We are excited to welcome your students back to Sparks Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year! See below for current information and use this [site](https://bcps.nutrislice.com/menu/sparks-elems) to find all resources related to COVID for Baltimore County Public Schools.

### Arrival & Dismissal Procedures
- Arrival begins at 8:45 am in Parent Loop, parents remain in car, student(s) exit only at the sidewalk.
- Parent drop-off is only in the parent loop. Parking and walking students to the door is not permitted.
- Bus arrival begins at 8:45 am in the Bus Loop; children exit buses and walk to class.
- Dismissal begins at 3:45 pm.
- Parent Loop: Pull all the way forward, display your family number, and wait for your student(s).
- Bus dismissal: Students wait in classrooms until bus is called, then walk to the lobby and line up.

### Screening & Testing (Safety is Our True North)
- All families should screen students for symptoms prior to leaving home.
- Please use this [checklist](https://bcps.nutrislice.com/menu/sparks-elems) to determine if a student should or should not go to school.
- Persons with COVID-19 symptoms in school will be required to be tested or will be placed on quarantine, in alignment with guidance from the Maryland Department of Health.

### Face Covering (Safety is Our True North)
**Requirements:** All persons, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face covering while inside a school. Exceptions to this requirement are:
- The person is alone in a private space.
- The person is eating or drinking.
- The person has a documented physical or developmental disability that makes wearing a mask unsafe.
- The person is under the age of two.
- The person is a student athlete engaged in the sport in the field of play.

### Social Distancing (Safety is Our True North)
**Requirements:** Physical distancing of students from each other and between students and adults will be provided to the greatest extent possible, considering school enrollment and facility constraints. Strategies include:
- Use of classroom and cafeteria configurations that provide maximal separation between students.
- Plans for arrival, dismissal and change of classes to reduce gathering of students in any area.
- Restriction of field trips to day trips only, with plans to reduce exposure to large crowds.
- Plans for supervision of restrooms and school lockers to prevent congregation of students.

### Hand Hygiene (Safety is Our True North)
**Requirements:** Employees and students have been instructed to adhere to best practices in hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Times for handwashing or use of hand sanitizer to include before and after meals, upon arrival to schools’ offices and home, before and after use of any shared items, after use of the restroom, after sneezing/coughing and other time hands are contaminated.

### Breakfast & Lunch
- All meals are free for all students.
- Breakfast will be eaten in classrooms and will be available at each entrance.
- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria. Elementary lunch menus are available online at [https://bcps.nutrislice.com/menu/sparks-elem](https://bcps.nutrislice.com/menu/sparks-elem).

### Supplies & Devices:
- Please see teacher supply list on our website at [https://sparkses.bcps.org/](https://sparkses.bcps.org/)
- Bring a computer and charging cord to and from school daily.

### Visitors (Safety is Our True North)
- To visit a BCPS school, visitors must have an appointment.
- Visits will be conducted remotely or outside, whenever possible.
- If an indoor visit is required, visitors will be required to wear a face covering, sign in, and practice social distancing.
- The number of people admitted to the building will be limited.

### Items to send with your student daily:
- Water bottle: 16 oz or more, labeled with name
- Extra mask, labeled with name
- Chapstick, if desired

### Cleaning/Disinfecting (Safety is Our True North)
**Requirements:** BCPS staff will continue to provide safe and clean school environments by ensuring daily cleaning of buildings using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved germicidal agents that kill coronavirus. BCPS staff will:
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-contact surfaces and any shared items, at least daily.
- Promote hand washing before and after touch of shared use items.
- Maintain sufficient supplies of soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.