



## **Shady Side Elementary School**

**4859 Atwell Road  
Shady Side, Maryland 20764  
410-222-1621 or 410-867-1981  
Health Room 410-222-2955**



**Principal: Mrs. Melissa Brown  
Assistant Principal: Ms. Rebecca Williams  
Guidance Counselor: Ms. Lisa Blandford**

**Office hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Grace and Patience...that is a phrase that I seem to hear these days in both my school and personal life - in emails, on the television, when chatting with a colleague, friend or family member. As we welcome you back to school for the 2020-2021 academic year, I want to begin by saying thank you for all the ways you have shown me and my staff grace and patience in the previous weeks and will continue to show us as we navigate our virtual semester together. It is our goal to extend that grace and patience to the Shady Side Elementary community.

The start of any school year is filled with many emotions: excitement, anxiety, joy, trepidation. The start of this school year is no different and has many more underlying emotions swirling around for all of us. But I want to focus on excitement! I am excited about having our students with us again, even if in a virtual environment. I am excited about the opportunities ahead to learn and grow. I am excited about the ways we connect, build new relationships and strengthen existing ones. I am excited about the things we will teach our scholars and that our scholars will teach us in return. I am excited to once again see many children's smiles each day and receive the "air hugs" that accompany them. I am excited to see all the ways our teachers will engage and challenge our students every day. I am excited to work in partnership with our families to keep our students safe, happy, healthy, and nurtured emotionally and academically throughout this school year.

Every first day of school is the start of a new part of our journey, and I am so excited to be on this journey with the Shady Side Elementary family!

**Mrs. Brown**

**School Hours:** With the virtual start to the school year, school hours are much different. Students are expected to attend all live Meets/classes each day. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are full days, and Wednesdays are half days. Please see instructional times below for the appropriate grade-levels.

**Virtual Hours:**

Pre-K-Grade 2

M,T,Th,F 9:00AM-3:00PM

Wednesday 9:00AM-11:00AM

Grade 3 - Grade 5

M,T,Th,F 8:30AM-3:00PM

Wednesday 8:30AM-11:15AM

Attendance will be taken 9:00 for PK-2 and 8:30 for 3-5. Please reference information posted for parents at [www.aacps.org/virtuallearning](http://www.aacps.org/virtuallearning) or within your child's Google Classroom for their Homeroom teacher. Information is also posted at AACPS.org regarding submitting electronic absence notes, what to do if your child has extenuating circumstances that prevent them from live learning, descriptions of the various learning blocks, and much more.

**School-Family Communication:** It is our goal that we increase the amount of information we can complete using email and texts and posted on the school website. Newsletters will be posted to our website and a Blackboard Connect message will go out when it is posted with a link to our site. Teachers will be sharing much information and communicating with parents through email. They will also post information in their Google Classroom. AACPS and Shady Side Elementary will share many updates and information through Blackboard Connect by phone calls, texts, and emails. It is very important that we have your current email addresses and phone numbers to receive calls and texts, so you do not miss these messages. You can also follow us on Twitter @ShadySideAACPS or check out Mrs. Brown's Google Site at <https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/ssesprincipalsite/home>. Let's stay connected!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!