August 2020

Dear MES School Family,

Happy 2020-2021 school year! Although we will not be starting like we normally do, we are excited to get back into our NEW school routine. We know that this year will be different but know that we are in this together and all share the same goal. We want to keep our school family safe and make sure that we learn. Our attitude will drive everything!

This will be the format for our newsletters. We will use Schoology to communicate information to our families (if you have logged in recently, you already know your child’s teacher). All icons/boxes are linked to help you go directly to frequently used resources. We also have the “All About MES!” icon/box for you to visit and learn about the staff, find resources, schedules and more. This will be added through the year to support one another!

We are hoping to ensure that we have accurate contact information. This is imperative especially in the virtual world. Please click the link below to complete an updated contact form. You will need to complete one for each student. Prior to completing the form, please ensure you know your child’s homeroom teacher’s name.

https://tinyurl.com/MES-Student-Contact

We are looking forward to a great year. Although it may be different, we are excited and ready! On the next page, you will find specific information. Please don’t hesitate to email or call school with questions. We cannot wait to “see” you!

Sincerely,

Lori Hutchison, Principal
lhutchison@bcps.org

Jennifer Burch, Assistant Principal
jburch2@bcps.org
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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES
We will provide ALL students with school supplies. These supplies will be differentiated by grade level. The supplies will be placed in a drawstring bag for students to store when not using. We have TENTATIVELY scheduled supply and device pick-up for the following dates and times -

Tuesday, September 1  - 11:30-12:30 or 2:30-3:30 - 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades
Wednesday, September 2  - 11:30-12:30 or 2:30-3:30 - Pre-k, Pre-School, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

Please note that the date and times may change if we do not receive the devices by the given date. We will call and send emails to remind you of the date and times.
DEVICES
Devices will be provided to all students in kindergarten. Devices will be available for pick-up at the same time as supplies. Students in 1st through 5th grade who did not request/ receive a device in the spring may request them via email (jburch2@bcps.org). Pre-kindergarten and pre-school will work with their teacher to utilize their current technology, as well as packets.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance will be taken for ALL sessions. Students are expected to login, on time, in order to be marked present. Staff will review attendance weekly and follow BCPS Policies and Rules to ensure students are accessing virtual learning consistently. Attendance is required.

WEEK OF AUGUST 31st: Homeroom teachers will contact ALL families. We will confirm the following information (save time by completing this link ahead of time - (https://tinyurl.com/MES-Student-Contact) –

- Contact information (names, phone numbers, address…)
- Student is able to -
  - log on to computer/ device
  - access to BCPS One
  - access schoology
  - access Google meets
  - navigate the schedule
- Parent is able to –
  - access to BCPS One
  - connect to Schoology (do you have the app?)
  - locate information for MES in schoology via MES schoology page
  - navigate the schedule

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SCHEDULES
The enclosed document is an overview of your child’s schedule (if you are reading this via the mail). If you are reading this via Schoology or email, you can follow the link on the next page to your child’s schedule. Your child’s teacher can be found in Schoology. If you do not have access to Schoology, you will need access to BCPSOne first. You can find the directions for gaining a BCPSOne parent account by clicking here.

Click your child’s teacher to view their schedule. Please know that we will work together to ensure all students are actively engaged in virtual learning. This is a marathon, not a sprint. We are ALL connected!
Click your child’s teacher to view their daily schedule!

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<th>Teachers</th>
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Please make sure to join Schoology as this will be our means of communication.