

Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School

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August 24, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Care Givers,

I am reaching out to provide you with some important updates regarding the opening of school for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to current conditions, we must make some adjustments to our usual traditions. Thank you for taking the time to review this information in its entirety so that you are as informed and prepared as possible.

Teacher Placements

- Teacher placements will be posted to Home Access Center on Friday, August 27, 2021, beginning at 5:00 p.m. for returning students in grades 1-5 and students who were in a different Harford County school last year.
- Teacher placements for kindergarten and students new to HWES will be sent to you via e-mail on Friday, August 27, 2021, at approximately 5:00 p.m.

New Family Visits

The new family visits scheduled for Friday, August 27, 2021, have been cancelled due to current conditions. For those who had planned on attending, please note that there are still opportunities to explore the school at Find Your Classroom and Kindergarten Gradual Entrance. In addition, we will have an abundance of staff to assist new students on the first day of school.

Kindergarten Play Date

Kindergarten Play Date originally scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2021, has been cancelled due to current conditions.

Find Your Classroom

Find Your Classroom will be held on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Traditionally this event has been a time to bond with friends and staff, swap stories, and share summer adventures. I want you to feel welcome but also want to reduce opportunities for close contacts to keep us all as safe as possible.

- Please focus on the purpose of the evening - find your classroom, meet the teacher, and drop-off school supplies. Please enjoy and maximize opportunities to socialize outside and try to minimize time inside the building.
- Certified staff (classroom teachers, special area, counselors, etc.) will be at the event to greet you and your child.
- Masks must be worn while inside the school building.
- There is ongoing construction at Bel Air Middle School which may impact parking at the Homestead building. Please be patient and courteous during this interruption.
- We can certainly be flexible but ask that you please try to adhere to the below schedule:
 - 4:30 to 5:15 visitation for families with the last name A-F.
 - 5:15 to 6:00 visitation for families with the last name G-N.
 - 6:00 to 6:45 visitation for families with the last name M-Z.
- If you cannot attend this event, please rest assured knowing that we will have an abundance of staff on duty to support students on their first day.

Engage ♦ Inspire ♦ Contribute

Kindergarten Gradual Entrance

Kindergarten Gradual Entrance will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Information specific to this event, including the time for your session, will be sent to kindergarten parents/guardians soon. However, please note the following:

- Bus transportation will not be provided on September 8 for kindergarten but will begin on September 9, 2021.
- Only one parent/guardian may attend. Please leave siblings at home.
- Face coverings must be used.
- Sessions will be scheduled for one hour to help limit the number of people in the room.

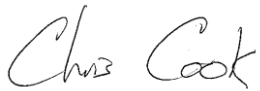
Pre-School Gradual Entrance

Pre-school programs include Learning Together (Ms. Florio), Early Learners (Ms. Saunders), and pre-k (Mrs. Cotton and Mrs. Brasch) will have gradual entrance on Friday, September 10, 2021. Each teacher will be in touch to provide you with specific information, including the time for your session. However, please note the following:

- Only one parent/guardian may attend. Please leave siblings at home.
- Face coverings must be used.
- Sessions will be scheduled for one hour to help limit the number of people in the room.

I thank you again for your amazing patience, perseverance, and flexibility in the past as well as this upcoming year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes to you and your family for a safe, memorable, and successful school year.

Respectfully,



Chris Cook

Principal

chris.cook@hcps.org

Be on the lookout ...

- Intention for transportation to and from school.
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Virtual Back to School Night (September 23, 2021).
- Device agreements which are required when a Chromebook is assigned.

Did you know?

- School Supply lists may be found on our [website](#).
- Meals will be free for all students again this year.
- This is the final year of the Wakefield building as we make way for a new HWES! Wakefield first opened in 1958 and the new HWES will open in the fall 2024.
- We will have eight teachers in kindergarten, six teachers in third grade, and seven teachers in all other grades.
- HWES was recently recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence! Congratulations to all.

