Chesapeake Cluster Elementary News

September 2020

Message from the Principals

Dear Chesapeake Cluster Elementary Families:

In just a few days, school officially begins! Our schools are ready to settle into daily routines with your student. We are eager to begin synchronous instruction. Please visit the AACPS website for updates for Virtual Learning (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 re-open and embrace eTeaching.

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.

For September, our cluster school-wide theme will focus on our school environment as a welcoming place where every student feels like he or she belongs and identifying skills necessary for learning. In our morning announcements, we will be reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. In addition we will be reminding students of our school values and rules. We will begin teaching the *Second Step* program, which includes lessons that support these behaviors.

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 1–12.
8–9: Conferences for Kindergarten and Full-day and Half-Day Pre-K & ECI students.
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 (virtual) 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, 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

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.
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 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 .

Connect with PTA

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

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; 6:00 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.

Each school will send communication to families as ChromeBooks and school supply backpacks are ready for distribution. Thank you for your patience!

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 by appointment only. The cost of fingerprinting is $58.25 and it includes the commercial background check. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, fingerprinted supported background checks will only be scheduled for PTA Executive Board officers that have not been previously fingerprinted. Currently schools are closed to visitors and volunteers. Chaperones are not needed as fieldtrips are not being scheduled.
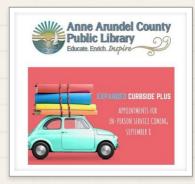
Food & Nutrition Services

Summer meals end September 3. You may purchase lunches using the Meals Pay Plus system. **Visit http://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/** to submit your application to receive free or reduced meal options for your child. **This link is always available if your financial situation changes.**

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

Goggle 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 register their student with their school (form will be available the week of August 24, 2020) as a student who cannot participate in Virtual live-learning time on Monday and Wednesday, for example, due to the following circumstances: (provide reasons). 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.

Follow Us on Twitter

Bodkin Elementary**:** @BodkinAACPS
Fort Smallwood Elementary: @FSESAACPS
Jacobsville Elementary: @JvilleAACPS
Lake Shore Elementary: @LakeShoreAACPS
Pasadena Elementary: @PES_AACPS

#MaskUpWithTheMascots

FAMILY INFORMATION LINE

AACPS Family Information Line
Línea de Información Familiar de AACPS
410-222-5001

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