September 1, 2020

Team CMS Families:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This will be a school year like none other, but we are very excited, nonetheless. We know that you are inundated with information on a daily basis. As such, I have attempted to make this correspondence clear and concise. I have included numerous links in this letter, but please know that all CMS-related information can be found on our website at https://catonsvillems.bcps.org/.

Schedule and First Day of School

First and foremost, you will want to have your child access their individual schedule for the school year in Schoology (via BCPSOne) and look at it alongside the Student Master Schedules by Grade document. Our website includes resources for navigating Schoology. We strongly recommend that parents sign up for a BCPSOne account in order to access Schoology as well. PLEASE NOTE – Due to the Labor Day holiday, the first week of school will be shortened, which requires us to change our schedule for that week. On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 8th, students will log into their PERIOD 1 CLASS at 8 am via Google Meet and follow the A1 (usually Monday) schedule for that day. Log on information, including a link and “nickname” are under your child’s period 1 course page in Schoology. You will notice that 8 am on A1 days is normally “House Group Meeting.” However, for the first day of school, students are logging into period 1, instead, because they will not yet know to which House Group they have been assigned. More information about House Groups will be shared… but think Harry Potter! You can also check out some very general information about House Systems by clicking HERE. It is a great community and relationship building opportunity for everyone and is one way we hope to address the social-emotional needs of our students.

Virtual Learning

All BCPS schools will start the school year in a virtual learning environment. While virtual and in-person learning certainly share many characteristics, there are some definite differences as well. Please check out the Virtual Learning Resources to help your child prepare for and participate in a virtual environment successfully.

Contact Information

On-going communication is critical in all learning environments. As such, we created a Remote Learning Contact List document to assist you in reaching out to the most appropriate resource for addressing your question or concern.

Upcoming Events

Grade 6 Orientation for Students – Friday, September 4, 2020; 9-11 am. Links to participate are forthcoming.

Virtual Back-to-School Night – Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – Links to participate are forthcoming.

Virtual

• Grade 6 – 5:30-6:30 pm
• Grade 7 – 6:30-7:30 pm
• Grade 8 – 7:30-8:30 pm

Sincerely,

Doug Elmendorf, Ed.D.
Principal