

BOBCAT Bulletin

SEVERNA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Eye On it

Sep 8 & 9

First Day of school
for grades 1-5

Sep 8 & 9

Kindergarten
Conferences

Sep 10, 11 & 14

Kindergarten
Stagger Days

Sep 10

Virtual Back to
School Night

Chromebook Login protocol:

User ID: 123456@aacps.org

User Password: YYMMDD

Logging in instructions

[Logging into Chrome](#)

Chromebook Help

[Chromebook Resources](#)



Parent CONNECTxp

Hello SPES Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Our theme this year is “Ride the Wave: Unite, Adapt, Grow.” Our staff quickly connected to this idea last year when we started our virtual learning. Although there are many aspects of this year that remain unpredictable, our team remains committed to uniting with you in order to “ride the wave” together. Our mission and focus on high-quality instruction does not change under these new circumstances yet adapts to an online learning format with new technologies and engagement strategies. Over the summer, our staff participated in numerous training and professional development opportunities that will help them to provide high-quality instruction. Thanks to the hard work of AACPS and the 14 committees that have developed the Fall reopening plan, this Fall’s instruction will be more synchronous, include a higher variety of resources, and support instructional differentiation so that we are better able to meet all student needs.

Our school goals continue to be focused on Social and Emotional Learning, Mathematics, Literacy, and Project Based Learning instruction. As we prepare to welcome back our students, I want to highlight two new initiatives for social emotional learning and also communicate some updates about familiar structures. As educators, we recognize how Covid-19 has had a great impact on our community and our children. Fostering a positive learning environment in our online classrooms where students feel safe, welcomed, cared for, and appreciated is a top priority.

For the past few years, our students have participated in “morning meetings” to start the day and we will continue to use the morning block (Circle Time/Community Building) for the same purpose. During this time, students can expect to be greeted, review schedules, routines, expectations, build relationships, and set the tone for the day. Last year we also added a mentor program in which staff and community members were partnered with students to provide extra support.

We are looking forward to adding two new initiatives: PBIS and Second Step. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework for providing consistent behavioral expectations and positive reinforcement. Our team is embracing this county initiative and will be providing more information during Back To School Night and in our Morning Announcements to students. One significant change that has come from our PBIS team is the move from REACH acronym (Respect, Effort, Attitude, Cooperation, How high will you reach today) to PAWS (Perseverance, Act Responsibly, Work Together, Show Respect for Myself and Others). Your child will be learning more about this during the first week of school.

A second initiative that will support our work in Social and Emotional Learning is Second Step. Second Step is a framework and curriculum that focuses on teaching specific character traits, emotion management, empathy, and problem solving. These lessons will be delivered in the morning block as well and referenced as needed during the school day. This program was piloted last year in our Kindergarten and 5th grade classes but will now be used in all grades. Teachers who utilized this program last year found that the explicit instruction dedicated to handling difficult situations helped to prepare students to have positive interactions with peers and solve conflicts with increased student initiative and independence.

Each year we look forward to welcoming our students and ensuring they get the perfect start to a new school year! We hope that Sneak-a-Peek, New Student Orientation, and Kindergarten Orientation created excitement for the year ahead and gave everyone some practice accessing GoogleMeet and using all the tools. In the days ahead we will provide parent resources, additional details, and answers to questions on our GoogleSite.

Thank you for your continued support. Your involvement is always welcomed and valued. We hope to see you all virtually at our Back to School Night, September 10th 6-7pm.

Sincerely,
Lorie Barnes



ABSENCE NOTES

*y*es, absence notes are still required. Please

make sure all absence notes include:

- Student's Legal Name,
- Homeroom Teacher's Name
- Date and Reason for Absence.

Absence notes must be turned in within **3 days**. You can send an email to the homeroom teacher and LSykes@aacps.org.

Thank You!!

SECURITY CAMERAS

Severna Park Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It 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 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



Did you know...

Bay Plates helped pay for your child's outdoor experience?

Your child's outdoor learning experience was funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit organization that provides grants to schools so that children like yours can learn in their natural world. The Trust is funded by sales of *Maryland's Protect the Chesapeake license plate* which each year allows more than **80,000 Maryland students** to get outside and learn through hands-on experiences. To find out more about the Bay plate, please visit www.bayplate.org. Bay plates **only cost \$20** and you can change to a Bay plate anytime to help support additional field trips for Maryland students.



Chesapeake Bay Trust
bayplate.org * cbtrust.org
410-974-2941

Updates from Boone's Back Yard



In addition to generous parent contributions through the PTA, the Courtyard Committee has worked hard to obtain three grants for Boone's Backyard. The team was awarded with:

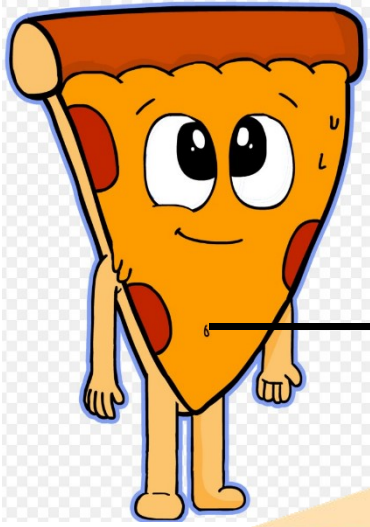
Unity Garden grant for \$1,000 towards new plants and materials

Keep Maryland Beautiful grant for \$1,000 towards educational materials and plants

Chesapeake Bay Pre-K-12 Environmental Education Mini grant for \$5,000 towards preparing the grounds, creating the path, and additional plants and educational materials

Next Steps: Planting and creating our educational stations so they are ready for our children in Spring 2021!

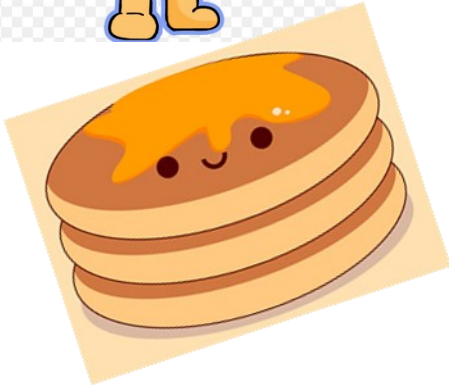
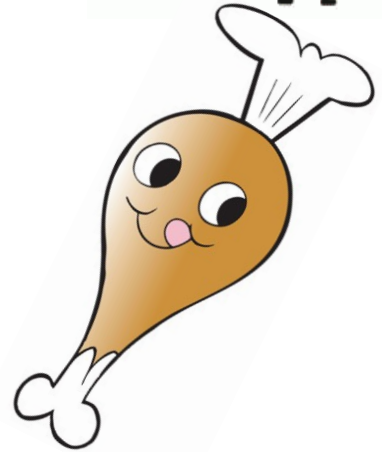
Thank you for your continued support!



NOTE FROM SPES KITCHEN

FREE LUNCH

FOR **ALL** CHILDREN
FROM AGES 2 – 18
FROM ANY SCHOOL



**WHEN: EVERY SCHOOL DAY 12:00 – 12:30 PM
STARTING SEPTEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 31**

WHERE: SPES BACK PARKING LOT KITCHEN DOOR



**FOR PARENT PICKUP CALL 410-222-5900 AND GET ON THE SCHOOL
LUNCH PICKUP LIST**

FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH, FILL OUT THE YEARLY FORM

**THANK YOU,
DEBRA ROSSI
SPES KITCHEN MANAGER**

This Month's Counselor's Corner



Hello, I'm Mrs. Katie McCord, SPES School Counselor

I'm excited to Ride the Wave with students, staff and families this year as we adapt, unite and grow. The word adapt is related to the change organisms (including humans) have undergone to be better suited to survive. When we modify, shift, and change things to help us, we grow! In our current learning situation, students who adapt and show flexibility will be most successful. Thinking flexibly is a key ingredient in developing resilience. That said, it won't be easy, and I'm here to support you and your children through this time of adaptation.

Please email or call at any time during the day. My "office hours" are Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00, so I should always be available during those times if I'm not teaching a class, in a staff meeting, or working with another family, parent or student. I can be reached via email at kmccord@aacps.org or on my google voice work number 302-404-4198.

Thank you, parents, for your patience and perseverance in helping your children learn in different ways. Teachers are being creative and working hard to help students feel connected to their class and our school as well as learn.

In order for me to feel connected, I will often visit community meetings and send check in forms for students to complete if they wish to be in touch with me.

Counseling Web Site: I am launching a web site for easy access to resources and information about my counseling program and related topics. You can access the site by going to the Counselor page on the school web site. Here is also a link:

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/spes-counselor-connection/home?pli=1>

Counseling Lessons: I'm delighted to teach live on google meeting this year, and I will visit your child's class every other week for a 15-20 minute lesson. Any follow up materials or exit tickets will be in each teacher's google classroom. September and early October lessons will be about the Role of the Counselor, Effort (goal setting), and Strategies for Learning in a Virtual World, including calming strategies, mindfulness, and listening skills.

Group Counseling: School counselors are not holding on-line personal/social emotional groups at this time. If needed, I can host academic success skills groups.

Individual Counseling: I am available to meet with students individually if they have a desire or concern to talk with me. In the building, I have an open door. On-line I am also holding the door open. I can meet with students for individual counseling for up to 10 sessions, after which it's recommended that they obtain private therapy. For long-term individual counseling our school-based partner Innovative Therapeutic Services continues to support SPES students with on-line counseling, and I can connect families to this resource. Once we return to school, they could continue with in-person counseling with ITS.

At this time, I hope you and your children can practice focusing on what you have control rather than things that are out of your control. Remember to rest, eat healthy, engage in safe social connections, exercise, get outside everyday, and limit your intake of negative news to keep yourself refreshed.

SEVERNA PARK ES
6 RIGGS AVENUE
SEVERNA PARK
MD 21146
Tel: 410-222-6577
Fax: 410-222-6522

Follow Us on Twitter
@SPESaacps

And NEW
SPES
Kindergarten
@SPKindergarten

TIMES TO REMEMBER FOR IN-PERSON DAYS

Doors Open: 8:50 am
Attendance: 9:05 am

If a student (s) arrives late, the parent or guardian must bring the student (s) to the office to sign them in and get a late pass.

Students must be in their seat or they will be marked tardy and sent to the office for a late pass.

If a student is leaving early, parent/guardian must come to the office and sign the student out.

Dismissal: 3:30pm

If AACPS announces a 2 hour delay, doors will open at 10:50 am and there will be no Chessie.

If there is a 2 Hour Early Dismissal, students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm.

...Mindset Moment



"Every success story is a tale of constant adaption, revision and change."

~Richard Branson

Social Emotional Growth

PBIS/Second Step/Character Traits

We are **SPES Bobcats.**



Here's how we "PAWS" to think about our actions!

Persevere through challenges

Act responsibly

Work together

Show respect for myself and others

PBIS: PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. We are excited to add this framework to SPES this year. The purpose is to foster a prosperous learning environment that includes mutually respectful relationships between both adults and children at SPES and promote inclusion and collaboration. We will focus on teaching and supporting positive behaviors to all students and provide reinforcements for students who need additional supports. An exciting change this year is our positive behavior acronym PAWS. In the past we used the REACH acronym as a model for positive behavior. We think using verbs will help students understand the behavior goals and expectations, and it will be fun to include our mascot in this framework. Behavior expectations will be defined under the four areas of PAWS for each setting, which currently is virtual. Students will be introduced to these expectations and the new acronym during community meeting times the first week of school. Teachers will positively reinforce these behaviors at all times. Feel free to create your own home expectations using PAWS.

Character Trait for September: Each month we have a character trait that we learn more about and relate to our PAWS. September's character trait is **EFFORT**, which fits well with P for PERSEVERE THROUGH CHALLENGES. By focusing on effort rather than the product, we hope to instill perseverance and joy in learning for SPES students.

Second Step: To add to our social emotional learning (SEL) and practice, SPES is implementing 2nd Step lessons in all grades this year (Kindergarten and 5th grade classes implemented it last year with positive results). The program promotes school success, school connectedness, and a safe respectful school climate. We achieve this through teaching skills to strengthen student's ability to self-regulate, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems. This month, the 2nd Step theme is our school as a welcoming place where every student feels like he or she belongs. During community meetings, we'll be reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in respectful ways. We will also make connections between PAWS and the lessons in 2nd Step. Support your child at home in welcoming others and acting and speaking in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. Please tell your child's teacher if you have questions about specific ways you can help your child with these behaviors at home.

Teachers will send home or email a "Home Link" summary page for each lesson which also provides an opportunity for you to reinforce and practice the skill with your child.

Here is the schedule for 2nd Step Lessons and character trait focus at SPES this school year:

September & October
Unit 1: Skills for Learning

Effort & Respect

- K - 5 lessons
- 1st = 5 lessons
- 2nd = 4 lessons
- 3 = 4 lessons
- 4 = 3* lessons (already split)
- 5 = 3* lessons (already split)



SPES SECOND STEP TIMELINE AND CHARACTER TRAITS

January, February, March
Unit 3: Emotion Management

Optimism, Perseverance,
Mindfulness

- K - 7 lessons
- 1st = 5 lessons
- 2nd = 6 lessons
- 3 = 6 lessons
- 4 = 6 lessons
- 5 = 7 lessons

November & December
Unit 2: Empathy

Empathy & Compassion

- K - 6 lessons
- 1st = 6 lessons
- 2nd = 6 lessons
- 3 = 6 lessons
- 4 = 6* lessons (already split)
- 5 = 5* lessons (already split)

April, May, June
Unit 4 : Problem Solving

Cooperation & Integrity

- K - 7 lessons
- 1st = 6 lessons
- 2nd = 6 lessons
- 3 = 6 lessons
- 4 = 7 lessons
- 5 = 7 lessons



RAISING FUNDS TASTES GREAT!

Join us at Ledo Pizza for a
FUNDRAISER to support
Severna Park Elementary PTA

Ledo Pizza: LEDO PIZZA SEVERNA PARK
552 RITCHIE HWY
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

When: Wednesday, October 7th
4PM – 10PM

Online Code: 306-159-855

(Please enter the code into the Promotion Code area at Checkout
for the organization to receive Credit)

CARRYOUT • DINE IN • ONLINE

Bring in this flyer, show it on your phone,
enter the code for online orders, or just mention
you are here to support this fundraiser and **20%**
the proceeds will be donated to the organization.

Ledo Pizza. **ORDER.LEDOPIZZA.COM**



Welcome back to school!

First things first: The PTA needs your help.

The PTA board is of course made up of volunteer parents. To ensure a vibrant and representative PTA, our bylaws include strict term limits for board membership. At the current time, multiple board roles need new volunteers in order to continue services.

Most importantly, the SPES PTA is seeking a 1st Vice President. While duties for this role will be limited during the '20-21 school year, this volunteer in this role succeeds to the PTA Presidency the following year.

Please consider being a PTA leader. Email SPESPTA20@gmail.com for more details.

The following positions need new volunteers:

1st Vice President: Learn the President's duties and responsibilities and be familiar with the work of the association and then step into the President's position next year.

2nd Vice President: Lead our Invest Campaign – this program is on hold until we go back to school, so duties would be limited for 20-21 school year.

Secretary Board Member: Keep an accurate record of meetings which become part of the permanent history of the PTA.

Communications Board Member: Work with SPES volunteers, parents, students, staff, and the SPES community to oversee public communications of the PTA.

This year we realize the importance of staying connected with the community, so the PTA is providing the directory as a free online service to all SPES parents.

This can be accessed by creating an account or updating your information on our website, spespta.org. We also realize that this pandemic has caused financial strain for many and so we are pausing our Invest in your Child campaign and will not be asking for money from parents for the time being. However, we do encourage everyone to register on the website in order to receive communications and be involved in your child(ren)'s school.

We will be running our PTA general membership via Zoom at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Our first one will be Wednesday; October 7th and details will be provided prior to the meeting.

We wish you all the best in this school year and look forward to celebrating with you when the kids go back to school physically.

Please click on this link <https://severnaparkpta.membershiptoolkit.com/president> to see the SPES PTA President's message.

**Warm Regards,
SPES PTA Board**