

Dear Woodholme Families in Grades K, 1, and 2:

February 18, 2021

We are very excited to welcome our students back to in-person school in a hybrid model, which includes 2 days a week of in-person learning. Please be aware that **as of March 1**, the first day that Cohort A students in grades K-2 will attend class in the building at Woodholme, we are reverting to our regularly assigned bell schedule. That means that **school begins at 9:15, the late bell is at 9:30, and dismissal will take place from 4:00-4:15**. This change will impact our grade level schedules. Teachers will be communicating those changes to all families.

**Exception:** *Schools will be dismissing 2 hours early March 1-12 for the students who are attending in-person school. Our in-person school dismissal will be 2:00-2:15 on those days.* Students who are in the virtual setting will have a normal school day from 9:30-4:00. Please be sure that you have planned to accommodate this early dismissal. If the early dismissal is problematic with daycare or your work schedule, for example, you may choose to delay your child's return to in-person school until the week of March 15, but please communicate this change to your child's teacher.

Please see below for other important information. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at [jmcdivitt@bcps.org](mailto:jmcdivitt@bcps.org). Thank you!

Stay well,

Juliet McDivitt-Principal

## Family Information Night

- There is so much information to share and along with this communication, we hope that you will join us on **Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 7:00pm** for a family information night. We will meet virtually using **Google Meet** using the following codes:
  - Kindergarten: Google Meet code will be **WoodholmefamilyK**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Google Meet code will be **Woodholmefamily1**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Google Meet code will be **Woodholmefamily2**
- Please use your child's BCPS log-in information to join us!

## Health and Safety

- **Please commit to checking your child for ANY symptoms each morning before school.** Even if only slight sniffles or a low-grade fever are present, we ask that you help protect other children and our staff by allowing your child to stay home that day and join class virtually. A child with mild symptoms who stays home and joins class virtually, even on their assigned in-person days, will be counted as present.
- **The attestation form included in this communication must be completed and returned to school on your child's first day.** We will send new copies near the first of every month this spring which you must also complete and return to school. This form is your promise to monitor your child and keep them home with any symptoms which may indicate illness.

- **Face masks are required for anyone who is on Baltimore County Public Schools grounds.** This will include adults who are in a vehicle for the car rider line, students on busses, and anyone entering our school building. Masks must be cloth or manufactured and must fit against the facial skin, covering both the nose and mouth. We have a supply of masks at school for any student who loses, soils, or otherwise needs a replacement mask during the day.

## Food and Nutrition

- **Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students free from charge through the end of this school year.** Breakfast will be handed to students in a “grab and go” bag as they enter the building and lunch will be set up as a “grab and go” in the cafeteria as well, with hot meal options provided at least one day for each cohort. Here is a link to the menu for March 1-12: [https://businessservices.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_9047649/File/Business%20Services/OFNS/Menus/March%201%20-12%20word%20menu%20\(002\).pdf](https://businessservices.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_9047649/File/Business%20Services/OFNS/Menus/March%201%20-12%20word%20menu%20(002).pdf) Students also have the option to decline school breakfast and/or to bring a packed lunch from home.
- Our water fountains at school have been identified as an area where germ-spread is too risky and have been shut off. **Please provide a water bottle for your child and send it to school filled each day.** A limited supply of water bottles will be on hand at school in the event a child forgets to bring one. Please limit the liquid you send to **water only** so that we do not have anything which could potentially stain or attract bugs/critters in the event of a spill.

## Parent/Guardian Visits to Woodholme

- Visitors are prohibited at Woodholme Elementary, including parents/guardians, unless there is a scheduled appointment or an emergency. We will not allow the dropping-off of a forgotten lunch or school supplies during the day. While we know this is an inconvenience, it is a measure being taken at schools to keep exposure at a minimum. If there needs to be an exception, please reach out to an administrator for approval.
- Late arrivals and early dismissals are discouraged unless it is unavoidable. If a child has an appointment requiring a late arrival or early dismissal, please consider having your child join class virtually for the part of the day he/she can do so. Again, this is to limit your child’s exposure to anyone at school outside of your child’s teachers and classmates, and to have a fully controlled school environment with minimal changes to any student’s schedule.

## Transportation

- Our office staff has attempted to contact all families to learn if students will be using bus transportation or will be a “car rider.” If you have not communicated this information to our office staff, please call 410-887-6700 as soon as possible. Car rider numbers are being verbally assigned and we will give you a dashboard sign the first day during arrival or dismissal.
- We are awaiting bus route information from the Office of Transportation. We are expecting the information by February 22 and will communicate both the stop location and times. All students who ride busses will receive a red or yellow tag with their information on it. Please ensure that the backpack with tag is brought to and from school everyday as we use it to identify children, their bus, the bus stop, and the assigned cohort.

- Questions regarding bus transportation can be sent directly to our assistant principal, Ms. Cheryl Shaw, at [csdaw2@bcps.org](mailto:csdaw2@bcps.org) .

## From Our School Nurse

### Ms. Iris Berman

Welcome back! Here are a few things to think about as we come back to school:

1. Help your child get used to wearing a mask on the bus and at school. Talk with them about distancing at school also.
2. If your child needs medication at school, be sure to get the order from the doctor, put a note stating the medication name and dose, and the number of pills, in a bag with the sealed medication.
3. Send your student with a change of clothing in their backpack-spills and accidents happen.
4. Be sure to comply with, complete, return, and update your attestation forms.
5. Reach out to me for questions or information: [iberman2@bcps.org](mailto:iberman2@bcps.org).
6. Resources at [Baltimore County Public Schools - COVID-19 \(bcps.org\)](https://www.bcps.org/covid-19).

Looking forward to seeing you, Nurse Berman