



## OVERVIEW

Brighton School is a warm and accepting school community focusing on and specializing in teaching students who have learning challenges. Our homerooms are small, with only 8 – 10 students in each, and our core academic Learning Groups are even smaller, averaging 6 students each. Our Learning Group format enables us to place students at their individual level in each subject and provide individual attention and targeted teaching to each of our students.

We follow the Ontario Curriculum for academics, and modify expectations as required to meet the needs of our students. We also offer several specialized, evidence-based Remediation Programs in reading decoding, comprehension, and math in order to target skill-building in these areas. For students working significantly below grade level in a subject, we offer Foundation Courses to solidify and consolidate basic concepts required for them to progress.

All teaching takes into account the various learning styles of our students: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Learning accommodations provide the necessary support for student success, and may include instructional accommodations (such as use of visual prompts, use of manipulatives, chunking information, etc.); environmental accommodations (such as preferred seating, alternate work spaces, use of headphones, etc.); or assessment accommodations (such as providing additional time for tests or assignments, use of assistive technology, alternate assessment methods, etc.)

Our schedule is set up to support student success. In our Elementary program, we follow a ‘balanced day’ which provides a 45-minute morning recess at 10:30am each day, and a 45-minute lunch at 12:45pm. Both morning and afternoon classes have a built-in ‘DPA’ break (Daily Physical Activity) designed to support optimal energy and attention levels. In our Secondary program, we have a 45-minute lunch at 12:45pm.

The school year is divided into three academic terms, each approximately 12 – 13 weeks long. The first term begins on the first day of school and ends approximately at the end of November. Term 2 begins at the beginning of December and continues through to March Break. The third term begins after March Break and ends the last day of school.

Brighton has a special focus on social skills development for our students, which includes learning about the social mind and social expectations to help them make better decisions during social play and interactions with others. Our ‘Facilitated Play’ recesses and lunches provide opportunities to practice social, play, and friendship skills with structured games and coaching from our teachers.

School assemblies include a chance for students to share successes and kindnesses in front of a larger group, learn school songs, hear announcements of upcoming events, be recognized for special achievements, present class projects, and be introduced to character education themes for the month. Students look forward to participating in special-occasion assemblies such as Remembrance Day and Thanksgiving.

A popular program with Brighton elementary students is our Friday Prize Day! Students are rewarded with points for doing their best work, being a good friend and school citizen, and following school rules. Then, each Friday, the prize table comes out and students may cash in or save up their points for small and large prizes. Types of prizes include: toys, games, crafts, books, hair and makeup products, gift cards, and coupons for special privileges, such as time on computers, homework-free nights, or class pizza parties.

All year, our students look forward to several special, traditional Brighton events. These include our Holiday Concert; the Student Showcase in late May, and the year-end School Picnic on the last day of school. We are a small school that likes to do big things, so we encourage all of our parents to get involved in some capacity to help make these special events happen.

We believe communication with parents is of great importance. We have many ways to keep you informed of everything that happens at Brighton – our website, our monthly 'Update' newsletter, a Facebook and Instagram page, our Friday reminder emails, our digital information screen in the foyer, and of course Google Classroom, which allows teachers to communicate announcements and assignments with both students and parents.

And finally, we believe in celebrating the successes of each and every one of our students. Our Closing Ceremony is held on the last day of school each year, and every proud student is presented with a certificate of completion for their year that recognizes the hard work and progress of our students. This is an event not to miss for families and friends.