



HEATHER HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nema Manuel, Principal | nema.manuel@pgcps.org
12605 Heming Lane | Bowie, MD 20716 | 301-805-2730 | www.pgcps.org/heatherhills

August 13, 2021

Dear Heather Hills Mustangs,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and are ready for an amazing school year. Wednesday, September 8, 2021 is the first day of school for students. At this time, all schools in Prince George's County will open for in-person learning for all students. Please check the [PGCPS website](#) for updated information. We are excited to welcome students back into the building!

To prepare your child for in person learning, please review and practice the following:

- Students will be required to bring **chromebooks and chargers** to school each day. Please practice how to safely store the device in the backpack with other materials that will be carried to and from school. Chromebooks will be used as part of daily instruction and testing.
- Mandatory masks for all staff and students. Students should have 3-4 masks each day. Students should store the masks in a safe place in the backpack (a ziploc bag). Have your child practice wearing a mask for extended periods of time. Practice putting it on correctly covering both the nose and mouth. Students will be required to wear a mask for the entire school day with the exception of breakfast and lunch.
- Parents and guardians should talk to students about the importance of safety and following the rules to keep themselves and others healthy and safe. Students need to comply with the mask and hand washing requirements. Have your child practice correctly washing their hands for at least 20 seconds. Here are some handwashing videos to prepare for school: [Hand Washing- Purple Paint Demo](#) and [Wash Your Hands](#).
- Talk to your child about any concerns or worries they may have about returning to school. It is important that students know it's ok to be nervous or anxious and that there are strategies for managing anxiety.
 - Here are two resources for Managing Anxiety related to returning to school. Please read the articles and let me know if you have any specific concerns about your child that we should be aware of so that we can prepare.
 - [Managing Your Own Anxiety During School Reopening \(Parents\)](#)
 - [Managing Anxiety for Return to School \(Children\)](#)

School Supply Lists: Click the link to access the [School Supply List](#).

Heather Hills Uniform Policy: At this time, students will be required to wear uniforms for in-person instruction. Click here: [Heather Hills ES Uniform Policy](#). *If PGCPS changes the mandate for uniforms, I will share that information when it becomes available.*

Bus Transportation: Information on student bus routes will be available through the Prince George's County Public Schools website: [PGCPS Transportation](#). Route information will be mailed to parents/guardians on August 23, 2021. Postcards will be to the address in SchoolMax. PGCPS will use the Stopfinder bus app which is available in Google Play and App Store. Parents will need an email in SchoolMax in order to view a student's bus schedule. The Stopfinder invites for the 2021 -2022 school year will be sent out weekly, beginning on August

23, 2021. Review the [Stopfinder Help/FAQs](#). Be sure your child knows the bus route and stop location for the morning and afternoon. Students will be required to wear masks on the school bus.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Remind your child of safe bus riding expectations. In the beginning of the school year, the bus drivers and staff in the transportation department work diligently to get to the bus stops on time. If you need to make any changes to bus routes or bus stops, it can take between 5-7 business days for the changes to take effect. Complete the [Heather Hills ES Transportation Change Request](#). Thank you for your patience.

Student Drop Off/Pick up: Parents may begin dropping off students at 7:30 a.m. During arrival, parents will not be allowed to enter the school building. Prior to that time, there is no adult supervision except for those students that have been approved for the extended day program. Heather Hills Elementary School is a designated location for the AlphaBest extended day program. Information regarding AlphaBest extended day program will be posted on the school website in the Announcement section.

Please have your child ready to get out of the car as soon as you pull up to the drop off point. There will be adults who are directing traffic and escorting your child out of the car. Before you get to the drop off point, your child needs to gather their belongings and be ready to exit the car quickly. Please be aware that parking at the school is limited. Do not block driveways if you park on the street. In the afternoon, car riders and students being picked by aftercare programs are dismissed after the first group of school busses leave the school parking lot. There will be staff assigned to verify who is picking up a student before the student is dismissed.

Meals: School meals will be provided at no cost (free) for all students. Students will receive breakfast and lunch in school and will be able to pick up a pre-packaged after school supper/ meal to take home. Parents are still encouraged to apply for free and reduced meals, if needed. Financial eligibility for meals is used to determine eligibility for pandemic electronic benefit transfer and other district sponsored programs. Complete the online application at [Apply for Free and Reduced Priced Meals](#)

SchoolMax: Please update your phone number and email address in SchoolMax. Updates from PGcps and Heather Hills Elementary will be sent throughout the school year using School Messenger. It is imperative that we have updated contact information; phone numbers and email addresses. If you moved over the summer and need to update your residency, complete the [Residency Change Request Form](#) and send an email to Ms. Jones, Heather Hills ES registrar, at sandra12.jones@pgcps.org.

Staff Meet & Greet: We will host a Meet & Greet at Heather Hills Elementary School on Friday, September 3, 2021 from 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. This will be an opportunity for your child to meet the staff. This event will be held virtually on the Zoom platform. The Zoom links will be sent to student email addresses on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Device/Material Distribution: If your child is new to PGcps (from a private school, other county or school system) or needs a PGcps device, complete the [Chromebook Request Form](#). Device distribution will be on September 3, 2021 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Back To School Night: We will host Back To School Night virtually for all families on September 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.. More information is forthcoming. Please save this date on your calendar.

Teacher Assignments: You will be able to find out who your child's teachers are by logging into SchoolMax. *This information is not available yet. Please check the Heather Hills website for an announcement when teacher assignments are available.

In an effort to prepare for the first day of school, remember to do the following:

- Check the PGCPS website at www.pgcps.org for updated information on a regular basis
- Make sure your child has a working chromebook and charger
- Purchase masks for students to wear to school every day
- Complete the application for Free and Reduced Meals
- Check SchoolMax to make sure your phone number and email are correct
- If you moved over the summer, complete the [Residence Change Request Form](#)

Enjoy the last few days of summer break. We look forward to seeing you at the Teacher Meet & Greet on Friday, September 3, 2021.

Sincerely,

Nema Manuel

Nema Manuel

Principal