Wow! We cannot believe how fast the month of September has gone. We have had an amazing start to the 2019-2020 school year. Our students are actively engaged in learning, building their school families and sharing their knowledge with their classmates. It has truly been a fabulous beginning.

ARRIVAL
Please DO NOT have the students arrive prior to 9:00am. We do not open our doors until then. Some of our students are starting the day playing football – this is not safe as it is unsupervised and may lead to someone becoming injured. Please do not send your students prior to 9:00 am. Students in grades K, 1, 2 and 3 will enter through the main doors and students in grades 4 and 5 will enter the doors near the bike rack.

DISMISSAL
Dismissal begins at 3:45. Walkers are dismissed from their classrooms. Students that are in PLPU begin to have their names called to line up at appropriate cones. Bus riders are assembled according to bus and attendance is taken. It is our goal to have the students completely dismissed by 3:50. We appreciate your understanding that ALL students need to dismiss consistently (for example, students are a walker every day or a bus rider each day, they do not switch). This ensures the safety of our students.

PARKING LOT PICKUP (PLPU)
We appreciate your willingness to wait patiently and understand that we are diligent in ensuring the safety of all students. In order to help us, please remember to –

- Post the PLPU pick up sign on your dash.
- Always carry your photo-id. If there is ever a change in PLPU staff, this will ensure the safety of your child.
- Please stay in your car.
- Please leave the bus/ cross walk free for buses and students (only proceed when there is room).
- In order to ensure the safety of your children, if you do NOT have a PLPU sign, you will need to report to the office and show id.

We are looking forward to the continuation of an amazing fall season! We look forward to seeing many of you visit our 1st Quarter Family event on October 22nd, as well as during American Education Week in November.

Moving forward our newsletter will be sent electronically. Paper copies will be available in the office. Please make sure that we have an active email on file to ensure that you receive the monthly newsletter. We are excited for a wonderful year!
Who are MES HEROES?

Middlesex Elementary

I pledge to be a HERO today!

- I am helpful to my school family.
- I work toward excellence as I learn.
- I am resilient when things do not go my way.
- I am orderly with my space and my actions.

HERO REFLECTION JOURNAL

Each day, after every subject, students are prompted to self-reflect based on if they believe they demonstrated the following virtues –

Helpfulness
Excellence
Resilience
Orderliness

Students will record their personal reflections on their HERO chart. Each night, they will take this chart home and share with you.

Please sign and return the chart daily.

HALLOWEEN AT MIDDLESEX ELEMENTARY

We are excited to continue our Halloween Parade tradition for the 2019-2020 school year. We ask that students wear costumes that are not going to scare their younger schoolmates or siblings. For example, no masks, look alike weapons or gruesome attire. If your child is not participating in the parade, we will provide alternative activities for them. Please let your child’s teacher know by October 29th in order to allow us to plan accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming our visitors. We remind you that you will need to have your photo identification scanned in our office before partaking in festivities.

At 2:45, our 3rd grade students will lead the parade out the front door, followed by 2nd, 1st, kindergarten, 4th, 5th, pre-kindergarten and pre-school. The students will exit our main doors turn left and proceed to walk around the bus loop. Students will then walk along the side of the building and back through the 1st hallway doors. Students will sit in the hallway to watch as their schoolmates parade by. All visitors will need a pass to enter through the back exterior door.

Kenwood Bluebird Boosters

1st Trunk or Treat

We are looking for community businesses to set up at Kenwood High School and promote their business while promoting a safe event for the local community. All we ask if you provide candy for the event and any business related items to hand out.

October 25 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Kenwood High School parking lot
501 Stemmers Run Road

Set up will start as early as 4 p.m. To reserve a spot please email us at: Kenwoodhsboosters@gmail.com
APPLY FOR SCHOOL MEAL BENEFITS TODAY!

HOW DOES APPLYING FOR MEAL BENEFITS HELP MY FAMILY?
School breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to your family saving...

$735.30 per year for every student who qualifies

HOW DOES APPLYING FOR MEAL BENEFITS HELP OUR SCHOOL?
Title I Schools receive an extra $665 per student based on how many families apply and qualify for meal benefits. This additional funding can pay for:

- Additional Resource Teachers & Instructional Assistants
- Extended Day Programs
- Instructional Materials
- Training for Teachers
- Family Engagement Workshops
- Extra Time for Teachers to Plan

WHERE DOES MY INFORMATION GO?
Your private meal benefit information ONLY goes to Baltimore County Public Schools. Your information is NOT shared with the state or federal government.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR MEAL BENEFITS?

1. Go to the BCPS Website under Parent Resources
2. Use this URL, https://mealapps.bcps.org/lfserver/EFORM
3. Visit our office and we can help you complete an on-line form or a paper form
4. We can also help translate the forms and explain the needed information

We are here to help, so please feel free to ask about this important school meal program which benefits your family and our school community.

SAFE SPACE
In order to assist students with developing self-regulation skills every classroom has a SAFE SPACE. This is an area within the classroom where students self-select to go and regulate their emotions. A place with tools that can be used to change their inner-state. A place where students can get composed. A place where students can change their emotions from upset to composed and maximize their learning. Within the Safe Space there are materials for students to utilize. For example, there may be visuals to help student utilize breathing strategies to calm their mind. There are fidgets to help students calm their body. Staff teaches the students how to appropriately utilize these tools and how to use not abuse Safe Space. Please ask your child to share strategies that they have learned about and/or utilized at Safe Space.

VIRTUE LANGUAGE
At MES, we utilize virtue language to help develop positive traits within our students character. Above is a list of virtues. Discuss with your family which virtues are your strengths and which are growth virtues.

Class Reward Systems
Throughout the day, our teachers recognize our commitment to demonstrating good character. This is shown by being helpful, caring or demonstrating self-discipline. When we demonstrate this we are recognized by earning a tangible item such as a ticket or a high-five (a paper ticket). Our high fives can be totaled and exchanged for different things to celebrate our accomplishments. Examples of this may be eating lunch with a teacher, extra recess, etc… Ask your child about their class reward system!
Problem Solving/ Conflict Resolution

Students, teachers and adults experience conflict and need to identify strategies to effectively problem solve at school and in life. *Conflict is an opportunity for growth.* Conflicts are utilized as teaching opportunities at Middlesex Elementary.

We do this through conversations with students, witnesses, peers and others that were involved. When discussing situations, we pose the following questions to help problem solve and learn:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at that time?
- What have you thought about since?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

**FAMILY ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP**

**WHAT IS FAM?**
FAM is an opportunity for you to partner with our school staff to have a positive affect on your child’s school and to connect with other families.

**WHY?**
As a member of the FAM Committee you will act as supporter, encourager, monitor, advocate, and model for our entire community. You will get to impact the climate of the school.

**WHERE WILL WE MEET?**
Middlesex Elementary

**WHEN WILL WE MEET?**
1 to 2 hours 3 times a year. December 2, February 10th, and May 11th.

At MES, everyone will be welcomed to our *MES Family* and encouraged to do their best! We believe in each other, we will do our best in school, in life and in our future!
Student Attendance

“Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.”

Each month we monitor ALL students attendance. We provide several interventions to support regular daily attendance. We will provide a phone call home, a letter to inform you of days missed, opportunities to speak with the teacher, school counselors, or administration. Our goal is to work together to ensure all students attend school at least 94% of the time.

For more information -
http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/

Meet Superintendent Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D.
Share your priorities!

All sessions run from 6 - 7 p.m.
Child care available for toilet-trained children ages 4 and up courtesy of Open Door Before and After Care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Dundalk High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Overlea High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Loch Raven High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Oct. 9</td>
<td>Woodlawn High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Oct. 10</td>
<td>Owings Mills High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Chesapeake High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Perry Hall High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Catonsville High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Pikesville High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Carver Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Office of the Chief of Staff, 443-809-8706

*Updated September 16, 2019
Grade 5 Students!

If you are interested in applying to a magnet program for next year, don’t forget the deadline date. ALL magnet applications MUST be submitted to BCPS Magnet Programs by **November 15, 2019**, in order to be considered.

Check out the information in the brochure and on the posters you’ll see around the school.

Applications are available online at the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site. Applications can be submitted online or downloaded from the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site. Paper applications must be mailed to BCPS Magnet Programs by the deadline date.

Remember, ALL magnet applications MUST be submitted to BCPS Magnet Programs or postmarked by the November 15, 2019, deadline in order to be considered. Remember, paper applications that are postmarked after the deadline will not be considered. Don’t be late!

If you need more information about the magnet application process, please see Ms. Tyler, School Counselor.

---

**Fall Festival**

**October 22nd**

4th grade will provide musical selections from their work in music this year!

Meet in Room 14 at 6:15

Email Ms. Cobb with any questions: Kcobb2@bcps.org