements. DO NOT CALL the Brookline Police or Fire Department for this information.

If my child has a cold, can she bring medication to school?

There is a medication policy for Public Schools of Brookline. Students may not carry or administer their own medications. All medications must be brought to the nurse's office. The medication policy is in each school's handbook and/or the nurse will send home the policy in the opening day packet.

Why doesn't my child have textbooks in the elementary grades?

In the elementary grades, teachers use a rich variety of materials. In reading, for example, children read trade books so a teacher is not limited to specific readings in an anthology or basal reader. (Trade books are real literature that could be purchased in a bookstore or housed in a library collection. Anthologies and many basals have only excerpts of books.) In science and social stu-



ies, there are some textbooks which students use as resources in the classroom in addition to other books and primary resources that teachers provide. For math, teachers use a variety of materials, including worksheets, games and math manipulatives, so that they can meet the varying needs of the students in their classes.

Am I expected to attend Open House or Back to School Night?

Yes, the expectation is that a parent/guardian attends each child's open house. This is your introduction to your child's year at school. Teachers provide very important information at the Open Houses including an overview of the curriculum, daily routines and expectations, homework, grading policies (if applicable), etc. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents in the class.

If my child is in the METCO program, does the bus schedule follow the Boston or Brookline calendar?

All students are expected to attend school on the dates that the Public Schools of Brookline are in session. (See the school calendar in the Opening Day Packet or on the website.) The METCO buses are scheduled to run on those days, even when Boston Public Schools are not in session.

If I am a Boston resident and my child is enrolled in the PBS, are my children eligible to play on Brookline sports teams?

Yes, if your child attends the Public Schools of Brookline, he/she is eligible to sign up for Brookline team sports. You can check registration schedules with the Department of Parks and Recreation (<http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/Recreation/>) or call them at 617-730-2069.

How much homework should my child have each night?

Homework assignments vary with each teacher. Typically, one can expect that as a child moves up through the grades, there will be more homework assigned. Your child's teacher will explain his/her expectations about homework at your child's Open House. All children should read for 30 minutes each night. If a child is too young to read alone, parents should read with the child. You can support your child at home by providing a quiet, well lit place for him/her to do homework. Some children prefer to work alone; others like to have a parent nearby. In any case, children should be able to do homework without the distractions of television, CDs, radios, etc. If your child is having difficulty completing homework assignments, contact your child's

teacher. He/she may have some specific suggestions for ways in which you help your youngster.

Will my child receive report cards?

In grades K-6, teacher-parent conferences are scheduled two times a year – in the late fall and early spring. Usually, conferences are held on Early Release Days or on Evening Conference dates, but they can also be arranged at mutually convenient times. In grades K-5, teachers prepare a written report on each child for the parent conference.

In grades 6-8, children receive report cards with letter grades four times a year. Students are graded in academic achievement, effort and behavior. All students in grades 6-8 also receive midterm progress reports. If you want to have a conference with your children's teachers at grades 7 or 8, please call your child's school or check the handbook to see how you can arrange a meeting.

How do I enroll my child in Brookline's Early Childhood programs?

Early Childhood programs are directed by the Brookline Early Education Program. Their office is at the Unified Arts Building, 46 Tappan Street, Brookline, MA 02445. You can access applications for enrollment on-line or request them through the BEEP program at 617-713-5471. Applications for the next school year should be mailed in between October 4th and December 31st. This is NOT a first come first served process for incoming new families. All new applications submitted between October 4 and December 31 bear the same weight. For more detailed information, go to the BEEP web site at <http://www.beepto.org/applications/applicationguide.html>.

How will I know what is being served for lunch each day? How much does it cost?

In the opening day packet, you will receive information about the school breakfast and lunch programs. Complete details about cost, menu, and free and reduced lunch applications are available on-line at <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/PS/CENTRAL+ADMINISTRATION/Administration+and+Finance/Food+Service.htm>.

May parents take books out of the school library?

Absolutely. Parents are welcome to use the school library and to check out books for their children. Please check with the individual school library about their policies. All children are also eligible to receive a library card and use the Brookline Public Libraries.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is my child being recommended for a summer literacy program?

Brookline has summer literacy programs for children who would benefit from additional support in reading and writing. There is a charge; however, there is also some scholarship money available. If your child's teacher or the literacy specialist recommends that your child attend, it is because they feel that your child would benefit from the additional support during the summer months.

Other Educational Opportunities in Brookline

Brookline Adult and Community Education

115 Greencough St

Brookline

617-730-2700

www.brooklineadulted.org

1500 courses/year on a wide range of topics, like English as a Second Language, music and art, business and careers, computers, dance, gardening, money, and theater.

Brookline Music School

23 Kennard St.

Brookline

617-277-4593

www.brooklinemusic.org

Classes and individual lessons for children and adults. Many of their children's private lessons are held in the public schools after school hours.

Brookline Arts Center

86 Morimouth St.

Brookline

617-566-5715

www.brooklineartscenter.com

Art classes and workshops for children and adults, in painting, sculpture, ceramics, and more.



It is common for elementary school teachers to meet individually with the parents of every child in the class once or twice each year. This meeting is not just for parents or children with problems or complaints. Rather, it is a good time to review your child's educational progress, and to hear about the things your child has been learning. If you do have any concerns about school, of course, this is a good time to talk about them. For example, if you think your child should have some extra services from the school (like more training in English, extra challenges in their strongest subjects, an assessment of special needs, extra help for their weakest subjects, or help in social areas), ask your child's teacher what she/he thinks.

You should be respectful of the school's professional judgment. Remember that the school staff must be concerned with the well-being of all the children in the school. But it is perfectly acceptable to make your ideas known.

Here are some practical tips, to help your conference go well:

It is best for both parents to go to the parent-teacher meeting, if possible. Teachers will offer to meet at times that allow for parents' work schedules. It is important for both parents to go. You will both have a better sense of your child's school experience, and the teacher will appreciate your support and interest. Be sure you understand all the teacher tells you. If the teacher talks about standardized test scores, ask what the tests measure, what the scores mean, and what the school does with the scores. It is fine to ask

the teacher to talk more slowly, and to repeat what she has said. Some international parents ask a friend whose English is very good to come to the conference with them. Write down any questions you have for the teacher. This way, you will not forget what you want to ask. If you have concerns about something the teacher does, think ahead about how to discuss it. Have one or two specific examples in mind to discuss. Give the teacher time to explain his views. Remember that you and he are partners in your child's education. Explain what schools are like in your own country, if it seems important. Make it clear that you understand this is an American school, but that you think it would be helpful if he understood your child's school history (and future, if you will be going home soon). Make specific suggestions if you can. Then, wait a week or two to see if the situation improves. If it does not, it is fine to talk to someone else in the school about your concern. You might try the guidance counselor, the ESL or bilingual teacher, the principal, or the headmaster, but start with the classroom teacher. Say something positive about the teacher and/or the school experience. If you are pleased with how school is going, this will be easy, and Americans like an open expression of thanks. If you are unhappy with the school, saying something positive will help the teacher be more willing to listen to your criticism. Ask for test records, work samples, reading lists, or curriculum descriptions, if you think they will be helpful when you go back to your home country. Do this each year, even if you will not be returning home for some time. Your home school will appreciate having such clear information about what your child has studied.

Parental Involvement in Schools



Many international newcomers are surprised at how involved American parents are with their children's elementary schools. Schools encourage parents to:

- stop by the classroom to chat with the teacher at the beginning or end of the school day, or by appointment,
- observe or help in the classroom,
- volunteer time in the school library, student clubs, or special events,
- speak informally or by appointment with the school principal from time to time,
- attend Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) or Association (PEA) meetings,
- go with your child's class on trips to museums or plays,
- give money, items to sell, or time for fund-raising events.



Attendance

Students are expected in school everyday and on time. We ask families to honor the teaching and learning time between 8 am and 2 pm and not schedule appointments that can be scheduled at other times. We also ask parents to please avoid extended vacations that pull students from school prior to school vacations or not return until days after the vacation has ended. The 180 school day is a minimal number to help our students develop their skills and become life long learners. It is critical that our students strive for perfect attendance each year. They need your help to do this.

AYP: Adequate Yearly Progress

Adequate yearly progress is the minimum level of improvement that states, school districts, and schools must achieve each year, according to federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. This progress is determined by a collection of performance measures, including MCAS.

Back to School Night/Open House

An opportunity for families to come to school without their child to meet the teacher, visit the classroom, become familiar with classroom expectations, and better understand the concepts, skills, and knowledge central to each subject area taught in the child's grade.

Buffer Zone

An area surrounding a neighborhood school district that serves two or more schools. All of the elementary schools in Brookline have buffer zone streets in their district. The Superintendent of Schools has the discretion to assign students to either of the schools served by their buffer designation based on the enrollment numbers of the grade that the child is entering. The Town of Brookline has posted a map that includes the school district buffer zones. You can view the map at: <http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/gis/maplib-online.html>

Classroom Parent

A parent/guardian of one of the children in a class who serves as a liaison between the teacher and other parents/guardians of children in the same class. S/he may call if the teacher needs help with a class project, to chaperone a field trip, or to bring snacks to a class party.

The Elementary Schools' PTO

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) of the Brookline

elementary schools is an active parent body of the school. Co-chairs are elected or appointed by the principal. The PTO is the primary fund raiser for the schools. They fund transportation for field trips, scholarships for students in need, reimburses teachers' out of pocket expenses, and supports principals' efforts to address professional development and new initiative. The PTO holds meetings throughout the year, and co-chairs meet monthly with the superintendent.

ELL: English Language Learner

A student who is not proficient enough in the English language to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs and who qualifies for additional English language development support by qualified instructors.

Excused Absence Note or Telephone Call

Some schools require that parents write a short note explain why a child missed school (for example, "De Ms. Lee, Please excuse Eva's absence from school on Thursday as she was sick. Sincerely, Anke Herzog, March 5, 2000"). Others ask that parents telephone the school if a child is going to be absent that day. Read your school's handbook or ask your child's teacher what to do.

Field Trip

A class trip away from the school. Field trips may cost money to cover transportation, admission fees, and/or snacks.

Homework Centers

Each elementary school offers students opportunities to begin their homework after the school day ends. The extended day programs offer homework components to their program and in some schools offer a homework club for students not in extended day and for older students. Each school also offers homework centers for special education students. MCAS preparatory programs are also available to support students on these tests. Students are usually recommended by classroom teachers for the MCAS preparatory programs. Check your individual school for additional homework programs.

Highly Qualified Teacher

According to NCLB, a teacher who has obtained full state teacher licensure or has passed the state teacher licensing examination and holds a license to teach in



state; holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree; and has demonstrated subject area competence in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher teaches.

Homeroom

In grades when children move from one classroom to another for different subjects, this is the room (and group of children and teacher) in which they hear announcements and may begin the day.

IEP: Individualized Education Plan

A written education plan developed by a team of professionals and parents for a school-aged child who qualifies for Special Education services. IEPs are based on a multidisciplinary evaluation of the child, describes how the child is presently doing, what the child's learning needs are, and what services the child will need by setting forth specific goals for the child's learning and personal growth. Federal legislation is in place to guide the development of appropriate IEPs which are reviewed and updated yearly.

MCAS: The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is a series of tests that are given to children in grades 3-8 and grade 10. Tests include English Language Arts, Math, Science and History/Social Science and are given in March and May of each year. Parents are notified about the results in the fall. For more detailed information, please access the Department of Education website at www.mass.gov/ed.

NCLB: No Child Left Behind

Signed into law by President Bush in 2002, No Child Left Behind sets performance guidelines for all schools and also stipulates what must be included in accountability reports to parents. It mandates annual student testing, includes guidelines for underperforming schools, and requires states to train all teachers and assistants to be "highly qualified".

Parent-Teacher Conference

Parents/guardians and teacher meet to discuss the progress of their child. Conferences are scheduled in advance and parents are given opportunities to schedule times that are convenient. Informal conferences occur throughout the year and can be initiated by the parent or teacher.

Permission Slip

A form to be signed by a parent/guardian, giving permission to do a special activity and/or go on a field trip.

Progress Report

A written notice about a student's progress in different areas of his/her schooling. Reports are usually made available during parent-teacher conferences.

Pull-out Programs

Students receive instruction in small groups outside of the classroom.

Recess

A time during the school day for children to play outside. In inclement weather, students often remain indoors for recess. Younger children often have recess twice a day.

Report Card

A written notice about a child's progress in school. The document summarizes the student's grades in all subject areas. In addition, a child's behavior and work habits are also evaluated. Teacher comments may also be included. Formal report cards are sent home four times a year in grades 7-12. In some schools, report cards are also given to sixth graders. Academic grades are A (the top grade), B, C, D, and F; effort grades include 1 (top) to 4. Younger children usually get a less formal progress report at the parent-teacher conference.

Safety at School

Students are unable to focus and learn if they feel unsafe. Every effort is made to assure every child's safety. Programs addressing safe behavior in the cafeteria, playground and after school are ongoing efforts in each school. Each school also has a school safety plan. The Brookline Fire Department conducts two drills in the fall and two in the spring. Emergency plans are located in each school's main office. Parents would be contacted by school or other officials by phone and/or through public service announcements on radio and television in the event of a school wide or town emergency which requires extended evacuation.

Scholarships

In order to assure full participation in class activities and the life of the school, PTO scholarships are available for families who have financial need. Other organizations such as the extended day programs, summer academic programs, Brookline Early Education Program, and outside groups such as Art Barn also have limited scholarships available for students. Check with your school or the individual program for more specific information.



School Improvement Plan

A plan developed by the School Site Council to improve instruction, services, and school environment.

School Council

The School Councils are made up of parents, teachers, principal and a community representative. The Council is mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Education. It is an advisory body to the principal. The school budget, the school facilities and plans to improve the school are specific topics reviewed by the School Council. An end of the year School Improvement plan is created and presented to the superintendent. This report is a primary function of the council.

Sheltered English

An instructional approach in which classes are composed entirely of students learning English. Students are taught using methods that make academic instruction in English understandable. In some schools, students may be clustered in a mainstream classroom.

Show and Tell or Sharing Day

In younger grades, there may be a regular time during the week for children to show something (like a picture of a grandparent who visited, or a postcard from a friend) or tell about something (a trip to the zoo, or a recent soccer game) to the class.

504 Plan

An individualized plan developed for a student who qualifies for Special Education services. The plan specifies what accommodations and/or services s/he will receive in school.



The elementary schools and Brookline High School prepare the incoming 9th graders and their families through for the transition to BHS a series of programs. Additional transition activities are also sponsored by the K-8 elementary schools. The following list outlines the common annual events for eighth graders and their families:

JANUARY

Elementary guidance counselors meet with high school staff to learn of upcoming changes, additions and deletions in courses, programs and activities.

FEBRUARY

The High School Road Show is an opportunity for eighth grade parents to meet and hear about the high school from a panel comprised of the high school headmaster, the dean, guidance director, PTO leaders and high school students.

MARCH

Elementary guidance counselors distribute the high school's course catalogue and eighth grade teachers make course recommendations for final parent approval. Course selection sheets are due to the guidance counselor about the third week of March with teachers and parent's signature. Ninth grade schedules are determined by the course selection sheets. Parents may meet with guidance counselors prior to finalizing the courses selected.

MARCH-APRIL

The high school sponsors a curriculum night for parents to hear about courses and ask questions of the curriculum coordinators.

The visual and performing arts department of BHS sponsors an evening which showcases the work of high school students. Teachers and coordinators are available to answer questions from students and parents. High school dance classes and musical groups also schedule visits to individual elementary schools.

MAY

A panel of high school students share their perspectives on BHS with eighth graders.

High school staff meet with elementary guidance to learn of the supports needed for the entering class of ninth graders.

SUMMER

Prior to entering BHS the high school offers incoming 9th graders a summer orientation course.



Translation Services

The Office for Student Services in collaboration with the English Language Learners Program provides translation services for more than eight languages. Translators are provided for parent-teacher conferences, Special Education meetings, and other needs that will help families whose first language is not English become an active participant in their student's education. Translation may be provided either orally or written. To request a translator, please contact the Office for Student Services. If a student is limited English proficient and is enrolled in the English Language Learners' Program, please contact Mindy Paulo at 617-264-6413, 617-730-2447, Lynda Kirby. A minimum of two weeks notice is required.



MCAS/MEPA

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) was implemented to meet the requirements of the Education Reform Law of 1993 and also fulfills requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law. The system is designed to test all public school students, including students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. The tests are administered annually in the spring to select grades. Currently, the following tests are administered to the named grade(s):

English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

English Language Arts Composition

Grades 4, 7, 10

Mathematics

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

Science and Technology/Engineering

Grades 5, 8, 9/10

History and Social Science (schedule to become fully operational in 2009)

Grades 5, 7, 10/11

For more information on the MCAS, please visit the Department of Education website at

http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/overview_laq.html?section=1

**English Language Learners Program**

The ELL Program provides services to more than 400 students whose primary language is not English and who are not yet proficient in English. The program provides support at each school with services focused on children's English language acquisition, literacy development, and academic achievement. For more information, contact Mindy Paulo, K-12 Program Coordinator, at 617-264-6413.

METCO Program (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity)

METCO is a voluntary school integration program. The Brookline METCO Program provides K-12 education for over 300 students from Boston. METCO staff work with school-based staff and parents to support, encourage, and monitor the academic, social, and emotional development of the students. METCO students are offered academic enrichment and support, volunteer opportunities, and social support services. The METCO staff is committed to building strong partnerships with families and holds regular meetings with parents/guardians. For more information, contact Sejan Talukdar, Program Coordinator, at 617-730-2470.

Enrichment and Challenge Support Program (ECS)

The ECS Program works to assist and support K-8 teachers in challenging their students. An ECS resource teacher is available at each school. This teacher works collaboratively with classroom teachers, guidance counselors, and the school principal to bring a range of services into the school: consultation, curriculum development, direct work with students, information, resources, etc. A town-wide Parent Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from each school, meets regularly with the ECS coordinator to inform and advise about parent concerns with regard to the program. For more information, contact Diana Beck, town-wide Program Coordinator, at 617-264-6407.

Steps to Success

(STS) is a comprehensive educational achievement program providing academic, social development and family support for low-income students and their families. Working with students in Grades 4-12, the program seeks to break through the attitudes and substantive barriers - both personal & institutional - that can make it difficult for these students to succeed in school and pursue a college education.



The Brookline Health Department (617-730-2300) runs an Information and Referral Line (617-730-2320) for all Brookline residents. You may get an answering machine when you call. Leave your name and telephone number and someone will return your call. Call them for:

- a list of pediatricians in the area
- referrals to low-cost clinics
- assistance in finding health insurance (for children and adults)

Immunization Clinic

Gives child immunizations, lead screenings, and TB tests by appointment to anyone who lives or works in Brookline. Your child may require such screening or immunizations before enrolling in school. Fee: \$10 (but no one is denied services because of inability to pay)

Dental Clinic

For a \$100 yearly fee, income-eligible children (under age 19) can have check-ups, cleanings, fillings, and other routine dental services. Open Wednesday afternoons during school year. Fee may be waived; scholarships available. Call 617-730-2336 for information.

Flu Clinic

Yearly flu clinics every Fall, free for Brookline residents. \$5. Call 617-730-2336.

How to Find a Doctor

- Ask your company or school for a list of doctors.
- Talk to neighbors or parents of your children's friends.
- Call your consulate for a list of doctors that speak your language.
- Call the Brookline Health Department Information and Referral Line (617-730-2320) for a list of pediatricians, referrals to low-cost clinics, and assistance in finding health insurance.
- Call 781-893-4610 extension 5515. This is a referral service for Massachusetts physicians (Massachusetts Medical Society in Waltham). They will give you names of two doctors in your area and information about their educational background. They can also tell you what languages the doctors speak.
- Call the hospital closest to you and ask for the referral service.

**Brookline Police Department**

emergencies 911
 non-emergencies 617-730-2222
www.brooklinepolice.com

Brookline Fire Department

emergencies 911
 non-emergencies 617-730-2260
www.town.brookline.ma.us/fire

Ambulance

emergencies only 911

Mental Health and Parenting Information

The Brookline Center 617-277-8107
www.brooklinecenter.org

Jewish Family & Children Services

617-227-6641
www.jfes.org

Brookline Human Relations and Youth Resources

Commission 617-730-2330
 Poison Center 617-232-2120
 Center for Disease Control Poison 617-534-5611

Evening Legal Clinics

Bar Association of Norfolk County sponsors a panel of attorneys (all areas of law) for one-on-one consultation. Strictly confidential. Once a month at Dedham or Quincy District Court, 6-8pm. Call 617-471-9693 for specific dates and locations.
www.norfolkbarassn.org

Family Planning

Planned Parenthood (617) 616-1600; telephone counseling 617-616-1616
www.plannedparenthood.org/ma

Parenting Stress or to report Suspected Abuse

Parents Helping Parents 1-800-882-1250
 Parental Stress Line 1-800-632-8188
 Child-at-Risk Hotline 1-800-792-5200
 Elder Protective Services Hotline 1-800-922-2275
 Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Violence Prevention
 Brookline Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention Program 617-713-5155
 Brookline Health Department Substance Abuse & Prevention Services 617-730-2335
 Alcohol and Drug Hotline 1-800-252-6465
 Alcoholics Anonymous 617-426-9444
 AAAnon (for family members) 508-366-0550
 Battered Women's Services 617-661-7203
 Battered Women's Hotline 1-800-899-4000
 Asian Task Force (Domestic Violence) 617-338-2350

Suicide Prevention

Samaritans 617-247-0220
 Rape Counseling
 Rape Crisis Center 617-492-7273

Note - a Hotline is a telephone number that usually will be answered 24 hours a day for people who need immediate crisis help or information.

Any telephone number that begins with "1-800," "1-888," "1-877," "1-866" or "1-855" is free.



Health Insurance Vocabulary

Managed care

a system of providing health care in which you cannot go to see a specialist without the approval of your primary care physician (see below); most health plans today provide managed care.

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)

a health care plan in which groups of doctors (including specialists) work in a single organization (and, usually, a single building); members have a primary care physician who manages their care.

Co-payment

the amount of money you must pay when you see a doctor, even if you have insurance.

Deductible

the first medical costs in a year, to be paid by you, after which the insurance company pays (perhaps with a co-payment).

Here are some questions to ask about your medical insurance:

- ▶ Do you have to choose a doctor from your insurance company's list, or can you choose any doctor you like?
- ▶ What services are covered? Do you have to pay part of the fee for visits to the doctor, for laboratory tests, surgery or hospital fees? If so, how much? Is there an upper limit to what the insurance company will pay?
- ▶ Do you pay for doctor services and tests yourself, then mail an insurance claim, or should the doctor send the bill directly to the insurer?
- ▶ What kind of approval from the insurance company do you need before you get any services?
- ▶ What should you do if you need medical care when you are out of town? Out of the US?
- ▶ Does your policy pay for medicines?
- ▶ Does your policy pay for mental health counseling, dental work or vision services?



Children's Hospital

300 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA
617-355-6000
www.childrenshospital.org

Brigham and Women's Hospital

330 Brookline Ave.
Boston, MA
617-667-7000
www.bidmc.harvard.edu

Brigham and Women's Hospital

75 Francis St.
Boston, MA
617-732-5500
www.brighamandwomens.org

Boston Medical Center

One Boston Medical Center Place
Boston, MA
617-638-8000
www.bmc.org

Non-Emergency Health Clinics

Call for hours of operation.

Brookline Medical Associates

358 Harvard St.
Brookline, MA
617-739-1111

Joseph Smith Health Center

287 Western Ave.
Allston, MA
617-783-0500

The Brookline Center

43 Garrison Road
Brookline, MA
617-277-8107

Types of Medical Professionals



Medical doctor (MD) a graduate of medical school (professional training which follows a 4-year university degree)

Specialist a physician who has additional training in one area of medicine (like pediatrics, cardiology, or oncology)

Family practitioner or general practitioner a physician with a specialization in general medicine for adults and children

Pediatrician a physician with a specialization in pediatrics or health care for children

Internist a physician with a specialization in internal medicine or health care for adults

Registered nurse (RN) a graduate of a four-year university with a specialization in nursing

Licensed practical nurse (LPN) a graduate of a post-high-school training program in nursing

Nurse practitioner (NP) a registered nurse with graduate training that allows her to diagnose and prescribe medicine

Physician's assistant (PA) a person with graduate training that allows him/her, working with a doctor, to diagnose and prescribe medicine; usually not a registered nurse

Primary care physician (PCP) the doctor who is assigned to manage your care; this will be the doctor you usually see when you have any illness — pediatricians for children and internists, family practitioners, or general practitioners for adults



Parenting Safety Tips

Teach your child how to use the telephone in an emergency and/or to reach you if you are not at home. Keep important telephone numbers posted near your telephones. Remember, for all emergencies, dial "911."

Discuss with your children what to do in case of a fire in your home. Practice "Stop! Drop! and Roll!" (instead of running) in case clothing is on fire. Discuss crawling out of the house to avoid breathing in smoke. Agree on a place to meet outside your home, so there is no confusion about where everyone is.

Keep smoke detectors in working order. Teach your children how to use fire extinguishers, and keep them handy in your home.

Do not leave a spare key to your home under the doormat. Leave one, instead, with a trusted neighbor.

Remind your children not to open doors to strangers, especially while home alone. And tell them not to talk to strangers outside, even if the stranger calls them by name. Discuss the difference between being "impolite" and "unsafe." Children sometimes are so afraid of being impolite to strangers that they make unsafe choices.



You may not park on the street for more than 2 hours. You may not park on the street overnight (from 2-6:00am) anywhere in Brookline. If you own a car you must have an off-street parking place. If there is not a parking space with your house or apartment, call 617-730-2177 for a list of parking lots and privately-run spaces (although there is usually a 4-5 month waiting list for spaces to rent, and you may need to move your car from the space during the day). Short-term guests may park in several of the town lots overnight (but not during the day).

<http://www.townofbrookline.com/transportation/parking/parking.html>

If a Police Officer Stops Your Car

When you see the flashing lights behind you, stop your car on the side of the road as soon as it is safe.

- ▶ Do not get out of your car. Wait for the officer to come to your car. Then lower your window.
- ▶ The police officer will ask to see your drivers' license and your automobile registration.
- ▶ Let the officer tell you why you were stopped.
- ▶ Cooperate and be courteous.
- ▶ Do not try to pay your fine in cash to the policeman. If he misunderstands you, he may think you are trying to bribe him. Pay all fines by mail or to the clerk of a court.

Once a police officer has stopped your car, he or she can look at anything in the car that is in plain view. However, officers can search the car (look in the trunk, under or inside boxes, etc.) only:

- ▶ if they see something that looks like a weapon, or
- ▶ if they have reason to believe you are hiding something illegal in the car, or
- ▶ if you give them your permission (say it is OK).
- ▶ It is always best to cooperate as much as possible with the officer.

Transit System — The "T"

The "T" (or MBTA - Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority) runs both underground (in and close to the city of Boston) and above ground on tracks in the middle of the street. Hours of operation are:

5:15am to 12:30am - Monday-Saturday

6:00am to 12:30am on Sunday, however, some run for much shorter periods. For information on fares, schedules and other details go to www.mbta.com. You can also call the MBTA Customer Support at 617-222-3200

To and From Logan Airport

There are several ways to travel to and from Logan Airport:

The T: Take the Green Line inbound to Government Center, switch to the Blue Line (toward Wonderland), then take the free airport shuttle to your terminal. (Be careful to get on the correct shuttle for your airline.)

Taxi: Costs usually \$25-40, depending on traffic and your Brookline location. (In addition to the fare shown on the meter, you will have to pay \$3 in tolls and, for trips leaving the airport, an \$1.50 airport fee.)



<http://cityguide.aol.com/boston/>
<http://www.starthereboston.com/Arts-culture.html>

Museums in the Boston Area

Boston Children's Museum

Boston, MA

<http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/index.html>

Boston Children's Museum features exhibits focus on early childhood development and have three themes: arts, culture, and science.

Botanical Museum Harvard

Cambridge, MA

<http://www.starthereboston.com/botanical-museum-harvard.html>

The museum features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, popularly known as "The Glass Flowers".

Harvard Art Museums

Cambridge, MA

<http://www.starthereboston.com/botanical-museum-harvard.html>

The Harvard University Art Museums is one of the leading arts institutions in the United States and the world. It is distinguished by the range and depth of its collections and its groundbreaking exhibitions and original research. Harvard's art museums—the Fogg Art Museum, the Busch-Reisinger Museum, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum—are all outstanding institutions in their respective fields.

Hayden Planetarium

Boston, MA

<http://www.mos.org/>

Part of the Museum of Science, the Hayden Planetarium offers a look into the stars!

Institute of Contemporary Art

Boston, MA

<http://www.icaboston.org/>

Institute of Contemporary Art has been introducing to Boston and the country some of the most important contemporary artists of our time, from Pablo Picasso and Robert Rauschenberg to Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Boston, MA

<http://www.gardnermuseum.org/>

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum features three floors of galleries surround a garden courtyard. The galleries are filled with paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture, and decorative arts from cultures spanning thirty centuries.

JFK Library

Boston, MA

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/>

The John F. Kennedy Library and Museum is dedicated to the memory of our nation's thirty-fifth president to all those who through the art of politics seek a just and better world.

Museum Afro-American History

Boston, MA

<http://www.afroaammuseum.org/site14.htm>

New England's largest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving and interpreting the contributions of African Americans.

Museum of Fine Arts

Boston, MA

<http://www.mfa.org/>

The Museum of Fine Arts houses and preserves permanent collections and aspires to serve a wide variety of people through direct encounters with works of art.

Museum of Science

Boston, MA

<http://www.mos.org/>

The Museum is on the cutting edge of science education by developing innovative and interactive exhibits and programs that both entertain and educate.

National Heritage Museum

Lexington, MA

<http://www.monh.org/>

A visit to the National Heritage Museum is truly an experience in the American spirit. Exhibitions tell thrilling stories of patriotism, adventure, invention, community and dissent—all aspects of how we as people have worked, and played, struggled and achieved.

American Repertory Theatre

Cambridge, MA

<http://www.amrep.org/>

American Repertory Theatre - Loeb Drama Center,
Harvard University

Boston Ballet

Boston, MA

<http://www.bostonballet.com/>

Boston Ballet Company includes some of the most exciting talents in the dance world today.

Boston Center for the Arts

Boston, MA

<http://www.bcaonline.org/>

Boston Center for the Arts is a nonprofit performing and visual arts complex that supports working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new work; builds new audiences; and connects arts to community.

Boston Symphony Hall

Boston, MA

<http://www.bso.org/bso/>

Experience the magic of Boston Symphony Hall, celebrated the world over for its magnificent acoustics and illustrious history.

Boston University Theater

Boston, MA

<http://www.huntingtontheater.org/index.aspx>

Huntington Theatre Company: Professional theatre company in residence at Boston University.

Cambridge Arts Center

Boston, MA

<http://www.cmacusa.org/>

The Cambridge Multicultural Art Center (CMAC) is a non-profit corporation founded in 1978 as an arts center focused on helping diverse populations better understand one another.

Jordan Hall

Boston, MA

<http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu/index.html>

Located in Boston's Fenway Cultural District on the Avenue of the Arts, NEC offers free concerts almost every night throughout the school year. Most of our concerts start at 8pm and are held in NEC's Jordan Hall.

Activities for Children

Boston Parent's Magazine (available for free in most book and toy stores in Boston) also lists many activities, camps, and tips for parents.

Boston Public Garden

www.swanboats.com

www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org

Beacon, Boylston, and Charles Streets, Boston

617-635-4509

ride Swan Boats in warm weather; ice skate in winter

The Children's Museum

www.bostonkids.org

300 Congress St.

Boston, MA

(617)426-6500

Museum of Science

www.mos.org

Science Park

Boston, MA

(617)723-2500

New England Aquarium

www.nea.org

Central Wharf

Boston, MA

(617)973-5200

Franklin Park Zoo

www.franklinparkzoo.org

Franklin Park Boston

617-541-5466

Stone Zoo (A smaller zoo)

www.stonezoo.org

149 Pond St., Stoneham, MA

617-541-5466

Activities for Children

Arnold Arboretum
www.emeraldnecklace.org
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA
617-524-1718
265 acres of woodland and park

Blue Hills Trailside Museum
www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue
1904 Canton Ave., Canton, MA
617-333-0690
Hiking, live animal museum

Boston Children's Theater
www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org
321 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA
617-424-6634
Live theater for children by children

Drumlin Farm Education Center
www.massaudubon.org/nature_connection/sanctuaries/drumlin_farm/
Great Road, Lincoln, MA
781-259-2200
Demonstration farm with animals, crops

Wheelock Family Theater
www.wheelock.edu/wft
The Riverway, Boston, MA
617-879-2000
Plays for various ages, from age 3 to teens

Puppet Showplace Theater
www.puppetshowplace.org
32 Station St., Brookline, MA
617-731-6400
Puppet shows for ages 5+

Tot Stop
46 Teel St., Suite 12, Arlington, MA
781-643-8687
Indoor play for babies and pre-school children

Tougas Family Farm
www.tougasfarm.com
Ball Street, Northborough, MA
508-393-6406
Pick fruit, pet animals, play

Great Brook Farm State Park
www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/gbfm
984 Lowell St., Carlisle, MA
978-369-6312
Walk, see farm animals, ducks



Brookline Parks and Playgrounds

The playgrounds at all the Brookline public schools are open to the public when school is not in session. Location of other playgrounds in Brookline:

Amory Park
Amory Street, between Beacon and Commonwealth

Billy Ward Playground
on Aspinwall, near St. Paul Street

Bowker Street Playground
on Kerr Street between Aspinwall and Harvard Street

Boylston Street Playground
on the north side of Boylston St between Brookline Village and Cypress Street

Brookline Avenue Playground
corner of Aspinwall and Brookline Avenue

Clark Playground
on Cypress Street, south of Route 9 and Walnut Street

Coolidge Playground
on Coolidge, between Harvard and Winchester

Cypress Playground
on Davis Street, between Cypress and Brookline High School

Griggs Park
on Griggs, near corner of Washington and Beacon

Harry Downes Field
going south on High Street, turn left on Highland
Jamaica Road

Larz Anderson Park
Brookline's largest park; ice skating, ball fields, playground

Lawton Playground

on Lawton, near corner of Harvard St. and
Commonwealth Avenue

Minot Park-Winthrop Square

on Freeman Street, between Pleasant St and St. Paul St

Robinson Playground

on Cypress, south of Route 9

Schick Park

at Winthrop and Addington, south of Beacon

Soule Playground

652 Hammond Street

United Parish Church

210 Harvard Street

Waldstein Playground

on Dean Road, south of Beacon

Warren Playground

on Chestnut Hill Avenue, between Route 9 and Beacon

Summer Camps

www.townofbrooklinemass.com/recreation/SummerDayCamp.html

To request a copy of K.L.D.S. brochure about summer opportunities call 617-879-4638.

Special Needs Camps

For more information visit, www.verypecialcamps.com

Camp Chest Nut

(serves children with asthma)

781-272-2866

Camp Echo Bridge

(serves children with and without disabilities)

617-552-7120

Camp Huntington

(serves children with ADD, LD, MR, MH)

845-679-4903

Camp Joy

(serves children with physical and cognitive disabilities, multiple handicaps, behavioral disorders, visual impairment, difficulty hearing and LD)

617-635-4920 x2400

Camp New Connections

(Aspergers, NLD, PDD)

617-855-2858

Clara Barton Camp (for girls with diabetes)

508-987-2056

Daybreak Day Camp

Brookline Recreation and Sports

<http://www.townofbrooklinemass.com/Recreation/>
www.townofbrooklinemass.com/Conservation/parks.html

Call 617-730-2069 to get on the Brookline Recreation Department mailing list, and to receive the current Program Schedule. The MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) also runs several sports facilities.

Prices listed are for Brookline residents. Non-residents may use most facilities for a slightly higher fee.

Swimming - Evelyn Kirrane Athletic Facility

Next to Brookline High School

60 Taggan Street

Brookline

617-713-5435

Reilly Memorial Swimming Pool

355 Chestnut Hill Ave., Cleveland Circle

Hours: 11:00am - 5:30pm

(617) 277-7822; or (617) 698-1802

Ice Skating - outdoor

outdoor rink at Laer Anderson park

617-739-7518

\$3 adults, \$1 children or \$60/season; skate rental and sharpening

Ice Skating - indoor, MDC - Reilly Rink

(Brighton, Cleveland Circle)

call for fees - 617-727-6034



Notes

Public Schools of Brookline
Office of Teaching and Learning
333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445
617-730-2432