Hello CPCS Families!

Welcome back to all of our families, new and old! Let me begin with sincere hope that summer brought relaxation and joy to your family! This is year 13 at CPCS, and I can honestly say that things are never the same two years in a row on this adventure! I look forward to seeing you at **Open House on August 13th from 9:00 -10:00 am for K-2 students, 1:00-2:00pm for grades 3-5, and 3:00-4:00 pm for 5-8 students.** Drop by at your convenience in your allotted time range to meet your child’s teacher, drop off school supplies, and catch us up on all of your most recent contact information. You will also be able to pick up your new CarRider Pro placards at this time.

This summer we are on our way to completion of the new areas of our building. A new media center and music room! They will be located near the art and maker space. We are still in process with this construction, but anticipate completion in early fall. In the meantime, music will continue on the third floor in its current location, and our Media Specialist, Katie Dean, will be visiting students in their classrooms. Our new fourth grade class will occupy Room 105, where the media center used to be. Fourth grades will be self-contained this year and no longer switching rooms or teachers for subject areas.

This year we are excited to continue our work with social emotional learning goals. Our staff has worked this summer with Molly McClosky (Social Emotional Coach) to further educate themselves and develop our school wide behavior expectations which are based on Ernest Boyer’s Core Virtues. It is essential that our growth mindset continues to guide our process to include more individualized, project based, and small group opportunities with a focus on the Whole Child. Technology has created rapid change that requires flexibility and compassion, or in other words, more human qualities. In teaching our students, we as adults must model and accept them, honoring them each as individuals, and that is how we expect them to treat each other (both in person and online). Having honest open dialog, and building relationships will continue to be our focus both academically, as well as socially and emotionally. This is no small task, and our teachers truly map (or in our case “scroll”) the common core curriculum into big ideas and projects that are designed based on the kids sitting in front of them, and the science/social studies/art concepts that naturally connect the content. What these creative and talented individuals are putting together provides your children with a truly unique and innovative approach to HOW they learn. Tied into this process will continue to be some small tweaks to narratives and portfolios that will provide more frequent and meaningful feedback for students and parents. Stay tuned for more information at Back to School night in late August.

The **First Day of School is August 14, 2018.** It is important to start the year off by arriving on time and ready to learn. The official school day begins at 8:30 a.m. The **regular parent drop off** will be from 8:10-8:25, and café doors will be closed at 8:30, without exception. Students arriving after 8:30 will be considered late and should be escorted to the main office and signed in. The procedure and the map for drop off/pick up will be posted on our website as well as attached to this email. The morning drop off routine has not changed. Pick up, however, will be VERY different this year so please pay close attention. Please be sure to remember…SAFETY FIRST!!!
This year we will continue to do Morning Walk year round, both for the health and traffic benefits! We will begin the Morning Walk drop off on **day 1 – August 14**. Students who participate in Morning Walk can be dropped off at 7:45 am at the back doors of the gym. If you arrive before doors open, please be sure to park in a spot closer to the business side of the building to allow buses and staff to arrive safely. Morning Walk doors close at 7:55 in order to maintain smooth traffic flow around the building for regular parent drop off. So if you don’t make it in time for 7:55, plan to wait in the regular drop off line. **Please do not allow your child to leave your car unless you see the gym door open and the Morning Walk sign out!**

We love giving the kids and families this opportunity to get fit and stay active for the first 30 minutes of their day. We encourage parents to come walk laps in the gym with their children! Ms. Calabro will be managing the gym during that time, but extra adults are always welcome! We look forward to seeing all of your bright smiling faces early each and every morning.

Please make sure you’ve completed the transportation survey and placard form that was sent out so that we know your family’s transportation plan. District routes will be posted on our website. New this year, to assist us with parent pick up in the afternoons, we are moving to a pick up management system called CarRider Pro. This is a safe and efficient way of dismissing car riding students. More information is detailed in the placard information and form linked in the transportation survey.

In the afternoons, students who participate in the after-care program through Parks and Recreation will have an opportunity to be dropped off at one of the following Hub locations: Spring Ridge, Leonardtown, or Hollywood. These students will be picked up from CPCS by the buses at 3:50pm.

CPCS will see a few additions and changes to staff this year. Ms. Lauren Helms & Ms. Candace Kessler will join our fourth grade team. Ms. Victoria James will be teaching middle school ELA. Ms. Susan Rye is going to be moving to our special education team full time. Please join me in welcoming our newbies when you are here for Open House! Staff information can also be located on the website so that you can see the lineup for this year at a glance.

Please keep a close eye on your email and our website for important information! Links for lunch menus, transportation information, parking lot travel, parking spaces, and much, much, more!

Get ready for another great year at Chesapeake Public Charter School!! We can’t wait to see you!

Warmly,

Ms. Funya