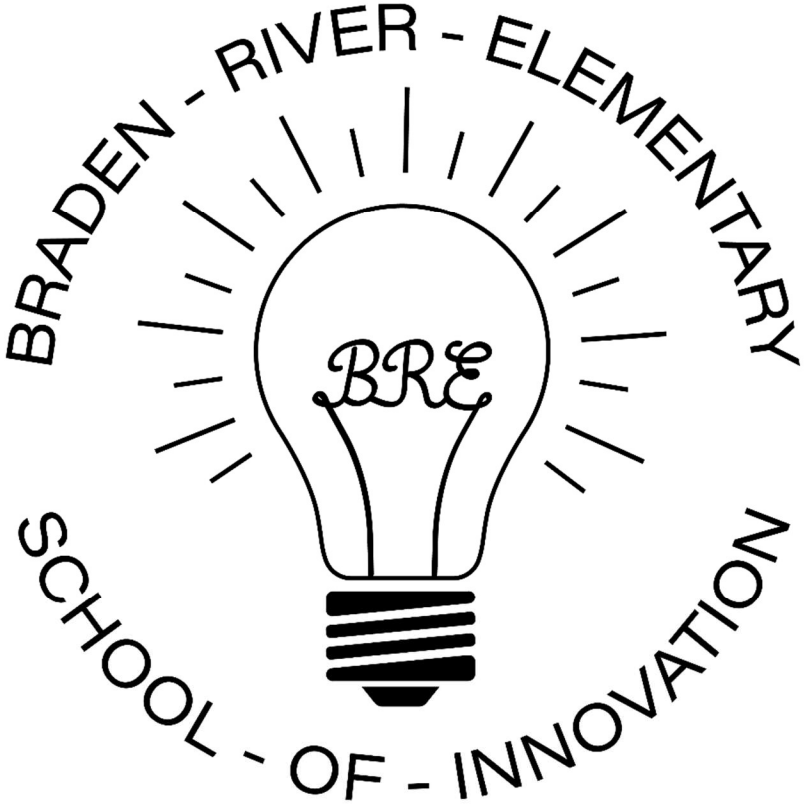
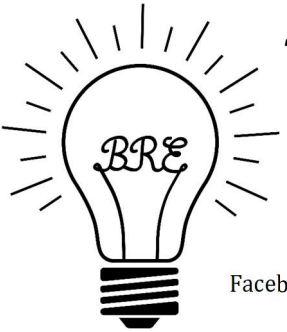


Parent-Student Handbook

2026-2027

Braden River Elementary



School of Innovation

6125 River Club Blvd.
Bradenton, Florida 34202
941-751-7012
Fax 941-753-0911

www.manateeschools.net/bradenriverel
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BradenRiverElementary

Parent-Student Handbook 2026-2027

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Welcome to
Braden River Elementary School!

Vision Statement

Sparking Innovative Leaders and Thinkers!

Mission Statement

Our mission at Braden River Elementary School is to engage our school community with innovative ways of learning to best prepare for an ever-changing world. By promoting leadership, collaboration and inquiry, we will foster and strengthen Life Skills and Project Based Learning opportunities.

Dear Parents and Families,

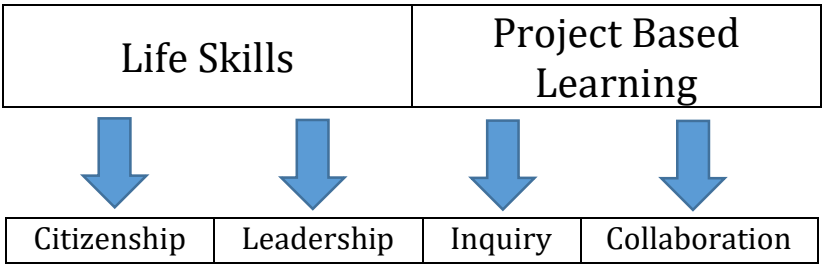
Thank you for choosing Braden River Elementary School, A School of Innovation, for your child's education. The school community has focused on sparking innovative leaders and thinkers through the design and implementation of project-based learning (PBL) units, with a focus on life skills. Our staff, students, and families have truly embraced this schoolwide focus, which provides students with opportunities to develop needed skill sets for the future. Please inquire with your child's teacher about what PBL units your child will be engaging in this school year.

The information contained in this parent-student handbook has been developed specifically for your use. Its purpose is to inform you of the school's programs, procedures, and opportunities that will assist us all in becoming full partners in your child's educational process. We believe in developing and maintaining an open line of communication between home and school. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the school.

As the principal of Braden River Elementary School, I look forward to serving students and families. We are grateful for your involvement and look forward to partnering with you to create an excellent educational experience for your child.

Mrs. Mary Oliva, Principal

School Focus



Life Skills:

Our goal is to create students that are empowered to be great citizens and demonstrate leadership qualities in their daily life. We do that through teaching and valuing curriculum to include life skills. We have identified seven-character traits that create a BRE Learner Profile. These traits are incorporated into each Project Based Learning unit of study.

Project Based Learning:

Our goal is to create learning opportunities that allow students to work through a project based approach that includes inquiry and collaboration. Project based learning (PBL) is a student-centered approach in which students learn about a subject by working in groups to solve an open-ended problem. This problem is what drives the motivation and the learning. Our teachers and staff have worked through many planning sessions to create authentic BRE grade level units. These units are implemented at various times throughout the school year so that students are able to work through inquiry and collaboration to learn and solve the problem. Our PTO has generously allowed us to provide extensive training, send staff to conferences, and to bring a national speaker/presenter to our school to provide training to our instructional staff. This approach is not just providing a unique one-of-a-kind learning experience for your students but will also be preparing them for a future of learning in middle school, high school and beyond. Lifelong learners constantly ask questions, and then seek those answers, that is what we are teaching through these units.

Contact Info:

Mary Oliva, Principal ***olivam@manateeschools.net***	**x 57001**
Dr. Tina Stancil, Assistant Principal ***stancilt@manateeschools.net***	**x 57002**
Krissie Daughtry, School Counselor ***daughtryk@manateeschools.net***	**x 57083**
Tiffany Greer, Student Support Specialist ***barrettgreert@manateeschools.net***	**x 57009**
Alison Kendzior, Sr. Secretary/Bookkeeper	**x 57003**
Julie Danke, Registrar	**x 57011**
Cathy McElfatrick, Cafeteria Manager	**x 57014**
Clinic Staff	**x 57006**
Absentee Line	**751-7012 x8**
School Board-District Office	**708-8770**
Bus Transportation	**782-1287**

School Hours

Monday - Friday 8:25 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Early Release Days 8:25 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sept 25th, Oct. 2nd, Feb. 26th, March 11th,

Early Release Days 8:25 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Oct. 28th, Feb. 10th, May 25th, May 26th, May 27th

** For safety reasons, students are not allowed on campus prior to 7:55 am unless enrolled in a supervised program. Adult supervision begins at 7:55 am. **

Braden River Front Office Hours
7:55 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Student Code of Conduct

Please review the entire SDMC Student Code of Conduct with your child. https://www.manateeschools.net/policy

Uniform Policy

Shirts (colors: SOLID navy blue, light blue, white or red)

- Solid polo/golf shirt with or without BRE logo
- BRE uniform "Dri-fit" shirt in navy blue, light blue, white or red

Bottoms (colors: SOLID black, khaki, or navy)

- Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, or capri pants
- Form-fitting or excessively tight-fitting skirts, shorts, and pants (to include leggings, jeggings, or clothing made from materials such as spandex or Lycra), must have an over-garment, which extends down to your fingertips as your hands are extended to your side.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers must be a resaonable length - no shorter than above the tips of the fingers, with arms and hands extended straight down.
- No blue jeans or denim except on Fridays

Jumpers/Dresses (colors: navy blue, light blue, white, black, red, or khaki)

- Solid color, collared dresses or jumpers
- Jumpers and dresses must be no shorter than above the tips of the fingers, with arms and hands extended straight down.

Fridays will be School Spirit Days:

- Students may wear a BRE school shirt such as the official BRE T-shirt, Runners Club, Walk-a-thon, prior year T-shirts, etc.
- Bottoms can be jeans or denim on Fridays only.

BRE logo polo shirts, t-shirts, and sweatshirts are available at https://bradenriverelem.weebly.com. The only acceptable T-shirts (except for Spirit Days on Fridays) will be the uniform shirt with the BRE logo. Footwear must be appropriate for school and follow the current Manatee County School Board Policy. For safety reasons, flip flops are not to be worn.

The complete uniform policy can be found on our school website. Our uniform policy is mandatory for every student who attends BRE. A student new to BRE has 10 days to comply with our uniform policy. In addition to our guidelines, BRE continues to follow the Manatee School Board Dress Code Policy.

Student Badge

All students in the Manatee County School District are required to wear a student identification badge. This badge is provided at the beginning of each school year for free. The badge is needed for immediate recognition of students, checking out/in materials (media books), getting on and of the school bus, and to scan at the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. If the student loses or damages their badge throughout the year a replacement can be purchased for $5.00 through the front office. Checks can be made to Braden River Elementary or exact cash can be brought in for this replacement process.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival / Drop-Off

Drop-off and pick-up area for car riders is in the car rider loop between the middle and elementary school. Adults should not exit their vehicles in car riders. During the active drop-off and pick-up stay in your vehicle and let the school staff or safety patrols assist. Please do not park in the paid reserved spots.

Car Riders / Walkers / Day Cares / Buses / Bike Riders

6:30am Only students under the supervision of the before school program (Sparkler Care) permitted on campus.

7:55am Student drop off begins. All students will report to their morning waiting area in our building hallways unless they are eating breakfast in the cafeteria. Students are expected to read or talk to classmates with a level 1 voice. No student can be dropped off prior to 7:55am in the car rider area.

8:20am The first bell rings and all students need to report to their morning waiting area outside of their classrooms.

8:25am Students are allowed inside their classrooms when the bell rings. Any student arriving after this time will be considered **tardy**. Students who are tardy must report to the main office to be marked tardy in order to be admitted to class.

Upon arrival, during the first two days of school, all students will receive a wristband indicating how they will go home. PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students are to wear these bands for the first five days of school. All students will have a tag placed on their backpacks, to keep for the remainder of the school year.

**We suggest that you begin a routine with your child as soon as possible. Constant changes will cause confusion for your child and need for them to know multiple routines.

Dismissal / Pick-Up

Changes in transportation should be made in the PMK app before 2:30pm and 45 minutes prior on early release days.

Bus Riders/Day Cares

3:15pm Bus and Day Care riders will be dismissed to the bus loading area. They will wait in the section designated for their bus until their bus arrives.

Car Riders

3:15pm Pre-K – 3rd grade car riders will meet in the café and 4th-5th will meet in designated rooms in building 5. Students will be dismissed from the café to the car rider area with the PikMyKid app. Your child will be moved through the queue to be released. Please follow the traffic pattern and proceed to the loading area. Remember to have your car rider identification sign (provided by the school) posted in your vehicle, so that we may identify you by the tag. Please leave tag posted until your student(s) are in your vehicle. If you need to come into the building, park your car in the spaces provided and enter through the front building.

Parent Walk-Up

3:15pm All parent walk-up students will meet in the café just before the dismissal bell. Students will be dismissed from the café to the parent walk-up area with the PikMyKid app. Remember to have your car rider identification sign (provided by the school) with you at parent walk-up. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children once dismissed.

Walkers / Bike Riders

3:20pm Students will meet in a common meeting area with a staff member to walk them off campus. Students must use sidewalks provided to exit school grounds. Bikes, scooters and skateboards must be walked off school grounds and riders should always wear a helmet. There is no supervision for students once they leave campus.

Sparkler Care

3:45pm Dismissal will not begin until 3:45pm for students enrolled in the Sparkler Care afterschool program.

Early Dismissal of Students

Any time a child leaves school before normal dismissal their education is disrupted as is the education of every member of the class. There is also a safety factor with last minute changes during a busy time on a school campus. In fairness to everyone, please do not request early dismissal for your children except for a doctor's appointment or an extreme emergency. As with unexcused tardiness, every three unexcused early dismissals equal one unexcused absence for truancy purposes.

However, we realize situations arise where early dismissal is necessary. You must pick up your child by **2:30PM** (45-minutes before the bell on early release days)**.** Changes or dismissals after that time pose a safety and security issue as the school goes into normal dismissal routines. If it is necessary to pick up your children before dismissal for one of the reasons listed above, please come to the school office first. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A TEACHER RELEASE A STUDENT TO A PARENT EXCEPT THROUGH THE OFFICE.**

These rules are for the safety and welfare of your children. Dismissal is a busy time and our attention must be on getting all students home efficiently and safely. We appreciate your cooperation.

Change in Method of Transportation Home

If there is to be any change in your child's transportation going home, please use the PikMyKid App or call the school office prior to 2:30 PM For example, if you are planning to pick up your child after school and he/she normally rides a bus, we must be notified. *We do not accept the child's word as to the method of transportation home if it is inconsistent with the normal pattern.* (Please read EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS above.) Remember, students are not allowed to ride another bus or get on or off at a different bus stop for any reason, even with a note from their parent/guardian.

PLEASE NOTE: Children are easily confused by frequent changes in their routines. By being consistent in the method of transportation provided for your child, you will help ensure a safe arrival home.

Walkers & Bicycle Safety

School staff will walk all bikers/walkers to the campus exits each afternoon. Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students must have an adult present to ensure safety to and from school.

The following Florida Bicycle Laws must be followed to assure safety to and from school:

1. Wear a bicycle helmet at all times--it's required by law.
2. Ride single file close to the right side of the street. Make no sudden change of course.
3. Ride alone - only one person on a bike.
4. Obey all traffic signs and signals.

Because of congestion during arrival and dismissal, students are not allowed to ride bicycles on the school grounds. Bicycles should be walked to the bicycle rack and locked. We are not liable for bicycles that are stolen from school property.

Parents will be notified by the PMK app or the office if students cannot be dismissed because of inclement weather.

School Bus Procedures

Safety on the bus depends on the cooperation of each child. Bus drivers will review safety procedures on the bus during the first week of school. When students fail to cooperate with the bus driver, parents will be notified via a bus referral and the privilege of riding the bus may be temporarily suspended. We suggest that parents wait at designated bus stops in the morning and meet students in the afternoon to ensure safe practices are being followed. Pk-1st grade students must have an adult present at the stop or will be brought back to school. Parents are responsible for their child at the bus stop prior to the arrival of the bus in the morning and after the departure of the bus at the end of the day. Bus rules are given to each student at the beginning of the year with registration cards. They are also available at the office or in the Student Code of Conduct. https://www.manateeschools.net/registertoride

Special Note: School Board Policy prohibits any student from riding a bus to which he/she is not assigned. Friends may not accompany bus riders' home from school for any reason. Changes in buses and bus stops can only be made if a child moves and must be approved in advance through the transportation department.

Golf Carts

While on the premises of BRE golf carts should be following all traffic/vehicle protocols. If parking for arrival/dismissal, students should be escorted to/from the grassy area by the marquee.

School Choice / Out of Zone (OOZ) Guidelines

Our school has several students that attend through the school choice and out of zone (OOZ) process. We are so pleased to be one of the most chosen schools in the district. As parents accept that choice or OOZ approval the district provides specific guidelines that must be met in order to stay in good standing. **The requirements to continue to attend an out of zone school are less than: 10-Unexcused Absences, 20-Unexcused Tardies/Early Release, 6-Discipline Referrals or 5 Days of Suspension.** This is all provided under state policy 5.7.IV.C.2 regarding student assignment. If any of these limits are exceeded by the family, the school will notify and create a contracted plan for improvement for the future. If the contract doesn't create a situation that improves the deficit areas the administration can recommend revocation of the out of zone privilege. If approved the parents would be notified of the new school assignment and the student would be withdrawn. We have many families that are waiting to enter our school on choice or OOZ with the space limitation we are not able to accept all so we want to provide each family that can meet the above guidelines with that opportunity to attend BRE.

Attendance and Tardiness

State Law 232.01 states that children attending school must be in attendance daily unless the individual is sick or there is an emergency in the family. This same law implies that pupils are expected to be in school on time (8:25 am) each school day. Any student who is not in line to enter class at 8:25 am must be brought by a parent/guardian to the office to request a tardy slip before going to the classroom. The gate at the car rider entrance is closed each morning at 8:25am.

Absence Procedures

Please call the school (751-7012 x 8) by 9:00 am if your child is to be absent. If your child is absent and the school has not been notified, the FOCUS system will contact you by telephone. If you do not contact the school these absences will be marked unexcused. If a child accrues 7 unexcused absences in a thirty-day period, the parent/guardian will receive a letter informing them that those absences will show as unexcused on the child's permanent record and may require an appearance in court. It is vital that parents/guardians are aware that they are held legally responsible for their child's attendance. Please always provide a doctor's note anytime your child is seen in the doctor's office. Sometimes parents request that their child be allowed to miss school for trips of various sorts. While in many cases there may be value to be derived from the trip or the family finds it convenient for the student to be out of school, such absences are recorded as unexcused. You are

required to notify the office in writing in advance of any such absences. If such an absence does occur, the student is required to make up the work missed. It should be realized that making up the work missed will not take the place of classroom instruction.

Tardiness

Being late and being picked up early disrupts the educational process for not only for your student but for the teacher and other students of his/her class as well. Being on time is a vital ingredient for success as children develop. A record of tardiness as well as absences are reported to parents at the close of each quarter and are recorded on the student's permanent record. (County policy: 3 unexcused tardies equals 1 unexcused absence). Excessive tardiness may require an appearance in court.

Withdrawal Procedures

Please notify the school at least one day in advance if it becomes necessary to withdraw your child. Parents must sign a withdrawal form before the student can be withdrawn. This will help to ensure the timely preparation of student transfer information.

Change of Address or Telephone Number

Our school files need to contain accurate information in case of an emergency. Enrolling parent/guardian needs to update their parent FOCUS portal with any change of telephone numbers. We must have a daytime phone number on file. Please notify us immediately of any change of address. Documents providing proof of residency are required to be uploaded into FOCUS by the parent. Once you have uploaded, contact the front office or registrar and the information will be changed.

Home-School Communication

Communication and cooperation between home and school is vital to the learning environment. At Braden River Elementary, a variety of methods are used both school-wide and by individual teachers to bridge the gap between the home and the school. Some of these include the school Facebook, PTO/SAC meetings, ClassDojo, midterm progress reports, conferences, student agendas, our school website, and an outgoing electronic phone message system (text/email and phone).

Individual avenues to communication provided by classroom teachers might include parent-teacher conferences, telephone calls, personal notes, student contracts, student work sent home, classroom newsletters, or texting reminder Apps. Teachers should communicate bi-weekly with any important classroom information.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Your child's progress reports cannot tell you everything you need to know about his/her progress. For this and other reasons, our teachers are willing to meet whenever a parent has a concern. SDMC has designated Conference Nights for Q1 and Q3. If you would like to schedule an additional conference, please follow these procedures.

1. Call the school (751-7012) and press option 1 for a staff directory. Your child's teacher will return the call and schedule a conference. Please come to school expecting to talk with a teacher only if you have made an appointment.
2. Be on time for scheduled conferences. If you are late, there may not be adequate time to discuss your child's progress.
3. Please stop at the office to check in and receive a visitor's pass before going to your child's classroom during school hours. Allowing a few extra minutes for this will allow for maximum conference time.
4. Keep in mind that we are working to help your child make as much progress as possible. An atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support will help us reach this goal.
5. Conferences are scheduled before or after school when the teacher is free from student responsibilities and able to devote attention to your concerns.

Other Conferences

You may be scheduled for an Intensive Support Team (IST) meeting. These meetings are to work with the school-based team to plan for instruction and to inform the parent about special services for which your child may qualify.

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Report cards are issued every quarter (nine-week period); Progress reports are issued mid-quarter for 3rd-5th. Students in grades Kindergarten-2nd grade are graded with a numeric rubric. Students in 3rd-5th grades receive letter grades. Report Cards and Progress Reports can be viewed in the FOCUS Parent Portal. Paper copies will not be sent home.

Parent Portal for Report Cards/Progress Reports Access

When creating an account in the Parent Portal, you will need your child's 10-digit ID number, if your child does not know the number you may call the office and we can assist. Once you have an account it states you have to bring your ID to the school, stop by the office or call the school and we will ask a couple of security questions to verify you. You will then have immediate access to your account. FOCUS Directions

Student Behavior

Today's children face many challenges. As our world becomes increasingly complicated, it is more and more necessary that children acquire skills which will help them make good decisions. There are many dangers in today's world and the child who has learned self-responsibility is the one most likely to confront critical situations with confidence and success.

We subscribe to the belief that it is important for students to accept responsibility for their own actions and that the consequences of these actions result from the choices they make. This approach teaches children strategies to use when faced with choices regarding their personal behavior. Hopefully, these skills will be applied in the future to make good decisions about issues that may affect the rest of their lives.

When a student is not following our expectations for behavior, his or her classroom teacher counsels him/her individually. If the student exhibits a lack of cooperation, or the behaviors are deemed dangerous or interfering with the opportunities of others, further disciplinary action will be taken. Parents may be contacted for information and assistance. Occasionally a child exhibits behavior that requires the attention of the Administration team. In such a case, the parent will be notified.

Ms. Greer, Student Support Specialist, is the main liaison for student behavior concerns. She communicates with the Principal and Assistant Principal to promote positive behavior supports and consistent discipline consequences. Each instance is dealt with privately and individually, and we do follow the **School District of Manatee County** **Code of Student Conduct**. That document details the expectations and guidelines of student behavior in any Manatee County School. The Student Code of Conduct can be found on the SDMC District Website. If a disciplinary referral is issued, parents can view it in the FOCUS parent portal.

Please note that students are responsible to make up any work missed as a result of an out-of-school suspension. Also, the student's parent/guardian must meet with an administrator upon a student's return to school from an out-of-school suspension.

The staff, teachers, and parents of Braden River Elementary School feel that our students and staff deserve a campus that is safe and secure. Braden River Elementary has a zero-tolerance policy for threats of violence against any person. There is also a zero-tolerance policy for guns or knives (toys included).

Media

All Students will have the opportunity to check out books from our media center. Students will utilize their student badges to check in and out books. Students then will be required to check back in the books before checking out additional books through the media center. Students are responsible for the books checked out to them, in case they are lost or damaged. Lost/damaged books may be replaced with a **new, hard cover** replacement of the book. Payments can be made with cash, check, or online through RevTrak. Access Revtrak under "Families" on our school website. Select Fines and BRES Library Fines to submit payment.

Fine Arts Program

Students will rotate through one fine arts class each day. The rotation includes: Art, Music, PE , Media and STEM.

Field Trips

Field trips are designed to enhance the instructional program. Students must have written consent in order to participate. Students may lose the privilege of attending field trips due to persistent misconduct or poor work habits. All students are required to use the transportation provided by the school. Only those parents designated by the school as chaperones may accompany the class on field trips. A District application is required in advance of being a chaperone. For safety reasons, parents serving as chaperones are not able to bring younger children.

Website / SDMC App / Facebook

Our BRE website is a great method of knowing all events that are taking place at BRE. manateeschools.net/o/bradenriverel . The MySDMC app is a wonderful resource with district and BRE information, just search MySDMC on your mobile device. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/bradenriverelementary for current posts of BRE activities and on our school-wide Class-Dojo.

Telephone and Email Messages

Automated messages by voice, email and text will be sent out frequently to keep you apprised of attendance concerns, special events, early dismissals and other information that is important to you and your family through FOCUS. We know that email is a frequent and efficient way to communicate for the most of you, so please be sure we have your email in FOCUS.

*If your phone number or email changes, please make sure you update your parent FOCUS portal and inform your child's teacher.

Items from Home

There are very few occasions when it is necessary (or desirable) for students to bring items from home to school other than their school-related supplies. With violence and the use of weapons becoming more and more prevalent in our society, weapons or weapon-style toys of any kind, including scout or jack knives, nail file/manicure kits, toy knives, swords or any sharp weapon-like object, or any type of gun, including toy or squirt, as well as bullets, lighters or matches are not permitted on school property at any time. Violation of this rule by students may result in a suspension. Refer to the Manatee County Code of Conduct book for details. The occasions listed below are examples of when appropriate items from home would be allowed.

1. Primary (grades K-3) students, at the teacher's discretion, are occasionally allowed to bring items to school for "sharing" time. Appropriate articles include educational books, pictures, vacation souvenirs, puppets, and small toys. **These things should be brought in an appropriate container and only on the day designated by the teacher.** Children are not allowed to play with the items at school, but only to use them as a means of developing communication skills (telling other students about the toy, etc.) Any child playing with items from home or bringing inappropriate articles (radios, glass items, gang related objects, etc.) may have them confiscated.

2. Students in grades 2-5 may be allowed to bring certain athletic equipment (soccer balls, basketballs, etc.) to school for use at recess. Softballs, baseballs and baseball bats are not allowed for safety reasons.

The school cannot be responsible for the loss or damage of anything that a child brings from home.

Physical Activity

1. Physical activity (including recess) will not be denied or required as part of discipline or punishment.
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be included in other subject areas and stretch breaks will be incorporated where possible.

School Health Services

The goal of your school health staff is to provide care for your child(ren) in the event of illness or injury while at school. If you are contacted by school or health personnel to pick up your child from school due to illness, injury, or possible communicable disease, **you need to make arrangements to pick up your child within 30 minutes.** The clinic is very comprehensive in evaluating and assessing your child. If they determine a phone call is needed, then that communication will occur. The clinic does not call for 100% of visits. School health rooms do not have adequate space to retain sick and injured children who need to go home or be seen by a doctor. Children should be fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) before returning to school. If you have a doctor's orders related to your child's activity levels or limitations, an adult needs to communicate these to the clinic staff. Do not send this with a child or expect a student to be responsible for critical information. Please feel free to discuss with the school nurse any and all special needs your child(ren) may have that would require care and attention while in school at 751-7012 x57006.

Notice: Administering Medication

Whenever possible, medication schedules should be arranged so all medication is given at home. For children to receive medication during the school day the following guidelines must be followed:

1. Only prescription medicine will be given at school. Over the counter, or sample medications, will be treated as a prescription and must be accompanied by orders from the physician.
2. All medications and medical supplies to be administered in school to an elementary student must be delivered to the school by a parent or other responsible adult. When presented in the clinic, parents will fill out the authorization for medication form before the medication is given. New MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION FORMS will be requested each school year or with any change in medication.
3. Prescription containers must be childproof, contain the child's name, attending physician, the name of the medication, the amount to be given, the frequency of administration and any special instructions.
4. Sample bottles of medication must be accompanied by a written prescription and labeled with the child's name.
5. The parent and/or physician should make school personnel aware (in writing) of symptoms or possible reactions relating to the medication or lack of medication.
6. No medicine for acute or contagious illness should be given in schools. Children should be home under these conditions.

Visitors: Thank you for bringing a picture ID to sign in when you visit BRE!

Security & Visitor Sign-In Procedures

At Braden River Elementary School, parent involvement is strongly encouraged. We welcome parents and other relatives to our school. We want our parents and families to feel welcome at school, yet, we all know that security of schools is of the utmost importance. Our front doors are on a magnetic lock system, so please press the button to call the front office. Identify your name and purpose of your visit, and the office staff will allow access into the building. You are welcome to visit your child for lunch at BRE. No breakfast or lunch visitors for the first 2 weeks of school due to routines and procedures. Please remember that anyone coming on campus during school hours must bring a driver's license, government issued picture ID, or other acceptable form of identification to the school office to sign in before proceeding to any area of the school. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS UNLESS THEY ARE WEARING A SCHOOL ID OR A STICKER OBTAINED THAT DAY FROM OUR SCHOOL OFFICE.** Note: You must provide the same type of ID to sign a student out of school. Please make sure you exit through the front office to sign out when leaving.

Volunteers – Welcome!

All volunteers are required to complete a district volunteer Level 1 application and sign-in in the school office through our Raptor System. A picture ID that can be scanned using this system is required.

Volunteer Level 2 clearance is required to chaperone on field trips and to volunteer on campus.

Volunteer applications and volunteer handbook can be found on the district website at www.manateeschools.net/o/sdmc/page/volunteers Those interested should contact the school office or your child's teacher. If you have expressed an interest and have not been contacted, please call the school office as we may not have been able to reach you.

Braden River Cafeteria

The Braden River Cafeteria is run on a computerized point of sale system, which enables us to have money held in an account for each student. Your child may purchase milk, juice, or an additional entree' or side dish as long as there is money in his/her account. To ensure that your child is accurately credited with the amount of money that you send in, please be sure to place the money or check in a sealed envelope with the child's name, teacher's name and "lunch money" written on the front. Checks should be made out to Braden River Elementary School. Envelopes will be collected by the teacher each morning and sent to the cafeteria. All money sent in will be applied to the student's account, as we cannot send back change. Payments can also be made online at www.schoolcafe.com/manateecountyschools which also where you can view the school menus.

Free/Reduced Family Application

Apply online at www.schoolcafe.com/manateecountyschools, click on "Free & Reduced Meals" for free or reduced meal status. Eligibility for free or reduced meals will be determined by state and federal guidelines at the District Food Service office. Applications are required to be filled out annually.

Breakfast

Breakfast is served every morning from **7:55 to 8:25 a.m.** in the cafeteria. **ALL students can receive breakfast daily at no charge.** **The meal is considered free if it is a complete meal.** All students wanting to have breakfast should report directly to the cafe upon arriving at school during serving hours. Students must be in line by 8:20 a.m. to receive breakfast. The price of an adult breakfast is $3.75.

Lunch

Lunch is $3.50 daily and $ .40 for reduced priced meals. The price of an adult lunch is $5.00. Students who bring lunch from home will also eat in the cafeteria. Parents are asked not to send any carbonated beverages, candy or gum in homemade lunches. If you have any questions about the cafeteria or your child's account, please call our Cafeteria Manager at 751-7012 x57014.

We would be pleased to have you join us for breakfast or lunch at any time after the first 2 weeks of school. You must sign in at the front desk in the office and receive a visitor pass which is required for anyone visiting Braden River Elementary. For the safety of our students, your child is not allowed to bring a friend to the parent table. Please make sure you exit through the front office to sign out when leaving.

Nutrition and Wellness Policy 5.13

The Nutrition and Wellness Policy 5.13 was updated to meet new Smart Snack regulations. The policy was written based on current research and with student health and wellbeing as the focus. The School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) will be responsible for evaluating the policy and the Food and Nutrition Services will be responsible for monitoring compliance. A list of healthy snacks can be found on our website.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack

1. Students must take 1/2 cup of fruit or vegetable and 2 other components to qualify as a complete meal.
2. Access to water will be available in all cafeterias.
3. All nutritional content will be available online and through the NutriSlice Mobile App.
4. Parents can only bring food into the cafeteria for their child.

Classroom Celebrations

Food must be from a licensed food service establishment and have an ingredient label. Classroom celebrations can only be offered the last 60 minutes of the day. Our school cafeteria offers Celebration baskets, please contact Café manager x57014 or options are posted online under Food & Nutrition.

Classroom Food/Rewards

1. Classroom rewards and snacks must meet Smart Snack Nutritional Standards.
2. Non-food alternatives should be used as rewards.
3. Students are allowed to have water bottles unless there is a discipline issue.
4. Fundraising foods can only be sold 30 minutes after meal service hours.

Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Executive Board

President	Ricky Jessop
Vice-President	Brittany McDonald
Secretary	Nicole Potter
Co-Treasurers	Sarah Hall & Dedrix Daka

PTO Website: www.brepto.org
Contact Email: brepto6125@gmail.com

What is PTO?

Braden River's PTO is an informed group of parents and teachers that provides financial support to school projects through yearly fundraisers and promotes parent volunteerism in our school.

Why should I belong to PTO?

1. To show pride in my child's school
2. To take part in fun events
3. To have input in how PTO funds are allocated
4. To support teachers and staff
5. To make friends of other parents and school staff
6. To show my child that education is important

PTO / SAC Meeting Dates

Thursday, September 17, 2026	Thursday, February 18, 2027
Thursday, October 15, 2026	Tuesday, March 23, 2027
Thursday, November 12, 2026	Thursday, April 15, 2027
Thursday, January 14, 2026	Thursday, May 13, 2027

School Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings immediately follow our PTO meetings which begin at 6pm.

What is SAC?

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) has several purposes in the functioning of a highly effective school. The first is to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan. Also to assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget with technical assistance from the Department of Education.

Sparking Innovative Leaders and Thinkers!