



## SAMUEL CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5700 Fisher Road – Temple Hills, Maryland 20748

Phone: 301-702-7660 Fax: 301-702-7631

Nicholas A. Ohlson

Principal



“Building a culture of trust and respect in order to work collaboratively, to analyze data, and to drive student performance.”

August 13, 2020

Dear Bulldog Scholars and Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I am humbled to once again be a part of the dedicated educators, students, parents, and community members who have made Samuel Chase Elementary School outstanding! Our district and school leadership teams along with all staff members are focused on continuous collaboration and planning in order to create and plan a robust learning experience for our BULLDOGS!

I trust that you and your family are having a wonderful and safe summer and are eagerly anticipating the start of the school year on Monday, August 31, 2020. Our instructional program for the first half of the 2020-2021 school year will continue to focus on Reading, Writing, and reasoning in all content areas through the distance learning platform. Here at Samuel Chase ES, we believe that high expectations yield academic successes for all students. Be assured that we are committed to doing our part in ensuring your child achieves academic excellence; we look forward to partnering with you to achieve this goal. **You** play a key role in the academic success of our school; hence, school-parent communication is crucial. Our focus on instruction and learning will not be compromised. To further ensure a successful school year please:

- **Make your child’s prompt attendance to school a priority - Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. daily.**
- **Expect homework Monday through Friday and projects on a regular basis.**
- **Allot time for reading and practicing basic math facts with your child on a nightly basis.**
- **Return all requested forms and documents to school in a timely manner.**

Parents/Guardians, recognize that the expectations are high and that the instructional program will be rigorous and challenging, yet rewarding. Thus, this year we will continue implementing rigorous reading, writing, and mathematics instruction as well as utilizing several resources to challenge our students. Our instructional program will be far more effective with your active participation. Please send your children to us well-behaved, on-time, future focused, equipped with the proper materials, and encouraged. We, in-turn will send them home to you prepared to meet the demands of college and careers. **Your presence is not only welcomed, but it is greatly needed and appreciated!**

**Below you will find key information about the start of the school year.**

**School Hours/School Day:** School begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. Students should be logged in to the computer and ready to participate by 9:00 a.m. We are not enforcing the uniform policy for the duration of distance learning. However, all students must follow the system-wide dress code included in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. It is important that all students have a quiet place at home where they can actively participate, focus, and concentrate on daily lessons and activities. Please work to designate such a place at home before the beginning of the school year.

In an effort to support the saving of our environment and conserve our school’s resources, we will utilize the school’s website at <http://www1.pgcps.org/samuelchase/>, call out system, and Class Dojo in all grade levels for communication. The website is currently under construction as we prepare for a new school year, but will be up and running by the week of August 31, 2020.



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**Breakfast and Lunch Information:** I am excited to announce that Samuel Chase Elementary School will continue to be enrolled in the Community Eligibility Provision. By participating in this program, **ALL STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH THIS YEAR!** Therefore, there is no need to complete an application for free or reduced meals. All schools will serve as meal distribution sites throughout distance learning. Meals will be pre-packaged and distributed two days per week from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Mondays - Monday and Tuesday bagged meals
- Wednesdays - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday bagged meals
- Students will need to provide Name, PIN#, and the school enrolled in if they pick up a meal from a school they do not regularly attend.

### Important Dates:

August 28, 2020 – PGCPS Orientation/Mock Day: Every school in the district will provide an opportunity for students to conduct a walkthrough of their schedule on the morning of Friday, August 28, 2020. Teachers will post a link to their meeting on ClassDojo. Please email your child’s teacher if you are not connected to ClassDojo. Please see our schedule below:

PreK - K - 9:00 - 9:45

1st, 2nd CRI (P) - 10:00 - 10:45

3rd, 4th, 5th, CRI (I) - 11:00 - 11:45

August 31, 2020 – First Day of School for all PGCPS Students

September 7, 2020 - Holiday – Labor Day – Schools and Offices Closed

September 15, 2020 – Virtual Back-to-School Night, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Links will be provided on ClassDojo.

September 25, 2020 - Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. We look forward to seeing you on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for our material distribution days. As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions at 301-702-7660. We are currently in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. I can also be reached at [Nicholas.Ohlson@pgcps.org](mailto:Nicholas.Ohlson@pgcps.org)

Educationally yours,

*Nicholas A. Ohlson*

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### Updates:

#### Welcome To Samuel Chase Elementary School

Please join me in welcoming the following staff members to the Samuel Chase Family! Ms. Candace Dula, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher; Ms. Roberta Storey, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Ms. Sheri Tapscott, CRI Teacher; Mr. Stephen Isler, Instructional Lead Teacher; Ms. Allison Reid, Speech-Language Pathologist; Ms. Grace Whitmore Moss, ESOL Teacher. Each of these individuals are enthusiastic about joining our team and assuming their new role as part of the Outstanding Samuel Chase ES Team. They all possess a wealth of knowledge and will be an asset to our school community. We are lucky to have them!

#### **Will attendance be taken?**

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to follow the state and local guidance in collection of student and teacher attendance. There is currently a procedure in place to identify the process in which attendance is both collected and reported for both students and teachers. PGCPS is responsible for identifying, collecting and transmitting data to local, state and federal agencies for purposes of compliance, accountability and school system funding for student attendance. Strong monitoring of systems, implementation of a streamlined process, and using objective and accurate data related to attendance collection is crucial.

Physical and virtual attendance will be collected in the 2020-2021 school year and daily attendance procedures will be communicated so all stakeholders know PGCPS' definition of being considered present.

**Attendance for Students during Distance Learning Instruction:** Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each day in SchoolMax. Attendance will be reviewed again after lunch to ensure students return virtually and are accounted for. In the event a student does not return for the afternoon, the student will be recorded as attending school for a ½ day and contact will be made with the home to ensure the student is safe.

- Students are expected to be in attendance for class daily and present for each session.
- Special attendance code used for students who are online learning.
- After a certain day, require students to provide an absence note in order to be considered lawfully absent.

#### **Will scholars receive additional instructional materials?**

In addition to the materials parents/guardians are asked to provide, SCES will also issue Distance Learning Kits. The school kits will include textbooks, resources and materials, and manipulatives students can use at home for learning. It is important that our Bulldogs care for their learning tools so they are available for instruction when needed. When students are not using textbooks and learning tools, they should be in a safe place to avoid loss and damage. Parents/Guardians, please help your Bulldog care for their learning tools and textbooks.

Please save the following dates for Distribution Days from 3:30pm–7:00pm:

August 24, 2020 – All students in PreK, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

August 25, 2020 – All students in CRI, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



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### **When will Chromebook be distributed?**

Samuel Chase ES has a limited amount of devices to hand out at the scheduled distribution days. We will continue to hand out devices until we run out.

Nationally, there has been a high demand for the procurement of electronic devices, which has resulted in delay of receiving them for PGCPS. An order has been placed and PGCPS is awaiting delivery. If your scholar is currently utilizing a personal device in the home, we ask that they continue to do so until the PGCPS order is processed. It is anticipated that additional devices will be available by September 21, 2020. Once received, you will be notified and a date and time will be scheduled for you to pick up a device. Your understanding is much appreciated.

### **Will scholars earn letter grades for SY21?**

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) is committed to providing our students with an educational program based on instructional practices that are rooted in educational research and support student achievement. To support these efforts and establish a system where assignments and assessment both inform and drive instruction as well as provide an accurate measure of a student’s academic achievement, we will incorporate an equitable grading practice in every content area to ensure all learners’ academic success is measured with fidelity.

A systemic grading procedure provides guidance to administrators and teachers in the implementation of the grading and reporting systems to be used in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and Grades 1 through 12 in all elementary, middle, and high schools and centers in Prince George’s County Public Schools. As defined in COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) 13A.03.02.08, each local school system shall develop a written policy on grading and reporting. The PGCPS grading procedures have been developed according to COMAR regulations and outline a process so that all students can learn and achieve at high levels, rigorous performance standards and achievement standards are embedded as essential components of developing and delivering quality instruction, and regular assessment is an important component of an effective teaching and learning environment and an important tool in measuring students’ learning. School-based administrators, teachers and students will be familiar with procedures to ensure that grading and reporting policies are applied consistently within their school for hybrid and virtual learners.

- Content supervisors reviewed grading factors (homework, classwork, assessments) for appropriateness for face-to-face learners/hybrid and virtual learners as defined by each of the three factors.
- Teachers will collect a minimum of two grades per week for elementary/middle/high (per period/class) depending on the number of meetings/periods (please see Administrative Procedure 5121.1 for guidance).

### **Will scholars return back to the building?**

PGCPS will start the school year with full distance learning for the first semester. Students will participate daily in a full school day of instruction with classes aligned to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requirements. Teachers will have the option of providing instruction from home utilizing curriculum documents and resources or using their classroom to provide instruction during the workday. Starting December 1, 2020, we will reassess the impact of COVID-19 on our state, county and school system. During this time, a parent survey will be distributed for input on the feasibility of transitioning to a hybrid learning model or maintaining the full distance learning model for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.