August 12, 2021

Dear Families of Cedarmere Elementary:

I hope you had a safe and pleasant summer with your family and friends. Although last year was a very challenging one for our students, teachers, families, and myself; I look forward to a fresh start for all of us. It is imperative that we encourage our students to see this year, through fresh eyes. I am hopeful that we all have a renewed mindset for the 2021-2022 school year. Our school motto is, “Achieving Greatness Together” and that includes our Cedarmere community. We continue to have teachers who have a heart to work extremely hard to ensure your child receives a quality education.

We are excited for the opportunity to welcome all students back to the building for in-person learning! **School begins for students in Grades 1-5 on Monday, August 30.** Grade 1 students will have the opportunity to participate in a half-day in-person orientation Friday, August 27 (more information is forthcoming). Prekindergarten and kindergarten students will begin school according to the gradual entry schedule that will be communicated separately. **Please be sure to carefully read the important information below.**

**Virtual Back to School Night: Thursday, August 26, 2021 for Grades 1-5**

Session 1 @5:30 – 6:15 pm: 1st Grade – 3rd Grade & Primary CLS (Special Area Teachers)
Session 2 @6:15 – 7:00 pm: 4th Grade - 5th Grade & Intermediate CLS

Parents will receive their child’s Google Meet information to join the BTSN session during the week of August 23, 2021.

**Sneak-Peek at your Seat: Friday, August 27, 2021**

Families will be able to sign up with their child’s teacher to come in Friday to drop off school supplies and take a quick peek at their child’s classroom. To maintain crowd control and social distancing, we have a scheduled time for each grade level, and we ask that only one adult accompany their child. Please see the schedule below for all grade levels to follow.

- **8:45 – 9:15**---------2nd Grade “Sneak a Peek at Your Seat”
- **9:30 – 10:00**--------3rd Grade “Sneak a Peek at Your Seat”
- **10:15 – 10:45**-------4th Grade “Sneak a Peek at Your Seat”
- **11:00 – 11:30**------5th Grade “Sneak a Peek at Your Seat”

1st Grade families will be able to greet their child’s teacher as they arrive to school for their 1st Grade Orientation during arrival and or dismissal.

Our special area classrooms will be open for visitation as well. Please note that the format of these events may change due to changing COVID-19 metrics. No matter the format, we look forward to seeing you!

**School Hours**

**Our school hours for students in Grades K-5 are 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (the school day has been extended by 15 minutes to provide additional time for mathematics instruction). **Students are considered late for school at 8:30 a.m.** Please communicate this information with caregivers responsible for before and after care. It is critical that our students access every moment of instruction, so we thank you in advance for making sure your child is on time for school each day.

_Raising the bar, Closing gaps, Preparing for our future_
School Supplies
School supply lists by grade level are available on our school website at https://cedarmerees.bcps.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=158408&pageId=800602

Face masks are required for all students, school staff, and visitors while in the school building. Face masks are also required on all BCPS school buses. Please make sure your child wears a mask to school each day, as we only have a limited supply on hand.

Arrival Procedures
- AM Prek, 1st and 2nd Graders — Students enter through the front doors of the building.
- K, 3rd Grade and CLS Students – Students enter on the right side of the building.
- 4th Grade – Students enter on the left side of the building
- 5th Grade – Students go directly to the Learning Cottages from the left side of the building (All 5th Graders are now in Learning Cottages)
- Car Riders – Please drive through the parking lot to drop off your child each morning. Staff will be present to assist your child with exiting your vehicle.

Dismissal Procedures
- **Walkers:** Students who are permissible walkers will leave from the right door.
- **Car Riders:** Students will be dismissed from the right-side door. Adults picking up students will need to park your car on the street and walk up to the right-side door and present your dismissal pass for student pick up. If your child is a car rider you will be issued a dismissal pass, during Back-to-School Night. **It is very important that you pick up your child’s dismissal pass. No students will be dismissed to an adult without a dismissal pass.**

  - **Early dismissal ends at 3:00 p.m.** This is to ensure a safe and orderly dismissal process for all students.

During arrival and dismissal, the bus loop is reserved for buses and authorized daycare transportation; therefore, other vehicles are not permitted in the bus loop during these times.

School Staff Changes
We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to our school community: Karen Stakem and Thereasa Pearson – Kindergarten; Micaela Powers – 3rd Grade; Evonna Coreas – 4th Grade, Lori Patterson – 5th Grade; Deborah Levi -KCLS; Supriya Mohla, Primary CLS; Shneequa Francis – SEL Teacher; Staci Torok – IEP Facilitator; Caren Hyde and Jessica Navarro – Special Education/Intervention

Additionally, a few staff members have shifted roles. Ms. Lovick – 2nd Grade, Ms. Adams – 2nd Grade; Ms. Fraser – 3rd Grade; Ms. Wollein – 4th Grade; Ms. Cinquegrani -5th Grade

Looking Ahead
Because of last school year’s restructured instructional model, we recognize that you may be interested in exploring ways to accelerate learning for your child. The website, https://achievethecore.org/category/1232/family-guides-supporting-
learning-in-2020-21, provides information about what your child is expected to know and be able to do in the areas of literacy and mathematics by grade level. Information on this website is available in both English and Spanish. This is a great resource for you to reference as you continue to support your child’s education at home.

Communication
If your contact information has changed over the summer and/or if you never provided the school with your email address, please be sure to update your information with our main office. We regularly send important school-related messages via phone and email using our automated School Messenger system.

Dismissal Information
Please fill out this electronic form using this link https://forms.office.com/r/YmCWuSChXs to tell how your child will be going home from school. Please click the top right corner for a drop down option to translate the form into Spanish, Russian, Chinese, or French. It is very important that we have this information.

You will receive your child's homeroom class assignment this week through School Messenger.

We are here to serve you and welcome your communication. The best way to reach the administrative team is via email at rmatthews@bcps.org and mbeal@bcps.org

Our school staff remains committed to ensure that we are a TEAM (Train, Equip, Accelerate and Mobilize children) students for success in the 21st century. We are a diverse community, and we want to continue to ensure that all students have equitable access to their education.

Yours In Service,

Regina Matthews
Regina Matthews, Principal

Achieving Greatness Together!

Raising the bar, Closing gaps, Preparing for our future