



Berwyn Heights Elementary School

Creating life-long learners serving the global community.



August 25, 2021

Greetings Berwyn Heights Families,

I hope that you and your families are having an enjoyable and safe summer. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for the 2021-2022 school year. The BHES staff has been working hard to prepare for the return of our students. We are eager to work with students to ensure high levels of academic achievement while also addressing the social emotional needs that our students may have after the challenges of the pandemic. Our entire staff is committed to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our scholars.

This year we will kick off our school year on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Students will be back in school five days a week. Our school hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. Students are considered tardy if they arrive after 9:25 a.m. Please ensure that your child arrives on time each day so they are not missing important instructional time.

As we kick off the 21-22 school year, I wanted to remind you to check our school website frequently for important updates and information. You can access the site by going to <https://www.pgcps.org/berwynheights/>. Additionally, here are a few important dates to mark on your calendar.

- **Scholar Sneak Peek:** Thursday, September 2nd 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
 - This event is for **all grades K-6**. Students and parents can meet the teacher, see the classroom, and drop off school supplies. We are limiting the event to **1 adult per student**. Staff will greet you in the cafeteria, provide you with your classroom information, then you can go to the classroom. The time is spread out to limit the number of individuals in the building at one time. All visitors must wear masks and maintain social distancing.
- **Kindergarten and 1st Grade Orientations:** Friday, September 3rd from 11:00-12:00.
 - This will be a **virtual event**. The Zoom links for both grades will be posted on the Berwyn Heights Class Dojo page, as well as on the school's website. This session will provide important information to help you and your child be prepared for the start of school.
- **First Day of School:** Wednesday, September 8th
- **Back to School Night:** Tuesday, September 14th 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m- This will be a virtual event.

In addition to the important dates listed above. Below you will find additional information for the start of school.

Technology Updates/Exchange/Distribution: Prince George's County Public Schools has provided iPads (K students) and Chromebooks (1st-6th) for all students. This technology is



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assigned to each student and remains with them regardless of what school they are attending in PGCPS. If you are coming from a different school in PGCPS, your child will continue to use the device they were previously assigned. Families of students in need of a device (new to the district) or students who need to exchange devices (students going into 1st grade) should read the following information.

- **New Student Technology Distribution** : Thursday, September 2nd 2:00p.m.-5:00pm during our Scholar Sneak Peek or you can contact the school to set up an appointment. Students in grades 2-6, who already have a device, will continue to use the device they previously received.
- **1st Grade Technology Swap**: Thursday, September 2nd 2:00p.m.-5:00pm during our Scholar Sneak Peek or you can contact the school to set up an appointment.
 - Students going into 1st grade this year, who were in the district last year, were issued iPads for the 20-21 school year. These devices will need to be switched for a chromebook. We will swap devices both before and after the 1st Grade Orientation. Please be sure you bring your child's iPad, iPad case, and charger. If the device and/or accessories are damaged or lost there will be a charge prior to receiving a new device.
 - 1st instance of damage or lost device/accessory is \$30.
 - 2nd instance of damage or lost device is \$250.
 - A money order should be made out to Prince George's County Public Schools.
- **Kindergarten Technology Distribution** will take place at a later date. Information will be forthcoming.

Uniforms: Students will be required to wear uniforms this year. Please see the [website for uniform requirements](#).

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: We will continue to have parent pick-up and drop off in the back of the building at the Kiss and Ride. All buses will drop off and pick up students in the front of the building. Please do not enter the front parking lot between the hours of 8:45 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Please also check out our [detailed arrival and dismissal procedures here](#) or on the school website.

Communication: Throughout the year we will post updates and important information on the website as well as on Class Dojo. Class Dojo will be our primary form of communication with families. Teachers will share updated class codes at the beginning of the school year. This is where they will share information related to their class as well as grade level information. We also have a school page to share information that relates to the whole school. If you have not already joined, please do so. The school's link is: <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=55807f346f0c41f11aa7b13e>. Additionally, it is very



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important that we have updated contact information on file. Please access SchoolMax Family Portal, or contact the main office to update your information.

Class Schedules: Class schedules will be accessible in SchoolMax on August 30th. Please log into SchoolMax Family Portal, or through your child's account to see who their teacher will be. We will also be providing class letters at the K and 1 orientations as well as the 2nd grade -6th grade Scholar Sneak Peek.

I am so excited to work together to make this year our best year yet. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Amanda J. Alerich

Amanda J. Alerich
Principal

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