

Deer Park Elementary School

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August 4, 2023

Greetings Deer Park Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! It's hard to believe that it's that time already!! We are so excited that we will have the opportunity to see our students in the coming weeks. The administrative team and office staff have been busy preparing for the arrival of our students. If you are new to our school community, we'd like to offer a sincere welcome to you. As this school year begins, we are committed to the mission and vision we established together for our school that embodies the core goals of Baltimore County Public Schools. Please read this letter carefully, **as your child's fall class assignment is at the bottom of this letter.**

We are again welcoming back nearly every staff member. As our school continues to strengthen, we welcome a few talented new members to our team and say farewell to some former staff. We are fortunate to welcome some new additions to our school family. **Ms. Carol Rahmaan-Muhammad**, PreK teacher, **Ms. Aricka Chandler**, kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Lesia Hill**, first grade teacher, **Ms. Dionne Randolph**, fifth grade teacher and **Ms. Beth Pfeifer**, instrumental music teacher. We wish all the best to Ms. Green who will be joining Edmondson Heights Elementary School, Ms. Cierlitsky who will be joining Hebbville Elementary School, and Ms. Rose who will be joining Sandy Plains Elementary. We would also like to send well wishes to Ms. Singleton who will be pursuing employment in another county. Ms. Agurs is still with us; however, she will be teaching fourth grade.

To assist you in preparing for a successful beginning to the new school year, please refer to the enclosed **supply list**, which highlights all recommended items needed for students to begin the school year. Coming to school prepared and ready to learn is essential on the first day and every day of school! During the first two weeks of school, our students will receive a presentation relating to school policies and expectations as they are given a copy of the *Baltimore County Public Schools Student Handbook*¹. Every student and parent/guardian will be asked to sign indicating that they have read and understand the information.

Attendance plays a crucial role in your child's academic progress, as it allows them to actively participate in classroom discussions, engage in hands-on activities, and build important relationships with their peers. By being present in school, students can learn, grow, and develop the skills necessary for their future success. We kindly request that you review the BCPS school calendar when planning vacations, as family vacations are not excused absences.

This mailing includes two **important documents**. The **Student Contact Information Form for School Year 2023-2024 Form** and the **Parental Privacy Preference Opt-Out Form, Rule 6202, Form A**. *The Student Contact Information Form* replaced the traditional student emergency card. You should review and revise this form to provide the school with updated contact information. The information included in this document will be used to contact parents/guardians during emergency situations and early school closings. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, school systems may release directory information on enrolled students. *The Parental Privacy Preference Opt-Out Form, Rule 6202, Form A* is to be used whenever parents/guardians or eligible students do not permit BCPS to share a student's directory information, do not want the student to use telecommunications, and/or do not want the student's intellectual property published/produced/displayed anywhere. Parents may elect to have their children's information removed from this directory by completing this form. Please include the names of all the children you would like removed from the directory. **If you do not want to "Opt-Out" you do not need to return the form.**

The first day of school for students in grades 1-5 will be **Monday, August 28, 2023. School hours are 8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.** Students in Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten will begin during that week on a gradual release schedule. Parents of students in these grades will receive a separate mailing. We will be having a “Sneak a Peek” on **Friday, August 25th, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

Open and consistent communication between home and school is essential. We are committed to keeping you informed about your child's progress, important updates, and upcoming events. Our school website, electronic newsletters, and regular communication from your child's teacher will serve as valuable resources to stay connected.

We are eager to begin our new school year focusing on high academic achievement, safe and respectful behavior, and creating lifelong learners with a thirst for knowledge. We encourage you to actively participate in your child's education by visiting the school, participating in events as your schedule permits, joining the PTA and by reviewing and signing your child's planner every evening.

Finally, as parents ourselves, we know that each of you wants what is best for your child. You can be assured that we will approach every situation as we would for our children. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we welcome you to a new school year full of exciting opportunities.

Your partners in education,

Renee A. Jenkins
Renee A. Jenkins
Principal

Katie L. Fridley
Katie L. Fridley
Assistant Principal