

BRUIN BLOCK at Lake Braddock Secondary School

Why Do We Have BRUIN BLOCK?

We are committed to ensuring student success by providing time during the school day for students to receive extensions of lessons, additional instruction, and one-on-one assistance. Additionally, we use the BRUIN BLOCK for school-wide initiatives which preserves the integrity of instructional time.

BRUIN BLOCK:

- Supports research driven changes
- Builds strong student-teacher relationships
- Reduces “pull-outs” during class and more quality instructional time
- Is designed by teachers at Lake Braddock who understand the individual needs of our students

Our students are committed to more demanding schedules, academic pursuits, competitive extracurricular participation, and increasing family and employment responsibilities. It is our hope that the BRUIN BLOCK will enable our students to balance all of these very important components.

What is the BRUIN BLOCK?

- Time built into the school day for students to receive extra help, seek explanation, study, work together, read and meet with teachers.
- Enrichment, Review, Practice
- Time built into the school day for school-wide initiatives

When is the BRUIN BLOCK?

- This year middle and high school will have the same BRUIN BLOCK schedule.
 - Wednesday from 9:01-10:06
- BRUIN BLOCK will have two 30 minute sessions
 - Session A: 9:01-- 9:31
 - Session B: 9:36-- 10:06

- Students have a choice to attend one of their seven classes unless the **BRUIN BLOCK** is used for a school wide initiative or student is assigned to a class.
- If **BRUIN BLOCK** is designated for a school wide initiative, students will attend their 3rd period class.
- School Wide Initiatives in September:
- September 9th **BRUIN BLOCK** – Student Responsibilities and Rights (SR&R) through 3rd period classes
- September 16th **BRUIN BLOCK** -- Explanation of the BRUIN BLOCK and lesson on use of **Agenda Planner**

Where and How?

Students:

- Students have the following choices for the **BRUIN BLOCK**:
 - Meet with one or two of their seven teachers for individualized help and instruction
 - Attend a special program offered by our Counseling Department
 - Students failing a course will be assigned to that class until the quarter grade or the interim is a passing grade.
- Procedure for **High School** students:
 - Students simply choose one of their classes to attend
 - Students sign up with their teacher prior to the **BRUIN BLOCK** to ensure that they have a seat
 - Students write their choice into their **Agenda Planner**
 - *If a student chooses, he or she may attend a second of his or her classes for the second thirty-minute period. The student will simply follow the same instructions for session B.*
 - Students will *sign in* at each **BRUIN BLOCK**. This will serve as the official attendance for **BRUIN BLOCK**.
 - Teachers will initial agenda books to certify attendance
- Procedure for **Middle School** students:
 - Working with their core team teachers, students simply pick one of their seven classes to attend.
 - Students will sign up with a core teacher for each **BRUIN BLOCK**

- Core teachers will coordinate sign up to ensure that all students have a BRUIN BLOCK destination
- Students will write their destination in their agenda books
- Students will sign in at their BRUIN BLOCK class
- Teachers will initial agenda books to certify attendance

For all of our students, we strongly encourage parents to check their child's Agenda Planner to see how their child is using the BRUIN BLOCK.

Teacher Expectations for BRUIN BLOCK:

- All teachers will be available in their classrooms or designated areas during BRUIN BLOCK
- Teachers will post their availability for students if they teach in both the middle and high school
- The purpose of the instructional time is to provide extra help, individual attention to needs, or re-teach lessons
- Some suggested uses of the BRUIN BLOCK
 - Re-teach lessons
 - Retake quizzes, tests, other work
 - Skill building – Reading, Writing, Math Repetition
 - Make-up work
 - Group project meetings
 - Extra time to work on assignments with teacher direction/oversight
 - Reading time

Procedure:

High School:

- Teachers post BRUIN BLOCK sign-up sheets for students
- Students sign up with individual teachers and write BRUIN BLOCK destination into Agenda Planner
- BRUIN BLOCK Session A starts at 9:01
 - Students sign-in as they arrive
 - During the work period, teachers initial student agenda books
 - Work time for session A is 9:01-9:31
 - At 9:31, students may choose to leave for a second class

- Passing time between Session A and B: 9:31-9:36
 - Session B starts at 9:36, follows same procedure
 - Session be concludes at 10:06 with a bell

Middle School:

- Teachers post BRUIN BLOCK sign-up sheets for students
 - Students will sign up with a core teacher (Team Leader or designee) and individual BRUIN BLOCK
- Students sign up with individual teachers and write BRUIN BLOCK destination into Agenda Planner
 - In team meetings prior to BRUIN BLOCK, core teachers and counselors will organize student choices
- BRUIN BLOCK Session A starts at 9:01
 - Students sign-in as they arrive
 - During the work period, teachers initial student agenda books
- Work time for Session A is 9:01-9:31
 - At 9:31, students may choose to leave for a second class
- Passing time between Session A and B: 9:31-9:36
- Session B starts at 9:36, follows same procedure
 - Session be concludes at 10:06 with a bell

Additional Notes on the BRUIN BLOCK:

- In an attempt to protect instructional time, school-wide initiatives will take place during BRUIN BLOCK, when possible. For example, SR&R lessons in the high school, lessons on bullying and harassment, a 9th grade transition program, class meetings, AP registration, Bruin Pride lessons, and career units will be scheduled during the BRUIN BLOCK.
- BRUIN BLOCK will add one more time-frame for students whose commitments have scheduling conflicts after school.
- Other BRUIN BLOCK possibilities include, but are not limited to, study groups, computer lab time, library access, peer tutoring, book clubs, mentor meetings and tutoring.