Dear Team BCPS families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

First and foremost, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy and are enjoying your summer. We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of staff and students as we resume in-person learning for all students.

This school year, I look forward to continuing our focus on the equitable, high-quality teaching and learning called for in our strategic plan, *The Compass: Our Pathway to Excellence*. Your school has been preparing throughout the summer to support the academic and social-emotional needs of every student. We know that families and staff may be encountering a variety of challenges. Schools will provide ways to reconnect that make sense for your community.

Because wellness is so important, we are continuing to raise awareness about mental health resources for students and staff through our Mind Over Matters campaign. You should also know that every school has a counselor, psychologist, social worker, and nurse.

To safeguard in-person learning, our schools and offices are continuing to use strategies recommended by federal, state, and local experts. We work closely with the Baltimore County Department of Health to monitor COVID transmission and to make any changes. Last year, we learned the importance of remaining flexible as conditions evolve. You will always find the latest information at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org).

Your most important connection is with your child’s school, and I enjoy experiencing those relationships during my visits throughout the county. Whether you are new to our family or returning, I am so glad that you have chosen Team BCPS. Let’s have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Darryl L. Williams, Ed. D.
Superintendent