

Charlesmont Chatter

Charlesmont Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 1

September 26, 2019

Principal's Message

Thank you for a fantastic beginning to the school year! We appreciate your commitment to the success of your child. We look forward to building and maintaining positive and productive partnerships between our families and staff to support student achievement and a strong home/school connection.

Please be sure to review our Family Handbook which contains important information about the procedures and protocols we adhere to in our school. We hope you will find this to be a useful tool as you navigate the school year. Some of the items have been highlighted in this newsletter as priorities to be focused on as we get into the school year.

We'd like to recognize our fantastic staff for all that they have done to prepare welcoming classrooms for our students. Many of our staff have offered to run before/after school clubs to provide enrichment opportunities to our students! We are proud of our school family and our school building! We ask that you reinforce with your child the importance of treating our staff, students, and building with respect.

Have a wonderful school year!

Principal, Dawn Hoffmaster
Assistant Principal, Maria Henry

School Safety

ALICE

BCPS has adopted the ALICE Protocol for school lockdowns. School staff have received both online and face-to-face training. This week, students participated in an enhanced lockdown. This is an options-based protocol in which teachers can make the best decision regarding how to keep students safe in the unique situations that may occur should a safety incident arise.

ALICE is an acronym for the following:

- **A**lert – receiving initial notice of a critical event
- **L**ockdown – securing occupants behind closed doors
- **I**nform – notifying staff and students of potential danger throughout the event
- **C**ounter – creating noise, movement, distance, and distraction
- **E**vacuate – leaving the area of the danger

Our young students are taught the ALICE protocol using the book, "I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared." The book presents this difficult information in an age appropriate manner. Please reach out to the school if you would like further information regarding how to discuss school safety with your child.

School Safety – Cont'd

Student Behavior Handbook

During the past three weeks, Mrs. Henry has reviewed the 2019/2020 BCPS Student Handbook. This publication establishes the expectations for maintaining a safe and orderly environment where all children can learn.

As a school we will be implementing several initiatives to help students learn how to make positive behavior choices. Throughout the year, classroom teachers will be teaching students social skills and strategies for regulating their emotions. Each classroom will have a Safe Place for students to have a break when they feel they need a moment or two to process frustrations. Mrs. Kurcoba, our School Counselor, is conducting classroom lessons to help our boys and girls build positive relationships. Ms. Nanney, our resource teacher, is teaching social/emotional lessons each week to our students in grades 2-5. The lessons are aligned to the concepts outlined in Conscious Discipline. They will address topics such as assertiveness, problem solving, and composure.

We ask that you reinforce these efforts at home by reviewing the Student Handbook with your child. All students are required to electronically sign the Acknowledgement Form. Parents/guardians are to log into BCPS One to acknowledge receipt of the handbook.

One Card Identification System

All Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) employees and students will wear a photo identification badge. Elementary level students will keep their One-Cards in school. All students and staff are required to wear their One-Card at all times unless there is a safety issue, such as during recess and

physical education class. The One-Card identification system is one more step in improving security for students and staff.

If a student damages or loses their One Card there will be a \$5 replacement fee.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

At the beginning of the year, we include our Emergency Evacuation Plan procedures in our Chatter. These procedures identify evacuation sites to three areas in our community should there be a reason to evacuate the school. Parents will be alerted about evacuation on local radio/television station news reports. The evacuation sites are:

1. General John Stricker-Cafeteria/Gym-Command Post: Lobby-7855 Trappe Road.
2. Patapsco High School-Auditorium-Command Post: Lobby, 8100 Wise Ave.
3. Dundalk Community College-7200 Sollers Point Road.

School Communicate Messages

Any time you change your phone number, we request that you update your contact phone numbers by calling our secretary, at 410-887-7004. Our phone messages are another important means of keeping parents informed. You will not receive these messages if we do not have your current phone numbers.

When you receive a call from school and see our number on your caller ID, listen to the entire message before calling the school for clarification.

Email messages with attachments can be sent through School Communicate. In the future we will send the Charlesmont Chatter via email unless a parent has requested a paper copy be sent home.

School Safety – Cont'd

Raptor School Safety and Security System

All visitors to our building must register in the school office immediately upon entry. When you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID, or a driver's license, to a staff member in the school office. The ID will be scanned and the following information will be collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be used to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sex offender databases throughout the country.

If your name appears on any of the lists or you refuse to allow the school to scan your ID, you will not be allowed access to the school. Please come early to allow time to be scanned and issued an ID. Once you have been cleared by the Raptor Security System, you will receive a Visitor Pass. ***All visitors must have a Visitor Pass displayed at all times*** they are in the school building or visiting with classes on school grounds. The safety and security of our students and staff is of the utmost importance.

After you initially have your ID scanned, you will be asked to show your ID on future visits, and your name will be selected from an existing list of previous visitors. You will also be asked to check out with the office staff upon leaving the school so that we know you are no longer in the building. The information collected will not be shared outside of school and is kept on a secure server. Your assistance in keeping our students and school safe is appreciated.

Opt-Out Form

Information about the Opt-Out preferences can be reviewed and changed in BCPS One. If you need assistance setting up a BCPS One account, please contact Ms. Medley.

No Scented Products

There are students and staff in our building who have allergies and respiratory issues which are aggravated by scented products. Please do not send your child to school wearing products which contain fragrance. Thank you.



Safety on School Grounds, Bikes, Scooters, Dogs, Smoking, etc.

- Bikes, scooters, skateboards, or roller blades are not allowed on school grounds during the school day and at arrival/dismissal time. Students exiting the building could be struck by a fast-moving bike, scooter, etc. As well, these vehicles pose a danger to the adults waiting for their children.
- Please remember that pets, even on a leash, are not allowed on school property when school is in session or at arrival and dismissal, with the exception of service dogs. Service dogs are for the purpose of conducting the work associated with their use. Students are not to approach or pet service dogs if they are on school property.
- Smoking/Vaping of any substance is not allowed on school property. Thank you for your support!



School Safety – Cont'd

Traffic Safety

Traffic flows around the parking lot in one direction as indicated by the arrows.

Handicapped spaces are reserved for those who have a documented disability.

Additionally, we have students with disabilities whose parents need to use these spots (Van Accessible) so that they have adequate space for wheelchair mobility. Please do not park in these spaces unless you have a handicapped tag.

We also remind you that cars that are double parked create a problem for traffic flow to our "Kiss and Go Drop Off Zone" in the Primary Parking Lot. Please only park in designated parking spaces. **Double parking is not allowed during arrival or dismissal.**

Also, it is important that traffic flows in one direction only around the Primary lot. See our Safe Walking Route/Kiss and Go Zone Map (attached.)

Bus Loop

Please remember that **no cars are allowed in the bus loop during the hour windows of arrival** (8:15-9:15 a.m.) **and dismissal** (3:00-4:00 p.m.). Students arriving after 9:00 a.m. must be signed in the front office by a parent or legal guardian.

Crosswalks

Please remind your child to **cross at crosswalks only** and to practice safe arrival and dismissal procedures. Crossing guards are on duty in the morning from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and in the afternoon from 3:30-4:00 p.m.



DISMISSAL: Sibling Grounds Passes

If your middle or high school student has permission to pick up your elementary child, please have him/her apply for a Grounds Permission Pass in the school office. **Students who do not have this special pass should not be on school property during dismissal time** (3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.). Students must carry the Special Grounds Pass and have it readily available if requested by a staff member.

UNIVERSAL BREAKFAST

Our school serves Universal Breakfast. This means all students are provided a free breakfast. Universal Breakfast occurs between 8:45 and 9:00. Students arriving late to school may not be given breakfast in accordance with federal guidelines.

LUNCH

Students may purchase lunch in the Cafeteria. If you would like your child to purchase a lunch, you may prepay for meals using My School Bucks. A link can be found on the BCPS Parent Page. You can also find lunch menus and Free & Reduced Meals applications.

PAYMENT FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

We are unable to accept personal checks in payment for your child's activities. We will only be able to accept cash or money order in the exact amount. We cannot make change.

HELP WITH BCPSOne

How to Access – BCPS.org

Choose Parent Tab – from dropdown

Choose BCPSOne – log in with your email and password

Help with BCPSOne – BCPS.org

Choose Parent Tab – look to the bottom left of page

Choose – BCPSOne Support

*update account – click on links

*add students – click on links

Recess Safety

Students have recess daily. Please have your child wear tennis shoes or other closed toe shoes. Shoes with no backs, high heels, and flip flops are not safe for climbing/running.

SIBLINGS AT SCHOOL

Throughout the school year various events will occur in which parents may visit the school to observe in the classroom or participate in events or assemblies. Flyers home will note whether the event may include siblings. As a rule of thumb, events which highlight instruction in the classroom (e.g. American Education Week and Heart to Heart) will not include siblings. Siblings may come to assemblies. School age siblings may not attend events if they are supposed to attend their own schools. If a sibling is suspended from a BCPS school, they are not permitted on any BCPS school grounds and will not be allowed on Charlesmont ES school grounds or admitted to the school event.

When volunteering, the BCPS Volunteer Handbook states that volunteers may not bring children under their care with them while they conduct volunteer work. Thank you for your adherence to these rules.

Our VISION

Charlesmont students will have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their potential as respectful, responsible, healthy, productive citizens prepared for career/college readiness in a global economy and multicultural society.

Our MISSION

Charlesmont's mission is to provide a quality education that develops the content knowledge, skills, and confidence that will enable all students to reach their maximum potential as respectful, responsible, healthy, lifelong learners and productive citizens.

OUR CHARLESMONT FAMILIES

If you need assistance with things such as food or other resources for your children, please call Mrs. Kurcoba or Ms. Peters at 410-887-7004. All information is confidential. Remember – we are a caring community and reaching out to help a family is a privilege.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mrs. Lowers has taken on the role of Family and Community Engagement Liaison. Within the next two weeks we will publish upcoming family events at school. Additionally, if you require help finding resources, would like to borrow items from the lending library, or require assistance, our secretaries can direct you to a staff member who can assist you.

SHOES FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For your child's safety, he/she may not participate in PE class if sneakers are not worn. Mr. Pitts is accepting donations of old pairs of tennis shoes to the school. These shoes need to be in good condition - no rips, laces or straps attached, safe to wear, clean condition. These shoes will be made available to students who forget to wear the appropriate shoes for physical education class.

FAMILY ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Hoffmaster will be assembling a group of teachers, family members, and community partners to discuss how we are doing as a school and to provide input for changes that will have a positive impact on our school and communications with our families. Please let Mrs. Hoffmaster know if you are interested in being a part of this group.

School Picture Day: October 2nd

CALENDAR CORNER

September

9/27 Volunteer Tea/Input – 9:00 AM
9/27 SCHOOL CLOSED

October

10/02 Picture Day
Walk Your Child to School Day
Muffins w/ Munchkins 8:00 AM
10/9 School Closed
10/6-12 Fire Prevention Week
10/14-18 National School Lunch Week
10/20-26 National Character Counts Week
10/21-25 National School Bus Safety Week
10/18 Systemwide PD Day
Schools Closed for Students
10/21 SECAC Meeting – Dundalk/
Sollers Pt. HS – 7PM
10/23-30 Red Ribbon Week
10/25- Fall Book Fair
11/1
10/30 Make-Up Picture Day
10/31 Halloween Parade – 2:30 PM



Charlesmont Elementary School
7800 W. Collingham Drive
Dundalk, MD 21222
(410)887-7004

Dawn E. Hoffmaster, Principal
Maria Henry, Assistant Principal

A Note from Mrs. Drasser, Nurse

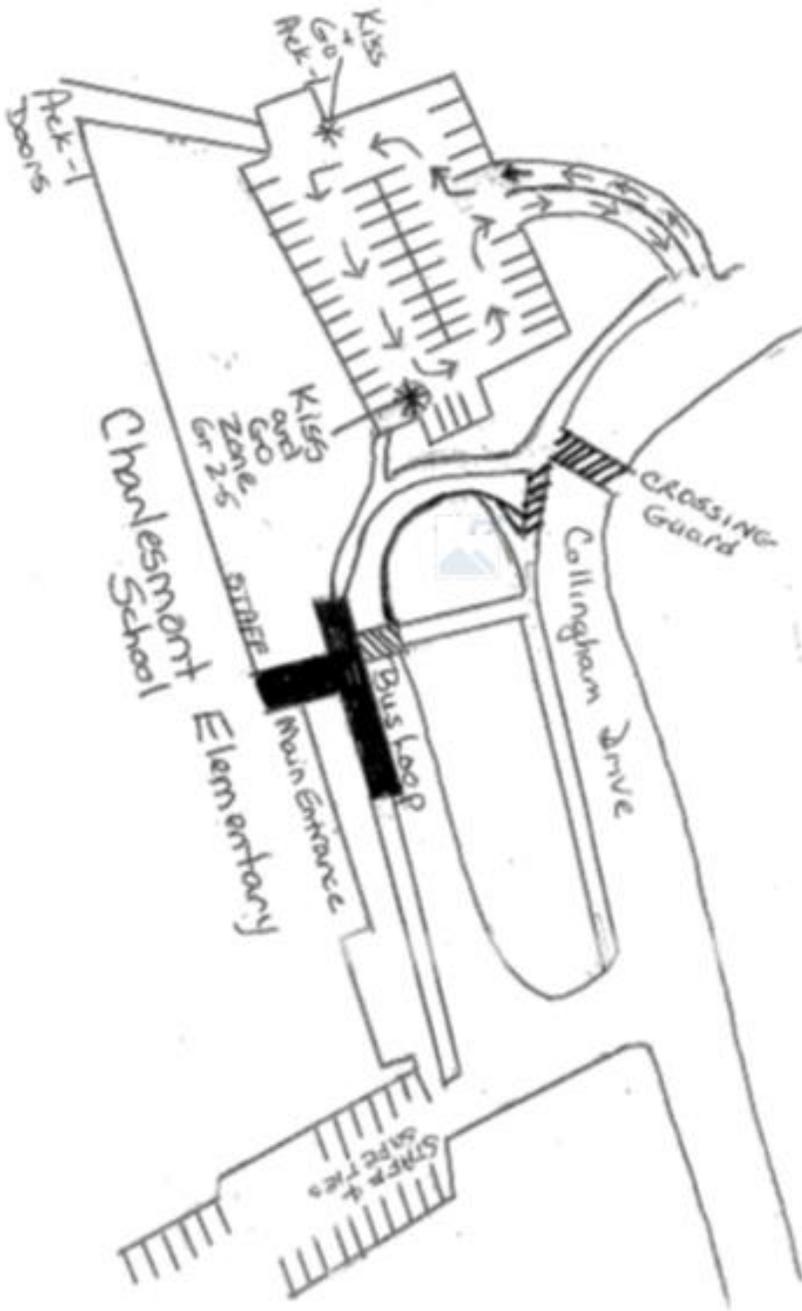
Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a fun and healthy summer. I have a few reminders that will help us to stay safe and healthy.

If your child requires medication at school, it is very important that you get the orders from your child's doctor and drop off the medication to me in a pharmacy labeled box. Without the written doctor's order your child may not receive medication in school. ***Even over the counter medications must have a doctor's order for school.*** Epi-pens and inhalers are life-saving medication that students should never be without, especially with upcoming field trips. Remember, students are not allowed to carry medications.

Sleep is extremely important in order to function well in school. During sleep, the body repairs itself and maintains our immune system so we can fight illness. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children 3 to 5 years of age should be getting 10-13 hours of sleep in 24 hours (including naps) and children 6 to 12 years of age need 9-12 hours of sleep for optimal health. Make sure your child avoids screen time at least one hour before bed; that means no television/smart phones/ipad/computers! These devices make it harder to fall asleep.

This year, our Pennies for Patients Campaign will run in October. This program raises money for children with Leukemia and Lymphoma. Donations help cure blood cancers and support patients and their families. Last year, we raised \$1,171.14 and we would like to beat that. Our kickoff assembly will be on Friday October 11. Donations will be collected for 3 consecutive weeks. Our students can earn prizes by registering to donate online and by bringing in coupons to the nurse for collecting money. More detailed information about how to register online will be sent home with students the day of the kickoff. We appreciate any donation, small or large. Every penny counts!!!

Let's have a great year!
Ali Drasser R.N.
410-285-6413
abarrett2@bcps.org



SAFE WALKING ROUTE/KISS AND GO ZONE MAP