



2020/21 Parent Cheat Sheet

We know middle school can be a challenge in the most typical of times as our kids turn into teens with increased demands at the very same time that independence is needed so that students develop tools of self-sufficiency. ADD in the complexity of Distance Learning as we embark on the new school year. With this in mind, we have created this “Cheat Sheet” with some highlights to help families navigate their way through their time here at Borel.

Parent Forums

Despite the pandemic, we are working hard to provide several virtual venues for parents to include Parent Education presentations, ELAC meetings and potential volunteer opportunities. Get engaged as we build community together.

Stay Informed!


Be sure to establish accounts & keep contact information updated for these different tools.


- ***School Loop*** = Direct access to teachers and staff, daily assignments, announcements, weekly Bobcat Blast, etc. This will be the PRIMARY means of communication with your students’ teachers. (*Download the mobile app for even easier access!*)
- ***School Messenger*** = Important communications from school and district via email, text, and/or phone messages.
- ***Back to School Information*** = See Principal Cook’s letter, supplies list and important dates as we embark on the school year [here](#).
- ***ARIES*** = Master database of contact information for all enrolled students in the District, VERY important that this information contains the MOST up to date contact information.
- ***Bobcat Boosters on Facebook*** = Private account for currently enrolled families only. Put in a “Friend” request and our Communications Leader will accept your request.
- ***Bobcat Blast*** = Published weekly, in English and en Espanol, by Borel staff and parent leaders as another means of communicating with our families. It is distributed via email with historical copies found [here](#).


- **BorelBobcats.org** = This is our parent directed website with fundraising, volunteering and contact information. Please click [here](#).


Fundraising in the Midst of Distance Learning

Like most CA public schools, the community solicits contributions for critical supplemental funding that provides direct support to students, staff and families. We rely on generous contributions of our families and their company matching programs to compliment public funding. In typical years with thriving activities, we deeply value the menu of fundraising opportunities at Borel as we believe each of these contribute to a rich community for our students. It remains to be seen what fundraising will look like in 2020/21. But, for new families, we think it is helpful for you to understand what it may look like when our students are able to resume with a more typical Middle School experience.

 **Borel Boosters** = This is the primary vehicle for raising funds in our parent community. Our Borel Boosters provides direct support to the entire school through direct staffing support and dollars to our academic departments to supplement their curriculum. Every student is touched by these dollars. Click [here](#) to learn more.

 **Music** = The Borel Music Department has its own Boosters program that provides vital direct support for the amazing music program. All are invited to their fantastic concerts (once they resume)! For more information visit [here](#).

 **Drama** = Borel's Drama Dream Theater is a golden jewel within the District with well-regarded, high quality performances that will persist once it is safe to do so. The productions are entirely self-funded through donations and ticket sales. For more information visit [here](#).

 **Athletics** = Outside of pandemic conditions, Borel is fortunate to offer competitive athletics but it is 100% self-funded with no financial contribution from the state. The SMFC School District Middle Schools (Bayside, Bowditch, Abbott & Borel) all participate in the [Art David Athletic League](#). This league includes middle schools from as far south as Palo Alto to Half Moon Bay and offers multiple sports with three distinct seasons. Funding is through the San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation. For more information, visit [here](#).

What Does a Year as a Bobcat Look Like?

Visit our 2019/20 Parent Cheat Sheet for a general overview of what a typical year looks like.

Parent Handbook

Your resource guide for contact information for Borel staff and policies, click [here](#).

Want to Learn More?

Easy!! Reach out to one or all of us and we'll be sure to direct you to the right place. We look forward to hearing from you! Contact information [here](#).