



Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!

Welcome to BIA Charter School and a community of families and faculty who believe in a better choice for their children's education.

BIA Charter School (BIA) is a public charter school authorized by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia. The school opened in August 2016 (Grades K-6) and reached full-capacity as a K-8 school in August 2018. BIA leaders and teachers are committed to creating a safe, caring, mutually respectful environment for all students. BIA aims to provide students with an education that maximizes the realization of their individual talents. Our educational model allows each student to assume escalating levels of responsibility, enabling every student the ability to learn in a supportive and innovative educational environment.

Please thoroughly read through each section of this packet. Further information and details are found on the [BIA website](#), the [Parent Council website](#), the websites and links listed in this packet, and the [Parent Student Handbook](#). If you have questions about any of the content you find here, please reach out via phone or email to BIA Administration or your child's teacher. Be sure to refer to the Getting Started page at the end of this packet for a comprehensive look at what parents need to do in preparation for the first week of school. If you have questions about any of the content you find here, Please reach out via phone or email to BIA Administration.

BIA Charter School
186 Hunter Street
Norcross, GA 30071
770-538-1550
www.biaschool.org

WELCOME LETTER

Dear BIA Families,

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our BIA family! We are honored that you have chosen our great school as the place for your child's education. At BIA, we are committed to the three tenets of our charter that make our school unique and provide our students with a 21st century education: project-based learning, personalized learning and coding. A contributing factor to student success is the home - school relationship, and our partnership in supporting the education of the total child. We promise to do our best to uphold our responsibilities and ask that you commit to guiding and supporting your child's success by ensuring he/she:

- ❖ attends school daily and is on time;
- ❖ completes homework assigned by the teacher;
- ❖ reads daily to develop a love of reading and boost literacy skills;
- ❖ shares school experiences with you, so you are connected with his/her school day;
- ❖ lets you know if he/she needs additional support academically, socially or emotionally;
- ❖ knows that you have high expectations for learning and behavior.

In addition, please voice any concerns you may have with the appropriate school personnel. Generally, this would begin with your child's teacher as he/she is the one who will know your child the best and will be most equipped to address the situation. Please use social media in a positive regard that is supportive of your child's success and BIA's mission and vision.

Please consider furthering the home - school relationship through participation in volunteer opportunities at BIA and becoming involved with our Parent Council. Examples of possible volunteer opportunities include:

- ❖ assisting with book fairs;
- ❖ classroom support;
- ❖ leading an after-school club;
- ❖ community outreach;
- ❖ recruitment of new families.

For the safety of all of our children, any volunteers who will work directly with students in the classroom must undergo a fingerprint and background check.

Our Parent Student Handbook is a wonderful resource to answer any questions you may have. It is very important that you and your child understand the expectations of academics and behavior to ensure the best possible environment for learning. You may access the handbook here: [Parent Student Handbook](#).

Again, we welcome new families to the BIA family and look forward to a positive, nurturing relationship that enables your child to succeed academically, socially, emotionally and behaviorally!

Sincerely,



Neal Christian
Head of School
770.538.1550
nchristian@biaschool.org

GOVERNANCE BOARD

Dear BIA Families,

On behalf of the BIA Governance Board, please accept our heartfelt welcome to the BIA Family. We realize that you have numerous quality educational options in the Atlanta metropolitan area, and we are honored that you have placed your trust in our institution.

It is an exciting time to join our family. Our Project Based Learning curriculum is primed to go to the next level thanks to a summer packed full of professional development with worldwide leaders in PBL instruction. As our leader, Julie Tolbert, enters her third year at BIA, you will reap tremendous rewards from her hard work, dedication and, most importantly, the culture of excellence she has entrenched in our hallways. You are joining a truly special place.

At the Board level, we are elated with how far our school has come in its short five year lifetime. We are particularly pleased with the tremendous progress we have made under Ms. Tolbert's leadership. As we enter our 6th year, it is easy to see that our best years are right in front of us. We cannot promise perfection, but can promise that the Board of Directors and Administration will always strive for excellence. We can also promise that the Board of Directors and Administration will always set personal feelings aside and begin and end every decision with one simple inquiry: "What is best for the kids?"

Do not be surprised if you do not hear much from the Board during the school year. Ms. Tolbert is charged with running the day-to-day operations of the school and, therefore, the Board's work should and will remain in the background. Rest assured that we are hard at work behind the scenes constantly monitoring the school's academic, financial and operational performance. We have very high standards at BIA because we believe in our hearts and souls that each of our children deserves the absolute best and that is exactly what we intend to provide.

We invite each of you to attend our monthly Board meetings to learn more about our role with the school. We meet the second Thursday of every month at the school, beginning at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Adam Caskey

Adam C. Caskey
Board Chair

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023 Please [Meet the Governance Board](#) here.

ROLE OF GOVERNANCE BOARD The Governance Board is comprised of four committees: the Academic, the Finance, the Operations, and the Governance Committees. An outline of each committee's role can be found [here](#). All information regarding the Governance Board can be found under the 'Our School' tab on the school website's homepage.

PARENT COUNCIL

Dear Parents,

We welcome both new and returning families to the BIA Family this 2021-2022 school year!

What is a Parent Council?

Parent Council (PC) is a supportive body of volunteer parents who serve to fulfill our key mission of fostering a deep sense of community and belonging at BIA. Parent Council actively works alongside BIA's administration to achieve this goal, and encourages every BIA parent to engage and participate in the life of the school. Regardless of the amount of time, talent, or treasure you have to give, there is a place for every parent to become involved in the life of our school.

Leadership Team

The Parent Council Leadership Team consists of parents of Upper School and Lower School students. We are a mix of working moms (outside and inside the home) and entrepreneurs. Our team represents zip codes from across metro Atlanta. In other words, we are just like you! The Leadership Team is open to moms and dads. Also, please see info on Dads On Deck in the Volunteer Opportunities section.

Fundraising

Parent Council hosts several fundraisers throughout the school year in order to raise funds which are utilized to fulfill our mission of supporting faculty and promoting community among BIA families. Parent volunteers are needed and appreciated to plan, organize, and facilitate these efforts.

Communication

Expect to hear from the Parent Council regularly. News and updates are communicated via our weekly email newsletter, the **Bear Blast**. The [Remind App](#) is utilized occasionally for quick reminders.

We look forward to an exciting year together and can't wait to meet and work with all of our amazing BIA families! To contact a leader, click [here](#) for emails and phone numbers.

Please meet the PARENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022-2023 [here](#).

PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Handbook is found in its entirety [here](#) and has detailed accounts of all the elements of the school that affect its faculty, staff and students, such as school policies, state laws, safety, Honor Code, discipline, technology usage, and general information. Reading the handbook is critical to having a well-defined start to the school year. A student body who spends each school day respecting each other, their teachers, the school property, and focuses on loving learning free of distractions is one that succeeds. Students thrive as they freely operate within the boundaries set forth in the Handbook. This section is only a brief summary of some of the sections of the Handbook. It is expected that each parent reads the Handbook in its entirety.

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are publicly funded, independent schools established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with a local authority. They are public schools of choice, meaning that families choose them for their children. They operate with freedom from some of the regulations that are imposed upon district schools. Charter schools are accountable for academic results and for upholding the promises made in their charters. A charter school educates about 6% of the nation's public-school students.

Charter schools are tuition-free and accept any student who wants to attend. Charter laws require that students are admitted by a random lottery drawing. Benefits of charter schools are they promote a diverse student population, give parents choice in education, are held accountable to the terms of the charter, can control class size, can exercise greater independence, make autonomous decisions or changes to benefit their student body.

HISTORY OF BIA

BIA was founded on the premise that traditional educational models no longer adequately prepare students for the modern world. Put simply, the traditional school system was designed to accommodate the age of manufacturing rather than today's world of information and technology. Studies show that over 60% of students entering primary school today will work in job types that don't yet exist. Thus, a central tenet of our educational philosophy is to teach our children the skills necessary to adapt in a world of constant change. For that reason, BIA's curriculum includes personalized learning, project-based learning focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ("STEM"), and computer coding.

Another key founding premise for BIA is that we believe that in order to truly succeed, we must teach our students a way of life that embraces the community at large. We know that in order for our students to thrive and truly be happy, they must learn skill-sets that not only serve their needs but also serve the needs of others. As a result, we have a unique student population in that our students come from families that are forward thinking, will not accept the status quo and fully expect their children to be the leaders of tomorrow. BIA humbly accepts this responsibility and is committed to making good on BIA's founding premises. Further information can be found at <https://biaschool.org/about-us/history/>.

MISSION STATEMENT

BIA will provide students with an education that maximizes the realization of their individual talents and prepares them for success in a technology and information-driven 21st century economy.

VISION STATEMENT

BIA will become THE state charter school of choice in Georgia!

3 CORE TENETS

The curriculum at BIA is designed to prepare students for success in a technology and information-driven 21st century economy by using a blend of project-based learning (PBL), personalized learning, and coding for every student in every grade level. BIA uses a carefully crafted combination of instructional methods that we refer to as “Deeper Learning by Design”, where every student will master a core research-based, college preparatory, blended learning curriculum, with a complimentary project-based learning focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”), with computer coding integrated as a component of the core program.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) challenges students to collaborate, innovate, use and develop critical thinking skills. It is an active, rather than passive, learning model and one that relies on peer-interaction. Students are learning to work cooperatively with their classmates, to listen, to contribute, and to develop executive functioning skills in applicable situations. Students have a sense for what type of learner they are and how to share their strengths and skill sets for a common goal. Visit [PBL Works](#) to further understand PBL as a teaching method.

Personalized Learning aims to meet the needs of different learners on a small group or individualized basis. Every student has gaps in their learning and areas needing personalized attention from a teacher to gain understanding and to meet or exceed academic benchmarks.

Coding teaches students technology skills and applications in order to prepare them for career opportunities in the 21st century. Coding is any form of game or interactive learning on a computer, tablet, or device that develops technology know-how. BIA uses platforms such as Tynker and Scratch, as well as hands-on devices like Bee Bots and Lego Robotics.

At BIA, we encourage parents to be involved in **Project Exhibition Night**, which is held four times per year (see academic calendar). The students present their PBL projects to BIA stakeholders (parents, members, peers, faculty, friends of BIA, etc.) who are encouraged to drive the presentation with inquisitive questions. Student presenters respond, explain, elaborate, and show proof for their research and conclusions. Each grade has a 30 minute time frame, beginning at 5:00 pm, so that families can see each child’s presentation.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Mascot & School Colors

In 2018, BIA students voted to establish the bear as the school mascot. His name is Cody, the Coding Bear. School colors are green and turquoise.



Building Community

Spirit Nights are both community-building and fundraising opportunities which happen throughout the school year. Each Project Exhibition Night correlates with a Spirit Night at a local restaurant so that BIA families can enjoy dinner together and socialize before or after going to the school. There are additional Spirit Nights planned in area neighborhoods on other dates. Restaurants designate an area of seating with balloons in BIA colors. A portion of

the proceeds from your meal will go back to BIA as part of the PTO's fund. Spirit Night locations and dates will be announced in the Bear Blast.

GETTING STARTED

July checklist:

- Read this Welcome Packet thoroughly.
- Download and thoroughly read the [Parent/Student Handbook](#).
- Browse the website. A good place to start is [here](#).
- Submit the [Medication Permission Form](#).
- Download the [PikMyKid](#) app to pick up students from school via carpool .
- Register with a private bus transportation company if your student will need transportation.
- Order lunch with [Charter 1 Foods](#) (unless you will pack a lunch every day).
- Purchase a school uniform wardrobe according to p. 4 of the [Parent/Student Handbook](#).
- Join primary means of communication.
- Browse BIA Facebook page (optional).
- Check [Policies and Forms](#) for any other forms you should submit.
- Make all school supply purchases from the grade-level school supply list, unless you have purchased a school supply kit from 1st Day.
- Bring all school supplies to Meet the Teacher Day.
- Plan for **Meet the Teacher Day: Monday, August 1 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

First day of school: August 3, 2022

- Students get dropped off via carpool from 7:15 - 7:40 am; buses arrive about 7:30 am.
- Parents have the option of walking their kindergarten student into class from 7:45 - 8:00 am.

First week of school:

- Students abide by school uniform policy.
- Students bring a snack & a labeled water bottle every day.
- Students bring a lunchbox or enjoy pre-purchased lunch from Charter 1 Foods.
- Register for [BIA kickbacks](#) at Amazon Smile, Publix, and Kroger.

August checklist: Mark calendar for important dates:

- Curriculum Night: Tuesday, August 16 from 5:00-5:45 pm and 6:00-6:45 pm (no children on campus)
- Picture Day: Tuesday, August 23; retakes and class picture day is Thursday, October 6
- Boosterthon: Wednesday, September 14; friends and family help support BIA
- Teacher Conference Days- October 12 and March 15
- Project Exhibition Nights- see [calendar](#) (in conjunction with Spirit Nights)
 - Tuesdays: October 4; December 14; March 7; May 16
- School holidays - see [calendar](#)
- Digital Learning Days (DLD's) - students will complete assignments from home (see [calendar](#))
 - Wednesdays: Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1; Feb. 2, March 2, May 4 (none in Jan, April)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The 2022-2023 Academic Calendar is found [here](#). Instructional hours are 7:45 am - 3:00 pm.

BIA's school calendar is finalized in February of each year for the upcoming academic year but is subject to change. Please note the dates marked for **Digital Learning Days** (DLD's). These days are set aside for faculty to conduct meetings and on-site teacher training, prepare curriculum, and ensure student records are accurate and up-to-date.

There will be at-home assignments that students will be expected to complete and submit to the teacher in order that the student be counted present. These days are considered 'school days' and count toward the total number of academic days for the school year, even though the students are not on campus. Please plan for your child to complete the DLD assignments and be prepared to submit either online or upon returning to school.

Right at School aftercare program will offer a full-day camp on DLD's. Please click go to www.rightatschool.com and sign up with Natara McAfee, Site Director, for Right at School. Space is limited. Bus transportation is not provided on DLD's.

CURRICULUM

Your child's teacher will present the curriculum during **Curriculum Night**. This is an important parent meeting, so please make every effort to be present in order to become well acquainted with your child's teacher and the expectations of the classroom. You will learn about the major events and topics of the school year, have a chance to meet other parents/guardians, get to know your child's classroom, meet the room parents, and ask general questions about the BIA experience. Please keep in mind this is general information and a time to ask questions about the curriculum, policies and procedures. Please schedule a conference with your child's teacher to discuss topics related specifically to your child. Please arrange childcare as this is a parent-only evening.

Class size: Grades K-5 have a student to teacher ratio of 22:1, while grades 6-8 have a ratio of 25:1. Paraprofessionals provide instructional support in all Kindergarten classes. Classrooms with students with special needs are provided with either an additional Special Education teacher or a Special Education paraprofessional. There are 3 Kindergarten classes; 3 classes in 1st grade; 4 classes in 2nd grade; 3 classes in 3rd – 5th grades; 2 classes in 6th – 8th grades.

Homework at all grades is left to the professional discretion of each teacher.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND ASSESSMENT

Standards-based assessment (grading) is a way to communicate what students know at a point in time rather than an average of performances over an entire grading period. A student's performance is measured according to the standards (skills) taught and the benchmarks (goals) at certain points of the school year. More Specific information about assessments can be found [here](#); ESOL and EIP info can be found on our website: [EIP Information](#) and [ESOL information](#).

A standards-based approach:

- Reveals a student's progress toward the attainment of an essential standard (age-appropriate academic goal)
- Clearly communicates expectations from the beginning
- Is based on complex tasks, as opposed to rote memory

- Emphasizes the more recent evidence of learning rather than cumulative averages
- Uses multiple formative assessment strategies to measure the learning progress of students
- Is a method of tracking student learning by specific essential standards, rather than by assignment type
- Focuses solely on proficiency and mastery of the content



Infinite Campus is the [portal](#) utilized by all BIA teachers for reporting attendance and assignments. Each student has an account and parents will have to create a login to view their child's account.

COMMUNICATION

BIA teachers reach parents via **Class Dojo**, which is a free app parents download to their phone. Teachers will share a class code with parents so that parents essentially subscribe to each teacher's class (homeroom, music, etc). Teachers post pictures and videos of the students at work on projects, on field trips, and fun things they are doing. It's a fun snapshot of daily life at BIA. Often, last-minute reminders such as "Tomorrow students may wear a Spirit t-shirt." come through Class Dojo. Learn more at <https://www.classdojo.com>.



PRIMARY COMMUNICATION FROM SCHOOL:

1. **Emails from Mr. Christian** are sent as needed.
2. **Bear Blast** is the weekly email newsletter from the Parent Council.
3. **Emergency texts** (ex: "school canceled due to ice") come from the Administration.

SECONDARY COMMUNICATION:

BIA's official [Facebook page](#): Please use social media in a positive regard that is supportive of your child's success and BIA's mission and vision. Additional Facebook groups, such as [BIA Bears Family](#), are linked from the Parent Council homepage.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

BIA expects students to look professional and presentable. Parents purchase a school uniform wardrobe according to BIA's uniform policy are found on p. 4 of the [Parent/Student Handbook](#). Uniforms are required to be in good condition, washed on a daily basis, free of stains, holes, and fit properly. Students shall refrain from wearing accessories that do not comply with the uniform policy. Hair cuts, piercings, and make-up shall be in line with the policy of students dressing their best and presenting themselves as professional students. The administration reserves the right to make discretionary decisions regarding the uniform policy and enforce disciplinary consequences for not abiding by or respecting the uniform policy. Our uniform policy is designed to provide families with flexible options that can be purchased at a location of your choice. [Educational Outfitters](#) supplies official BIA logo shirts, outerwear and quality spirit wear. If students are in violation of not being in compliance with uniforms, parents will be called and a proper uniform will need to be brought to the school.

School Uniform Policy

While attending school, all students must be in uniform daily. Uniforms must be neat and clean. Belts must be worn to hold up pants and shorts at the waist, or pants and shorts must fit snugly around the waist to keep them from falling below the waistline. Students should also practice good hygiene. If a child is out of uniform, parents will be contacted and required to bring the necessary items before students are admitted to class.

School Uniform Policy:

- Uniform Bottoms – Khaki or Navy pants, shorts, jumpers skorts or skirts. Shorts, jumpers, skorts and skirts must be no more than three inches above the knee. The following bottoms are considered to be out of school uniform compliance:
 1. Bottoms in any other color than those specified above.
 2. Leggings worn as bottoms. These can only be worn under a jumper, skirt or skorts.
 3. Pants with elastic at the ankle and/or with stripes down the sides.
 4. Sweat pants.
 5. Knit pants.
 6. Bottoms that do not stay up at the waistline.
 7. Cargo pants.
- Uniform Tops – White, Navy, Kelly or Aqua Green collared polo or long-sleeved, button-down oxford with button collar. The following are considered to be out of school uniform compliance:
 1. Shirts without a collar.
 2. Shirts with logos other than the BIA logo.
 3. Shirts in any other color than those specified above.
- Uniform Optional Layer – Navy, green, white or aqua cardigan sweater, button up sweater, crewneck sweatshirt, or sweater vest. The following optional layers are considered to be out of school uniform compliance:
 1. Anything with a logo other than BIA.
 2. Sweatshirt with a hoodie.
 3. Optional layer in any other color than those specified above.
- Outerwear – Outerwear jackets for cold weather should be worn to and from school and at outdoor recess; however, while in the school outerwear must remain in the student cubbie or locker. An optional layer, as described above, is recommended as well as outerwear.
- Fridays – BIA spirit shirt with uniform pants

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each grade has a school [supply list](#). Please accurately purchase all the supplies listed. All supplies can be purchased at any office supply store, Target, Walmart, or online. **Bring all school supplies to school on Meet the Teacher Day.**



Each teacher will advise students how items are to be used and labeled. Teachers may need to ask for **additional items** later in the school year, especially tissue boxes, Lysol wipes, etc. Please make every effort to support the teacher by providing the necessary supplies.

Every student will need an appropriate-sized backpack, a water bottle, and a lunch box.

Please label all these items so they do not end up in the lost-and-found.

TRANSPORTATION

CARPOOL

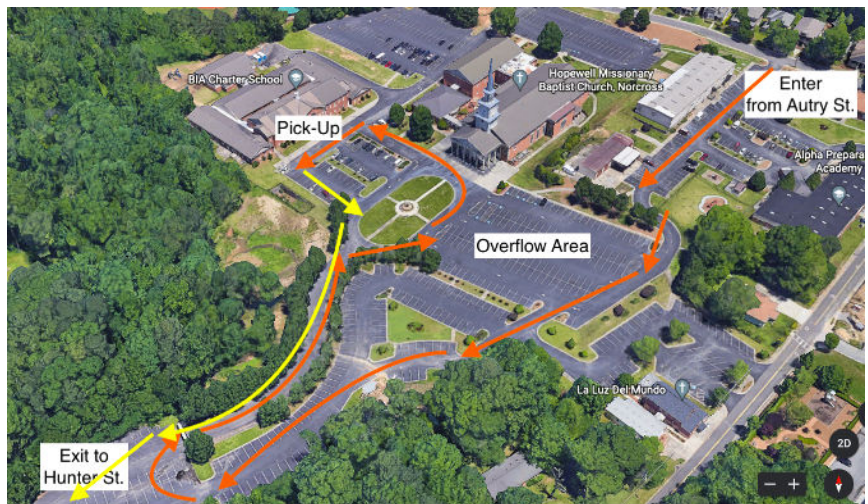
MORNING CARPOOL: 7:15 - 7:40 am; enter from Autry Street

Teachers will start unloading cars at 7:15 am. Students may not be dropped off prior to 7:15 am. Students will be under teacher supervision until they enter their classrooms at 7:30 am.

Students arriving at 7:45 am are considered tardy. Parents must park and walk their children into the building to sign them in at the front desk. On-time arrival is critical to a student's confidence and scholastic habits. Instruction begins at 7:45 am and classroom management relies on all students being present and ready to begin their academic day on time. Please make safe, on-time arrival a priority for your student's success. Five (5) tardies is equivalent to one (1) unexcused absence.

AFTERNOON CARPOOL: 3:05 - 3:30 pm; exit through archway to Hunter Street

Students are engaged in meaningful work until 3:00 pm. Students will be loaded into cars by teachers starting at 3:05 pm. During dismissal, parents **must pick up their child in the carpool line**. The front office will not call students to the lobby for checkout after 2 pm. Parents may only park and walk in the building if they have a scheduled meeting or are volunteering in some capacity. The front office closes at 3:30 pm, so prompt pick up of your child is imperative. If that is not possible, please arrange for your child to attend Right At School, our after school program or make other arrangements for after school care.



More Information about the carpool route and the PikmyKid app can be found on our website, [here](#).

PikMyKid is a carpool app that calls students' names in the same order as the carpool line. This expedites loading cars. You **MUST** download the free Pikmykid app if your child will be picked up in carpool. Register with the same mobile (no landlines) phone number that matches your child's student registration with the school. While in the carpool line, you will open the app and click on the green ANNOUNCE button. This carpool service puts your child's name in a virtual line. A teacher with a tablet will walk down the line of cars and will confirm your child's name. The teachers inside the building can then call the students in

order of the cars according to each child's dismissal ID. This expedites the loading of cars. Please read more about the safety and efficiency of using PikMyKid here at www.pikmykid.com.



BUS TRANSPORTATION

As a charter school, BIA neither provides transportation nor arranges transportation for students. Parents have created several private transportation options. Please join the parent FaceBook page [BIA Bus - Transportation FB Page](#) to network with parents. Check [here](#) to see if bus fares may be eligible for dependent care expenses.

Private Bus Companies: all routes, payments, rider registrations, contract agreements, emergency contacts, etc. are handled through each bus company. The BIA Parent Coordinator serves as a liaison to maintain smooth and accurate communication between the bus company, the school, and the parents of bus riders. All bus riders arrive at school about 7:30 am. All bus riders promptly load directly after dismissal and depart school by 3:10 pm. Bus service options are found on the [Private Transportation Options page](#) of the Family Resources tab.



CHANGE IN STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

All changes to your student's normal mode of pickup need to be made by 2:00 pm by **notifying the front office by phone only**. Please do not text your child or email/Class Dojo your child's teacher with this information. Students are not allowed to be on their phones during the day, and teachers are not checking for carpool changes during instructional time. **The front office will notify the teacher of any change in transportation.**

Anyone picking up your child will need to download the PikmyKid app and you will need to delegate your child to him/her. This person **MUST** also be on the student's school permission form as someone who has permission to pick up your child. This person's contact information must also be on your student's school permission forms. If your student is riding home with a school friend, you will use the Delegations feature on the Pikmykid app to give the parent of the friend permission to pick up your student(s). This person does not need to be on your student's school permission form. The FAQ section of the app can answer all your questions.

LUNCH & SNACK

BIA students bring lunch from home or order lunch through [Charter 1 Foods](#). Lunch from outside vendors is prohibited.

Lunches brought from home should be nut-free and a healthy and substantial meal to sustain your child for the duration of the school day. Lunch should be ready to eat, as students will not have access to a refrigerator or microwave to prepare lunches.

A **snack** should be packed daily for K-5 students as students take a brain break before or after

their scheduled lunch time. Students must have a **clear, reusable water bottle** each day and be clearly labeled with your child's name. Water bottles often end up in the lost-and-found or left on the bus.

BIA students have the option of bringing a lunch from home (no nuts, please) or obtaining a lunch from our onsite lunch partner, [Charter 1 Foods](#). **Due to staff, safety, and Federal guidelines food deliveries for student lunches are prohibited.**

BIA is pleased to announce that this year we will be using Charter 1 Foods as our lunch provider. Charter 1 Foods was originally created to meet the needs and the importance of child nutrition in schools and communities. Charter 1 Foods' management team has over 25 years of culinary and food service experience. They are passionate about what they do, and it shows in the quality and presentation of their meals.

Please see the [linked directions](#) to sign up to order lunch directly from [Charter 1 Foods](#). Additional assistance is available directly from Charter 1 Foods at 980-819-8055.

Meal Costs

Lunch - \$4.75
Staff Lunch - \$6.00
Extra Milk - \$0.40
Extra Water - \$0.50

Free & Reduced Lunch To find out if your household qualifies for Free & Reduced Price School Meals, please contact the school's front office for a form.

AFTER-SCHOOL OPTIONS

All after-school options have limited space, so please fill out registrations quickly.

Right at School is an affordable, flexible aftercare solution for working parents providing homework support, movement, and enrichment units at BIA until 6:00 pm. Monthly rates, registration and billing are done through www.rightatschool.com.



Clubs are offered by BIA teachers or outside companies using the school campus. For example, an art club might be offered to certain grades on a certain day of the week from 3:00-4:00 pm; or a soccer club is offered to a certain population during a certain season. These activities will be advertised in school emails as they are available. These fill up quickly.

INVESTING IN BIA

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement reaps big benefits, and it's an integral component of student achievement. Decades of research studies on the effect of meaningful parent involvement in schools have found that when parents are involved:

1. students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic background, or the parents' education level.

- students perform better in school and earn better grades when their parents are involved with their schoolwork
- students are thought of more highly by teachers
- Students foster a [mastery orientation](#): desire to become competent on a task. Kids with high mastery orientation stand out. Parents and teachers don't have to coax these children to learn. Instead, these students want to practice just for the sake of becoming more highly skilled.



2. students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior.

- encourages [self-discipline](#), a skill that's critical to school success.
- behavior issues often begin to appear during the tween years, especially as kids' [cognitive development](#) leads them toward [risk-taking](#). Thankfully, parental attention can help to head off many of these behavior issues. Students with involved parents have lower rates of substance use and delinquent acts.

3. attendance improves.

- parents who are involved typically value school highly and encourage consistent attendance; students tend to feel more academically competent.

4. social functioning improves.

- kids with involved parents have [better peer interactions](#); their social skills also seem to be more advanced. Advanced social skills lead to better academic outcomes.
- kids have better mental health; parent involvement in education fosters [kids' self-esteem](#). These kids have enhanced skills for regulating [emotions](#) and feel negative emotions less often.

All in all, when parents choose to become involved with their child's school, kids benefit not only in the classroom but far beyond it. To have long-lasting gains for students, parent

involvement activities must be well planned, inclusive, and comprehensive. Schools that work well with families have better teacher morale, higher ratings and outperform identical programs without parent involvement. (sources: Edutopia and VeryWell Family)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sign-ups are typically done through Sign Up Genius. Volunteers check in on campus at the front office kiosk by scanning your driver's license and clicking on the VOLUNTEER button. A name tag will be printed for you, which must be worn while you are on campus. This system keeps a record of volunteers. Volunteers should use this same kiosk to sign out upon departure.

Volunteers are needed to partner with teachers as room parents and for various needs working with the students, usually in concert with or as an assistant to the classroom teacher. For example, volunteers are needed to assist teachers with field trips, mystery readers, and classroom assistance. Speak with your child's teacher about how you can serve as a room parent or help support the classroom. If you serve in a capacity that works directly with students, fingerprinting for a background check is required. Information on how to have this done can be found by contacting the front office at 770-538-1550.

Volunteers are needed to partner with the Governance Board so if interested in serving in this capacity, please reach out to a Board member.

Volunteers are needed to partner with the Parent Council in various ways outside the classrooms or the school. School events and fundraisers such as Teacher Appreciation Week, Luncheons, and Spirit Nights are run by Parent Council members partnering with parents to organize, communicate, plan, and carry out community-building events. Please see the Parent Council website for questions and information about [volunteer opportunities](#).

Dads on Deck serves as a separate entity that works alongside the Parent Council is a unique opportunity for dads to contribute time, energy and man-skills to enhance the campus and/or improve the student experience. Often done after school or on weekends, efforts may include handyman tasks, outdoor campus beautification or indoor help such as moving furniture.

According to the [Fatherhood Institute](#), a father's interest in his child's education has been found to have a direct impact on educational outcomes. Children whose fathers are active participants in their education are likely to perform better on exams, achieve higher levels of educational qualification, and to harbor a generally more positive outlook on school. BIA benefits from all of our men (fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, etc.) contributing when and where they can.

Contact the Dads on Deck coordinator: Lonnie Latham at lonnie@lathamgroup.com or 404-271-7170.

BIA thrives with parent involvement. Research clearly indicates that schools with high parent involvement on and off campus have a stronger community and more successful student body. Please see the Parent Council website for [volunteer](#) needs and opportunities.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

BIA is a publicly funded school; however, contributions of time and money support the school in critical ways. BIA needs your investment to fund the best resources to provide the best educational experience for each and every student.

Kickbacks

The easiest way to make continuous contributions to your child's school is through the popular kickback programs offered by companies with which we regularly shop. Our school is registered with Amazon, Kroger, Publix, and Ingles to receive a portion of sales.



When you shop on **Amazon**, 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products is donated to BIA. Sign in to your Amazon account via smile.amazon.com. Go to Account & Lists. Under Your Lists, choose AmazonSmile Charity Lists. Search Brookhaven Innovation Academy. Bookmark AmazonSmile instead of Amazon on your computer's Favorites bar.



Kroger Rewards: Parents must set up an account at Kroger.com or log into their [Kroger account](#). Click "Community Rewards" and select Brookhaven Innovation Academy. Simply enter your phone number during the checkout process.



Publix Rewards: Parents must set up an account at Publix.com or log into their [Publix account](#). Under "My Publix Partner" select Brookhaven Innovation Academy. Simply enter your phone number during the checkout process.



Ingles Rewards: Parents must set up an Advantage card and the card to BIA at [Ingles Tools for School](#) by searching Brookhaven Innovation Academy.

Boosterthon

Our annual school fundraiser takes place in the fall and is hosted by Boosterthon, a company who has a proven track record of helping schools raise more money.

Boosterthon's program promotes exercise, teamwork, and community-mindedness. Boosterthon's pledging technology enables students to hit goals by reaching donors beyond the school (grandparents, relatives, friends) and saves you the collection process.



Every year, [Boosterthon](#) creates a brand new theme designed to build student character traits, encourage school community, add magic to the experience, and build momentum for raising money to support the school. This inclusive, interactive program gets every student excited to help our school reach its goal. The Boosterthon Team is at BIA throughout the week to lead the Pep Rally, Team Huddle, and Fun Run. Parents are encouraged to attend the Fun Run and cheer on their student runners. Learn more about this exciting event at Curriculum Night.

If you've ever been a part of our Boosterthon Fun Run, then you know how exciting this is for our students and the entire school. The Parent Council's aim with the Fun Run is to make one "ask" per year that will fund a majority of our activities for the year.

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!