Dear Carver Families,

Greetings and Welcome Back to School! Our fabulous Carver staff will report to school this week to begin preparing for an amazing 2019-2020 school year. Our school focus this year is creating a school family through Conscious Discipline structures, rituals, and routines. We will be practicing kindness and acceptance as well as learning. I can’t wait to see you at Open House on August 29th. Be prepared to see many returning staff members and several new faces. Below I have included important information for all families regarding staff changes, Open House, and other reminders. Please take the time to read through it and if you have any questions, please contact the main office and we will assist you.

Wishing you well,

Denise Eichel
Principal

Open House:
Open House will be held on Thursday, August 29th from 2:00 – 3:30 for students in grades K-5 (Pre-K Students can attend, but there is a separate orientation for Pre-K on Sept. 3). Doors will open at 2:00 and if you arrive prior to 2:00 please wait patiently outside. All teachers will be attending a meeting at 3:30 so please, try to arrive no later than 3:15 to insure you have time to visit the classroom. If you have purchased your child’s school supplies you may bring them to the classroom at Open House.
Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 parents and students will have orientation on Sept. 3rd. Morning students should arrive with their parents at 9:00 am and afternoon students should arrive with their parents at 12:00 pm. Pre-K 4 full day students will have orientation at 12:00pm.
Class Assignments:
Class lists and teacher assignments will be posted in the house areas and around the school for each grade. GWCES staff members will also be available in the hallways to direct you and answer questions.

Transportation Information:
Bus information can be found on the SMCPS website. Click on the Parent tab, click the Back to School icon and look for the 2019-2020 bus stop and school locator link. Bus information will also be posted in the main hallway on Open House day. Any bus questions should be directed to the main office.

Staff Updates (as of August 22, 2019):
We are excited to welcome the following staff members to the Carver Family:

Ms. Bosse - Assistant Principal
Ms. Arrigo - 1st Grade
Dr. Roberts-Harris - 1st Grade
Ms. McNure - Music
Mr. Layman - 2nd Grade

We are excited to announce these changes in placement:

Ms. Potts - 2nd Grade
Ms. Scrivener - 2nd Grade
Ms. Losgdon - All Day Pre-K 4
Ms. Ruffin - Para Educator
Birthday Celebrations:
Birthday/Special Event celebrations are a part of our school culture. We celebrate students’ birthdays at our monthly Community Gathering and in other ways in the classroom. Due to many food allergies in our building, we are strongly recommending that edible treats are not sent to school for birthdays. Instead please consider the following items if you want to give a birthday token to the class:

- Pencils
- Stickers
- Bookmarks
- Mini Notebooks
- Donate a book to the class library
- Donate a board game or puzzle to the class

In the event that food items are brought in for birthdays, they must be store bought with the list of ingredients available or they will not be able to be distributed. Below is a list of food items that we recommend:

- Rice Krispie treats
- 100 calorie snack bags
- Mini cupcakes

In order to make sure that parents/family members can stay and be a part of the celebration and so that we keep the instructional day intact, all celebrations will take place during the student’s lunch. Please refer to the Board of Education Policy in regards to celebrations.

Dress Code:
If students are in violation of the Dress Code, they will be calling home for clothes. We are unable to provide students with clothing in these cases. You can find Board of Education Dress Code regulations on the last page of this letter. Please keep in mind that elementary school students are not allowed to wear flip flops, slides or slippers. All shoes must have a back.
Student Dismissal:
Families are encouraged to have their students ride the bus home. In the event that this is not possible, one of the following is available:

● Carpool
This is an everyday commitment. You will be given a name placard to hang in your car. This program eliminates the process of having parents or authorized person from entering the building to sign the student out each day. You must fill out the Carpool/Parent Pick Up Form. (page 5 of this letter)

● Parent Pick-Up
This is for parents who are picking up their student(s) once in a while, those who are able to walk home from school and those who need time to buckle their child into their car seat/booster seat. You must park your car and walk around the back of the building to the outdoor gym entrance. You must fill out the Carpool/Parent Pick Up Form. (page 5 of this letter)

Reminder: **If you need to pick your child up prior to 2:30, you must notify the school (phone call or email to the front office secretary) no later than 2:00 with the pick-up time.** This is to insure that we have your child in the office ready to go when you arrive. **If you do not notify the school prior to 2:00, you will have to wait until 2:45 and pick your child up in the gym.** (For example, if you show up at 2:10 for your child and did not contact the office you will be asked to wait until parent-pick up in the gym at 2:40)
Carpool/Parent pickup Form

Parent Name: _________________________  Date: ______________ (please print)

Name of children for carpool/parent pickup:

Child: __________________________    Teacher: __________________
Child: __________________________    Teacher: __________________
Child: __________________________    Teacher: __________________
Child: __________________________    Teacher: __________________

Please list any adults you give permission to pick up your child:
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Would you like to use a placard so you do not need to show ID and sign your child out each time you pick him/her up at carpool/parent pickup? Yes   No

If yes, how many placards would you like? _______

By completing this form you are indicating your child will be carpool/parent pickup DAILY. Please notify the office if there is any change to your child’s dismissal arrangements.

Some carpool/parent pickup procedures:
Dismissal is at 2:45, please wait in your car. Your child will be brought to you. Be prepared to show ID daily if you do not have a placard when picking up your child. Please be patient and do NOT pass other cars in the carpool line.

Parent signature: ____________________________  Date: ______________

Dress Code Regulations:
The Superintendent of Schools shall direct the staff to develop appropriate guidelines for dress and grooming and to establish a process for seeking widespread input from all areas of the stakeholders. The guidelines may include formal and informal uniforms in cooperation with the School Improvement Team (SIT), Parent/Teacher Association (PTA), and/or student organizations. Dress or grooming which causes or is likely to cause the disruption of the instructional program or which creates a potential safety or health hazard, as determined by the school principal or his/her designee, is prohibited.

Standards for appropriate attire shall include the following:

Clothing and accessories in general:

- Clothing displaying or suggesting profanity; sexual activity through graphic images, words, or innuendos; weapons; drugs/alcohol or drug paraphernalia; violence; or tobacco products may not be worn.
- Clothing with identifiable gang/crew representation or paraphernalia may not be worn.
- Suggestive or provocative clothing such as see-through clothing or shirts/blouses/dresses with low necklines which show cleavage may not be worn.
- Official St. Mary's County Public Schools' athletic uniforms may be allowed at the discretion of the coach.
- Student dress for mixers (informal dances) must be in compliance with the Student Dress Code.

Head

- Hats/Headdresses may only be worn indoors upon written notice to the school principal/designee for religious or health reasons.

Shirts and blouses

- Shirts and blouses should be continuous from the neckline to the waist of the pants/skirt/skort. Shirt straps should be at least two (2) inches wide over the shoulder or covered by a sweater, jacket, or other shirt and in any case, strapless shirts/blouses may not be worn. The midriff area (front, back, and sides) must not be visible at any time even when seated.
  - No undergarments should be exposed.
  - Shirts having large armholes and neck holes, such as muscle shirts, may not be worn.

Skirts and dresses

- Skirts, dresses, and spandex skirts should be approximately one (1) inch below the fingertips.
- Dress straps should be at least two (2) inches wide over the shoulder or covered by a sweater, jacket, or other shirt and in any case, strapless dresses may not be worn.

Pants and shorts/skorts

- Pants and shorts/skorts should be secured at waist: no sagging below waist to expose undergarments.
  - Tights, stretch pants, leggings, and spandex body suits must be worn with clothing which meet the skirt/dress directives.
  - Shorts/skorts should be approximately one inch below the fingertips.
  - Pajama pants may not be worn.

Shoes
Shoes must be worn that are safe for all activities.
Elementary school students must wear shoes that are secured behind the ankle.
Shoes with wheels may not be worn.

Accessories

Jewelry, belts, chains, and other accessories that may be used as or look like a weapon or create a significant disruption may not be worn.
Studded accessories are not permitted.

The approved dress code will be published and shared with all students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and staff.

It is recognized that age and maturity may be considered in determining the appropriateness of a student’s attire. Appropriateness will be determined by the school principal/designee.