



Charles County Public Schools

Prior to making a referral, schools have:

- Developed a student support plan.
- Completed an observation by a behavior specialist.
- Completed data collection.
- Conducted and implemented a functional behavior assessment.
- Conducted a behavior intervention plan fidelity assessment.
- Collected behavior data for at least 30 days.

Mission:

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

Contact Fresh Start

Address

7775 Marshall Corner Road
Pomfret, MD 20675

Phone and fax numbers

301-392-5595 (p) 301-392-5538 (f)

Website

<https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/fresh-start-academy>

Email

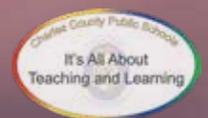
freshstartacademy@ccboe.com

Nondiscrimination statement:

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event. (11-20-2019)

Fresh Start Academy

*Sometimes all a child needs
is a fresh start.*



Staff

Program Coordinator

Melissa Bruce, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA
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Transition Specialist

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Teachers

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Instructional Assistants

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Sylvia Mathis
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Teresa Williams
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Hours of operation

Students

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Staff

Monday-Friday, 8:10 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Program overview

Fresh Start Academy is a structured Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) regular education program for children in kindergarten to fifth grade whose academic success is impacted due to disruptive, destructive or aggressive behaviors. Fresh Start is for children who are still discovering how to adjust to school and aims to give students the tools they need to access the curriculum and successfully return to their home school.

How the program works

Fresh Start Academy provides academic, behavioral and psychological support for students, and is not disciplinary in nature. The program is researched-based and focuses on helping children develop socio-emotional skills, including emotional self-control, emotional awareness of others, problem solving, and sustained and controlled attention.

Socio-emotional learning

Fresh Start Academy is using the Zones of Regulation, a curriculum designed to teach students emotional self-management. Using four color zones, students learn to identify how they are feeling in the moment as well as learn skills to regulate their actions. This helps children increase their self-control and problem solving abilities.

Behavior management

Every student at Fresh Start Academy will have an individual behavior intervention plan. Strategies include a point and level system, behavior charts and contracts, preference and reinforcer assessments, group contingencies, Fresh Start Bucks and a school store, communication between the home school and parents, a support and de-escalation room, and restraint.

How can students participate in the program?

Recommendations for placement at Fresh Start will be initiated by the Student Support Team (SST) at the child's home school only after the team has exhausted all other options. Options include functional behavior assessments and behavior plans; an SST plan; observations conducted by a school psychologist or behavior specialist; a modified classroom environment; and an analysis of data. Enrollment in the Fresh Start Academy is voluntary; parents interested in this option will work with the SST to determine whether or not the program is appropriate for their child.

Parental involvement

Parent involvement is essential if children are going to succeed at Fresh Start Academy. Staff encourages parent participation and will provide support and guidance to parents to use at home to reinforce positive behaviors their children are learning in the program.