October 2020
Dear MES School Family,

We did it! One month of virtual learning. Students, parents, families - it takes ALL of you. We know it is not easy, especially in the beginning but we are so impressed. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. We are beyond fortunate to have such a great team!

However, there is always room to get better and we are working to improve our communication and resources. If you have an idea or suggestion, please let us know - we are a team.

Next week, we will have three different sessions for parents and families. These sessions will -

- Review Title One Information
- Provide support for Navigating Schoology
- Question and answer session

Please log to Microsoft teams -
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
+1 301-960-8406 Conference ID: 443 280 005#

We miss seeing everyone each day - please remember The Office of Food and Nutrition is serving lunch each day at the front of our schoo from 11:30-12:30.

Thank you for all that you are doing to make this unconventional setting as normal as possible!

Sincerely,

Lori Hutchison
Principal
lhutchison@bcps.org

Jennifer Burch
Assistant Principal
jburst2@bcps.org

Family Q & A Sessions
Monday, Oct. 5 @2:00
Tuesday, Oct. 6 @ 4:00
Wednesday, Oct. 7 @ 6:30

October Dates
Wednesday, Oct.14 - Friday Schedule @ 2:00
Friday, October 16 - No School for Students

All About MES!
“ We are ALL connected!”

SCHOOL SUPPLIES
We continue to wait for a delivery of ordered materials. If you need anything to support learning, please email or call the school and we can help. Paper, pencils....

STUDENT SCHEDULES
We will work together to build our children’s stamina with regards to maintaining engagement in learning. However, we truly need your support. Below are some helpful tips to help PREPARE for the new year –

1. Set a reasonable bedtime for ALL students (starting as soon as possible)
2. Set a wake-up time (ALL student classes will begin at 9:00 am on September 8th)
3. Identify a learning area with as few distractions as possible (away from tv, siblings...)
4. Store electronics (gaming systems, phones, televisions...) away from students during school hours (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) as well as when it is time to sleep.

Below are some tips for when on-line learning BEGINS

1. Post schedule (we will supply you with a magnet, protective sleeve, and schedule for the refrigerator)
2. Set-up materials prior to the class (we will supply students with a backpack for easy storage of materials)
3. Use headphones (if possible)
4. Clean-up materials at the completion of each day
5. Store electronics (gaming systems, phones...) away from students when it is time for them to sleep
6. Maintain a consistent bedtime
7. Maintain a consistent wake-up time
8. During breaks, get outside, exercise, move – STEP AWAY FROM TECHNOLOGY!
9. Stay in touch with our MES staff – we are in this together – We are ALL Connected!
10. Stay positive! We WILL be successful!

COMMUNICATION
We will use Schoology as our means of communication. There is an app (click here for directions for the app) that can be downloaded to phones and you can be alerted when messages are sent (like text messages). You can also access Schoology through BCPSOne. You can find the directions for gaining a BCPSOne parent account by clicking here.

Once you are connected, you can easily communicate with staff and review student grades, view schedules and assignments. Staff will be available to assist with ensuring you have access to schoology via parent meetings. These dates will be shared at a later time.
STUDY/ LEARNING SUPPORT
Starting Monday, October 5th, we will have an open Google Meets where students can visit for additional support with work completion. Students can use the code “MES Study” to join the room. They will be met by an adult and can ask questions. Depending on the amount of students visiting the Meets, we will adjust supports at given times.

MAGNET PROGRAM INFORMATION
During the first week of school, letters regarding the availability of online magnet program brochures were mailed to Grade 5 students. These brochures contain important information about magnet programs and transportation. Please download a copy of these brochures and discuss this information with your child as you plan for the next phase of your child’s education. Magnet applications are available online. Applications may be submitted online at the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020.

Ms. Tyler will be hosting a Middle School Magnet Q & A Session on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00pm. Register to attend and mark your calendars!!!

Family Q & A Sessions
Monday, Oct. 5 @2:00
Tuesday, Oct. 6 @ 4:00
Wednesday, Oct. 7 @ 6:30

We will have three different sessions for parents and families.
- Review Title One Information
- Provide support for Navigating Schoology
- Question and answer session
We want to thank everyone for their flexibility and perseverance. We will continue to update you regarding schedules via phone, email and schoology. If you have not received the calls and emails, please let us know so we can review your contact information.

During the month of October, the schedule will be modified as follows -

- Wednesday, October 7th - Class meeting at 9 for all students and then check your teacher’s individualized schedules on their schoology page
- Wednesday, October 14th - Follow Friday’s schedule
- Friday, October 16th - NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS
- Wednesday - October 21st - Class meeting at 9 for all students and then check your teacher’s individualized schedules on their schoology page
- Wednesday - October 28th Class meeting at 9 for all students and then check your teacher’s individualized schedules on their schoology page
September 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) strives to equip every student with the critical 21st century skills needed to be globally competitive. We know that reaching this goal depends on having certified teachers in our classrooms.

You have the right to ask for and receive information about the professional certifications of your child’s classroom teacher, including:

- Any college or university degrees or certifications held by the teacher.
- The subject area of the teacher’s degree or certification.
- Whether the teacher is certified by the state of Maryland to teach a particular grade level or subject area.
- Whether the teacher holds a conditional certificate.

You may also ask whether your child is receiving instructional support services by a paraprofessional. If so, you may request the paraprofessional’s qualifications.

If you would like to receive information about your child’s classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals, please make the request in writing to your school principal. The principal will respond within 30 days.

Thank you for supporting your child’s education. It is through strong partnerships with parents and family members like you that BCPS is able to achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Darryl L. Williams
Superintendent
8 de septiembre de 2020

Estimados padres y tutores:

Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Baltimore (BCPS) se esfuerzan para preparar a cada uno de los estudiantes con las habilidades críticas del siglo 21 que son necesarias para ser competitivos a nivel mundial. Sabemos que logrando este objetivo depende de tener maestros certificados en nuestros salones de clase.

Usted tiene el derecho de pedir y recibir información sobre las certificaciones profesionales del maestro/a de su hijo, inclusive:

- Cualquier título universitario o certificación que tenga el profesor.
- La materia del título o certificación del maestro/a.
- Si el maestro/a es certificado/a por el estado de Maryland para enseñar un grado o una materia específica.
- Si el profesor tiene un certificado condicional.

Usted también puede preguntar si su hijo/a recibe los servicios de apoyo educativo de un para profesional. Si es así, usted puede pedir las calificaciones del paraprofesional.

Si desea recibir información sobre el maestro/a y/o paraprofesionales del salón de clase de su hijo/a, por favor pídale por escrito al director de su escuela. Este le responderá dentro de 30 días.

Gracias por su apoyo en la educación de su hijo/a. Es por medio de las asociaciones fuertes con los padres y miembros de la familia, cómo usted, que en BCPS podemos lograr nuestros objetivos.

Sinceramente,

Darryl L. Williams Superintendente
Seven Facts for Understanding ATTENDANCE in Baltimore County Public Schools’ Virtual Classroom Environment

✅ In order to be marked present for a given day, students must log onto the appropriate learning platform during school hours:
  - Google Meets (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.)
  - Schoology (Wednesdays)

✅ Students should log onto their Google Meets classes and Schoology account between 8:00AM—3:00PM. This time period has been identified as “school hours.”

✅ When students are absent for a full day, parents/guardians should provide teachers with an email note explaining the reason for the absence in order for the absence to be marked excused. No email notes are required for lateness to class.

✅ On Wednesdays, all students work independently to complete assignments posted by their teachers in Schoology. When students log on during school hours, they are marked present.

✅ Students who are having technical difficulties that prevent them from logging on and being marked present should contact their teachers.

✅ Parents/Guardians can expect an automated attendance call if their child did not log onto Google Meets or Schoology during the identified school hours.

✅ Students’ log-on practices are stored in the Student Information System as “daily attendance.” Daily attendance data will be printed on the students’ report cards.

All Baltimore County schools have a designated pupil personnel worker who is available to assist students and families with attendance-related matters. When seeking support from the school’s pupil personnel worker, parents/guardians should contact a representative from the school or call the Office of Pupil Personnel Services at (443) 809-0404 and leave a message.