



2023-2024

Back to School Important Information

Dear Hedgie Families,

We are very excited to welcome students back to school on Monday, August 28th! School doors will open daily to students at 8:40 AM. Students should arrive at school between 8:40 AM and 8:55 AM. Students who arrive after 8:55 AM will be marked late. To help ensure safety, students should always be supervised prior to 8:40 AM by a responsible adult. Dismissal begins at 3:40 PM daily. Please see the important information below to better ensure a smooth start to the year!

Student arrival procedures: Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 will enter through the side door near the playground by Catonsville Presbyterian. Students in grades 2 and 3 will enter through the front door. Students in grades 4 and 5 will enter the side door near the tennis courts unless they choose school breakfast (see below). Doors will open to students at 8:40 AM. Staff will be available to assist students with teacher/classroom information and will be available to assist bus riders to their classrooms. *AM/PM Pre-K will gather at the front door with Mrs. Brown at the respective times.

Note: Students in PreK and Kindergarten will follow gradual entry procedures throughout the first week of school. Please find these procedures attached with this communication and during initial conferences with teachers.

Student dismissal procedures: Please make sure your child and your child's teacher know how your child will be getting home. If there needs to be a change to normal dismissal, the change needs to be in writing to your child's teacher. If you are picking your child up early, 3:00 PM is the latest time to do so as not to interfere with dismissal.

Car Riders: Parents/guardians picking up students by car should use the carpool lane. Car rider tags are required for pickup. Returning families will be issued new tags with the same number. New families should complete the attached form and return to school (either in person or emailed to Mr. Kesler at rkesler@bcps.org) prior to the start of school. Car rider tags will be distributed to families at Sneak-a-Peek or during the first week of school. When possible, please use the westbound parking lot entrance of Frederick Road to avoid backups. Students who are car riders will be escorted to the carpool lane as their rides arrive.

Walkers: and students meeting parents outside of the school, will be dismissed by teachers at 3:40 PM. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be dismissed from the side door near Presby (same door as arrival). 2nd grade will be dismissed through the front door. 3rd grade will leave from the blue classroom doors at the front of the school. 4th and 5th will be dismissed from the side doors near the tennis courts. Please be sure to communicate with your child's teacher about how your child is going home. Also, please make sure your child is aware how he or she is going home.

Bus riders: will be escorted to their buses at dismissal.

Note: Bus information will be shared with families when it is received from the office of transportation but no sooner than 8/21/23.

We ask for your patience during dismissal to ensure the safety of all students.

FOCUS/Schoology Parent Account: To access student grades and to stay better informed, parents/guardians should create a Parent Account. Please use the attached directions to create one if you do not have one.

Student devices: Students in grades 1 through 5 are to bring their chargers and devices back to school. Devices will remain at school throughout the school year. Kindergartners will receive their devices later in the school year and will remain at school as well. PreK students do not receive devices.

Breakfast and Lunch: Both will be offered free of charge to all students this year! No applications or forms are necessary. For breakfast, students in grades K-2 will report to their classrooms first and then report to the cafeteria if they want breakfast. They will eat in their classrooms. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who choose to have school breakfast should enter through the front of the school and report to the cafeteria before their homerooms. They will eat in the cafeteria.

Cell Phones: Should be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day. Board of Education Policy and Superintendents Rule 5552 indicates that all personal devices are to be off and away during the school day.

Note: Gizmo watches are categorized as personal devices. Calls and texts are not permitted without permission from the school.

If you need to reach your child during the day, please contact their teacher or the main office. We will deliver your message in a timely manner.

Family Handbook: Please review the Family Handbook for more information!

Teacher Assignments: You will be able to view your child's teacher through your FOCUS/Schoology parent account after August 11th!

Emergency Contacts: please update/confirm your emergency contacts in your FOCUS/Schoology parent account.

Upcoming Dates:

1. 8/17/23 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Popsicles with the Principals
2. 8/24/23 12:30 – 1:30 – Kindergarten Popsicle Party
3. 8/24/23 1:30 – 3:30 – Sneak-A-Peek
4. 8/28/23 8:40 – 3:40 First Day of school!
5. 9/12/23 5:00 – 6:30 Back to School Night

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to school on Monday, August 28th, and we wish everyone a great first day of school!

Sincerely,

Debita Basu, Principal (dbasu@bcps.org)

Lisa Shortt, Assistant Principal (lgriffinshortt@bcps.org)

Rob Kesler, Assistant Principal (rkesler@bcps.org)