



# ***Baxter Elementary***

*Brainerd Public Schools*

August 17, 2023

Dear Baxter Families,

Wow, here it is!! The beginning of a new school year at Baxter Elementary School! On behalf of all of the Baxter Warrior Staff, please accept our warm welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to open up the doors and get our students back! Our building theme this year is **"Together We Grow!"**

✿ **Look for a variety of schoolwide events and fun activities throughout the year connected to Growing**

✿ **Our amazing Baxter PTO will be providing a school theme t-shirt for each student and staff member**

**We want to "Grow" our partnership with our families and our community. Baxter Elementary school welcomes everyone!**

✿ **We welcome and encourage parent volunteers**

✿ **We are grateful for community members and other extended family members as volunteers**

✿ **We love our students and our Baxter families. Together We Grow! Strong, Proud, United**

Baxter School Open House is **Wednesday, August 30**. We are eager to get students into our building. Please plan to attend this event to meet our staff and let your student find their team area. Each grade level has a nice Learning Commons area where we can have grade level team meetings and students can Grow Together throughout the school year.

See you soon!

Warmly,

Dr. Tammy Stellmach

**Dates to Remember:**

**August 21 & 22 = Kindergarten OS testing:** Kindergarten parents & students have a one hour slot one day.

**August 24 & 25 = KinderCamp:** Kindergarten students only; 8:00am-11:30pm; more details provided during testing.

**August 30 = Baxter Open House:** Drop off supplies; meet teachers; drop off medicine; sign up for Family Access, etc. To help with parking, we have two sessions; if possible, please attend the session matching your child's last name.

**August 30: Session One for Last Names A-M from 4:30-5:15**

**August 30: Session Two for Last Names N-Z from 5:15-6:00**

**September 5 = First Day of School**

### **Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures**

**Drop-off:** Families use the loop in front of the school for morning drop off. **Doors open at 7:30. Students should remain in the vehicle until 7:30.** Students have a choice between breakfast, library, or the gym. **The first bell rings at 8:00** signaling students to transition to their classrooms. **Students are expected to be in their classrooms by 8:10.** It is very important for students to be here on time. A late drop off often gets their day started on the wrong foot. **Parents stay in vehicles and students should exit the vehicle on the curb side.** Please pull forward as far as possible so more vehicles can pull up behind you to unload. The drop off loop is in front of the building. There is a drop off lane and a second lane to pull around to exit or to drive around to fill in open spots further down for drop off.

**Pick-up:** Our school day ends at 2:45. End of the day dismissal and parent pick-up begins at 2:48. We were able to get all students loaded and cars through the pick up line in approximately 25 minutes on most days this past year. *Please remember that things will move more slowly the first week of school as everyone is learning the system.* **Parents (or whoever is picking up) stay in vehicles for end of the day pick up; students should load on the curb side.** We will have staff on the curb helping.

**Green Cards:** You need to show a green card when picking up. Green cards that were provided last year will work again this year. Families were provided with six cards to give only to trusted people to pick up your child(ren). If you lost your green cards and need new ones, please see our secretary when you come in for the open house. In order to have green cards printed and ready for you, please call ahead (218-454-6447, Trisia Hughes, Principal Secretary). We will provide green cards to our Kindergarten families at KinderCamp.

### **Skyward Family Access and Handbook**

- [Skyward Family Access - District Page](#)
- [Our school handbook is on the Baxter website](#)

### **Transportation**

If you have not received information regarding transportation, please contact the district transportation coordinator at 454-6920 as students will be unable to ride buses until they have received bus cards.

### **Volunteers and Visitors**

All volunteers and visitors will need to complete the appropriate form. This is required by the school district, and it needs to be completed annually, with the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. Please complete these two forms right away if you think you might volunteer in any capacity, then you will get cleared and be on the Baxter Approved Volunteer list! [Volunteering Guidelines and Application Forms](#)

### **Nutrition Services**

Here is a link to the forms for the [Application for Educational Benefits](#). Our school offers healthy meals each day. Starting this school year, 2023-24, we are joining Minnesota's Free School Meals Program. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs.