



Barack Obama Elementary School

12700 Brooke Lane ~ Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
Telephone: (301) 574-4020 Fax: (301) 574-4025



“Learning and Leading is Our Legacy – Eagle Scholars Soaring to New Heights”

Megan K. Ashworth, Ed D. *Principal*

Brittany Pace-Walker, *Assistant Principal*

August 21, 2021

Dear Families of Our Eagle Scholars,

Welcome to the start of another school year! We trust your families and friends are staying safe as well as mentally and physically healthy. Mrs. Walker and I are humbled once again to serve this wonderful community. We hope that you and your families found joy this summer and had plenty of time to relax and rejuvenate as well as continue to stay safe. The start of a new school year is just a few weeks away. As we prepare to say farewell to our much-deserved summer break, I hope you are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year with a renewed spirit and commitment to support our school community.

As I have expressed many times, I am proud of the hard work and tremendous effort our entire school community put forth to create meaningful Distance and Hybrid Learning Experiences for our EAGLE SCHOLARS! As COVID numbers across our communities' rise, it is best to begin the school year with the safety routines and procedures that were in place at the end of the year. This will ensure the well-being of our EAGLE SCHOLARS and STAFF! As conditions improve, we will make adjustments; for now, flexibility, patience, and grace will continue to be a part of our norm at BOES.

We do know that this is a time when we must reimagine school as we move out of the pandemic. Prince George's County Public Schools under the leadership of Dr. Monica Goldson, has already begun to reimagine SY 2021 - 2022 by issuing a new vision and mission for the school district.

Vision: *Provide a transformative educational experience anchored by excellence in equity – developing 21st century competencies and enabling each student's unique brilliance to flourish in order to build empowered communities and a more inclusive and just world*

Mission: *A culturally responsive district developing distinguished learners, leaders, voices of social justice, and advocates for humanity for the world of today, tomorrow, and beyond.*

As we rethink the vision and mission of Barack Obama Elementary, we would like you to be a part of this work and provide input. We look forward to you joining us in reimagining our school's vision.

We learned many lessons last school year and our scholars overcame obstacles and pushed themselves to take risks, we all enhanced our use of technology and we stayed together as a school community in innovative ways. Each of us took a giant step out of our comfort zone to reimagine school in a different and new way. The benefit; our **EAGLE SCHOLARS** and **STAFF GOT BETTER TOGETHER** in the midst of a global pandemic! Let's continue this amazing work together.

We encourage each of you to be partners in your scholar's education at Barack Obama ES and stay informed. We will continue to communicate via Class DoJo for school stories, class updates, and other important information. **Additionally, we ask that you complete the link to provide the school important information about your scholar(s)** [IMPORTANT: Student Information Form SY22](#) This information is usually gathered manually each school year. Please complete this form as it will keep us current with each scholars' family.

We are now a one-to-one Chromebook School and County. Chromebooks are available for every student. Please keep in mind that it is the student's and parent's financial and ownership responsibility to keep the chromebook clean, handled with care and safe. Attached is the agreement for each Chromebook. [PGCPS Chromebook Agreement Form](#) When repairs are needed due to neglect, parents will have to pay a fee for a damaged/lost device including a charger.

Also, personal laptops will not work on the PGcps domain. Please send emails to btinnin@pgcps.org or arrange an appointment if your chromebook is not working, your scholar was never issued one (except new Kindergarten scholars), or the charger has been misplaced.

We know that returning to the building after such a long time is concerning to all. **Masks are mandated for all students, teachers, and staff.** Students and teachers will take responsibility for learning by analyzing data to reveal misconceptions and lead to higher achievement. This will assist students in taking ownership of their learning. It truly takes a village to improve the work and to ensure that all of us take responsibility for our school being the **BEST** in Prince George's County, our learning, our resources and all of the opportunities.

Make your child's prompt attendance to school a priority - Instruction begins promptly at 7:45 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
- Regularly monitor your scholar's grades in SchoolMax
- **Ensure your child is up to date on all immunizations and our Nurse is aware of any health conditions or medications being taken.**
- PRE-K Students – SUBMIT HEALTH INVENTORY forms as soon as possible

As you plan ahead:

- School Breakfasts & Lunches: I am happy to announce that breakfast and lunch is free for all students this school year.
- BUS INFORMATION: Please click on the following link to find out your scholar's bus information. <https://bit.ly/PGCPSinfoFinder> **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** If your scholar is not going home after school the school must be notified so that we can update the database so your scholars are assigned to the correct bus.
- Kindergarten Parents are encouraged to register your scholar as soon as possible. Ensure that all documents have been uploaded in order to finalize the registration process.
- You are asked to join our PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association)
- All students have required immunizations to ensure they are fully registered. Kindergarten scholars have an additional mandatory immunization.

Please mark your calendars:

1. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD - **Orientation for all PreK, Kindergarten and First Grade scholars 9:00 - 10:00 am - PreK, 10:30 - 11:30 am - Kindergarten, and 1:00 - 2:00 am - First Grade**
2. WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL UPDATES: Students are encouraged to be on time and **appropriately dressed in uniform** with their masks on for school. You will be able to find out your scholar's teacher assignment by accessing the SchoolMAX Family Portal. You can register as well as watch a "HOW TO REGISTER" video for the SchoolMAX family portal [HERE](#). We urge **all families** to do this prior to our September 8th start date. We also ask that you confirm the consistent PM transportation with your scholar's teacher and your scholar prior to the first day of school. Due to the current COVID climate, while we encourage you to drop your child off the first day, **we will not allow parents into the building.** Please think about a way you can celebrate the first day with your child prior to coming to school or at the end of the school day.

To further ensure a successful school year we will continue to provide updated information as we receive information. Please be sure to check the school website as well as Class Dojo. Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. As always, please feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions. Megan.ashworth@pgcps.org or Brittany.pace@pgcps.org

Sincerely,

Megan K. Ashworth, Ed.D.

Principal

Brittany Pace-Walker

Assistant Principal

The following information is provided to help you plan for the first few weeks of school:

Date	Event	Time
Friday, Sept. 3 rd	Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade Orientation	9:00 - 10:00 am - PreK 10:30 - 11:30 am - Kindergarten 1:00 - 2:00 am - First Grade
Monday, September 6 th	No School-Labor Day	
Wednesday, Sept. 8th	First Day of School (PK-5)	7:45 - 1:55 P.M.
Tuesday, Sept. 14 th	Back to School Night & P.T.A. Membership Drive Pre-K – 2 VIRTUAL	6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Sept. 21 st	Back to School Night & P.T.A. Membership Drive Grades 3-5 VIRTUAL	6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Thursday, Sept 16 th	YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED	
Friday, October 1 st	Professional Development Day SCHOOLS CLOSED for STUDENTS	
Monday, October 11 th	Parent/Teacher Conference Day SCHOOLS CLOSED for STUDENTS	
Friday, October 15 th	Professional Development – No School for Students	All Day