August 12, 2021

Dear Chesapeake Terrace Families,

Warm summer greetings to each of you. I hope you and your loved ones are all doing well! Whether you are a returning CTES family or new to our terrific community, I welcome you and your child(ren) to the 2021 – 2022 school year! Our vision at CTES is clear: **The Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School Community aspires to create a positive learner-centered environment and foster life-long learners that are college and career ready who can thrive in a globally competitive society.** We are excited to re-open in person for five days a week! We will be following BCPS guidelines of universal masking and social distancing. I have no doubt that when we partner together with the best interests of your children, our amazing students, at the heart of every decision we make, we can ensure that this will be a positively memorable year of teaching and learning!

Our students are committed to being respectful, responsible, safe, persistent, and prepared each day. They know they have the power to choose their words and actions. Students are encouraged to choose wisely and contribute positively to our CTES learning community. I thank you for your positive contributions, as well.

Communication is incredibly important. To ensure that you receive all communications, please do not opt out of School Messenger phone calls and emails. I sent a school-wide email on 8/12/21 so if you did not receive that, please call the schoolhouse at 443-809-7505 so we can update our records and get you connected. Also, you will want to be able to access Schoology and Focus.

So we can ensure the proper arrival and dismissal of each of our students, please complete the Transportation Survey that was sent via School Messenger.

Students who already have BCPS technology, please make sure it is working. We have learned that some student passwords were reset and we do not yet have that information. If this is true for your child, or the device won’t start up or you are missing a charger, you can call the Help Desk at 443-809-4672 or enter a ticket to report an issue. Once we have all student usernames and passwords after the school year begins, we will distribute to students who need them. Students who were not previously given a device will receive one.

Please mark your calendar:

- **A virtual Sneak a Peek** will take place on **Friday, August 27th** via Google Meet. Additional information regarding times and logins will be sent via School Messenger soon.
- First graders are being offered an Early Entry Day on **Friday, August 27th**. Our grade 1 families have additional information enclosed in this packet about the early entry day.
- The **first day of school is Monday, August 30th** for students in grades 1-5. PK and K students are on a gradual entry. PK and K families have additional information in this packet regarding gradual entry.
Our virtual Back to School Night (BTSN) will take place on Monday, September 13th. Additional information regarding times and logins will be sent via School Messenger soon.

Teachers will be calling all families the week of 8/23 so please be on the lookout for your welcome call! Teachers can answer questions you may have, including times for Sneak a Peek and BTSN.

We open our doors at 8:25 for arrival and start dismissal at 3:25. Please note that instructional days were extended by 15 minutes for this upcoming year so our dismissal time is later. We will continue to celebrate individual, class, and grade level attendance rates. The Maryland State Department of Education mandates students maintain a 94% attendance rate. Attendance positively affects student success. In order to put forth effort and achieve, students must first be present. Please establish morning routines to ensure that your child is at school on time and ready for learning. Although the late bell rings at 8:40, we encourage walkers and car riders to come in at 8:25 so they have time to prepare for the day. Thank you for doing all that you can to ensure terrific attendance by your child!

Although we may be a small school, we are quite large with our staff and personnel who support your child(ren). The address label above lists your child’s teacher(s) for this year. Our amazing staff includes:

- Classroom Teachers: Ms. Gantt (PK), Ms. Mellecker (K), Ms. Young (K), Ms. Clites (1), Ms. Evans (1), a soon-to-be new to CTES teacher (1), Ms. Martino (2), Ms. Serafini (2), Ms. Lautenberger (3), Ms. Williams (3), Mr. Gromek (4), Ms. Pecson (4), Ms. Denne (5), Ms. Knoerlein (5)
- Special Area Teachers: Ms. Amrhine (library media), Ms. Buttrum (art), Ms. Gingrich (instrumental and exploratory music), Mr. Jones (PE), Ms. Michael (music)
- Resource Teachers: Ms. Charles (reading specialist), Ms. White (ESOL)
- Special Education Teachers: Ms. Bronushas (special educator), Ms. Christensen (physical therapist), Mr. Coffman (occupational therapist), Dr. Hanover (psychologist), Ms. Ponatoski (special educator), Ms. Yeakle (speech and language therapist)
- School Counselor: Ms. Billotti
- School Nurse: Nurse Box
- Paraprofessionals: Ms. Gemmill, Ms. Gilbow, Ms. Goldrick
- Cafeteria Workers: Ms. Dottie, Ms. Marie
- Custodial Staff: Mr. Dave Kappel, Ms. Carol, Ms. Paulette, Mr. Roger
- Adult Assistants: Ms. Deena, Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Eppie, Ms. Frank, Ms. Potter
- Front Office: Ms. Cole, Ms. Kotecki
- Administrators: Principal Patrick and Assistant Principal Seifert

Specific contact information for staff members will be sent home in the first newsletter.

The 21-22 Supply List is enclosed for your convenience.

I am excited for the new school year! Working in the best interest of your child(ren) is why I am here, so don’t hesitate to get in touch with me with any questions or concerns. For returning families, I look forward to strengthening the partnership we have started and for new families I look forward to partnering with you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shandra K. Patrick
Principal