

# CHESAPEAKE CLUSTER ELEMENTARY NEWS

AUGUST 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Dear Chesapeake Cluster Elementary Families:

As we begin a new chapter to our COVID-19 way of life, we are eager to settle into routines with you. We know this year is going to bring new experiences and lots of questions, but we also know it is going to bring a continued circle of support, love, and empathy for one another. We are in this together! At this time, building access is by appointment only.

Each month, the elementary school principals will forward a cluster newsletter of information to our families. Each school will also connect with families using BlackBoard Connect for school specific information. Schools are not permitted to disseminate personal information, phone numbers, addresses of students, or contact information for their parents/guardians. All information reported to the school about students is confidential and will not be shared.

**Please report changes in address, telephone numbers, or other contact information to the school immediately.** The school requires an accurate phone number for a parent/guardian during school hours for use in an emergency.

Please review the 2020-2021 School Calendar approved by the Board of Education. September calendar dates of importance:

- 7: Labor Day—All Schools & Central Offices closed.
- 8: Schools open for grades 1–5 and grades 6 and 9 only.
- 8–9: Conferences for Kindergarten and Full-day and Half-Day Pre-K & ECI students.
- 9: Schools open for grades 1–12.
- 10: Conferences for Half-Day Pre-K & ECI students.
- 10–14: Staggered entrance for Kindergarten and Full-day Prekindergarten.
- 11: First day of school for ECI students.
- 11,14,15: Staggered entrance for Half-day Prekindergarten.
- 15: First day for all Kindergarten and Full-day Prekindergarten.
- 16: First day for all Half-day Prekindergarten.
- 19: Rosh Hashanah
- 28: Yom Kippur—All Schools & Central Offices closed.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an excellent way to learn about your child's progress. As per the AACPS calendar, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled on October 12-13 and March 10, so schools are closed for students on these dates. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher(s) whenever a question or concern arises. To schedule a conference at any time, please call the school office and/or email the teacher requesting a conference.

Due to COVID-19, we are not permitted to host in-person tours or school visitations. We look forward to hosting a virtual meet and greet for annual back to school greetings. We miss our elementary students, and we are eager to connect online this fall. We are very much looking forward to returning to the building at the end of the first semester.

Sincerely,

The Chesapeake Cluster Elementary School Principals

Bonnie Myers, Bodkin Elementary

Bobbie Kesecker, Fort Smallwood Elementary

April Umile, Jacobsville Elementary

Julie Little-McVeary, Lake Shore Elementary

Jennifer Quirino, Pasadena Elementary

## **PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Anne Arundel County Public Schools kindergarten has opened registration for the 2020-2021 School Year. Please register online at [www.aacps.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.aacps.org/kindergartenregistration).

Children enrolling in kindergarten must be 5 years old on or by September 1, 2020. The following documents are required and will need to be uploaded to [www.aacps.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.aacps.org/kindergartenregistration) when registering a child for kindergarten:

- Proof of identity;
- The child's original birth certificate or birth record;
- A copy of the child's immunization record; and
- Two proofs of residency such as a deed, lease, mortgage, or current utility bill.

If necessary, please call your student's school if you should need to request an appointment to register in person.

The AACPS website has family resources and links available that may assist in your preparation for pre-k or kindergarten: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/1118> .



## PRE-K & K ORIENTATION

Our school staff will create a virtual orientation video to share with you. This will be shared later this month.



## VIRTUAL BACK-TO- SCHOOL

**Chesapeake High:**

September 1; 5:00 pm

**Chesapeake Bay Middle:**

September 24; 6:00 pm

**Bodkin Elementary:**

September 17; 6:00 pm

**Fort Smallwood Elementary:**

September 22; 6:00 pm

**Jacobsville Elementary:**

September 17; 6:00 pm

**Lake Shore Elementary:**

September 3; 2:00 pm

**Pasadena Elementary:**

September 22; 6:00 pm



## TECHNOLOGY & SUPPLIES

AACPS will provide backpacks of grade specific school supplies. Schools are awaiting delivery of items and will be in touch to distribute.

ACCPS will send a technology survey and ChromeBook request to all families. In the coming months, AACPS intends to distribute a ChromeBook device to all students.

## VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

For safety reasons, all parents and visitors must report to the office upon arrival to the school building. After signing in at the office, if granted access, you will be asked to wear a visitor badge. Your cooperation in this security effort is greatly appreciated. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, schools are closed to visitors and volunteers at this time. Access to register in person is by appointment only, so please call ahead to schedule. **As per Governor's order, all AACPS employees and visitors are required to wear masks at any time in which they are in any AACPS facility.** Thank you for your cooperation with these safety protocols.

## PARKING

This is a reminder that parking in designated fire lanes and/or bus loops is prohibited. This extends to staff, parents, students, visitors, after-school activity vans, etc. As you know, in a critical emergency, the loss of even one minute caused by vehicles blocking fire and police department access can become critical. Thank you for your cooperation.



# FINGERPRINT SUPPORTED BACKGROUND CHECK

To volunteer inside the school building or serve on the school's PTA Executive Board, a fingerprint-supported background check is required. This must be scheduled through the AACPS Fingerprinting Office at 410-222-5045. The Fingerprinting Office is located at the AACPS Central Office on Riva Road and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, during the school year. The cost of fingerprinting is \$58.25 and it includes the commercial background check. Fingerprint-supported background checks for chaperones should be completed at least 3 weeks prior to the scheduled field trip. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, fingerprinted supported background checks are not being scheduled at this time. Currently schools are closed to visitors and volunteers. Chaperones are not needed as fieldtrips are not being scheduled.

## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

Pasadena Elementary School and Chesapeake Bay Middle School are local sites for meal distribution for ALL CHILDREN ages 2 -18. Cluster families are invited to pick up meals Monday - Thursday, 12:00 - 12:30pm. Meal distribution includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner in one stop. There is no charge to receive meals. All families are invited to submit an [application for Free and Reduced Meals](http://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/): <http://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>

## POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

[PowerSchool Parent Portal](https://www.aacps.org/parentportal) is a powerful, easy-to-use, secure communication tool connecting parents/guardians and schools. The Parent Portal allows collaboration to improve student achievement. Online access to class grades, attendance information and student schedules makes it easier for parents to monitor students in grades 1 through 12 progress in **real time**. PowerSchool Parent Portal will allow parents/guardians with more than one child to access all their children at one time with one username and password. Sign up: <https://www.aacps.org/parentportal>

## VIDEO CAMERA SYSTEM

AACPS schools are equipped with a video camera system. The camera system covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

# AACPS TRANSFER OR WITHDRAWAL

The following are school system protocols for withdrawing or transferring a student for the 2020-2021 school year:

- **Step One:** Start by withdrawing your student from their current school; complete the fillable form below, *Request to Transfer/Withdrawal*, and return it to current school. The Registrar/Enrollment Secretary will then prepare transfer or exit records based on the school/educational setting in which your student will next enroll. These records will be emailed to you as the parent.
- **Step Two:** If your student's next destination is another Anne Arundel County Public School, follow this link to our *Online Enrollment Portal* where you'll electronically complete registration forms and upload the required documentation.  
<https://www.aacps.org/enrollment> Please review and save your required documents prior to entering data in the portal.

**\*OR\***

- **Step Three:** To align your student within Home Instruction, follow this link to the *Home Instruction ONLINE Notification Form*. This is completed electronically and goes directly to the Home Instruction Office for processing; that office will then respond to you via email. <https://www.aacps.org/homeinstruction>



Transfer Withdrawal fillable form.pdf

Download  
82.6 KB



## FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

[Bodkin Elementary](#): @BodkinAACPS

[Fort Smallwood Elementary](#): @FSESAACPS

[Jacobsville Elementary](#): @JvilleAACPS

[Lake Shore Elementary](#): @LakeShoreAACPS

[Pasadena Elementary](#): @PES\_AACPS

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[www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org).

