

Brown Deer Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
(BDEPTO)

BDEPTO Parent Handbook

A handbook of activities and volunteer opportunities to
enhance the education of our children.

2014-2015



Dear Brown Deer Elementary School Parents/Guardians,

What is the BDEPTO? (Brown Deer Elementary Parent Teacher Organization)

The BDEPTO is made up of YOU and other moms and dads, uncles and aunts, grandparents, and friends who care about our children and their education. We have the common goal of creating a stronger school and educational experience for students at Brown Deer Elementary School. We want to strive to create an atmosphere where teachers and administrators can do their best work, allowing our children to do their best!

Here are some of the things we have accomplished and continue to do on a regular basis:

- On average, the BDEPTO raises \$20,000 annually

With these resources we have provided funding for all PTO sponsored social and educational activities, teacher and staff appreciation events, and annual monetary support to offset the cost of many field trips.

- Books for the IMC(Library) and classrooms
- Document cameras/mimio boards/smartboards for individual classrooms
- Book bags for the reading programs
- Computer programs and materials to supplement curriculum
- Tables for district school usage
- Refreshments/Supplies for activities like Tech Trek, Bike Rodeo, Family Reading Night, etc.
- Defibrillator and other medical equipment for BDE
- Monetary donations to help lower the cost of school field trips
- S.T.E.A.M day and other educational activities

How do I get involved with the BDEPTO?

All parents and guardians with children enrolled in Brown Deer Elementary School are **AUTOMATICALLY** members of the Brown Deer Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (BDEPTO). **WELCOME!** Glad to have you aboard!

There is a lot to be accomplished again at Brown Deer Elementary School this year, and we invite your help. We are welcoming and friendly and would like for you to get involved with our many activities.

Studies show that students whose parents are involved in their education have better grades and fewer discipline problems. Involvement at the school also makes it easier to establish connections with teachers and other parents. We promise that the time you give to the BDEPTO and the school will be worth your while—and fun!

We don't expect a huge time commitment from volunteers. Volunteering for an event or two will make a huge difference! We also encourage you to participate in our two major fundraisers during the year: Midland Fundraising in the Fall and Fun Fair in the Spring! We are also starting a new fundraising SCRIP program that will run throughout the school year.

What if I would like to get more involved?

Wow! We love to hear questions like that! Here are some ways:

1) **JOIN A PLANNING COMMITTEE.** We have several committees to choose from:

- Fun Fair Games
- Fun Fair Kitchen
- Fun Fair Raffle
- School Garden
- Fun Fair Prizes
- Fun Fair Volunteers
- Fun Fair Bake Sale
- S.T.E.A.M. Day
- Scolastic Book Fair
- Family Reading Night

• **2) BECOME A CLASSROOM COORDINATOR.** If you would like to be more involved directly with your child's classroom you can become a BDE Classroom Coordinator (CC). The BDEPTO likes to recruit 2- 3 Classroom Coordinators for each homeroom. CC's help assist the homeroom teacher and connect classroom families to one another by:

- Creating a classroom contact list
- Encourage volunteerism for classroom and school events
- Organize teacher appreciation projects
- Assist in classroom if needed

• Being a Classroom Coordinator for your child's teacher will not necessarily require time spent in the classroom or school. Ultimately, the needs of the teacher and students will define the opportunities available to each Classroom Coordinator.

• **3) BECOME AN EVENT ORGANIZER.** We have several events that we need people to oversee and organize. They are:

- Multicultural Pot Luck
- Book Fairs
- Halloween Party
- Family Reading Night

• If you would like to join a Planning committee or learn about being an event organizer, please contact one of the BDEPTO board members below:

• **4) JOIN THE BDEPTO BOARD.** The BDEPTO Board is elected annually to oversee the affairs of the organization. Elections are held at the end of the prior school year, and board meetings are held on a monthly basis. Board members for the 2014-2015 school year are:

- Co-Presidents: **Bill Wiesgerber**, 530-3294 – wweisgerber@gmail.com
- **Jean Wells**, 365-9619 – jeanwells5050@gmail.com
- Co-Vice-Presidents: **Andrea Gattie**, 365-6372 - andragattie@gmail.com
- **Nicole Brown**, 324-3142 nicolebrown6714@gmail.com
- Treasurer: **Jennifer Vang**, 362-0537 - vang9441@yahoo.com
- Secretary: **Jennifer Hauser**, 371-9603, jeiff@yahoo.com
- Volunteer Coordinators: **Denese Heiser**, 446-5652 - dheiser02@gmail.com
- **Kecia Washington**, 362-0179 - kw619@att.net
- Hospitality Coordinator: **Jill McGuire**, 365-1978 – bdmcguires@att.net

- Family Liasion

Lisa Gumm, 371-1655 - LGumm@wi.rr.com

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- **Do I need to attend BDEPTO meetings?**

- It would be great if you would consider attending at least 1-2 PTO meetings during the school year. Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Monday of the month. There is no PTO meeting during the month of December.

- PTO meetings are scheduled at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the BDE Library.

- Free adult supervised childcare is provided.

- Typically, the principal and a teacher representative share information about school activities and upcoming events. You'll also hear about volunteer activities and special projects.

- We sure hope you will consider getting involved in many of the BDEPTO events held at Brown Deer Elementary School. Your involvement will make a big difference in the life of your children and the community at large. More event information and requests for help will be sent home in your child's Weekly Folders.

- For answers to questions, more information or if you want to get involved right away, please contact any of the BDEPTO board members.

- **Other Ways To Help Brown Deer Elementary School!**

- Save "Box Tops for Education" labels found on General Mills products--10 cents for each label! (Cut to dotted line please) Send them with your child, or drop them off in the collection bins at school. Grandma & Grandpa, other friends and relatives can save them for us too!

- Collect "Campbell's Labels for Education". We redeem them for school supplies.

- "My Coke Rewards" go to www.mycokerewards.com.

- Look for Details about our new SCRIP fundraising program and participate in our Midland Fundraising product sale in the Fall and Fun Fair in the Spring!