

## Burnt Mills Elementary School

11211 Childs Street • Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 • Phone: 301-649-8192 • Fax: 301-649-8097



### Office of the Principal

## Safety Patrol Information

May 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Purpose and Overview

School safety patrols are an important part of the well-being of the student body. Safety patrols learn more than traffic safety habits, they also develop alertness, dependability, leadership qualities, and a sense of community. The primary role of each safety patrol is to protect students from traffic hazards, remind students of the safety rules, and assist students in crossing the street safely. Patrol members should never attempt to direct or stop traffic. **The duty of the patrol member is to direct children, not traffic.**

### Bus Patrols

There will be three (3) to four (4) safety patrols per bus. The bus safety patrols will assist in keeping the aisles clear, reminding students to keep their heads and arms inside the bus window, not to stand while the bus is in motion, and to keep the noise level down.

### Patrol Meetings

Patrol meetings will be scheduled once per month. These meetings are mandatory and will be conducted according to parliamentary procedure. The meetings will be held during your child's early morning time (following morning announcements) or recess time so that he/she will not miss any instructional time. All patrols are expected to wear their belts and to be on time. The venue of the meetings is usually the APR (All Purpose Room) or in the foyer of the gym.

### Rules

Patrols must always wear their belts and badges while on duty. Patrols are expected to be on time to their post and never leave early unless for an emergency. If a patrol knows beforehand that he/she is going to be absent, they must inform the Patrol Sponsors and/or the Patrol Captains as soon as possible.

### Demerit System

Serving as a safety patrol is an honor and a privilege. Patrols are expected to demonstrate responsible, respectful behavior at all times. Patrols that do not demonstrate responsibility in following school rules and procedures will be given demerits.

### Demerits

Any patrol receiving 20 demerits cannot attend the end-of-the-year patrol picnic. Here are additional actions that can result in demerits:

- Forgetting their safety patrol belt is five (5) demerits.
- Inappropriate language, cursing, and behaving in an out of control manner is five (5) demerits.
- Not reporting to your assigned patrol post is five (5) demerits.
- Wearing the patrol belt inappropriately is five (5) demerits.

- Bullying another student is automatic termination as there is zero-tolerance for bullying in MCPS.

Patrols receiving compliments from staff members with regards to their stellar performance in the execution of their duties will be celebrated and recognized during lunch in the APR (All Purpose Room). The new semester means a new beginning for the safety patrol. This allows the safety patrol to work towards doing better for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the event he/she received demerits in the course for the previous semester. The 1st-semester demerits will be removed at the end of the semester and the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester starts each patrol with a clean record. Please make sure your child is familiar with the demerits system. If you have any questions about the demerits system, please contact the patrol sponsors.

### **Suspensions**

Suspensions will be at the discretion of the school administration and the safety patrol sponsors. Attached is a copy of the "Patrol Member's Pledge". This provides reminders and describes the scope of duties for what is expected of all patrols.

### **Use and Care of Equipment**

Proper care of issued equipment is the responsibility of the patrol member. Belts, badges, and ponchos are provided at considerable expense. Patrols will be required to keep and maintain their issued equipment in good condition all year. If an item is lost or damaged, there will be a \$20.00 charge for each item.

### **Inclement Weather**

In the event there is rain during arrival and dismissal times, outside patrols will be required to wear the yellow patrol ponchos. These items are stored in a designated location and will be shown to all patrols. If the decision is made to wear ponchos, all patrols must adhere to that decision.

If you have any questions about the policies or procedures, please feel free to contact patrol sponsors, [Reanne\\_T\\_Shields@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Reanne_T_Shields@mcpsmd.org) and [Ann\\_W\\_Sannoh@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ann_W_Sannoh@mcpsmd.org).

### **Application Process**

Applications should and will be completed online. When all applications are collected, we will then sort through the applicants and ask homeroom teachers if they recommend the scholar to be a patrol. Once we have all recommendations from teachers, we will make our decisions on who will be a patrol for the 2021-2022 school year by June 15th.

Upon our return to school, the selected patrols will be given a congratulatory letter in which parents will have to sign and return letting us know you give your scholar permission to be a safety patrol.

**Application forms and essays must be submitted online using this [Patrol Application](#), no later than June 11, 2021**

# Burnt Mills Elementary School

## Safety Patrol Essay

[Safety Patrol Application](#)

Due online by June 11,2021

Submit your essay online explaining:

***What does it mean to you to serve as a Safety Patrol at Burnt Mills? How does citizenship play a meaningful role in guiding you to be a good Safety Patrol?***

Criteria:

- The essay must have complete sentences and should be a minimum of 2 paragraphs (5-7 sentences each).
- Please review and proofread your essay to minimize grammatical or punctuation errors.

# **Safety Patrol Pledge**

**All applicants to the Safety Patrol will be expected to know and recite the safety pledge:**

**I promise to do my best to...**

- Report for duty on time**
- Perform duties faithfully**
- Strive to prevent accidents, always setting a good example**
- Obey teachers and officers of the patrol**
- Report dangerous student practices**
- Strive to earn the respect of fellow students**