

August 16, 2021

Dear Clarksville Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We hope all have had a relaxing, healthy summer break and are ready for an exciting school year. As the proud leaders of Clarksville Elementary School, we are looking forward to a year of engagement and collaborative partnerships with our entire CES school community. We welcome and value your continuous support to all of our students. Please join us this year in being a true champion for all of our students and their learning. We are truly honored to be working with such a compassionate and caring school community. We want to give a warm Cougar welcome to all of our new CES families and students. We are thrilled to have you join our CES school community. What a great opportunity to build new relationships with new faces! We all have the power to build meaningful relationships with one another, whether it be student to student, student to teacher, parent to teacher, teacher to parent, parent to administrator, parent to parent, family to family. This school year is about reconnecting and focusing on building on the connections with others. Relationships and being able to support one another are what helps make a school a climate of belonging and opportunity. We want all of our students and families to experience belonging at CES. Our students deserve our very best at CES, and we need to continue to work with every child to help reach his or her fullest potential. We all need to respect and seek to understand one another as individuals, as students, staff, parents, administrators.

As we approach the start of another school year of uncertainty, all of our thoughts, whether we are an educator, a student, a parent, begin to shift what lies ahead. Our message as we begin this school year is to be present, be prepared and flexible, and be engaged in your child's educational experience. We ask you to be present and stay informed on what is being shared locally within HCPSS as well as within our state of Maryland. Also, we want you to be prepared and flexible if any changes should be necessary to our instructional program throughout the school year. As Dr. Martirano has shared, the intention is to keep school buildings open for the duration of the school year. However, there will be times when a temporary change may be necessary to maintain student health and safety. Lastly, we ask that you stay engaged in your child's education. We need you as partners to help support our students. Our students are coming out of a challenging school year. They are going to need all of our support as we move forward in this school year. Please rest assured of these few things.....Our skilled, trained, and dedicated CES staff has already planned for the arrival of your children. Our friendly, resourceful, and helpful office staff has been busy all summer welcoming and registering new families and students. Our hard-working, devoted CES custodial staff have spent countless hours thoroughly cleaning our school. Our fantastic, supportive PTA has been gearing up to welcome veteran and new families, providing volunteer opportunities to all interested, as well as gearing up to offer many other exciting PTA sponsored events throughout the school year. We are completely committed to providing each of our students and their families with a positive, collaborative school

community. We ask you to join us in supporting all of students and promoting academic growth and excellence and healthy social emotional well-being.

We look forward to seeing and meeting you all at the Kindergarten/New Families Orientation Event as well as our September Back to School grade-level events. Thank you to all who have helped in preparing for our new school year. Your commitment to our CES school community is beyond words. It remains our privilege to serve as your school leaders. We look forward to connecting and reconnecting with you this year and being inspired by your children and their growth.

Go Cougars !!

Respectfully,  
Robin Malcotti, Proud Principal of CES  
Cherilyn Brown, Proud Assistant Principal of CES

# **HCPSS Health and Safety**

## **Plan for 2021-22 School Year**

At the August 12 Board of Education meeting, Howard County Public School System Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Martirano provided updates on preparations for the return of students and staff to in-person instruction, detailing strategies intended to maintain healthy school communities to **[keep school buildings open for the duration of the school year](#)**.

Additionally, the Superintendent announced that all [HCPSS staff will be required to be fully vaccinated or undergo regular testing](#), and provided a school [bus transportation update](#).

A complete back to school message will be sent to all families next week. Please see below for updates provided by Superintendent Martirano.

### **Communication to Families**

Families may find it useful to bookmark the following webpages where information will be continually updated and posted:

- [HCPSS website](#)
  - [2021-2022 School Year](#)
  - [2021-2022 Communication](#)
- [HCPSS News site](#)
- [HCPSS Help site](#)

### **Student Vaccinations and Testing**

While Howard County leads the state in the percentage of residents vaccinated, there continues to be considerable risk that the COVID-19 virus could spread in a school, requiring students and staff to be out of the building for an extended period of time. HCPSS

will continue to support the Health Department's work to [make vaccines available](#) to all eligible students. Additionally, our school-based health professionals will continue to [provide diagnostic testing](#) to students and staff who display COVID-19 symptoms during the school day.

### **Masking**

It was announced last week that [universal indoor masking is required](#) in all HCPSS schools and offices, regardless of vaccination status. This decision was made following the strong endorsement of universal masking by the Howard County Health Department, who referenced the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Maryland Department of Health, and American Academy of Pediatrics. Masking is also required on school buses for everyone, regardless of age or vaccination status, in accordance with state and federal mandates. Masks are not required outdoors, but are still recommended for unvaccinated individuals.

There will be some students and staff, particularly students with disabilities, who may not be able to wear a mask. HCPSS staff will provide the necessary supports and accommodations to ensure those individuals may participate in in-person instruction in a safe and healthy manner. In addition to masking, several other [mitigation strategies](#) will be implemented to ensure school buildings remain healthy environments for teaching and learning.

### **Quarantining Procedures**

The [close contact and quarantining procedures](#) that were put into place last year will remain this fall. Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. ***Vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine*** unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but are expected to monitor their symptoms closely for the 14 days. [Instructional supports](#) are in place for students who must quarantine.

### **Cafeteria Protocols**

Students will be required to wear masks at all times when they are not eating or drinking, including when entering and exiting the cafeteria, in the lunch line, throwing trash away, and after finishing their meal. Elementary schools will have assigned cafeteria seating, which will facilitate close contact identification for our younger students if contact tracing becomes necessary. Staff are exploring ways to provide separation between students at cafeteria tables. Additional [cafeteria protocols](#) are available online.

### **Meals**

School [breakfast and lunch will be served](#) in the cafeteria at no cost to students through the entire 2021-2022 school year, any day that schools are open. All meal service will be grab and go, with no self-service or a la carte items offered. However, students will have more meal choices than were available last year, and a faster meal service process has been designed to reduce the time spent in meal lines. Meals will also be available for pickup on Mondays and Thursdays by students enrolled in the DEC. [Details online](#).

### **Student Technology**

In prekindergarten, HCPSS-issued laptops will remain at home during the first semester. Laptops will be brought to and remain at school for the second semester. In kindergarten and first grade, school laptops will primarily remain at school, while students in grades 2–12 will be expected to bring laptops back and forth to school each day.

# Class Lists

Your child's "Family File" information in Canvas must be completed to unlock access to the teacher placement information. The date for when the information can be accessible to families will be released soon.

# Important School Dates

## Kindergarten and Grade 1/New Student Orientation

Friday, August 27th 10:00-11:15 AM

## First Day of School

Monday, August 30th

## Back to School Events 2021--22

Monday, September 13th Grades K thru 2

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Grades 3 thru 5

Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> Chick Fil-A Fundraiser Day

More Details regarding these events will be forthcoming!

## Upcoming Schools/Offices Closed

Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> Rosh Hashanah

# School Information

**School Hours** : 9:25-3:50 PM

## **Student Supply Lists**

Our **2021-22 school supply list** can be found on our CES website.

## **Visit the CES PTA website**

**We would like to give a huge thank you to our new 2021-22 CES PTA Executive Board.**

- **Micaela Crooks**     **President**
- **Eileen Brewer**     **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**
- **Jennifer Sager**     **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**
- **Raksha Gohel**     **Treasurer**
- **Rebecca Gorsuch**     **Secretary**

Visit the PTA website at [www.cespta.net](http://www.cespta.net) and find out all the ways you can get involved!

·Join the PTA

·Join a committee

·Attend PTA Executive Board meetings – you don't have to be on the Executive Board to attend!

·Subscribe to the PTA mail list

## **Staffing Updates for 2021-22**

We have had several staffing changes at CES this summer. The changes are a result of enrollment, retirements, and staff relocating to other schools. Below you will find a summary of the staffing changes.

## **Welcome New Staff to CES**

Please join us in welcoming these new staff members to our Clarksville Elementary School family. These staff members bring with them a variety of experience and talent that will only enhance the learning of our students:

- **Lauren Kim-Munroe**, Grade 5 classroom teacher
- **Ashleigh Kidwell**, ALS Regional classroom teacher
- **Heather Haesle**, Resource special education teacher
- **Kaitelyn Clingerman**, Resource special education teacher
- **Julia Strohl**, .4 Vocal Music/Chorus Teacher
- **Laine Malcotti**, .5 Gifted and Talented Teacher
- **Lisa Carter**, School Psychologist
- **Benjamin Wade**, PPW
- **Cherilyn Brown**, Assistant Principal
- **Stephanie Walters**, TE
- **Ashlee Freter**, Speech and Language Teacher
- **Stefanie Lewis**, Occupational Therapist

## **Farewell and Thank You!**

We want to thank the following staff members for their service and support to our Clarksville Elementary School community of learners and wish them well in all their future endeavors. We will miss you!

- **Lauren Slattery**, assistant principal, retired from HCPSS. Wishing her all the best in her retirement years and beyond!
- **Leslie Evans**, PPW, moving to a new cluster of schools for next year, wishing her all the best for the upcoming school year

- **Beth Boyer and Jessica Albrecht**, school psychologists, moving to new cluster of schools, wishing both of them all the best for the upcoming school year
- **Jenny Miller**, ALS regional paraeducator, resigned from HCPSS to pursue a career outside of education. We wish her all the best!
- **Lauren Rivera**, ALS regional classroom teacher, resigned from HCPSS to pursue a career outside of education. We wish her all the best!
- **Amanda Miller**, ALS regional classroom teacher, continuing her pursuit of her special education degree and completing her internship this year. We wish her all the best!
- **Samantha Baker**, resource special education teacher, resigned from HCPSS and took a position in Carroll County Public Schools as a special education teacher. We wish her a successful school year!
- **Heather Cullinane**, Grade 1 classroom teacher, resigned from HCPSS and accepted a position as a classroom teacher in Loudoun County Public Schools in VA.
- **David Gordon**, Grade 3 classroom teacher, moved to Atholton ES. We wish him the best of luck!
- **Emily D'Avella**, Vocal Music/Chorus teacher, decided to extend her leave for this school year and enjoy her time as a mom. We will miss you!
- **Ferne Kroeker**, resource special education teacher, retired from HCPSS. Best of luck to her in her next journey of life!
- **Tara Collins**, OT, resigned from HCPSS. She has moved south with her family and will be pursuing her private OT practice.
- **Jessica Weldon**, Speech and Language Teacher, moved to other cluster schools for next year. We wish her all the best!

## **FAMILY FILE EMERGENCY FORM IS OPEN IN HCPSS CONNECT**

It is time to update your child's Emergency Contact information in HCPSS Connect even though we are starting the school year online. This is the most important step as we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 School Year. **Your Family file needs to be updated every school year.**

**Families that update and complete their Family File will be able to view teacher assignments prior to the start of school.** In addition, having this information is critical to us as soon as the first day of school: [HCPSS Connect](#)

You will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- **Parent/guardian contact information.**
- **Emergency contacts.**
- **Medical information**
- **Arrival and Dismissal procedures.**
- **Media coverage.**
- **Data confidentiality.**

- **PTA Directory.**

You can access HCPSS Connect here <http://www.hcpss.org/connect/>

Parents who have forgotten their login credentials for Family File may click the “Forgot Password” link on the sign-in page.

If you need additional assistance, please fill out this [Connect Help Form](#).

## **REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Please share the following information with family, friends, and neighbors who may need to register a child for the 2020-21 school year. Registration questions and documents should be emailed to Ms. Mattia Lambiotte or Ms. Amy Stevens at [mattia\\_lambiotte@hcpss.org](mailto:mattia_lambiotte@hcpss.org) or [amy\\_stevens@hcpss.org](mailto:amy_stevens@hcpss.org).

If you would like to register your child for the **2021- 22** school year, please complete the online registration by visiting <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/>. While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. We will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting (e.g., online Google Meet) to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parent/guardian relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

## **TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS**

In order to find out your child’s teacher assignment this year, you must complete the Family File Emergency information. You need to do this prior to our Open House and New Parent/Kindergarten/Grade 1 events on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONNECT WITH CES AND STAY INFORMED**

Listed below are the many ways to stay informed at Clarksville Elementary School:

### **Website**

- Our website, [ces.hcpss.org](http://ces.hcpss.org), is updated regularly.
- Important news and information is located on the main page of the site including an archive of our bi-weekly newsletter, Cougar News



- Staff information and email is located under the "Our Staff" tab.

## **Email**

- Email is our main form of communication.
- You will receive news and information automatically to the email address you provide in your Family File. We will not inundate your inbox with email. Look for the bi-weekly Cougar News on Friday mornings.
- If you would like email sent to different email addresses, update your email in Family File with the email address you prefer.
- You can subscribe to additional email addresses by visiting the HCPSS News site here. <http://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>
- Weekly announcements, important information, updates, and more will primarily be sent through email.
- You also have the opportunity to opt-in for text messaging

## **HCPSS CALENDARS**

There will be no printed **2021-22** Calendars. Staff, students, and families may add our online calendar to their own mobile/online calendar by

1. Going to <https://www.hcpss.org/calendar/>
2. Scrolling down to Subscribing to a Calendar
3. Right-clicking on the calendar you wish to subscribe to
4. Selecting Copy Link Location/Address/Shortcut
5. Adding to your calendar of choice (See your calendar for specifics on adding a new calendar)

You also may view and/or download printable PDFs of the **full calendar** and/or important **dates only**. Updates to the PDFs will be noted on the **HCPSS calendar page**.

**PLEASE NOTE!** The calendar is subject to change. The online calendar reflects the most recent version.