August 4, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Our theme for the 2023-2024 school year is Hebbville Excellence; a commitment to doing what it takes to meet the needs of every student, in every classroom, every day. To achieve this, our faculty will be engaging in a year-long professional development series focused on highly effective instructional strategies and social and emotional learning.

Students will be engaged in rigorous instruction that is differentiated to meet their individual needs in all academic areas, including specials. We are introducing *Into Reading,* a new literacy series for grades K-5, continuing our implementation of *Bridges* Math, and enhancing our Social Studies curriculum to engage students more deeply in their understanding of history and social constructs. To increase social and emotional awareness, students will participate in *Second Step,* a comprehensive curriculum designed to help students better understand themselves, their peers, and being a part of a community. Classroom and schoolwide incentives for excellent attendance, academic performance, and behavior will reinforce positive behavior and foster individual commitment to students’ own education. Students will have opportunities to share their feedback directly with administration throughout the school year to ensure we are not speculating, but instead making informed decisions to truly do what is best for our students.

Parents/guardians, we need your help too! Teaching and learning does not start and end while students are in school, but is a continuous and lifelong process. With that being said, nothing can replace the impact of an excellent teacher on a student’s path to success. Our goal is for all students to meet the BCPS attendance standard of 96%, which means no more than seven (7) absences throughout the school year. To illustrate this point, consider this: A student who misses two days a month will miss over 30 hours of math instruction and over 60 hours of ELA instruction over the course of the school year. Please do your best to encourage students to be in school every day unless they are ill. Parents/guardians are encouraged to join the Hebbville PTA to share your feedback, engage in the school improvement process, and support our goals toward Hebbville Excellence in the 2023-2024 school year.

I am excited to share that Hebbville Elementary School has been identified as an AVID school beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a nationwide program designed to increase college and career readiness for students by providing strategies for effective organization, reading, and writing. Many BCPS middle and high schools offer AVID as electives or implement AVID schoolwide, and Hebbville is one of a handful of elementary schools offering this opportunity for our youngest learners. The roll out for AVID will begin in grades 4 and 5, and I will share more information with families about AVID as we embark in this journey together.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members to our Hebbville faculty:

Ms. Linda Cierlitsky, Special Educator

Ms. Bertina High, Kindergarten

Mr. Brandon Hill, Instrumental Music

Ms. Kashiah Holden, Paraeducator

Mr. Kyle Lewis, Adult Assistant

Ms. Tammy Polzin, Grade 4

Ms. Kendra Terry, Grade 3

Hebbville Elementary School is also hosting high school interns from Milford Mill Academy and Woodlawn High School who are participating in the Teacher Academy of Maryland. These high school interns will be supporting students in classrooms under the supervision of the classroom teacher and their program coordinators. This year we are welcoming:

Mariah Bazemore

Isaiah Howard

Nevaeh Ward

Opening day for students in grades 1-5 will be Monday, August 28, 2023. For your reference, the teacher and room assignments for each student are listed on the mailing label for this letter. If your child is in Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten, information regarding their modified entry schedule was sent separately.

As the beginning of the school year approaches, it’s time to make sure you know where your BCPS issued technology is located! Please be sure that if your child has checked out a BCPS device for the summer, that they return to school with them. This year we will be replacing all student devices with an updated model, but we cannot issue a device to any student to whom a device is checked out.

Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2023, beginning at 5:30pm. Back to School night is an in-person event and will include important information from the school administration as well as an opportunity to meet the teachers in their classrooms.

Transportation information will be available in the FOCUS parent portal as the start of the school year nears. Directions for creating a FOCUS account are included in the Hebbville family newsletter and on the BCPS webpage. Please check the portal before calling the school, as the information we have will be the same. Additionally, if you have questions about transportation, please contact the BCPS Office of Transportation at (443) 809-4321. Schools do not have the ability to add or change bus assignments or to track busses. We do our best to share information as we receive it, but the source of the most up to date information will always be the Office of Transportation.

On the first day of school, your child or children will return with a back-to-school packet. This packet are some very important documents which require your attention and should be returned before the end of the first week of school:

* Parent Pick Up/Walker Agreement (Required to be returned by all students who will not be riding a bus)
* Student Device Agreement (Required for all students)
* Parent Contact Information Sheet (Required for all students)

**Below are some important items of note regarding arrival and dismissal procedures:**

* **All students enter through the main entrance of the school beginning at 9:00 a.m.** Children should not be left at the school unattended before 9:00 a.m. as they will be unsupervised prior to that time with the exception of before school club participants. Doors will be closed and locked at 9:15 a.m. and students are considered late at 9:20 a.m.
* Walkers should stay on sidewalks and proceed to the crossing guard(s) where they should wait until asked to cross. Once on school grounds, they should continue through crosswalks where adults will be on duty beginning at 9:00am.
* Car riders should follow the flow of traffic and staff directions. Students should be dropped off in the drop off zone in front of the learning cottage. Parents should not stop on Washington Avenue to drop off students and should not walk across Washington Avenue or the Hebbville parking lot to drop students off. This has led to several accidents, some with injuries.
* No cars will be allowed into the bus loop between 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
* Please advise any middle school or high school students who escort their siblings to or from school are within the BCPS scope of authority and should follow parent pickup guidelines to pick up their siblings from school.
* School office personnel are extremely busy preparing for dismissal from 3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. To ensure that students are safely dismissed, early dismissals will not be allowed after 3:45 p.m.

If everyone follows the procedures outlined above, we not only create safer conditions for our students, but also teach our children about responsible citizenship. Thank you for your continuing support and understanding!

Additional helpful information about our school can be found in the Hebbville Elementary School parent handbook. Please consider reviewing this book prior to Back-to-School Night so that we can answer any questions you may have. A link to the handbook is available on the Hebbville Elementary School Website, hebbvillees.bcps.org.

To ensure that you receive all communications from the school, please be sure to complete the contact information sheet as soon as possible during the first week of school. You will receive this form in your student’s backpack after the first day of school. Even if your information has not changed, this contact sheet is vital in the event of an emergency that impacts our access to electronic records. If there are changes to your address or contact information during the school year, please share that information with the school as soon as it is possible to avoid any lapse in communications.

Staff members will help all students get to their classrooms on the first day of school. It is not necessary for you to walk into the school on the first day; however, parents who wish to walk their students in must sign in with the main office and receive a visitor’s badge. To avoid long lines, parents may pick up a visitor’s badge in the main office during the week of August 21, 2023, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

We look forward to partnering with each of you this year in service of students. There is no doubt that if we all work together, we will continue to be Hebbville Excellent. Please feel free to request a conference or to e-mail us at any time if you have any comments, questions, concerns, or simply to check in. We love hearing from you!

Enjoy the remainder of your summer; we will see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jordan T. Filderman

Principal

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Katelyn Shenton

Assistant Principal

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