

August 2021

Dear Burnt Mills Families:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are extremely excited about the start of a new school year and the endless opportunities that await our school community. Burnt Mills Elementary School is fortunate to have dedicated, knowledgeable and nurturing staff who are ready to educate scholars and serve families. We look forward to a productive and purposeful year as staff, families and scholars continue to soar to new heights.

This summer, the Building Service Team has been hard at work cleaning the building, (inside and outside), in preparation for the new school year. Walls have been freshly painted, floors buffed and waxed, and grounds landscaped. We believe taking pride in our school building is a key ingredient to building a school culture where everybody feels welcomed, respected and appreciated.

Our school theme this year is: **Reset, Renew, Rebuild: What's in your toolbox?** We are ready to dig into our learning toolboxes and do whatever it takes to reset, renew and rebuild our school community. We understand that improving student learning (academically, social-emotionally, and behaviorally) is at the core of our work.

Collectively, we understand that the work we do every day is important and rooted in the Burnt Mills vision statement which promises to provide all students with a sense of hope in a challenging and nurturing learning environment. With all that we have experienced over the last 15 months, we know now more than ever that our scholars need a learning space where they feel cared for and loved. We are here for our scholars!

In preparation for the new school year, we have provided some important “need to know” information.

The First Day of School is Monday, August 30, 2021

The official student day is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. Upon arrival, we ask that you wish your child a great first day of school at the main doors of our school, and then allow him/her to proceed into the building as they are expected to during each day of the school year. If your child is riding the bus, please let him or her ride the bus to and from school on the first day. **Parents are encouraged to follow the bus in their car and park legally.** During the first week of school, additional staff will be available at arrival and dismissal to assist students.

Pre-K students begin school with a staggered opening in late September. Ms. Chin, the Pre-K teacher, will inform parents of the dates children should report to school during upcoming home visits.

Arrival on the First Day of School ONLY:

- **Kindergarten students** will report to the APR to meet their classroom teacher. Kindergarten teachers will take attendance and escort their students to class where they will eat breakfast and prepare for the day.

- Students in Grades 1, 2, and 5 will report directly to their grade level hallway, sit quietly and wait for the 8:55 bell to ring. Students will enter classrooms at 8:55 a.m., have breakfast and prepare for the instructional day. Patrols will monitor the hallways.
- Students in Grade 3 and Ms. Santos' 4th grade class will report to the media center to meet their teachers.
- Students in Grade 4 will report to the gym to meet their teachers.

For the remainder of the year, Grades K, 1, 2, and 5 will report to their grade level hallway and sit quietly outside their classroom until the 8:55 a.m bell rings. Grades 3 and 4 will report to the APR, sit quietly at their grade level table, and wait to be picked up by their classroom teacher.

Masks are Required

All MCPS students and staff will be required to wear face coverings in school buildings this fall, regardless of vaccination status. Click the link below for more information/
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/system-message-archive/>

Bell Time Schedule 2021-2022

School Hours (K-5):	9:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Pre-K Hours	A.M. Class 9:00-11:30 P.M. Class 12:55-3:25
Teacher Duty Day	8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Two Hour Delay	11:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Early Dismissal	12:55 p.m.
Students enter the building	8:40 a.m.
Students enter classrooms	8:55 a.m.
Morning Announcements/Tardy Bell*	9:00 a.m.
*The tardy bell rings at 9:00 a.m. Students arriving at school after the bell rings must report to the main office, with a parent/guardian, to sign in and receive a tardy pass to class.	
Instructional Day	9:00 a.m.
Dismissal	3:25 p.m.

Who's new to the BMES Family?

With a new school year come changes and new opportunities. Please join me in welcoming the following staff to the Burnt Mills Family!

- *Andreja Comentales, Grade K*
- *Stacy Wolff, Grade K*
- *Julia Tyson, Grade 1*
- *Kathryn Neuman, Grade 2*
- *Jody Morstein, Grade 3*
- *Carissa Morin, Grade 4*
- *Brianna Staples, Grade 4*
- *Leticia Rodriguez, Grade 5 (Spanish Immersion)*

- *Ashley Bell, Student Support Transition Specialist*
- *Michelle Myers, Art Teacher (.1)*
- *Erin Ross, Primary Talent Development Coach*
- *Bethany Akindana, Math Focus*
- *Carlos Avalos, Building Service Worker*
- *Leah Mitchell, Paraeducator*

Staff Updates and Changes

- Ms. Kelly, special education teacher, will be on maternity leave through November.
- Ms. Kozorosky, who taught 3rd grade last year, will teach 1st grade this year.
- Ms. Parker, who taught 4th grade last year will teach 1st grade this year.
- Ms. Garcia, who taught 4th grade last year, will teach 2nd grade this year.
- Mrs. Klass, who taught 3rd grade Spanish Immersion, accepted a teacher position with Virtual Academy.
- Ms. Guzman, who taught 5th grade Spanish Immersion, will teach 3rd grade Spanish Immersion.
- Ms. Bell, who was our school counselor two years ago, has returned in a new position as the Student Support Transition Specialist.
- Ms. Serra, who was our reading focus teacher last year, will serve as a special education teacher this year.
- Mrs. Coolahan, who taught 2nd grade last year, will serve as our reading focus teacher this year.
- Mrs. Johnson, who served as our Primary Talent Development Coach (PTDC) last year, has relocated to South Carolina. Our new PTDC will be Erin Ross.

New School Construction and New Bell Times in January 2022

We are still on track for new school construction to begin January 2022! With that, we will be moving out of this building in December 2021 and into a holding facility, called The Fairland Center for approximately 18 months. The Fairland Center is located at 13313 Old Columbia Pike Silver Spring, MD 20904. There is a lot to organize and plan in preparation for the big move. We will keep you updated on the progress as information becomes available.

What we can share right now is that when we move into the holding facility, we will be under a new bell schedule. The school day for students will begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 2:40 p.m. (45 minutes earlier than our current bell schedule and buses will likely arrive at school by 8:10 a.m.) Transportation information will be shared as we get closer to the date. The teacher duty day will begin at 7:45 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. We are sharing this information now so families can plan accordingly.

Kindergarten Orientation: Parent Information Sessions (For incoming Kindergarteners only)

Kindergarten Orientation: Parent Information Sessions will be held for incoming kindergarten families only on Thursday, August 26th. Please click the link below for details.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xHNTmt39oWDZ9q8i4PKsyrr5w2kLgAh7Lec0VjxcvM8/edit>

Open House

Open House for parents/guardians and students will be **Thursday, August 26th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. for students in Grades 1-5 ONLY.**

Kindergarten families should attend *Kindergarten Orientation: Parent Information Sessions* at their designated time.

This is a time for families to meet and greet teachers, visit classrooms, engage in casual conversations with staff and reduce the 'first day jitters' for our students.

Welcome Back to School postcards will be mailed inviting families to Open House. To help students remember their child's teacher, we asked parents to bring the welcome card with them to Open House and the first day of school.

Welcome Back to School Events:

- **Back to School Night for Grades K-5** will be Wednesday, September 8, 2021, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We are planning to have a Back to School Night that will provide both an in-person and virtual experience for parents. If you choose to come in person, childcare will not be provided. This is a PARENT ONLY event. Details to follow.
- Our annual **Welcome Back to School Bash** will be Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Buses

Buses will be identified by their bus route number. When students arrive on the first day of school they will receive a stamp on their arm identifying their bus route number. Parents with students in Grades K, 1, and 2 are encouraged to complete the backpack card and pin it to your child's shirt and backpack on the first day of school. To help with routines, please allow your child to ride the bus the first day of school. Face coverings are required on the bus.

Meals

All meals will be provided free of charge during the 2021-2022 school year. MCPS will continue to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner meals to all students in schools and at designated food distribution sites.

Free and/or Reduced Meals (FARMS)

Families can now apply online and avoid longer processing times in September. Online FARMS applications are available now. Please visit www.MySchoolApps.com to complete and submit the 2021-2022 online application.



2021-2022 paper application forms in English and Spanish will be distributed to all MCPS Schools the week of August 30th. Households that complete an online application DO NOT need to submit a paper application. The paper version of the 2021-22 Household Application for FARMS is designed to allow for electronic scanning. Due to this, only original applications can be processed. Please do not duplicate the paper applications. Again, while we will accept paper applications, online applications are strongly encouraged.

Please contact Ms. Gordon, parent community coordinator, @ (240) 740-3894 for assistance.

Parking

Please do not park in the bus circle at any time (even if it's just for a few minutes). The bus circle is a fire lane and must remain clear at all times. If you need to visit the school, please park your vehicle in an authorized parking space. This request is extremely important and we ask that all families cooperate.

Transportation/Arrival & Dismissal

Safety is our number one priority; therefore we ask that families exercise patience, respect and adhere to the traffic flow pattern and drop-off/pick up procedures. The Traffic Flow Pattern and Drop-off/Pick-up Procedures and the Bus Schedules can be found on the school website under the link **New School Year Information 2021-2022**. If you have questions about transportation (late/no show buses), please contact the Division of Transportation at (301) 840-8130.



Patrols

Ms. Shields and Ms. Sannoh will be available during Open House to distribute patrol belts. They will also be available if patrols are ready to recite the pledge. The patrol pledge is enclosed.

Safety Patrol Pledge

I Promise To Do My Best To.....

Report for duty on time

Perform my duties faithfully

Strive to prevent accidents, always setting a good example myself

Obey my teachers and officers of the patrol

Report dangerous student practices

Strive to earn the respect of fellow students.

Please visit BMES website and click **New School Year Information 2021-2022** tab located to the left under Quick Links to find out everything you need to know about the new school year. Information will be updated and uploaded in the coming weeks, so check the site frequently. NO HARD COPIES will be provided.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the main office for additional information. On behalf of the Burnt Mills Elementary School staff, we want to welcome you and your child to the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited and ready for a successful school year!

Fondly,

Dr. Ashton, principal

Mr. Clarke, assistant principal