OUR MISSION

Reisterstown Elementary School is committed to educating the whole child while providing a safe and nurturing environment that promotes a passion for lifelong learning, respect for self, others, the learning environment, and an appreciation for individual differences.

Candace Brinkley  
Principal  
email: cbrinkley@bcps.org

Kaia Stevens  
Assistant Principal  
email: kstevens2@bcps.org

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a great start to the 2022-2023 school year we’ve had so far! It is hard to believe that we are well into the first month of school. It is going well and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support!

This year, our theme is #RESconnected. We are making it our mission to connect with our students, families, school staff, community, and educational goals with intention. Our teachers are working hard to create inclusive learning environments that allow for teaching and learning at optimal levels. Students will have the opportunity to work independently and collaboratively towards grade-level standards with the support of teachers and staff.

We certainly cannot be a successful school without your support. As families, you are encouraged to maintain an open line of communication with your child’s teacher(s) through emails, phone calls, or the Talking Points app. We want to ensure that we are helping in every way that we can, and we also love to join you in celebrating all of your child’s successes! In addition, you are encouraged to join our Reisterstown Elementary School PTA to support our school community.

As I walk through the school and visit classrooms, I see our students actively participating in learning activities, displaying our RES commitments, and displaying smiles and excitement for being in school. I am so excited for all the things we will accomplish together this year! Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Brinkley, Principal
UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 26: NO STUDENTS (Rosh Hashanah)

OCTOBER 5: NO STUDENTS (Yom Kippur)
OCTOBER 10 and 11: SCHOOL PICTURES (All students - Flyers and details coming)
OCTOBER 12: IDENT-a-KID Photos (Non-mandatory)
OCTOBER 21: SCHOOL CLOSED (MSEA Conference Day)
OCTOBER 24: SCHOOL CLOSED for STUDENTS (Professional Day)
OCTOBER 28: Pumpkin Run (Details coming)

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE:

NEW SCHOOL YEAR- Time to update that contact info!
If you have not connected through Schoology and FOCUS, please take a few minutes to set up an account at www.bcps.org under the Parent tab.

Every year, we need parents to take a few minutes to update their child’s contact information. The county has made this available for parents to complete online. We are asking ALL families to update their information online in the Parent Portal in FOCUS to complete the update. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE COUNTS:
Things to remember:

- School doors open at 8:05 AM.
- Instruction begins at 8:20 AM. Students are marked as Unexcused Tardy after that time, unless you provide a Dr. note to the front office when they come in.
- We encourage families to make every effort to be on time, every day., and to keep students in school all day. Those late minutes and early dismissals can really add up quickly to LOTS of missed instruction time.
- Please send a note with your child when they return from being absent.
- If you know your child will be absent, please notify the teacher. You will receive an automated phone call from BCPS letting you know that your child is absent. Even if you notified the teacher, you would still receive the call. Don’t panic! We can’t stop the calls from going out.

PRO TIP: Look on the calendar for days that students are not in school and try to schedule them for appointments on those days, so they don’t miss any school.
**LOST and FOUND:**

So far, our students have been doing a great job of keeping track of their personal belongings. If they misplace something, it will be put into our lost and found in the front lobby. After each quarter, anything left behind will be donated.

It is EXTREMELY helpful to use a Sharpie to write the student’s name inside lunchboxes, backpacks, etc. so we can make every attempt to return items to their owners.

**MOVING?**

If you move/have moved to a new house or apartment, we need you to contact our front office as soon as possible so we can update the system with your correct information.

**DISMISSAL:**

Dismissal Information:

- All Early dismissals should be completed prior to 2:15 PM. Please keep in mind when coming to pick up your child that it can take several minutes to bring your child down for dismissal. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, please allow
- If you know ahead of time that your child will dismiss a different way than usual, please notify the teacher by sending in a note or sending an email message.
- If something comes up during the day, please make every effort to notify the front office before 2:30 PM.
- During dismissal, the front office staff are not always able to answer the phone since we are involved with making sure our students are dismissing safely.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

For the last few years, we have been fortunate to have free breakfast and lunches for our children. Beginning this school year (2022-2023) there will be some changes.

1. Reisterstown students will continue to receive a free breakfast if they choose.
2. Lunch will no longer be free. If you choose for your child(ren) to purchase a school lunch, it will be $2.90. Snacks are also available for an additional cost. If you need to add money to your child’s My School Bucks account, please visit: [https://www.myschoolbucks.com/](https://www.myschoolbucks.com/)

If you would like to apply for free lunches, please go to the website below and complete the application.

[https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application/TermsOfUse](https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application/TermsOfUse)
What you will need to provide during the application process:

- The names and incomes of every member of your household
- The school (optional), grade, birthdate (optional) of every student in your household
- The last 4 digits of your social security number and electronic signature
- (Optional) A valid email address or phone number for district communication about the status of the application.

Please feel free to reach out to the school with any questions you may have.

FROM YOUR TEACHERS:

Parents- please help us remind our students that they should bring their devices and chargers to school. Devices will be kept at school this year.

The students have transitioned nicely to first grade. The first several weeks have focused on practicing rules and expectations, learning classroom routines, and building stamina for the increased instructional demands of first grade. In phonics, we are practicing writing and identifying capital and lowercase letters. Students are also writing beginning journal entries using sentence starters. Encourage your child to practice sounding out words on their own as they write. Our first language arts unit is tied to Conscious Discipline and focuses on identifying and regulating emotions. Students have learned how to use breathing techniques and the SAFE PLACE in our classroom when they are feeling upset. Our classes all love our calming, weekly yoga with Ms. Chisholm. In math, first graders are learning to identify numbers, count forward and backward to 100, use a number rack, and skip count by 2s, 5s, and tens. Things you can do at home to support learning include reading to your child, listening to them read, practicing letters and letters sounds, and reinforcing the sight words taught in class. In addition, ask your child how they can show peacefulness, kindness, will-power and safety in our school and classroom. Don’t forget to check, empty, and return folders daily. If you haven’t already, please join the Talking Points APP to connect with your child’s teacher, receive group and individual messages, and enjoy class photos. We look forward to an amazing year watching our students grow.

We have been very busy getting to know our classroom family and creating a sense of community. It has been enjoyable learning about each child, their hobbies and interests. In Health class, we have been exploring the 3 brain states and practicing strategies to help keep us calm and ready to learn. Our first ELA Unit has included Back- to-School lessons in which we have been focusing on choosing the right books to read, practicing stamina, engaging in collaborative discussions, participating in small group rotations and exposure to types of genre. In the on-grade level math class, our first unit is Multiplicative Thinking. Students have been learning different types of multiplication strategies such as repeated addition on a number line, ratio tables, arrays and area models. These strategies will assist them with working independently as we move forward building on our skills and concepts. In advanced math, students have been working and will continue to improve on
solving multi-step story problems involving multiplication and division with remainders and multiplying and dividing with multi-digit numbers. We will develop and demonstrate an understanding of volume using multiplication. So far, we’ve enjoyed playing math games, learning together, and becoming a class family. 😊

Students are beginning to check out books from the library and bring them home to read. Encourage your child to keep library books in a safe place and take care of the books. Borrowed books are returned to the library on the scheduled LIBRARY special day. Chapter books may be renewed from week to week to finish the book.

All students can look on Destiny, our library’s online catalog, under the tab, “My Stuff” to see what books are checked out to their account. A shortcut to our online catalog, Destiny, is located on the Schoology LIBRARY page. Destiny also has a variety of eBooks available for students to access.

Overdue notices, for books not returned, will come home at the beginning of each month. If at any time your student receives a notice for a book that is lost or damaged, contact Ms. Hale.

If you are interested in volunteering in the library this year, please send an email to mhale2@bcps.org. All volunteers must complete the volunteer training provided by BCPS.

As part of our School Counseling Program, your child’s class will have the opportunity to engage in a counseling lesson during the month of September on Resilience. This month’s topic explores what it means to be resilient and learning about strategies we can use to overcome different challenges. Kindergarten and first grade will be focusing on learning about who the School Counselor is and what they do, while 2nd-5th grade activities will center around stories that discuss resilience.

It is our hope that the core curriculum counseling lessons will help to promote the social emotional, academic, and career development of our students. We hope that you can help your child reflect on these lessons by discussing their content together. Please feel free to contact your child’s school counselor with any questions about the program.

Mrs. Jessica Chisholm  
jchisholm@bcps.org  
School Counselor: Grades 1st, 3rd, and 5th

Ms. Michele Coleman  
mcoleman2@bcps.org  
School Counselor: Grades K, 2nd, and 4th
Northwest Area Education Advisory Council Pre-Budget Hearing

October 10th 7PM via ZOOM

We Need Your Voice!

Northwest Area residents are invited to present testimony on capital budget requests (building renovations, equipment purchases/repairs) and operating budget requests (books, staff, and technology) that they want to include in the BCPS FY 2024 Operating and FY 2025 Capital Budgets. Each person will be given three minutes to present testimony.

Register HERE on Zoom!
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdOmuqDgpHtJW7TMr8_9X8lhrj2oHxLvn

Join in to meet your area advisory members, apply to become a member, and share your input for future meetings!

Questions or comments? Email us:
lashau73@gmail.com