

Chesapeake Cluster Elementary News

December 2020

Message from the Principals

Dear Chesapeake Cluster Elementary Families:

As we enter the upcoming holiday season, we encourage you and your family to focus on gratitude and kindness as well as reflecting on your child's accomplishments during the first marking period.



In a recent Superintendent's Teen Advisory meeting, the majority of the teens on the video conference strongly believed that school staff should encourage students to turn their cameras on. They asked that teachers encourage 'cameras on' daily for the majority of class time. The teen panel articulated that class is much better when cameras are on and also believe that if teachers pushed the use of cameras, most students would participate. The teen panel did acknowledge that some students may need to have their cameras off from time to time for a variety of reasons (video slows down internet, helping siblings, crisis in household, bad personal day, etc.), but would rather allow that to be worked out between individual students and teachers, thus supporting the camera default to be "cameras on." Students can now blur their backgrounds in Google Meet. Consider how this information can support your child's virtual learning experience. We appreciate your support.

Attached to this newsletter below are Google Meet and technology resources. Although AACPS is continuing with virtual instruction through the end of the first semester, it is important to remember Google Classroom is still a classroom for learning and instruction.

As part of our commitment to early literacy and in conjunction with requirements of MD Senate Bill 734, AACPS is implementing a screening tool to help identify students who are at risk for reading difficulties. We will use the results of the screening to help monitor and guide the development of your child's early literacy and reading skills. Between Monday, November 30 and Friday, December 18, certified resource teachers will individually screen each kindergarten and first grade students using the DIBELS 8th Edition assessment. The assessment will last approximately 15 minutes at most. Schools will then communicate the results of the screening to each parent or guardian during the month of January.

Due to COVID-19, building access is by appointment only. Thank you for your understanding.

We wish our families a safe, wonderful holiday season. May you enjoy family traditions and have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
 The Chesapeake Cluster Elementary School Principals
 Bonnie Myers, Bodkin Elementary
 Bobbie Kesecker, Fort Smallwood Elementary
 April Umile, Jacobsville Elementary
 Julie Little-McVearry, Lake Shore Elementary
 Jennifer Quirino, Pasadena Elementary

Before the Break!

On the 12th day before break, think of 12 gratitudes to fill the air as the holidays are near!

On the 11th day before break, celebrate kindness... Unity Day is here!

On the 10th day before break, make a card and send to your teacher here!

On the 9th day before break, have a family game night and a winner will appear!

On the 8th day before break, sing some carols to make smiles appear!

On the 7th day before break, baking is math, these treats will disappear!

On the 6th day before break, play some First in Math and don't forget to persevere!

On the 5th day before break, it's a busy time, try to focus and keep your mind in gear!

On the 4th day before break, a Friday night family night will bring some good cheer!

On the 3rd day before break, wrap some gifts and add a note so sincere!

On the 2nd day before break, make some food for the reindeer!

On the last day before break, we are wishing you a wonderful Holiday and Happy New Year!



AACPS Digital Resource Information for Families
 Family instructional technology info

[Download](#)
 1.1 MB

Google Classroom is still a CLASSROOM.



Use appropriate language and be respectful.



We know you miss your friends, but **comments are NOT for personal conversations.**

Remember to THINK:

- T** = Is it **True**?
- H** = Is it **Helpful**?
- I** = Does it follow **Instructions**?
- N** = Is it **Necessary**?
- K** = Is it **Kind**?



Not sure how to do something? **Ask Questions! We are still here to help you.**



Make a good impression.

Use complete sentences and avoid slang.



If there is a comment or post that is not school-appropriate, we will have to delete it.

HAVE FUN, but remember a classroom is for LEARNING!

Do NOT share your personal information with others!

See the AACPS Student Handbook for additional technology expectations.



Google Meet Do's and Don'ts for Students

 Do's	 Don'ts
 Join your class on time, ready to learn. Dress appropriately for class.	 Share Meet links, invite other people to your Google Classroom Meet, or attempt to join a meeting for other classes.
 Make sure your lighting is adequate and you are not in shadow.	 Type in the chat box unless directed to do so by your teacher.
 Mute your microphone when you enter class.	 Present your screen unless directed to do so by your teacher.
 Use appropriate hand signals to participate in class.	 Record the lesson, or in any way keep the recording (this includes screenshots, pictures, copies, or any distribution of any image depicting another student or teacher.)
 Go class to class using the Meet links in each scheduled subject's Google Classroom.	 Behave in a way that is distracting to classmates during instruction.
 Keep your Meet video camera on. Unless directed by your teacher to turn off.	 Use, import or present offensive, obscene, libelous, disruptive, or inflammatory language, pictures, or other material.
 Be respectful to your classmates and their ideas.	 Bully, harass, intimidate, threaten or in any way harm the safety and welfare of others.

 AACPS Office of Instructional Technology, September 2020

Elementary Math Virtual Family Support

AACPS now offers Elementary Math Virtual Family Support to parents, guardians, or other adults who help students learn virtually. **Come with questions** about Pre-K through grade 5 math concepts or in search of help understanding current problem-solving teaching/ technique. If the question cannot be answered on the phone, a Google Meet code will be shared where a math teacher tutor can provide a response visually.

Primary Link [HERE](#)

Intermediate Link [HERE](#)

Tuesday and Thursday 6:00PM – 8:00 PM

English and Spanish Support

Food & Nutrition Services

All Schools will continue curbside meals between 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm for children ages 2 -18. Curbside meals are FREE and include breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. No RSVP necessary - so please stop by!





Report Cards

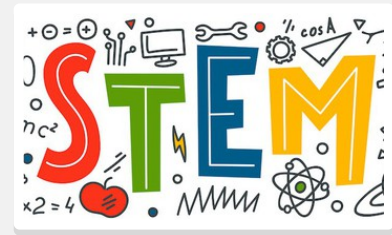
The 1st marking period report card can be viewed on Parent Portal. Please take some time to celebrate successes and set a goal for next marking period. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Interims will be available online on December 18.



Cameras On, Please!

Want your child to be more engaged in learning? With your support, we are confident we will be successful. We have noticed that students that have their cameras off are not actively participating in the lesson. The students that have their cameras on are being called on more often and are having more access to the learning. Google Meet has released new backgrounds for students, and we have found that they are fun, but it is very difficult to see student work. We will be asking for these backgrounds to be off during instruction so teachers can assess student's understanding. There is a blur feature that can be used if students are looking for a little more privacy of their environment. If you have any concerns about your child having their camera on, please discuss with your child's teacher.



STEM Club

The Office of Advanced CoCurricular Programs is sponsoring a Future Makers Virtual STEM Club for Grades 3-5. Families with students in Grades 3-5 are invited to request enrollment in a four-session Future Makers Virtual STEM Club hosted January 27 through February 17, 2021. Four synchronous sessions, led by an AACPS instructor, will include an accompanying STEM kit for students to create, design, and explore along with peers.

To apply, [click here](#)



STEM.pdf



Download

167.8 KB



Online Book Club – Grades 3, 4, 5

The Office of Advanced Learner Programs (ALPs) is offering advanced third, fourth, and fifth grade English/ Language Arts students the opportunity to participate in online book clubs during the spring of the academic year.

The Spring 2021 Online Book Club dates are Wednesday, February 3, 2021 through Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Students are invited to attend a virtual Socratic Seminar on March 17, 2021; details will be communicated directly to families.

Grade 3: Masterpiece by Elise Broach

Grade 4: Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan

Grade 5: Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin

Because there are a limited number of books available, we are only able to offer this opportunity to five students from each grade level per school. Students participating in this program will each receive a book shipped by USPO to their home address.

The secure Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) online Blackboard community will be utilized by students to communicate with one another about the novel. Opportunities to dialogue with students from around the county about literary aspects of the novel will be an integral part of the online experience. Students selected for the book club should demonstrate the ability to:

- work independently
- communicate effectively in writing
- see things from multiple perspectives
- remain committed to a task

If you are interested in your student participating, please contact your student's teacher.

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); 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.





Connect with PTA

- [Bodkin Elementary.](#)
- [Fort Smallwood Elementary.](#)
- [Jacobsville Elementary.](#)
- [Lake Shore Elementary.](#)
- [Pasadena Elementary.](#)

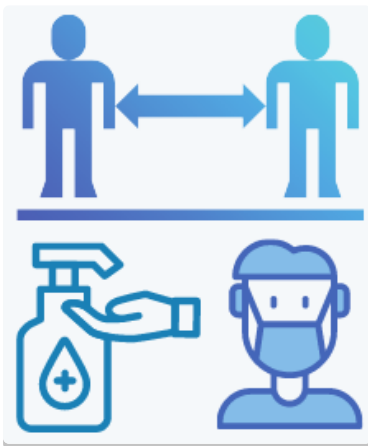
Mark Your Calendars

December 9: Unity Day
December 18: Interims available in Parent Portal
December 24 - January 1: School closed - Winter Vacation

January 4: School resumes online

iReady: Reading and Math

i-Ready is an online program for reading and math that will help determine your student's needs, personalize learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. *i-Ready* allows teachers to meet students exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. *i-Ready* consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction. Please encourage your student to participate in *i-Ready* daily.



Safety Protocols

Please review this information for Fall 2020 Safety Protocols:
<https://www.aacps.org/safetyprotocols>

AACPS has provided a list of cleaning protocols; screening checklists; expectations for face coverings and social distancing; and protocols for confirmed COVID-19 cases.



Follow Us on Twitter

[Bodkin Elementary](#): @BodkinAACPS

[Fort Smallwood Elementary](#): @FSESAACPS

[Jacobsville Elementary](#): @JvilleAACPS

[Lake Shore Elementary](#): @LakeShoreAACPS

[Pasadena Elementary](#): @PES_AACPS

School hours will shift when AACPS re-opens for in-person learning:

Bodkin: 9:35am - 4:00pm

Ft Smallwood: 9:10am - 3:35pm

Jacobsville: 9:00am - 3:25pm

Lake Shore: 9:05am - 3:30pm

Pasadena: 9:35am - 4:00pm

Anne Arundel County Public Schools prohibits discrimination in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or disability. 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.

FAMILY INFORMATION LINE



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