

# Chesapeake Cluster Elementary News

October 2020

## Message from the Principals

Dear Chesapeake Cluster Elementary Families:

We are off to a great start, moving into the fourth week of school. Our students have settled into routines for synchronous instruction, and we look forward to our daily interactions. Please continue to visit the AACPS website for updates for Virtual Learning ([www.aacps.org/virtuallearning](http://www.aacps.org/virtuallearning)) as well as community resources. We hope many of your questions will be answered in the FAQs. We continue to ask for your support and cooperation as we navigate Virtual Learning.



For October, our cluster school-wide *Second Step* theme will focus on skills for learning that include: Learning to Listen; Focusing Attention; Following Directions; Self-Talk for Staying on Task; and Being Assertive. Daily, we will be reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in safe, respectful, and responsible ways.

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

- 9: Interims
- 12 & 13: Parent Teacher Conferences

Many thanks for attending the virtual back to schools sessions last month. We hope your questions were answered. Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up....and they are an excellent way to learn about your child's progress. As per the AACPS calendar, virtual 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.

Fall is a busy time for families and community organizations. At this time, we cannot support community events and therefore we cannot push information out to our families.

Due to COVID-19, building access is by appointment only.

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

## i-Ready

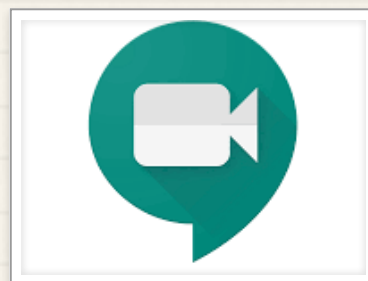
As you know, the students have participated in the i-Ready diagnostic. I-Ready, a computer adaptive tool is, like Goldie Locks and the Three Bears, trying to find the spot that is “just right.” In doing so, students, by design got about 50% of the items correct and 50% of the items incorrect. While this may have been frustrating for families, this was by design. i-Ready reading is going up to three grade levels above a student’s current grade in order to find the “just right” for the student.



i-Ready results will be shared with parents in the coming weeks.

## Google Meet Class Recordings

As a reminder, in the virtual learning environment, families are forbidden to record or take pictures during live lessons. Please remember that virtual classrooms are no different than building classrooms where student privacy should be respected and upheld. AACPS has guidance for teachers on the proper recording of lessons should you need information ([www.aacps.org/googlemeet](http://www.aacps.org/googlemeet)); however, such recordings are not meant for personal nor public consumption beyond the classroom. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated for the safety and integrity of our school community. Thank you.



## Magnet Program Options

For our families with grade 5 students: As you begin thinking about your child’s middle school experience, AACPS offers three Magnet School Opportunities. The program and school-specific presentations will be posted to [www.aacps.org/magnet](http://www.aacps.org/magnet) beginning October 1. Magnet applications for students interested in beginning their sixth- and ninth-grade studies in the 2021-2022 school year will open on October 12, 2020 and close at noon on November 24, 2020.



## Connect with PTA

[Bodkin Elementary](#)

[Fort Smallwood Elementary](#)

[Jacobsville Elementary](#)

[Lake Shore Elementary](#)

[Pasadena Elementary](#)

## Parent Conferences

Mark your calendars!

Elementary school teachers will be hosting Parent-Teacher conferences on October 12 & 13.

## Chromebooks & Connections

AACPS intends for all students to receive a Chromebook. When we return to in-person learning, each student will need a Chromebook to use in the schoolhouse. There will be no sharing of devices.

## Food & Nutrition Services

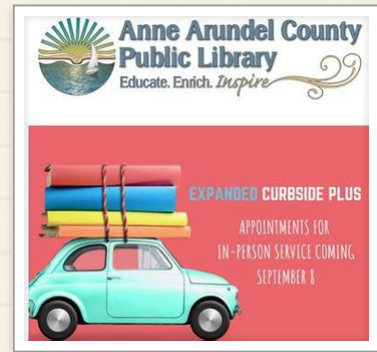
Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack pick-up is offered for children ages 2-18 beginning October 1. Please stop by Monday - Friday, from 12:00-12:30pm to pick-up these meals. There is no charge. If you are unable to bring your child/children with you, please contact Food & Nutrition Services at 410-222-5900 to arrange for pick-up without your students. For meal pick-up locations:

<http://aacpschools.org/nutrition/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/School-Meals-Curbside-Locations-English-Spanish.pdf>



## PowerSchool Parent Portal

[PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) 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 and attendance 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>



## Fall 2020 Info

AACPS has been busy planning for Fall 2020. Please visit the website for updates:  
<https://www.aacps.org/fall2020>

Google classroom Directions and information can be found in this link below.  
<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/studentintrotodigitaltools/>

## Public Library

The Anne Arundel County Public Library is open for curbside service!

# FAQs - Grading & Attendance

### What type of grading will we be experiencing this fall?

Traditional letter grading will be in effect for the fall semester. The standard grading policy (II-RA, Grading; Administrative Regulation II-RA, Grading) will be followed.

### How will attendance be taken?

For students in kindergarten through Grade 5, attendance will be recorded based on participation in one live class during the virtual school day. Attendance at the secondary level will be tracked by period every day in accordance with a student's virtual schedule. NOTE: Attendance for students in the Infants & Toddlers, ECI, and pre-kindergarten programs will not be recorded.

### When a student cannot attend virtual live-learning, how will this impact their attendance? If they are not in synchronous teaching, does this count against their attendance?

A family must submit an application for Alternate Attendance to participate in Virtual Learning outside of the school day: <https://www.aacps.org/alternateattendance>. The request is reviewed. If approved, then the student will be counted present, if the student watches the recorded classroom lesson videos and completes the associated assignments in a timely fashion.

# 2020-2021 Federal Parent-Pupil Survey

Each year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools receives federal funds to help us provide the best possible education for our students. We need your help so we can receive as much funding as possible. Look for more information to come!



## Follow Us on Twitter

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[Fort Smallwood Elementary](#): @FSESAACPS

[Jacobsville Elementary](#): @JvilleAACPS

[Lake Shore Elementary](#): @LakeShoreAACPS

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

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For more information, contact: Anne Arundel County Public

Schools, Division of Human Resources, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. 410-222-5286

TDD 410-222-5000 [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org).

### FAMILY INFORMATION LINE



410-222-5001 - Call with questions about eLearning or other issues during the shutdown