September 2022

9/5- Labor Day/Schools Closed
9/12- Ice Cream Social 6:00 pm
9/12- PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
9/13- Chipotle Night 4:00-8:00 pm
9/26- Professional Development/Schools Closed For Students

Welcome Back Chapel Hill Families!
We are excited to welcome all of our Chapel Hill students, parents and families back for the 2022-2023 school year! We are off to a wonderful start; our teachers worked very hard during the pre-service week to prepare their classrooms and plan engaging and rigorous lessons for students starting on the first day of school. We would also like to recognize our custodial staff, they spent the summer cleaning all areas of the building and getting our school prepared to welcome students back, it looks wonderful! Thank you for bringing your child to school every day and on time, establishing a school day routine is important for all students. This year we continue to follow the Chapel Hill Promise, which sets the expectations for all students to be kind, respectful and safe every day at school. Teachers will be reviewing these expectations with their classes daily. Please take a few minutes each month to read the newsletter, it will provide important reminders and information related to different school functions and procedures. We look forward to an exciting year and building relationships with our students and families!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hill & Mrs. Mintiens

Chapel Hill Contact Information:
Phone: 443-809-5119
Fax: 443-809-5120
Website: chapelhilles.bcps.org

Administration & Office Staff Emails:
Ms. Hill email: nhill2@bcps.org
Ms. Mintiens email: jmintiens2@bcps.org
Ms. Palm email: tpalm@bcps.org
Ms. Brooks email: lbrooks3@bcps.org
Arrival and Dismissal Procedure Reminders:
Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through our arrival and dismissal procedures throughout the beginning of the school year. We are working to ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of almost 600 students through bus transportation, car riders and walkers. To ensure that the procedures run smoothly we are asking for your help in the following ways:

**Arrival**

**Car Rider Loop Reminders:** If you are in the car rider drop off line, please be patient and wait in the line down Joppa Road. Please do not try to cut the line, the line will move more swiftly as we all learn the procedures. Please do not park on Joppa Road to let your students out of the car, this creates a disruption in the movement of the line. Lastly, we are asking that parents **do not make a left into the lot**, please go down Joppa Road and get into the car line to make a right into the parking lot.

**Walker Reminders:** Please wait at the walk drop off locations for a staff member to arrive, they will wait for a majority of the students and then walk them up to the school building. Parents are asked to say goodbye to their student at the drop off location, not walk their student up to the front door. Also, please do not bring your pets to the drop off locations.

**Dismissal**

**Car Rider Loop Reminders:** If you are in the car rider drop off line, please be patient and wait in the line down Joppa Road. Please do not try to cut the line, the line will move more swiftly as we all learn the procedures. Please do not park on Joppa Road to let your students out of the car, this creates a disruption in the movement of the line. Lastly, we are asking that parents **do not make a left into the lot**, please go down Joppa Road and get into the car line to make a right into the parking lot.

**Walker Reminders:** Please wait at the walker drop off locations for your student after school. Please prepare to show your photo ID when picking up students in grades K-2. Please inform any additional adults that may be coming to pick up your child that their photo ID will be required to release the student and inform the office staff of who the adult will be picking up the student that day. In addition, if you would like your student to use the Autumn Glow cut through path in the far baseball field to walk home, please send an email to the teacher and include Ms. Brooks and Ms. Palm with the student name and that you give permission for the student to walk home using the path unsupervised. The students using the path will still exit through the front door, and then use the sidewalk around the school to get the steps in the back field, there will not be a staff member walking with them on this route.

**Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits**

The Baltimore County Public Schools serve meals each school day, which may be purchased at the published school prices. Meals are available at no cost for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. For students attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, meals are available to all students at no cost. For students attending schools that provide breakfast meals under the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) Program, breakfast meals are available to all students at no cost. All meals served meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Apply Online to expedite processing for free or reduced-price meal benefits click Online Meal Benefit Application. Please visit [MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)

**Volunteers**

Are you interested in volunteering at Chapel Hill? Previous volunteers and new volunteers MUST complete a new application and complete the volunteer training every school year. Please refer to the link below to access the BCPS Volunteer website. Please send your application and BCPS volunteer training certificate to our volunteer coordinator and school counselor, Lauren Mierzwicki, [lmierzwicki@bcps.org](mailto:lmierzwicki@bcps.org). Ms. Mierzwicki will review your application and will let you know that you are approved. When you arrive for your volunteer day, please visit the front office to show your ID and you will receive a volunteer badge. [BCPS Volunteers - Division of Chief of Staff](#)
Meet our new school psychologist, Dr. Erica Payne

Five Fun Facts:

My favorite color is **green**.

I love to sing, dance, and write poetry.

I have a dog named Benjamin Franklin ("Benny").

I learned American Sign Language (ASL) in high school.
COUNSELOR'S CORNER
CHAPEL HILL ELEMENTARY

Katie Bradley
Grades: K, 2, 4
email: kbradley3@bcps.org
phone: 443-809-5119

Lauren Mierzwicki
Grades: 1, 3, 5
email: lmierzwicki@bcps.org
phone: 443-809-5119

September Lesson Topic:
Introducing Your School Counselor & Resilience

TEAM BCPS MAGNET PROGRAMS
443-809-4127
www.tinyurl.com/BCPSmagnet

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR 5TH GRADE:
This month, Ms. Mierzwicki will be teaching 5th grade students about Magnet School programs. Please refer to the QR code or the website: www.tinyurl.com/BCPSmagnet for more important information.
How and when should I test for COVID-19?

- At home COVID-19 tests are easily accessible and provide rapid, reliable results.
- If you choose to have a PCR test, either due to symptoms or exposure, stay home while your test results are pending.
- Consider testing if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms such as: fever, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache, new loss of taste or smell, or any of these symptoms that have changed for you.
- Consider retesting after 24-48 hours if your symptoms continue even after having a negative test.
- Testing is also recommended 3-5 days after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- If you have a specific medical condition or concern, contact your regular medical provider for guidance.

I just received a positive test result for COVID-19. What should I do?

- Notify your school nurse that you tested positive and isolate at home.
  - Isolation means you stay at home in your own room with the door closed. If you are isolating at home, you should not leave your home unless you need medical care.
  - If you must leave your room, wear a mask, maintain 6 feet distance from others, and make sure common areas such as the kitchen and bathroom are cleaned well after each use.
- Wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- If you did a home test, please report the positive test to covidlink.maryland.gov/selfreport.
- Consider notifying any persons with whom you had close contact while you had symptoms and during the two days before your symptoms began.
- Your health care provider can help you manage symptoms and determine if you need treatment.
- Visit the Maryland Department of Health webpage for persons who are newly diagnosed with COVID.

How long must I isolate now that I have tested positive for COVID?

- Stay home for at least 5 full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or the date of the positive test if no symptoms.
Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the first full day after the person tested positive if asymptomatic.

After Day 5, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, they may return to school/work wearing a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days.

If the person is unable to wear a mask, they may return after 10 days, or after day 5 as soon as they have a negative test.

A negative test is NOT required for persons returning unmasked after day 10.

A household member has tested positive for COVID-19 after I have tested positive. Does this affect my return-to-school date?

• No, after testing positive, you follow the isolation timeline based on your symptoms and test date.

After being exposed to a person with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms, do I need to quarantine?

• Staff and students who may be close contacts, regardless of their vaccination status, can continue to attend work/school as long as they remain asymptomatic.
  o Those who can wear a mask should do so for 10 days (day 0 is the last date of exposure).
  o A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot wear a mask.
• If you develop symptoms after exposure, stay home and away from others and test for COVID-19.
  o If you test positive for COVID-19, notify your school nurse for guidance about isolation.
  o If you test negative, you may return when your symptoms improve, and you are fever free for 24 hours without medication.
    ■ If your symptoms do not improve after 24-48 hours, consider re-testing and/or seeking medical care.

I received a community notice that someone in my class or school tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do?

• Contact tracing is no longer routinely conducted in schools. No quarantine is required for asymptomatic classmates or staff.
• Classmates and staff members who develop symptoms of COVID should stay home and be tested.
• If three or more persons in the class have linked cases, test kits will be sent home with remaining members of the classroom.
What if a household member with COVID-19 is not isolated from me in the home?

- While it is recommended that people that test positive for COVID-19 isolate themselves away from others, it is not always possible. In this situation, you will continue to be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a mask when around others for 10 days after your last exposure.

When can a person returning after COVID infection within the past 10 days remove their mask while at work/school?

- Masks may be removed only when eating or napping.
- Unmasked time should be minimized, and physical distancing and ventilation maximized during these times.
- People should not be participating in any other unmasked activities (i.e. indoor athletics).

Resources:

Order free at-home COVID-19 tests [here](#)

Baltimore County Department of Health: [COVID-19 Testing Sites Maryland](#)

Department of Health: [Newly Diagnosed?](#)

Maryland Department of Health: [After Exposure to COVID-19](#)
**Message from the PTA President**

Hello Mustang Families!

We’re excited to kick off our fun year of events with an **Ice Cream Social** on September 12 at 6pm in the gym! All Chapel Hill families are welcome to attend. I hope you will stick around afterwards for our **PTA meeting** from 7-8pm!

On Tuesday, September 13 we’re having our first restaurant spirit night! Order carryout or dine-in at **Chipotle** on 5341 Campbell Boulevard any time between 4-8pm.

From now until September 30, when you join the PTA, you’ll put your student’s class in the running for a party! The three classes with the most members will get a popcorn party! **To join online, visit** [https://chapelhillies.ptboard.com](https://chapelhillies.ptboard.com) — if asked, our school code is **K8XWD**.

Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to email me directly at jstengel19@gmail.com

Jeff Stengel, President- Chapel Hill Elementary PTA

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**Save the Date**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice Cream Social</td>
<td>Sept 12th</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mustang Run</td>
<td>Oct 7th</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trunk or Treat</td>
<td>Oct 29th</td>
<td>(time TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Dance</td>
<td>Dec 2nd</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
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**Our events are funded through membership and participation in our fundraisers throughout the year, and coordinated by volunteers (like you!) To get involved, email chapelhillmustangspta@gmail.com**

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**Stay Informed**

Stay up to date on all things Chapel Hill Elementary PTA. Want to know how?

- Go to [www.PTBoard.com](http://www.PTBoard.com), click on “Sign Up” in the top right corner, and follow sign up instructions. Enter our school code, **KABXWD**. A verification email will be sent to you.

  - Please like us on Facebook @chapelhillelementarypta

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