



Bobcat Bulletin

September 2019

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Principal's Message

The new school year is here, and I welcome all of our new and returning families to Delmar Elementary School. Hopefully, the summer months have been filled with fun and excitement and the children are relaxed and energized for another exciting school year.

Our administrative team, along with our entire staff, are excited for the new school year. Throughout the year, I will continue to share my leadership vision with our staff, students, and parents. I firmly believe that schools should not only have a strong educational program that meets all student's needs, but one that focuses on developing positive relationships among staff, students, and parents. In order for our students to be successful, we all must work together. I also believe in strong communication between the school and home and welcome our families to be involved in the school in any way they can. If at any time you have questions, concerns, or good news to share, please do not hesitate to stop by the school, email, or call me.

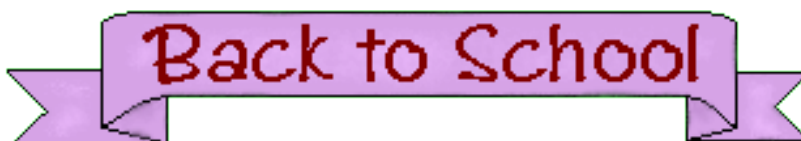
Over the summer, we were able to review student data and I am extremely proud of the work that our students and staff accomplished last year. Instruction and curriculum continue to change, and our teachers and students have the monumental task of meeting the state and county expectations. The tasks in front of us will be challenging but with your support, we will meet these challenges.

As we look forward to the 2019-2020 school year, teachers will continue to focus on analyzing student data to monitor progress towards meeting the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. Students in grades K-4 will be introduced to new reading and math strategies and will continue with our focus on writing in all grade levels.

I appreciate those families that have stopped in over the summer to see us and I look forward to those that I will meet throughout the year. Please take the opportunity to say hello at our Back to School Night on September 9th.

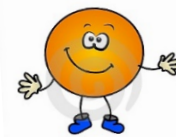
Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way throughout the school year.

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New Faces in our Building

We have a few new faces at Delmar Elementary School this year. We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to our teaching team; Michele McGoogan (Asst. Principal), Megan Block (PE), Melissa Dennis (Math Coach), Elizabeth Diemel (Guidance), Kristen Mosier (K), Erin Rosati (SPED). We also are pleased to welcome the following new staff to our support team; Pam Crockett (Café Mgr.), Carrie ONeal (office), Sheila Harmon (SPED IA), Leshell Dennis (SPED IA), Delphine Perry (Building Mgr.), (SPED IA), Ann Waddell (K IA), and Kimberly McDonald (Home/School Liaison)



Please take the opportunity to stop by and make them feel a part of the Delmar family.

Back to School Night

On Monday, September 9th please join us for Back to School Night from 5:30-7:00 PM. The evening is planned as our opening PTA meeting with the introduction of our new executive team and presentation of our annual events.

Following the business meeting, teachers will conduct two presentations (6:00-6:25, 6:35-7:00) in their classrooms focusing on the curriculum and classroom procedures and expectations. This will allow parents an opportunity to visit other classrooms or grade levels if you have more than one child enrolled at Delmar. Unfortunately, time will not allow for teachers to conduct individual conferences, but parents are encouraged to schedule a private meeting with the teacher if needed.



Personal Data Form

In order to reduce the amount of paperwork that parents are asked to complete during the first week of school, we will be sending a copy of the most recent data form that we have on file and ask that you just update any addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. directly on the form. Please remember to sign the data form and return to your child's teacher. If no changes are needed, please just sign and return.

Please remember if changes occur throughout the year, you are required to notify the office and complete a new data form. Also, when changes regarding guardianship and other legal matters are involved, copies of court orders must be supplied to the school immediately. The school cannot honor any changes of this nature unless the proper legal documentation is in hand.

School Meal Benefit Application

Included with information being sent home this week is the Student Meal Benefit Application form. It is imperative that each family complete the form as guidelines have changed which may make families now eligible.

Please return the completed application to the school by September 14th.

All information you provide is strictly confidential.

Car Rider and Drop-off & Dismissal Procedures

Drop Off: In the Car Loop Off of Foskey Lane Only!

- Parents are asked to use the east and middle lanes in the south parking lot to form lines for drop off. Vehicles will alternately take turns to move toward the drop off area along the sidewalk. Cars are to move as far forward as possible, making room for as many other vehicles as they can. Staff will then receive your children from the vehicle. **Please only allow your child to open and exit from car doors along the sidewalk. Never allow your child to exit the car from a door on the parking lot side or in a lane of traffic.**
- Follow all traffic laws on streets surrounding the school. Reports have been made that cars are double parked on Foskey Lane before entering the parking lot. This is blocking traffic on Foskey Lane. Also, some new pylons have been placed on Foskey lane to prohibit eastbound traffic from turning left. Turning left is now prohibited by law and violators are subject to receiving tickets from WCSO. Thank you for adhering to all traffic laws.
- **Do not drop students off on Second Street.** The only drop off location is in the drop off circle as described above located off of Foskey lane. This is also prohibited by law and violators will be subject to receiving tickets from law enforcement.
- **If you wish to enter the building with your child in the morning please use the parking spaces designed for visitors in front of the school (near school sign only) or park in the grass lot across from the school. Stopping or parking on the far curb of 2nd Street is prohibited between 7 AM-9 AM and from 2:00-4:00 PM.**

Dismissal:

- All students who are “car riders” or “daily riders” will be dismissed to the car rider circle on Foskey Lane in the south parking lot.
- Students will not be dismissed from the car rider area or off of a bus to a parent who walks up to get their child without being notified by the school office. Parents will be asked to report to the office first, at which time the office personnel will notify faculty members supervising the car rider or bus area of the change. **Please do not go to the car rider or bus area to retrieve your child.**
- **If a child is to be dismissed any other way on a given day than the way they normally go home from school, parents will need to send a note to school that morning with your child outlining the dismissal changes to be made for that day. These students will wait for their ride in the car rider area with other students. For safety purposes we will not accept phone calls or emails to change up a student’s dismissal once the day has started. Do not email teachers or office staff with this request as they may not have an opportunity to check their email throughout the course of the day and prior to dismissal. Please remember to plan ahead and send a note in on the morning of your requested dismissal change. The person authorized to pick up the student must be named in this note and have a valid form of identification to show before the student is released.**
- **The North parking lot behind the school is not to be used for student pickup.** Please do not park in this area to sign students out of the building. Bicycle riders and staff exiting the lot are at risk with the narrow passage and potentially congested traffic area.
- Parents wishing to enter the building to pick up their child prior to 2:45 PM will need to **sign them out first in the office and wait for their child in vestibule or outside the main front door.** Students will no longer be signed out in the cafeteria as in year’s past.



Car Rider Dismissal Tags

In order to expedite our car rider dismissal and maintain the safety of our students, we will once again utilize a car tag system for students who will be car riders each day. The procedures are listed below.

- Parents must complete a CAR RIDER INFORMATION FORM and return it to the school by September 3rd so that your child will be able to be picked up in the car rider circle on the first day of school. The office is open between 7:45 AM-3:15 PM daily for your convenience.
- All car riders in your family must be included on the same form so they are assigned the same ID number.
- Each parent/guardian may receive up to 2 color-coded rearview mirror car tags at no cost for their family and each student will be given one backpack tag. Each tag will have a matching ID number to identify your child/family. **TAGS ARE PURPLE THIS YEAR—PLEASE DISCARD ALL YELLOW TAGS USED LAST YEAR.**
- Parents/guardians wishing to purchase additional tags for other family/friends may do so at a cost of \$3.00 per tag.

Daily Procedures:

- Upon entering the car rider area each day, the car tag must be placed on the rearview mirror of the vehicle. Students must keep their backpack tag attached in a visible location.
- As cars approach the student pick-up area, a staff member will alert the student(s) by calling his/her tag number and children will be monitored by an adult as they walk to your car. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and not signal for their child to come to them so that the flow of traffic can continue.
- Students should exit and enter on the right side of the car to avoid walking into traffic.
- As in the past, we ask that all cars turn right out of the parking lot, so a back-up does not occur.

Additional Information:

- Please keep car tags in a safe place for daily use. **Cars without rearview mirror tags or a note sent into school for pick-up will have to park and report to the office to pick-up your child.**
- Daycare providers who pick up children from multiple families each day will be provided with a car tag that lists all ID numbers of children they have permission to pick up. This is only done after documentation is provided by the parent.
- If you lose your car tag or your child loses their backpack tag, it must be replaced at a cost of \$3.00 each.
- Failure to replace lost tags will result in your child losing car rider privileges.
- Parents/Individuals will only be permitted to pick up children with matching car/backpack tags. If a parent wants another car rider parent to pick up their child, a note must be sent to school. We ask that this not occur often.

Student Handbook

Please take some time to read the updated Student Handbook for the 2019-2020 school year. This booklet will serve as an information source and hopefully answer questions you may have regarding school or county practices and procedures. Please feel free to call the office should you need clarification or have questions regarding a topic that may not be listed in our handbook.



New Attendance Policy, Tardies, and Early Dismissals

New Attendance Policy

It is extremely important that good attendance habits form early, beginning in pre-kindergarten. There is research showing the fact that higher student achievement is directly linked to good attendance. Therefore, a **new attendance policy was adopted for all WCBOE students this summer that is now tied to grades and academic progress.**

1. All illnesses must be documented by a parent note or a note from a physician. Only 5 parents notes will be accepted each marking term. After 5 parent notes, doctor's notes are required. Notes will only be accepted up to 5 days after the absence.
2. Students who have greater than 5 days of unexcused absences each term will fail all subjects for that term regardless of their grades for that term.
3. If you child has a doctors or dentist appointment, it is important that they return to school afterwards, if possible, so they are not marked absent for the entire day.
4. Up to 3 days may be excused for a family vacation. Parents will need to complete a Vacation Attendance Request form in the office at least 2 weeks prior to the vacation. If the form is not completed prior to the trip, all days missed will be considered unexcused.

You will receive an absence call from the Wicomico County Board of Education each day your child is absent from school. Also, Mrs. McDonald, our Home School Liaison, will be contacting families when a child is absent for three or more days in a row.

Tardies

Any student arriving to school after 8:15 AM or 12:15 PM (afternoon Pre-K) must be signed in at the office. Students will not be permitted to enter their classroom without a tardy slip.

Student Dismissal:

Notes are required for students who are to go home in a different way from how they arrived to school and for any child being picked up that is not normally a car rider. This is necessary for all students' safety as we are unable to take a student's word. Also, if your child will be leaving for an appointment, please send in a note regarding who will be responsible for picking them up from school. No phone call requests will be granted.

Additional Attendance Information

Kindergarten through Grade 4

- A student is counted as present for a full day if the student is in attendance for 4 hours or more of the school day. A student is counted as present for a ½ day if the student is in attendance for at least 2 hours of the school day, but less than 4 hours.
- If a student is tardy or dismissed early for a doctor's appointment, the tardy will be mark as "unexcused" unless a doctor's note is provided to the school.
- Parents will receive excessive attendance letters once students amass 4, 6, and 10 days of unexcused absences.
- Once a child amasses 10 days of unexcused absences, a conference must be held with the parents, our home/school liaison and an administrator.
- If a child amasses 13 days of unexcused absences, a conference with a Pupil Personnel Worker must occur and at 15 days, a referral to Truancy Court will be completed.
- Students with excessive absences at the elementary level will now be considered for retention.

Pre-K

- A student is counted as present for a full day if the student is in attendance for 2 hours or more of the school day. A student is counted as present for a ½ day if the student is in attendance for at least 1 hours of the school day, but less than 2 hours.
- If a student is tardy or dismissed early for a doctor's appointment, the tardy will be mark as "unexcused" unless a doctor's note is provided to the school.
- Once students in Pre K have amassed 5 days of unexcused absence, they may be considered for dismissal from the program.

Breakfast Procedures

Students who wish to purchase breakfast at school may do so if they arrive to school and enter the cafeteria between the times of 7:30 and 8:05 AM. Students arriving to the cafeteria after 8:05 AM will not have time to make it through the cafeteria line, have their breakfast eaten and be unpacked for instruction by 8:15 AM. PLEASE make certain that your child arrives to school in time each morning if you wish for them to have breakfast here. Please see the breakfast guidelines below:

- The end door by the gym will be opened at 7:30 AM for all walkers and car riders wishing to purchase breakfast at school. Students not wishing to purchase breakfast should not be dropped off until 7:45 AM and will not be allowed to enter the building until then.
- The doors by the bus ramp will be opened for all bus riders who wish to purchase breakfast. Students not purchasing breakfast will be dismissed from the buses at the normal school opening time of 7:45 AM.
- At 7:45 AM all students will be allowed to enter the building. Those not wishing to purchase breakfast are to go directly to their classrooms. Once students report to their classrooms, they are not permitted to leave and access other parts of the building unless it is to use the grade level rest room facility. If you wish for your child to eat breakfast, remind them to go directly to the cafeteria first!
- At 8:05 AM the cafeteria doors will close. Students remaining in the serving line at this time will already have precious little time to get through the line and eat their breakfast before their first class at 8:15 AM. Thus, the reason we are trying to open the cafeteria doors earlier than 7:45 AM for as many students that are interested in making a breakfast purchase. **If you wish for your child to have breakfast at school, please make certain they are in the cafeteria well before the cutoff time so that they will be ready for instruction.**

AHERA Policy

In October 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement response actions in a timely manner.

These regulations assign schools many new responsibilities. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on our inspections, re-inspections, response actions and post-response action activities, including periodic surveillance activities that are planned or are in progress.

You can review this plan during normal business hours without cost or restriction.

If you have any questions about reviewing our management plan, please contact:

Blair Todd at (410) 677-4411



Dear Parent/Guardian or Staff Member:

Legislation was passed in 1998 which requires public schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan and to develop parental and staff notification programs by the 1999-2000 school year for any school that applies pesticides in school buildings during the school year. In addition, legislation was passed in 1999 which requires public schools to expand the IPM plan to include parental and staff notification for pesticide applications made to school grounds during the school year.

At the beginning of each school year, each school must notify all parents/guardians, staff, and new students, regarding the Wicomico County Board of Education Integrated Pest Management Plan.

A. What is the Integrated Pest Management Plan?

Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a plan of controlling pests that does not depend on automatic application of pesticides. Instead, pests are monitored by regular and careful inspections. The inspections also identify conditions contributing to pest problems. It is then decided what actions are necessary, if any, based on the biology and habits of the pests involved. Priority is given to non-chemical pest management techniques, particularly those that can prevent a recurrence of the problem. Pesticides are used when necessary, but only in a way that minimizes potential exposure to people and the environment. Records are kept to track problems, prevent recurrences, and evaluate the results of pest management actions.

B. What are the names of the pesticides and bait stations that may be used on school property? This includes but is not limited to:

Fipronil	Hydroprene	Indoxacarb	Dithiopyr
Boric Acid	Pyrethrin	Propoxur	Trifuralin
Delamethrin	Cyfluthrin	Imidacloprid	Isoxaben
Foramsulfuron	Allethrin	Amorphous Silica	Glyphosate
Brodifacoum	Permethrin	Isopropylamine salt	Imazapyr
Chlorfenapyr	Methoprene	Cyhalothrin	Pendimethalin



Who is the person that I may call if I have any questions?

Mr. David Fulton
 Environmental/Safety Specialist
 Wicomico County Board of Education
 (410) 677-4593

Mr. Fulton, identified above as the contact person, will also have the product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for all pesticides and bait stations that are listed above. In addition, product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for any newly introduced pesticides not currently included on the pesticide list but used on school property will also be kept by Mr. Fulton. This information is available at your school and at the following location: Facilities Department, Wicomico County Board of Education, 900 Mt Hermon Road, Salisbury, Maryland 21804 and is available for your review at any time. Mr. Fulton is also available for any additional information you may need and will be happy to listen to any comments you may have.

D. Notifications before pesticide use

Additional notifications throughout the school year will be sent to all students, parents/guardians and staff members in an Elementary school before any application of a pesticide are made in a school building or to school grounds. These written notices will be sent home with each student and provided to each staff member at least 24 hours before each application, and within 24 hours after an emergency pesticide is applied. Please remember that the concept behind an Integrated Pest Management Plan is to utilize all other non-chemical means to eliminate pests before a pesticide is used. It is our intention to continue to adhere to this practice.

Special Dates

September 3	School opens for 2019-2020 school year.
September 4	Fundraiser kick-off
September 9	PTA Back to School Night, 5:30 PM
September 10	Delmar Night @ Sweet Frog—get your coupon at PTA
September 18	Fundraiser ends

PTA News

Welcome back Delmar Bobcat families! The Delmar Elementary PTA is excited to make the 2019—2020 school year memorable for our students, families and staff! We are looking forward to Back to School Night Sept. 9th from 5:30-7pm where you will be able to learn about the upcoming school year and visit with teachers. Limited CAP approved Spirit Wear will be available for purchase.

We have a few fun events planned for this year including a Family Movie Night and Pastries for Parents. We are excited to be planning more programs to benefit the students during their school day this year. For these events to occur, we need all the help we can get from our families and those in our community! Membership is the first step to making these memories begin. Membership forms will be sent home with students and will also be available at Back to School Night. PTA membership dues are \$10.00. We encourage all parents, family members, community members and staff to join the PTA. A portion of your dues supports the State and National PTA, which is an important voice for public education, advocating our interests to government officials. The remainder of the dues goes directly to programming that benefits Delmar Elementary students. Becoming a member of PTA also gives you a voice, and the right to vote on our budget, officers and other matters.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the PTA in any capacity, please let an officer know that you are interested. Email us at delmarbobcatspta@gmail.com!

Thank you for assisting Delmar Bobcats PTA Inc in supporting our wonderful students!

Upcoming Events:

September 9: Back to School Night and Teacher Visitation, 5:30-7pm

October 25: Family Movie Night with Costume Contest, 6-8: 30 pm

