Important Dates

August 29th
Sneak a Peek at Your Seat
6:00-7:30

September 3rd
1st Day of School
for 1st grade through 5th

September 5th
1st Full Day of School
for Kindergarten

September 9th
1st Full Day of School
for Pre-school and Pre-K

September 30th
No School for Students

October 9th
No School for Students

October 18th
No School for Students

October 22nd
PTA Meeting @ 6:00
Fall Festival @ 6:30

October 31st
Halloween Parade @ 2:45

November 8th
End of 1st Quarter
Dismissal @ 12:45
NO PM pre-school or pre-k

November 22
Conference Day
NO SCHOOL

A message from
Mrs. Hutchison & Mrs. Burch

Happy summer! We are beyond excited to kick off the 2019-2020 school year! We have spent the summer planning for our familiar faces to return and meet our new students!

On the first day of school, September 3rd, children in grades one through five will proceed directly to their classrooms. The many “helping hands” of staff members will ensure that all children get to their correct rooms. Throughout the week, additional staff members will be waiting to assist our youngest students as well.

Opening and closing school procedures will remain the same as in years past, however, the dismissal time has been adjusted to 3:45. The school day begins at 9:00am. Students may arrive from 9:00am – 9:15am.

Please remember that to provide a higher level of school safety and security, all Baltimore County public schools utilize the “Raptor” system. This system works by scanning a visitor’s driver’s license or government-issued photo ID. The system will then produce a personalized identification badge. Please remember to always bring your photo ID when entering the school and/or picking up your child.

Included with this newsletter is a page with your child’s name, the name of your child’s classroom teacher, and the room number. Please write this information on a card for your child on the first day of school. Pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will be receiving additional information via a letter soon.

It is hard to believe that the summer is nearly over! Again, we hope that everyone has enjoyed a fun, relaxing summer. We are very excited to see families and students on August 29th and again on September 3rd. We thank you in advance for your continued support of the Middlesex Elementary Staff.
Meet Our Newest Staff Members!

We are excited to have multiple new members joining our team this year! Each come with their own special talents but have one thing in common – they are ready to INSPIRE the students of MES!

Mrs. Maria Reynolds

“I attended Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock Pennsylvania. I originally hailed from the beautiful twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. I have worked several years with BCPS. I am looking forward to working with the parents, staff and students of MES.” Mrs. Reynolds will be supporting our students each afternoon as a para-educator!

Mrs. Jennifer Handshoe

“I will be an MTSS resource teacher at Middlesex this coming school year. For the last 5 years I have been a consulting teacher working with teachers new to Baltimore county. Before that I taught at Mars Estates and Riverview Elementary. I have 2 daughters that keep me on my toes! I am so excited to meet all the students at Middlesex and look forward to a wonderful year!”

Mr. Jon Blockston, PE

“I am a Towson University alumni. I have taught physical education in Baltimore County Public Schools for 8 years. My favorite hobbies are going to concerts, playing disc golf and playing ice hockey. My favorite sports team is the Washington Capitals, let's go Caps!”

Mrs. Katie Oppenheim

“I am thrilled to be joining the team of educators at Middlesex Elementary. I just finished my Masters’ Degree in School Counseling from Loyola University Maryland and just returned home from my eighth year on the staff at a summer arts camp (third year as a Director). I have experience in both elementary and secondary schools and enjoy helping students of all ages find curiosity, safety and joy in their learning at school!” Mrs. Oppenheim will be joining us as a part-time school counselor (Mondays, Tuesday, every other Friday).

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.
I am thrilled to be joining Middlesex Elementary School. I completed my Special Education coursework at Notre Dame of Maryland University. I enjoy getting to know my students and helping them learn and grow. When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family and three dogs. I love reading and relaxing at the beach. I am so excited for the school year to begin and to meet my new students!

Ms. Jenna Botsis, Special Educator

“Some of you may remember me as the preschool teacher at MES a few years back before I left for Spain to teach English. I came back to BCPS last year but ended up a different school. The stars aligned and I was able to score a position in Special Ed this school year at MES. I am thrilled to be back and can’t wait to see some familiar faces!”

Ms. Lindsay Dufel, 2nd Grade

“I am excited to be a teacher at MES! I have worked with children for over 5 years. I have a duel Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood and El. Ed. from Frostburg State University. I grew up in Montgomery County and moved to the Baltimore area in 2014. Here, my family & I found our love for helping rescue animals. I love to paint, draw, hike, explore museums, DIY building projects, learn new things, spend time with my friends and family! My teaching philosophy is very simple; create a loving, creative & safe environment, be heartfelt while teaching & allow children to discover their own strengths and abilities! We all learn differently and at different paces, but we are in this journey together! I am so excited to be a part of the 2nd grade team & I am looking forward to meeting all the new stars of the classroom!”

Ms. Kristin Maddox, Pre-School

“I live in Middle River with my husband Greg and two daughters, Grace and Maggie as well as our dog, Kasey. I’m going into my 19th year of teaching, and am so excited to be part of Middlesex Elementary!”

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

What is it?

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?

Ms. Remi Bashore, 5th Grade

“I am so excited to be joining the Middlesex Elementary Community as a 5th grade teacher! I recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelors Degree in Special Education, as well as getting dual certified in General Education. I am currently taking classes to get my Masters Degree. In my spare time I like to spend time with my family and friends, jump into a good mystery novel and cook. I enjoy snowboarding in the winter with my family and I love traveling.”

Ms. Tara Tyler, School Counselor

“I am so excited to be the school counselor at Middlesex Elementary! I am from Philadelphia and have over 13 years in the education field as both a teacher and counselor. I am a mother of a wonderful son and two adorable kitties, I love to travel and am a life-long learner. To date I have completed 11 5k runs all over the country. I can’t wait for an amazing school year!”

Ms. Nicole Miller, Nurse

“I was born and raised in Essex and I am excited to be able to give back to the community and the families at Middlesex Elementary School. I am married with 3 children ages 11-19 and started nursing to help people reach and maintain a healthy lifestyle. I come from Franklin Square Medical Center and I have wanted to be a school nurse for many years. I am looking forward to this opportunity to lead, teach and keep kids and families healthy through a partnership with the physicians, teachers, administrators, and most important you and your families. I look forward to meeting you!”

ARRIVAL/ DISMISSAL/ TRANSPORTATION

The school day begins at 9:00am. Students may arrive from 9:00am – 9:15am. Dismissal is at 3:45. Please help us ensure a safe & orderly environment by arriving between 9:00am and 9:10am.

If your child will be riding a bus, a letter will be mailed when we receive bus times and stops. Please look for this letter around August 25th. All “walkers” are dismissed from their classroom doors. Pre-school through 2nd grade will need to have an adult with an ID pick up their child. 3rd, 4th and 5th grade “walker” students will dismiss on their own. Car riders will fill out a form and obtain a pass for their car once school begins. We appreciate your patience as we know arrival and dismissal takes longer at the start of the school year.

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!

MES Newsletter September 2019