



Brandon Middle School

1700 Pope Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

(757) 648-4450
FAX (757) 366-4550

www.brandonms.vbschools.com

Twitter @ BrandonChargers

Facebook Brandon Chargers VB

Administration

Ms. Christy McQueeney, Principal
Mr. Bruce Enzmann, Assistant Principal
Ms. Susan Metsker, Assistant Principal
Ms. Darnita Trotman, Assistant Principal
Ms. Joan Ligon, School Improvement Specialist
Ms. Leigh Powell, Guidance Director
Mr. Patrick Mackey, Student Activities Coordinator

School Colors

Columbia Blue, Gold, and White

School Mascot

Chargers

Brandon Middle School Student Handbook 2019-2020

Student Schedules

Grade 6

9:30-11:15	Core 1
11:20-12:10	Elective/PE 1
12:15-12:45	Lunch or Brandon Time
12:45-1:15	Lunch or Brandon Time
1:20-2:10	Elective/PE 2
2:15-4:00	Core 2

Grade 7

9:30-10:20	Elective/PE 1
10:25-11:15	Elective/PE 2
11:20-1:10	Core 1
1:15-1:45	Lunch or Brandon Time
1:45-2:15	Lunch or Brandon Time
2:20-4:00	Core 2

Grade 8

9:30-11:10	Core 1
11:15-11:45	Lunch or Brandon Time
11:45-12:15	Lunch or Brandon Time
12:20-2:10	Core 2
2:15-3:05	Elective/PE 1
3:10-4:00	Elective/PE 2

In addition to the Virginia Beach City Public Schools information contained in this planner, guidelines specific to Brandon Middle School follow.

Our mission is to provide a challenging, supportive, caring, and safe environment that promotes academic and physical excellence for lifelong learning.

SCHOOL HOURS AND ARRIVAL

School hours are **9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Students must not arrive to school prior to **9:10 a.m.** unless they are going to the library, to a classroom to meet with a teacher, or to a club meeting. Students may not enter other areas of the building without authorization. Students may not loiter on school property waiting for school to begin. Students assigned morning detention or seeking extra help must present the detention notice or a teacher pass to travel in the building at **8:50 a.m.** Students who ride buses must remain on buses until **9:10 a.m.** at which time they will be released to enter the building. All students must be in **homeroom** by **9:20 a.m.** Students who arrive to school more than 15 minutes late will be marked absent from the class(es) missed.

ACADEMIC AWARDS/STUDENT RECOGNITION

Principal's List is awarded to students who have an A average for the grading period. This is the highest academic honor a student can earn.

Honor Roll is awarded to students earning a B average, with no grade lower than a C, for a nine-week grading period.

The **Student of the Month** award is awarded to students who exemplify good character. These traits include trustworthiness, cooperation, honesty, work ethic, and many more. This program starts in October and runs through March.

For the first three grading periods, students will be recognized by the administration and guidance for achieving Honor Roll, Student of the Month, and/or Perfect Attendance. The students will receive a token of recognition for a job well done. At the end of the year, Honors Assemblies are held for each grade level to recognize those students who have excelled during the school year.

ACADEMIC LETTER AWARD

This award symbolizes a student who excels in the combination of academic excellence, attendance, and after school activities such as clubs and/or sports. First year recipients receive a school chenille letter "B" in the reverse colors of the athletic letter." The second consecutive year, the award recipient will receive a pin symbolizing "knowledge." Finally, the student receiving this award for the third consecutive year will receive a star pin. The criteria and application can be obtained from the Main office, SAC office, or the Welcome Center starting on **May 1, 2020**.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT/SOL LAB

Students failing an English or math SOL test must participate in SOL Lab/Academic Support during the first nine weeks or Reading for the year. Students who earn a nine-week grade of 69 or below in a core class must be removed from an upcoming nine-week elective to participate in SOL/Academic Support, unless they are currently in Reading. Parents may not remove their child from this program.

BICYCLES & SKATEBOARDS

Students may ride bicycles to school and secure their bicycles with their own locks at one of the racks provided at the school. Students may not bring bicycles into the building and may not ride them on sidewalks at the school. The school assumes no responsibility for bicycles while the bicycles are on school property. **Helmets** are required by law to be worn while riding bicycles. Students may not bring skateboards to school; skateboards will be confiscated.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

A breakfast program is provided daily from **9:10 to 9:20 a.m.** Participation is not an excuse for tardiness to first bell. Lunches are served daily in the cafeteria.

Point of Sale-Each student is given a confidential identification number. Using this ID number, the student may purchase from a prepaid account or the student may pay on a daily basis. Students may not charge in the cafeteria. Students who misuse their ID number are subject to disciplinary action. Rules and procedures for cafeteria conduct are posted in the cafeteria and reviewed with students during orientation.

CLINIC

Clinic office hours are from 8:50 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. Clinic services and medication are only available to students during clinic office hours. The School Nurse will work with parents, students, and staff to provide a safe, healthy environment for student academic growth and wellness during the school day. Parents may arrange a meeting or call to discuss their child's specific needs at 648-4457. Please see Section Titled: Clinic: Overview of Health Services for Students to review specific protocol to follow as it relates to students' medical needs.

CLUBS

The basic purposes of our clubs are to provide students with an opportunity to develop positive interests and activities for leisure time and to serve the school and the community. Clubs are organized throughout the year by teachers. Students should listen to announcements and watch for posters explaining how to join. Club sponsors may be emailed or called for answers to questions. Most clubs and activities meet after school. Students must sign up with the club sponsor/teacher when attending after-school activities and may ride the activity bus home or arrange for their own ride home immediately following the conclusion of their activity. Students must stay with the club sponsor until picked up. Accordingly, out of respect for the club sponsor's time, prompt pick-up at the designated time is a must.

DANCE POLICIES

Dances are scheduled on Friday from 4:10 to 5:40 p.m.

When a student leaves the dance he or she must leave school grounds. Any student who attempts to return will be disciplined and may forfeit the privilege of attending future dances.

The activity buses will take students home, unless students are picked up by parents or are walkers.

Any student who is not picked up by 5:30 p.m. will be required to ride the activity bus home.

Tickets must be purchased in the cafeteria during lunch time prior to the dance.

Ticket permission forms must be signed by parent or guardian prior to the purchase of dance tickets. Wristbands will be given to students to wear for dances.

Only Brandon Middle School students may attend school dances.

DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public displays of affection, such as hand holding, kissing, or other physical contact are not allowed on school property.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Students should be out of the school building and off school grounds by **4:10 p.m.**, unless involved in tutorials or extracurricular activities. All students must remain with a coach, tutor, or sponsor until leaving the school. No student may remain after school unless supervised by a school employee.

Students may use after school activity buses only if they were participating in a school sponsored activity with a sponsor. Students riding after school activity buses without permission will lose their privilege to use bus transportation during after school activities.

All students should ride assigned school buses and may not leave school grounds after arrival in the morning or prior to departure of the buses in the afternoon.

Students who walk must cross at designated intersections or at the direction of the duty teachers. Furthermore, students must use sidewalks when available. Law

enforcement officials may issue a summons for jaywalking, trespassing, or pedestrian in roadway.

DRESS CODE

Dress guidelines are designed to promote a standard of appearance that complements the learning environment. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the occasion. Students may not wear extreme or ostentatious apparel to school. In addition to the VBCPS dress code, Brandon Middle's code includes the following:

- Students must wear appropriate footwear at all times.
- Students must wear clothes as they were designed to be worn (e.g., buttoned, zipped up, tucked in, or belted).
- Students may wear shorts and skirts of an appropriate length.
- Students may not wear lewd or suggestive clothing.
- Students may not wear apparel that advertises, glorifies, or symbolizes any illegal substances, or substances illegal for use by a minor. Students may not wear apparel that exposes the midriff, shoulders, or over-exposes the back.
- Students may not wear jewelry or clothing that might create a safety hazard such as chains and/or spiked bands.
- Coats and book bags/oversized purses/string backpacks may not be taken to class. Purses that are larger than a pencil pouch may not be carried to class. Students should store these personal items in their assigned lockers.

If there is doubt about a particular item of apparel, the student should not wear the item. If they are asked to correct the attire, they will remain out of the general population until they do so.

EARLY DISMISSAL

A student must present a written note from his/her parent or legal guardian stating the date, time, and reason for early dismissal. This note must be presented to the administrative assistant at the Welcome Center prior to first bell. Only parents or legal guardians may pick up students unless prior verification has been made. The student will be released from class when the parent or guardian arrives. Parent or Guardian must present ID when picking up any student. Students must be signed out through the Welcome Center. **Note: Students will be marked absent from class if an early dismissal causes the student to miss more than 15 minutes of a class.**

FOOD/GUM/CANDY POLICY

No gum chewing is allowed in the school building. Consumption of candy, food, and beverages is allowed only in the cafeteria or unless supervised by an adult. Beverages must be in a sealed container and the seal must not be broken prior to entering the cafeteria.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

PE Locks—All students enrolled in Health and Physical Education class will be issued a lock to be used in the locker room. If this lock is lost, the student is responsible for reimbursing the school and getting a new lock from his/her PE teacher. Students are not allowed to bring their own locks from home.

PE Uniforms—All students participating in physical education are required to change for class. Our Physical Education Department offers short-sleeved shirts and mesh shorts. The T-shirts are adult sizes, S to XXL. The mesh shorts are Youth L and Adult Sizes S – XXL. The uniforms may be purchased during the first week of school. Additional shorts or shirts may be purchased throughout the school year from physical education teachers.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

Our intramural program provides students with a variety of interesting, diverse, and challenging activities to accommodate differing levels of need, skill, readiness, and interests. The primary reason for participation is enjoyment of the learning activities rather than pressure to compete and win, as in athletic competition. Such an environment will enable students to extend learning of the benefits of movement, develop positive attitudes, increase self-esteem, enjoy positive social interactions, and broaden their fitness and leisure horizons.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Brandon Middle School Library Media Center (LMC) is open on school days from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Monday through Friday. Students who use the LMC before school must remain until **9:05 a.m.** If a classroom teacher considers it beneficial, a student will use his/her planner to visit the LMC during the school day. Teachers often sign up to bring their classes to work on research papers and projects.

Most books may be checked out of the LMC for three weeks and magazines may be checked out overnight. Renewals are allowed. Students are welcomed and encouraged to make optimum use of the LMC by visiting, using, and borrowing materials. It is the student's responsibility to show proper regard for others by treating materials with care and returning them on time. There are no fines for overdue books. Misuse of the LMC and/or its materials will result in the loss of LMC privileges.

LOCKERS

Students are assigned lockers in which to keep books and other personal belongings. It is the responsibility of students to ensure the security of their belongings by placing them in the locker and locking it. Students should not give, obtain, or share combinations or lockers.

To open your locker, do the following:

1. Beginning at 0, turn **RIGHT** two whole turns and stop at your first number.
2. Then turn **LEFT** one whole turn past your first number and stop at your second

number.

3. Now turn RIGHT and stop at your last number. Lift the locker handle.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are responsible for the care and security of their own possessions. Lost and found articles are to be taken to and claimed from the Clinic. Articles of value will be kept in the Main Office. At the end of year, unclaimed and lost and found items will be donated to charity. The office will not be responsible for recovering lost items.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is awarded to students who show excellence in scholarship, leadership, service to the community and school, and wholesome character. In order to be eligible to apply, grade 7 students must have maintained a 3.5 GPA for both semesters of grade 6 and the first semester of grade 7. A faculty-selection committee will review completed applications and choose new members in the spring of each year. Transferring seventh and eighth graders who can show proof of being a NJHS member in good standing at their previous school will automatically be admitted into Brandon's NJHS.

Members will have to complete ten service hours each 9 weeks in eighth grade as well as attend a monthly meeting. Students are also required to maintain a 3.5 GPA each 9 weeks they are a member in order to retain their membership and stay in good standing.

PROCEDURE FOR PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents who wish to speak with a teacher may call the Main Office and leave a message. Parents may call the School Counseling Office at 648-4461 to schedule a conference.

If it is anticipated that a student will be absent for three or more days, please contact the School Counseling Office for assistance in obtaining assignments and materials. Teachers must be given twenty-four hour notice to prepare materials.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is to promote the welfare of all students, teachers, and parents involved in the educational process. Adult family members are encouraged to join the PTA. Dues are \$7 per person.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

(HOURS 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.)

Students are assigned a counselor according to their last name. Counselors work with parents, students, and faculty to provide a program that addresses the academic, career, and personal/social development of students.

Parents may arrange a conference by calling their child's counselor at 648-4461.

Students desiring a conference with a counselor may obtain a request form from the School Counseling Office or from their teachers.

The counselors at Brandon Middle School for 2019-2020 are Ms. Leigh Powell, Ms. Jeanellen MacNeal-Rhudy, Ms. Melody Gilchrist-Bray, and Ms. Megan Graman.

SCHOOL VISITATION

Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit Brandon Middle School. All visitors are required to sign in at the Welcome Center where they will receive a pass and directions. Should a parent wish to visit a classroom to observe, an observation request form should be submitted at least forty-eight hours in advance (forms are available in the Main Office). This will ensure that a seat is available for you, testing is not scheduled during your observation, and extra handouts or materials are available for you. Once the observation request is received and administration has granted permission, the visit will be scheduled as soon as possible. Parents may not visit classrooms during school hours without permission from an administrator or Guidance Office.

SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

Students of Brandon Middle School are expected to exhibit the highest qualities of good sportsmanship at all times and in all places involving student activities.

Students are reminded that whether they are spectators or participants, they represent not only themselves, but also their school, parents, and community. They should, therefore, remember that even in their enthusiasm, they have an obligation to conduct themselves in a polite and courteous manner.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Brandon Middle School Interscholastic Activities:

- 1st Nine Weeks: Football (Tryouts begin August 21), Boys' Soccer (Tryouts begin August 26), Girls' Soccer (Tryouts begin August 26), One Act Play (Tryouts begin September 4), and Cheerleading (Tryouts are held in June for the following year)
- 2nd Nine Weeks: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Academic Challenge (Tryouts begin November 8)
- 3rd Nine Weeks: Wrestling, Volleyball, and Debate (Tryouts begin January 28)
- 4th Nine Weeks: Baseball, Softball, Field Hockey, Forensics, Boys' Track, Girls' Track (Tryouts begin March 23)

INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

Students may not have been enrolled in middle school for a period of more than six consecutive semesters, beginning with the semester in which he or she was enrolled for the first time in the sixth grade. The six consecutive semesters shall be counted continuously from that point, regardless of whether or not he or she remains continuously enrolled.

Students who have been enrolled in middle school for longer than three years are not eligible to participate in any Middle School League sponsored activity. (interscholastic sports, debate, academic challenge, one-act play, and forensics.)

For the first semester, students must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects or their equivalent, have passed five subjects or their equivalent the preceding year, and have a 2.0 grade point average in the second semester of the preceding year.

For the second semester, students must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects or their equivalent, have passed five subjects or their equivalent first semester and have a 2.0 grade point average in the first semester.

Students MUST have a current Middle School League Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination form on file in the Student Activity Office in order to tryout and participate. Forms may be picked up at the Welcome Center or in the Main Office.

Physicals must be submitted on a Middle School League physical form—no other form will be accepted. Sports physicals will be offered at Brandon Middle School in the Brandon Clinic for \$10.00 cash only on August 20 and January 23, at 4:00 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Urgent Care & Family Practice at 1464 Mt Pleasant Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23322 also provide school sports physicals at \$30.00. Their phone number is 757-410-4586.

Student **MUST NOT** turn 15 years of age before **August 1, 2019** in order to participate in interscholastic sports.

INTERSCHOLASTIC DISCIPLINE POLICY

School Discipline After-School Consequence
Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)=Removal from participation for the rest of the season.
In-School Suspension (ISS) First Offense=Suspension from participation in any activity on the day(s) the ISS is served. The student may, however, return to practice the day

after ISS is served.

In-School Suspension Second Offense During Season=Remove from participation for the rest of the season.

Detention=No associated punishment

Referral=No associated punishment

STUDENT COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (SCA) OFFICERS 2019-2020

President	Mason Filio
Vice President	Anthony Guillen
Secretary	Malaya Summers
Treasurer	Matias Corvalan
Historian	Verity O'Shea
Committee	Matias Corvalan

STUDENT DELIVERIES

Students may NOT receive any form of delivery (balloons, food, flowers, etc.) that is not necessary for the school day. Food items including, but not limited to fast foods, pizzas, and cakes, will not be accepted for delivery to students; however, parents are welcome to join their own student for lunch in our school cafeteria at a designated location.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations set forth by the School Board and the school.

TELEPHONES

Students may use **office** telephones before and after school. During school hours of **9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, office phones may only be used in case of an emergency. In the event of an emergency, a staff member will contact the home on behalf of the student. **Personal cell phones** need to be turned off and out of sight between the time students arrive at school until dismissal. Students will not be removed from class to speak to their parents on the phone. If it is an emergency, please call the School Counseling Office.

TRANSPORTATION

Students not in the walking zone are assigned a bus to ride before and after school. Students are NOT permitted to change buses without approval from the Brandon Middle Administration and the bus driver(s) involved. If a student would like to ride a different bus home for a special circumstance, the student must bring in a note from parent/guardian to the main office for approval no later than **10:10 a.m.** The note will be verified by the office staff and the student will receive a bus pass at the

end of the school day. Bus passes will not be approved the last two (2) weeks of school.

TUTORIAL CENTER INFORMATION

Brandon Middle School students may participate in before or after-school tutoring beginning in mid-October. These sessions require the students to sign-up outside the tutor's classroom at least twenty-four hours prior to the session. In mid-November, after the first grading period, after-school tutoring will take place on Tuesday afternoons and students may be assigned to specific classrooms. Activity buses are available for those residing in bus zones. If a student participates in after-school tutoring and resides in the walking zone, they must walk home unless parents provides transportation. Students earning a grade of 69 or below at progress report time will be recommended for tutoring.

Hours are from **4:00 to 5:40p.m.** and during athletic team tryouts 2nd -4th quarter **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** All students must remain with their tutors until dismissal to the buses.

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC PLAN

Buses load and unload students on the gym side and on the cafeteria side. No cars are allowed in the bus loading/unloading area from **8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. and 3:25 p.m. to 4:10 p.m.** Parents may drop off or unload students at the front of the building. In addition, parents may not park where parking is prohibited.

YEARBOOK

Brandon Middle School produces a yearbook. Yearbook orders are taken **only online** at **www.ybpay.com**, until **April 19, 2020**. Yearbooks are delivered in June after SOL testing is completed.

AFTER-SCHOOL BUS PRIVILEGES MAY BE REVOKED FOR ANY STUDENT WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM ANY ACADEMIC, NON-ACADEMIC CLUB OR ATHLETIC TEAM, FOR NINE (9) WEEKS, AS WELL AS BEING REMOVED FROM THE ACTIVITY BUS.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Any authorized or unauthorized use in school or out of school of computer software, computer networks, telecommunications devices, information technology, and related technologies, which disrupts or interferes with the educational process in any matter is prohibited and may result in removal from any team or activity and a recommendation for expulsion.

[Link to VBCPS Student Handbook](#)