Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

Although this year will undoubtedly be different, we are looking forward to a fun year of learning! Virtual Learning is new for all of us and the fall will have some different aspects than the spring. As a collaborative team (teachers, parents, students), we will work together to make this a successful and memorable year!

It's important that you review the work your child does for school each day. Be positive and value the hard work your child has done during the school day. It's important to let your child make mistakes as he/she learns. Please allow them to work as independently as is appropriate. Please don't make corrections for your child as this helps the teacher know how to plan valuable, targeted lessons.

Monthly Newsletter
A newsletter will be emailed at the end of each month highlighting what we've done in class and what the coming month will bring.
Instruction will be delivered in both a whole group and small group setting. There will also be independent work for these subjects.

Daily Content Areas:
- Phonics
- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Writing
- Math
- Content (Social Studies, Science, Health)

Sight words and “decodable books are part of our phonics program. Decodable books are short stories which utilize the sight word(s) and letter sounds learned that week. Please read the decodable books with your child when they are assigned and practice the sight words as often as possible.

Class Tag
Our class utilizes an app called “Class Tag” to communicate with families. If you have a smart phone, you may download the free app to access this account or have the announcements and updates emailed to you. Information about how to join our class will be shared in the coming weeks.

Schedule of Specials
This year your child will be participating in Library, Physical Education, Music and Art with the special area teachers. Specials are every day from 2:15-3:05. Special Areas will meet virtually as a whole class and some time will be reserved for independent work.
During the first few weeks of school our class will discuss the expectations for virtual class meetings. For all students to have the best chance at success, the learning environment needs to be a safe place to learn and make mistakes.

**Behavior and Discipline**
Your child should have a quiet place where they can work, listen and participate in our meetings. We strive to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment in which we all work together as a team. This includes following our student pledge to be “respectful, responsible and kind to others.”

**Virtual Learning Etiquette**
Since we won’t be in our classroom, here are some recommendations for you to set your child up for success:
- Your child should have a quiet place where they can work, listen and participate in our meetings.
- He/She should be prepared for the day by eating breakfast or lunch before joining our meetings, getting dressed and being well rested for learning.
- Students should have materials such as paper, pencils, dry erase markers, whiteboard and eraser readily available in their work space.
- Please limit distractions (siblings, toys, pets, electronics).
- Your child should stay muted during meetings unless he/she is responding to a question. We will practice this.

**Report Cards/Conferences**
First marking period report cards are due to be distributed on November 30th. However, this may be subject to change. More information about parent conferences will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress at any time please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.
Extras
Star Student: Your child will be recognized as our “Star Student” at some point during the school year. You will receive more information about this when it is your child’s turn to be Star Student.

Room Parents: We are not sure if this is a position we will need this year and what it will entail. If you are interested, please let your child’s teacher know.

Correspondence
Your child’s teacher can be reached by email or ClassTag

dwilkins@bcps.org
srickels@bcps.org
acastinobarnes@bcps.org

We are looking forward to a wonderful year!