Bright Beginning Center - Hopedale Public Schools

August/September 2026 School Calendar

Absentee Call In: 508-634-2213

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 BBC Orientation Day	2 First Day of School at BBC	3 Friends of Bright Beginners Welcome Back Party 5:30-6:30 pm	4 **No School**	5
6	7 **No School** Labor Day	8 Hopedale School Committee Meeting 6:00 pm, JSHS	9 Friends of BBC Meeting, 7:15 pm, BBC	10 BBC Curriculum Night (adults only) 6:00-7:45 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16 BBC School Spirit Day: wear Hopedale blue and white	17	18	19 Hopedale Day in the Park
20	21 Friends of BBC Fundraiser at Blue Square Pizza, 4:00-8:00 pm	22 Music Enrichment with Mr. Gerry	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

BBC Family Academy

Portrait of a Preschooler: At Home Connections

The PK–12 Portrait of a Graduate is Hopedale Public Schools' “North Star”. It defines the key skills, mindsets, and character traits that the community wants every student to possess by the time they walk across the stage at high school graduation. Instead of focusing solely on traditional test scores or academic subjects, the Portrait of a Graduate outlines the broader life skills students need to thrive in a changing world. The Portrait of a Graduate is a commitment to your child's entire school journey in Hopedale. As they move from preschool through the elementary, middle, and high school years, educators across Hopedale will purposefully weave these core competencies into daily activities, projects, and learning experiences. Each month, we will share at home connections that can help you foster this growth at home.

Critical and Creative Thinkers: *Imaginative play*

Imaginative play boosts vocabulary, problem-solving, and emotional regulation in early childhood. Here are ways to encourage play at home:

- **Create an "Anything Box":** Collect safe, open-ended items like empty cardboard boxes, paper towel tubes, fabric scraps, and wooden spoons. Unlike single-use toys, these loose parts adapt to whatever your child imagines, a rocket ship, a castle, or a telephone.
- **Rotate Toys to Avoid Overstimulation:** Keep only a small selection of toys accessible at a time and store the rest out of sight. Rotating toys every few weeks keeps old items feeling novel and encourages deeper focus during play.
- **Follow Their Lead and Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Join in by taking on a supporting role in their narrative. Ask questions that spark curiosity rather than dictating the plot, such as *"What should we do if it starts raining in our fort?"* or *"How does this magic potion work?"*

Global Citizens: *Participate in local community events with your child*

Participating in local community events helps preschoolers build social confidence, explore the world around them, and feel a sense of belonging. Check out these upcoming events:

- **Friends of Bright Beginners Welcome Back Party, September 3rd:** Join Friends of Bright Beginners for a fun-filled hour of play on the BBC playground from 5:30-6:30 as we celebrate the return to school.
- **Saturday Programs at Bancroft Memorial Library**: Hopedale’s Bancroft Memorial Library hosts events such as Lego building, movie matinees, and other special events on Saturdays throughout the year.
- **Hopedale Day in the Park, September 19th:** this family-friendly event features a fine art show, live entertainment, craft vendors, local food booths, and interactive activities for children like animal shows and games.

Responsible Decision Makers: *Offer simple choices*

Offering simple choices builds independence, decision-making skills, and emotional regulation in preschoolers while reducing power struggles. Practical ways to incorporate choices into your daily routine include:

- **Limit Options to Two Clear Items:** Keep choices simple and binary so your child doesn't feel overwhelmed.
- **Offer Control Over the "How," Not the "Whether":** Make non-negotiable routines smoother by offering choices within the task. Instead of asking if it's time to clean up, ask *"Do you want to put away the blocks first or the crayons first?"* or *"Do you want to hop like a bunny or walk like a bear to the bathtub?"*
- **Incorporate Autonomy into Outfits:** Select two weather-appropriate outfits or two pairs of shoes and let your child choose which set to wear. This prevents debates over wearing a swimsuit in winter while still honoring their preferences.

Leaders: *Talk about changes to your daily schedule and how to handle them*

Preparing preschoolers for schedule changes builds resilience, reduces anxiety, and helps them feel secure as they transition into the new school year. Practical ways to talk about and navigate routine shifts at home include:

- **Use "First / Then" Language to Preview Steps**: Give your child a clear roadmap for unexpected or new changes. Saying "First we are going to pick up big brother from school, and then we will go to the playground" helps them process transitions without feeling surprised.
- **Keep Core Anchors Consistent:** When the rest of the schedule shifts, keep key anchor points predictable, such as a specific bedtime story, a familiar goodbye hug at drop-off, or a favorite snack after school.
- **Model Flexible Thinking Out Loud:** When an adult plan changes unexpectedly, narrate your own adjustments calm and clear: "Oh, the park is closed today. That's disappointing, but we can adapt and go to the library instead!"