



# Shady Side Elementary School

## September 2019 Newsletter



### Contact Us At:

Shady Side Elementary  
4859 Atwell Road  
Shady Side, Maryland 20764

Principal: Mrs. Melissa Brown  
Asst. Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Williams

Phone: 410-222-1621/410-867-1981  
Fax: 410-867-4921

## Seagull Scoop

### Upcoming Events

- 9/19 PTO Mtg @ 6:30 p.m.
- 9/20 Spirit Day – Wear Blue/Gold
- 9/30 Schools Closed - Rosh Hashanah
  
- 10/3 Vision & Hearing Screening
- 10/4 Fall Picture Day
- 10/7 Interims to be sent home
- 10/8 2 hr. early dismissal
- 10/9 Schools Closed – Yom Kippur
- 10/15 & 16 Schools closed for students. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 10/18 Vision & Hearing Rescreening
- 10/23 Unity Day – Wear Orange
- 10/31 Fall Festival/Halloween Parade @ 9:30 a.m.



### Principal's Message:

Dear Shady Side Families,

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year! I am so excited to be here at Shady Side Elementary. While I have always felt an amazing sense of family and belonging when I worked at Tracey's, Deale, and Lothian, I can truly say that I am home! It has already been a privilege to see our scholars in action. Our teachers have started the year with a wonderful, positive tone. Classrooms are neat, organized, and welcoming; rules and routines have been introduced, modeled, practiced, and reinforced; rigorous, meaningful instruction has been occurring since day one; and smiles can be seen on the faces of staff and scholars alike.

We are implementing a new Phonics, Spelling, and Word Study program this year with K-2 scholars, and our scholars in grades 3-5 will utilize new rubrics to help grow them as writers. All students will engage in weekly lessons in a program called Second Step, which supports social/emotional skills. We are excited to see our students demonstrate the strategies they learn throughout the units: Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Problem Solving. Information will come home to help families support the skills and strategies being taught in school.

While there may have been a change in administrators at Shady Side, the expectations for our scholars continue to be in place. The Seagull Promise to Persevere, Show Empathy, Show Pride, Be Prepared, and Respect will continue to be reinforced and celebrated through Scholar Dollars, Student of the Month, Citizenship Awards and other recognitions.

Finally, you are an important part of your student's education, and we can't do it without you. Please encourage **your** child to read and complete their homework. Communicate with the school regularly. Look for ways to volunteer. Talk about school with your child. Working together, we can create great successes for all of our scholars.



## Reminders

**School Hours:** The official hours of instruction are 9:15 a.m. – 3:40 p.m. Students may begin entering the building at 8:55 a.m. Duty teachers will not be outside until 8:55! Do not drop students off early – there is no supervision available prior to 8:55. We encourage all students to arrive prior to 9:15. Getting organized and ready for instruction is key to success. Instruction begins promptly at 9:15 a.m. Any student that is not in the classroom when the 9:15 bell rings, is marked tardy. The adult must accompany the student and sign them in “late” in the office. **Please note that we will be teaching the full instructional day, until 3:40, at which time we will begin packing for dismissal. Dismissal begins at 3:45 p.m.**

**Dismissal:** Safety is the most important job we have. Trying to get everyone safely home gets more challenging when we begin to receive phone calls or email messages at dismissal time. **To avoid concerns, we ask that any changes to your child’s dismissal routine be communicated to the office by 3:30 pm.** If you need to pick your child up from the office, this must be done by 3:30 pm and will be considered an early dismissal. All regular dismissal car riders will be picked up at the side door (by the gym) at 3:45.

**Attendance:** When your child is absent, please send a note stating the reason for the absence upon your child’s return to school. Absences more than five days require a physician’s note. When these procedures are not followed, the absence code must be assumed to be unlawful and will be coded as unexcused.

Just a few reminders about attendance:

If your child **arrives after 9:15 a.m.** they are considered tardy and **must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult into the office to be signed in.** If coming from the dentist or doctor, please ask for a doctor’s note and present it to one of the secretaries as you are signing your child in.

- If your child **leaves before 11:15 a.m.,** they are absent for the day.
- If your child **leaves after 11:15 a.m., but before 1:15 p.m.,** they will receive an Early Dismissal with ½ day absence.
- **After 1:15 p.m.,** Early Dismissals will be given for any student who leaves before **3:45 p.m.**
- This is AACPS and MSDE policy.



## Birthday Celebrations



As you heard at our Back to School Event or have seen in the materials sent home if you were unable to attend, we are no longer celebrating birthdays with cupcakes or other food items. If you would like for your child to celebrate their birthday at school, we are encouraging you to send items such as stickers or pencils. These goodie-bag type items will be fun for the students and allow them to take the birthday “treats” with them beyond lunch time! Last year, all schools went through a wellness survey to gather baseline data to see how aligned our school practices are to the health and wellness policies of the district and state. As a result of these policies, many schools have moved away from birthday cupcakes. After the Wellness Survey, the decision was made last school year to do the same at Shady Side Elementary beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you for following these new guidelines; we want to help your child celebrate their birthday, and we look forward to this healthier way to do so.

---

## Recess/Lunch Schedules

### Pre-Kindergarten

Recess        11:10 – 11:30 a.m.  
Lunch        11:30 – 11:55 a.m.

### Kindergarten

Recess        11:15 – 11:35 a.m.  
Lunch        11:35 – 12:00 p.m.

### First Grade

Recess        11:30 – 11:50 a.m.  
Lunch        11:50 – 12:15 p.m.

### Second Grade

Recess        11:45 – 12:05 p.m.  
Lunch        12:05 – 12:30 p.m.

### Third Grade

Recess        12:20 – 12:40 p.m.  
Lunch        12:40 – 1:05 p.m.

### Fourth Grade

Recess        12:40 – 1:00 p.m.  
Lunch        1:00 – 1:25 p.m.

### Fifth Grade

Recess        12:50 – 1:10 p.m.  
Lunch        1:10 – 1:35 p.m.



# Seagull Promise



## **Shady Side Scholars promise to...**



**Persevere...** they do not give up even when things first appear difficult.



**Show Empathy...** they make sure that their words or actions do not hurt anyone.



**Show Pride...** they put forth their best effort each day.



**Prepared for learning.**



**Respect their teachers, classmates and property.**