

BOBCAT BULLETIN

The latest news and updates from Severna Park Elementary School



Dear Severna Park Elementary Families,

We are pleased to welcome our students, staff, and families back for the 2023-2024 school year! We are happy to have the students back in the building, and our staff members are eager to continue to provide engaging and exciting instruction. I want to give a huge thank you to all of our students and their families for making the first few days of school such a success!

For those of our families that are new to Severna Park Elementary, the Bobcat Bulletin is a monthly publication that will be posted to our school's website at the beginning of each month. Within this publication will be dates for upcoming events, PTO news, and other information. Please be sure to check in each month for new updates! If there is additional information or reminders that need to be sent out, the front office will communicate this through an email and/or text message to families.

SEPTEMBER "MUST-REMEMBERS"

SEP 4 LABOR DAY SCHOOL CLOSED

SEP 5 ALL GRADES BACK TO CLASS

SEP 5 PTO MEETING

SEP 6 LEDO'S/FROYO NIGHT

SEP 19 CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT DAY

SEP 19 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

OCT 3 PTA MEETING

OCT 4 LEDO'S PIZZA/FROYO NIGHT

We would like to invite you to our Back-to-School Night event on Thursday, September 19, at 6:00 pm. For families that wish to attend, you will report directly to your student's classroom for a brief message from administration, then you will be able to hear from the classroom teacher about all of the amazing instruction that takes place in class. There will be two rotations for families with more than one student. We are excited for the opportunity to engage with the incredible families that make up Severna Park Elementary. We will be sending out reminders and more detailed information regarding Back to School Night as the date approaches.

As many of you are aware, last year we had over 200 items in our lost and found at the end of the school year! If your student has misplaced any item, please encourage them to check the lost and found during their lunch period. This year, items that are left in the lost and found will be donated to charitable organizations at the end of each marking period. Due to the overwhelming number of items from last year, our staff had difficulty keeping the lost and found contained to its area. Reminders will be sent to families toward the end of the marking period as a reminder to check the lost and found for any items!

Now that we have returned from summer break, if your student has a damaged or broken Chromebook, please be sure to send it to school with them so it can be submitted for repair. We want to make sure that all students' devices are functioning properly so they are ready for use throughout the year! If the device does need repair, please be sure to email your student's homeroom teacher with a description of the issue(s).

Sincerely,
Kyle Butler, Principal (kwbutler@aacps.org)



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Estimadas familias de la Escuela Primaria Severna Park,

¡Nos complace dar la bienvenida a nuestros estudiantes, personal y familias para el año escolar 2023-2024! Estamos felices de tener a los estudiantes de vuelta en el edificio, y los miembros de nuestro personal están ansiosos por continuar brindando instrucción atractiva y emocionante. ¡Quiero agradecer enormemente a todos nuestros estudiantes y sus familias por hacer que los primeros días de clases sean un éxito!

Para aquellas de nuestras familias que son nuevas en la escuela primaria de Severna Park en el boletín Bobcat es una publicación mensual que se publicará en el sitio web de nuestra escuela al comienzo de cada mes. Dentro de esta publicación habrá fechas para próximos eventos, noticias de PTO y otra información. ¡Asegúrese de registrarse cada mes para ver si hay nuevas actualizaciones! Si hay información adicional o recordatorios que deben enviarse, la oficina principal lo comunicará a través de un correo electrónico y / o mensaje de texto a las familias.

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Nos gustaría invitarlo a nuestro evento "Noche de Regreso a la Escuela" el jueves, 19 de septiembre a las 6:00 pm. Para las familias que deseen asistir, se reportarán directamente al aula de su estudiante para recibir un breve mensaje de la administración, luego podrá escuchar al maestro del aula sobre toda la increíble instrucción que se lleva a cabo en clase. Habrá dos rotaciones para familias con más de un estudiante. Estamos entusiasmados por la oportunidad de interactuar con las increíbles familias que conforman en la escuela primaria de Severna Park. Enviaremos recordatorios e información más detallada sobre la "Noche de Regreso a la Escuela" a medida que se acerque la fecha.

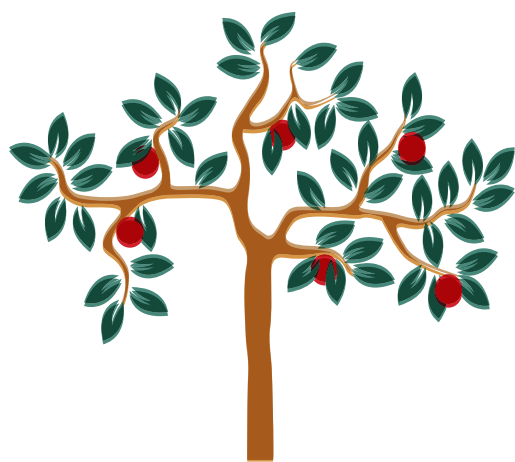
Como muchos de ustedes saben, ¡el año pasado tuvimos más de 200 artículos perdidos y encontrados al final del año escolar! Si su estudiante ha extraviado algún artículo, animelo a revisar los objetos perdidos y encontrados durante su período de almuerzo. Este año, los artículos que se dejan en los objetos perdidos serán donados a organizaciones benéficas al final de cada trimestre. Debido a la abrumadora cantidad de artículos del año pasado, nuestro personal tuvo dificultades para mantener los objetos perdidos y encontrados contenidos en su área. ¡Se enviarán recordatorios a las familias hacia el final del período de marcado como recordatorio para verificar los artículos perdidos y encontrados!

Ahora que hemos regresado de las vacaciones de verano, si su estudiante tiene un Chromebook dañado o roto, asegúrese de enviarlo a la escuela con ellos para que pueda enviarlo para su reparación. ¡Queremos asegurarnos de que todos los dispositivos de los estudiantes funcionen correctamente para que estén listos para su uso durante todo el año! Si el dispositivo necesita reparación, asegúrese de enviar un correo electrónico al maestro de aula de su estudiante con una descripción de los problemas.

Sinceramente

Kyle Butler, Director (kwbutler@aacps.org)

¿Necesita ayuda en español? Por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Jacobo al 410-562-1308 o sjacobo@aacps.org. ¡Muchas gracias!



Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Katie McCord



Welcome Back!

We are Building Bright Futures this year, and part of my role as the school counselor is to help students build a resilient foundation by learning social emotional skills, coping techniques, and school success skills. This year I will support student success skills and social emotional learning via class lessons in each class and some visits during morning community meetings. SPES also has our PAWS PBIS expectations, 2nd Step Lessons, and Monthly Character Traits to support social emotional learning. Character trait meaning and examples will be shared on the morning announcements, during morning meetings, and a partial or full counseling lesson about this trait.



September's character trait is Respect.

As parents, we can model respect by being respectful to our kids first and sharing with them what respect looks like. At times when you witness your child showing disrespect, stay calm, look for the cause, teach problem solving alternatives to disrespect, and positively recognize when they show genuine respect. We will do the same at school, and they will hear about respect in my lessons, on the morning announcements, and from their teachers.

September counseling lessons will include the role of the counselor, respect, self-regulation, and calming strategies. I will ask students to choose "One Word" for this school year to inspire them through mid-June. Intermediate students will set a goal for the year. Parents can help their children set their own goals. Helping them choose specific goals with mini goals will also help them feel achievement along the way. It's helpful to have check points to review and reflect on how they are doing with the goal.

I am here for all students, so feel free to email or call if you have any questions, suggestions, or you would like me to meet with your child. Throughout the school year I meet with students for their individual needs. I often have student groups for an occasional fun relationship building lunch bunch. I will also run groups that last 6-10 sessions for some students during lunch time for friendship, and coping skills for big emotions. I can also provide groups for family changes, managing anger, anxiety, study/organizational skills, grief, and self-esteem/confidence if a student, parent, or teacher identifies this need and there is a group of similar age students with the need. Please let me know via phone or email (kmccord@aacps.org) if your child would benefit from a group. Students in regular groups will need parent/guardian permission to participate.

Parent workshops can also be helpful. Some options include supporting your child with anxiety, executive functioning, internet safety and social media, resilience and confidence, growth mindset, and positive discipline and parenting. Please email me (kmccord@aacps.org) if you're interested in a specific topic that I could organize a parent workshop for during this school year.



FIRE LANES AND BUS LOOPS

Maryland Motor Vehicle Law §21-101.1(b)2,3 states,

A person may not drive a motor vehicle in violation of any provision of this title on any property that is owned by or under the control of this State or any of its political subdivisions, county boards of education, or community colleges and that is open to vehicular traffic and used by the public in general. Any person who violates any provision of this subsection is in violation of the law to the same extent and is subject to the same penalty as if the motor vehicle were driven on a highway.

As you know, in a critical emergency, the loss of every minute caused by vehicles blocking fire and police department access can become critical.

For Car Rider Dismissal and Car Rider arrival, please move all the way down to the white line and stay next to the curb when picking up and dropping off students for their safety!!!

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

Applying for a
Commercial Background Check

*Please apply for your background check early.
It does take time to process, so plan ahead!*

The format for applying for commercial background checks has changed. Applicants for a commercial background check will still utilize the AACPS.org website. The background application can be found under the School Security tab under the Families tab (www.aacps.org/families).

In the new system, applicants will be prompted to create an account. They will then receive a confirmation number for successfully creating an account. Within a few seconds of creating the account, the applicant will receive an email which will invite them to a portal where they fill in their information for a background check.

Applicants **MUST** have an email address to complete the background check.

As was the practice in the past, applicants will not receive the final status of their background investigation. Please check with your **TEACHER** for the status.



DISMISSAL

Any changes to your child's normal dismissal method must be made **IN ADVANCE IN WRITING by 1:00PM!!**

Student can bring a note to the homeroom teacher or an email can be sent to the homeroom teacher and both secretaries, LMSykes@aacps.org and DBoring@aacps.org.

If your child will be a car rider, please come and get a sign for EVERY car that will pick up your child up at the end of the day! They are free and will help us with the flow of traffic!

LAST NAME

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

BIRTHDAYS

Remember that we do not allow food items as birthday treats for a variety of health and safety reasons.

Students are able to bring a very small birthday share (stickers, pencils, mini-erasers) rather than a food based treat **IF** they would like too (it is certainly not mandatory). All treats are completely voluntary.

(We will continue to have birthday pencils in the office and the PTA will continue the 'birthday books' program again this year.)



ABSENCE NOTES

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 of returning to school.

You can send in a hand written note or an email to the homeroom teacher and LMSykes@aacps.org.

Thank You!!



SPirit DAY
Chick-fil-A Severna Park
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
All Day!

Come by for ...

Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner (Back to School Night)
...in support of Severna Park Elementary School! A portion of
your purchase will be donated back to the school!

Please remember:

- To let the Chick-fil-A order taker know that your order is for Severna Park Elementary's Spirit Day!
- If you place a mobile order thru the Chick-fil-A app for either pickup or delivery, please write in the note section that your order is for Severna Park Elementary's Spirit Day!

Chick-fil-A Severna Park
511 Ritchie Hwy www.SPCFA.com (410) 647-6232
www.facebook.com/SevernaParkCFA

School Meal Prices
SY 2023-2024

Student:

<i>Breakfast, (Full Price, All Schools)</i>	<i>\$1.50</i>
<i>Breakfast, (Reduced Price, All Schools)</i>	<i>\$.00</i>
<i>Lunch, (Full Price, Secondary Schools)</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Lunch, (Full Price, Elementary Schools)</i>	<i>\$2.75</i>
<i>Lunch, (Reduced-Price, All Schools)</i>	<i>\$.00</i>

*Meal Benefit Applications are available for SY 2023-2024! Log onto www.aacps.org/mealapplication
[It's About More Than Lunch](#)*

*If you have any questions regarding the school meals program, please email jrisse@aacps.org or
call 410-222-5900.*

Link.



your VIC card
to our school today!



TOGETHER IN
EDUCATION®

Connect your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school's Together in Education account.

Online

1. Log in to your Harris Teeter profile at the top of harristeeter.com
2. Click on My Account once logged in
3. In the Together in Education section, type the school name in the School Search toolbar
4. Once the school name generates, click on the school name and then Add a School
(Note: it is easiest to type the school code listed above into the school search bar)

App

1. Go to "My Account" and click "Together in Education"
2. Type in the school name in the search bar

In-store

Ask your cashier to link your VIC card to our school's TIE code.



Dear Parents and School Supporters,

Beginning August 1, 2023, Severna Park Elementary proudly rejoins Harris Teeter's Together in Education program to help raise funds for our school. Last year we earned over \$300.00 and we hope to beat that amount this year! It's easy and it's FREE! Simply give the cashier **our school code, 4433**, and your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire 2023-24 school year **OR You may link your card here: [Harris Teeter VIC Link](#)**. That's it! **All VIC cards were cleared as of June 1, 2023, and current members must be relinked starting August 1, 2023. You only must link your VIC card once each school year.**

Starting Tuesday, August 1, 2023, when customers purchase select Harris Teeter Brand products using their linked VIC card, Harris Teeter contributes a percentage of those purchase dollars to our school. There is no additional charges or cost for customers to participate.

Harris Teeter Brand products include Harris Teeter, Harris Teeter Farmers Market, H.T. Traders, and Harris Teeter Organics. As a bonus program, if you purchase prescription medications from our pharmacy, a percentage of the product purchase also goes back to our school. However randomly weighted or bulk items in produce, meat (except poultry), seafood, deli bakery, prepared foods within these brands are not included in the program.

The TIE program proceeds will be used for technology, supplies, equipment, teacher preparation, and student learning materials. This program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you any money! Don't forget to link your VIC card to **our account code #4433** next time you are shopping at Harris Teeter.

Thank you for your support!

Severna Park Elementary Staff



**TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS
OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Each year, school children have accidents. Medical costs can be expensive, and unexpected bills can cause hardships. Even if you have other insurance, it is often not enough as coverage can require high deductibles or co-insurance payments.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools **does not** purchase blanket accidental medical or dental insurance for sports, school sponsored activities, or student activity while school is in session. However, we have made arrangements with **Bob McCloskey Insurance** to offer accident coverage to all enrolled students at a modest premium. Through this program, parents/guardians have the opportunity to purchase this protection for their child.

Some of the advantages of this insurance include:

At-School Student Accident Coverage: This provides insurance for the hours and days when school is in session and while students are attending school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. Coverage is provided during:

- The school day, on school premises, while school is in session.
- Direct and uninterrupted travel to and from home and scheduled classes.
- School sponsored and supervised sports (excluding high school football).
- Travel to and from school sponsored and supervised sports while in school approved vehicle.

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

Around the Clock - 24-hour Accident coverage: This provides insurance coverage around-the-clock, anywhere in the world. Coverage is provided:

- Before, during and after school.
- Weekends, vacation and all summer including summer school.
- School sponsored and extracurricular sports (excluding high school football).

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

*All coverage becomes effective on the date that the completed application and premium are received by **Bob McCloskey Insurance**, or online enrollment is completed.*

YOU CAN APPLY AND PAY ON-LINE AT: www.bobmcloskey.com/K12Voluntary and click the “Enroll Online” start button. You have a choice of different benefit schedules.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call **Bob McCloskey Insurance**, at (800) 445-3126. Their representatives are available to assist you in your inquiries or go to www.bobmcloskey.com/K12Voluntary.

A top-down view of various art supplies scattered on a white surface. At the top, a row of sharpened colored pencils in green, light blue, yellow, blue, green, red, yellow, brown, pink, green, red, and dark blue. To the right, a green paint palette with a green paint well. Below the pencils, a paint palette with yellow and orange wells. In the bottom left, a paint palette with yellow and orange wells, and a ruler. In the bottom right, a pair of green-handled scissors. Two paintbrushes with brown bristles are also visible.

Art Supplies NEEDED

Help us stock the SPES Art Room!

- SPONGES (HIGH PRIORITY)
- MARKERS (CRAYOLA OR PRANG)
- GLUE BOTTLE (CLEAR OR WHITE)
- SHARPIES
- BIG PINK OR WHITE ERASERS
- CRAFT SUPPLIES:
 - BUTTONS, CRAFT FOAM, FEATHERS, POMPOMS, PIPE CLEANERS, GEMS, SEQUINS, ECT.

Any amount helps!

Please drop items off in the front atrium

WELCOME BACK BOBCATS!

We're so glad to kick off the school year as the **new** Severna Park Elementary School (SPES) **Parent Teacher Organization** (PTO). The SPES PTO is a collaborative partnership between our school, our families, and our community, which focuses on enhancing our students' overall educational experiences. If this is your first year at SPES, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to each of you. If you are a "seasoned" Bobcat family, I know that you are as excited as we are to be starting the school year again.

As I embark upon my term as your PTO President, I am looking forward to continuing the working partnerships we have established with the administration, our invaluable teachers and staff, and the Severna Park community **to provide an excellent learning environment for our children**. I am honored to band together with the most amazing group of volunteers to continue providing support to our entire school.

I also encourage each one of you to become a part of our team. In doing so, you help us achieve our goal of providing our students with educational opportunities where imagination and innovation are encouraged, students learn with passion, the arts and healthy lifestyles are emphasized, and student achievement is supported. Being a member benefits you too! By becoming a member, not only will you be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education, but you'll also be joining a community of supportive families who want the same thing you do: **the best for our children**.

Please join me and the rest of the team this year as we work alongside the school's theme of "**Building Bright Futures**" with our own focuses on structure, transparency, and setting the blueprints for our organization's future. With a community and school as special as ours, coupled with your generous support, I know we can work together to provide an amazing year for our **entire Bobcat community**. If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me at spelementarypto@gmail.com.

Thank you and have a great year!

Sincerely,
Meredith Schimek
SPES PTO President





SPES PTO NEWS

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Sign Up Today!



The grade with the most members signed up by **1 October** wins a prize! With over 40 programs sponsored by the PTO, we need your support! Sign up to be a member today at www.spespto.org.

PTO Meetings

Our **first PTO meeting** of the year is almost here! Come find out what we're all about on **September 5th @ 6:30pm** in the SPES Media Center. We will be covering important topics like the annual budget, new programs and events, classroom grants, and more! You'll also get the chance to hear from Principal Butler on all things SPES like building improvements and first week feedback. We hope to see you there! (Calendar link below.)

PTO in Action

Your PTO has been busy! Over the summer we did a complete **SURPRISE remodel** of the staff lounge, including new paint, furniture and decor, and an updated vending machine. A **big thank you** to the many families who also helped us stock the room with gummy

snacks and usable items. We also hosted a **Kindergarten Signing Day** where each incoming Kindergarten "committed" to SPES. Additionally, the PTO provided a welcome lunch for all staff, presented to new families, and hosted a table at Sneak-a-Peek.



Committees

Call for Leads: Our PTO consists of several committees to oversee our many programs and events. The Leads for these committees play an integral role in the operations of our team, making what we do possible! **These roles are perfect for the adult who wants to volunteer in a specific capacity, with a team of**

additional volunteers to support. If this sounds like the opportunity for you, we'd love to have you join us! Our current open positions are:

- **Assemblies** - Finds and works with entertainment for our 3 assemblies.
- **Fall Festival** - Oversees the annual community-wide event (planning underway, but we need a Lead!)
- **Girls Event** - Plans and executes the annual event for our SPES girls and their VIP guests
- **Grounds** - Works with landscaping contractors to keep our grounds looking beautiful
- **Lost & Found** - Periodically organizes the SPES Lost & Found items, helping to return them to students
- **Sponsorship** - Helps the PTO kickoff our Sponsorship Campaign by organizing levels & finding support

Spirit Wear - The response to our new Spirit Wear has been amazing! We currently have limited items in stock, but keep your eyes peeled for more to come soon!

Girls on the Run - Registration is open **NOW** & runs (pun intended) through **11 September**, with space for 19 girls and 4 parent coaches! Practices will begin on 18 September and be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:25-4pm at SPES.

Enrichment Programs - Register for Fall Clubs **11-20 September**; space limited! Email spelementaryptoclubs@gmail.com if you have any questions about EEPs!

Corporate Bonus - Restaurant Night info coming soon; watch for updates!

Updates

Calendar

We have so many exciting things on the calendar this year! Visit www.spespto.org/dates for a list of dates and to join our Google Calendar to receive automatic updates.