



Dr. Higdon Elementary

August Back to School Newsletter

Principal's Corner - A Message From Mrs. Morgan

Dear Parents & Families,

We are working hard to ensure that we are ready to welcome children (K-Grade 5) to a virtual school setting on August 31st. The school day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will run until 3:30 p.m. Each grade level will have a schedule that will include a lunch time, 2 breaks, art, music, library, PE and a Flex Time. The Flex Time will be used for class guidance lessons, individual student supports/interventions, etc.

As we work together to navigate this new normal, communication and flexibility will be essential as changes will occur as we move through the reopening phases that are outlined in the CCPS Fall 2020 Reopening Plan. Below, please find some things that you can be doing right now to make sure that your child is ready for the first day of school:

- Create an "at home" learning environment that is distraction free and can house your child's materials of instruction.
- Purchase school supplies, including headphones (a list is attached).
- Use the **AskCCPS** button on the CCPS website to make a technology request for your child(ren), if needed. Students who were provided with laptops in the spring and summer will continue to use the laptops that were issued. Students in Pre-K-Grade 2 may be issued Ipads instead of a laptop.
- **Review your email address in Synergy and phone numbers to ensure that it is current and accepting mail. Please be sure to update address and phone information as well.**
- Resume a "school" routine with consistent wake up and bedtimes, meal and snack times. Have your child get dressed each morning to ensure that they are ready for the day.
- For our 5th graders - this year, music options will include band, orchestra and general music. If your child has not completed and submitted a form indicating his music preference, please contact the main office.

Teachers will be reaching out to students and families to introduce themselves for the new year via e-mail and/or phone calls. There will be a **Meet the Teacher opportunity on Thursday, August 27th from 3:30-5:30 P.M.** at the school. Each student will receive an instructional materials bag that will be used to support virtual instruction. On this day, families will be able to drive through the Piccowaxen M. S. parking lot and around the access road to Dr. Higdon to pick up bagged materials and wave to their teacher. **(Students and family members will need to remain in their vehicles during the Meet & Greet.)** The materials will be for the first 2 weeks of school with a second materials pick up scheduled for September. Please stay tuned for additional information via Synergy e-mail. If you are unable to pick up your 1st packet of materials on August 27th, parents can come to the school on Friday, August 28th from 10-3:00 P.M. at the main office.

While school buildings reopened to the public in late July, we request that you handle issues by phone, if possible. If you need to come into the building, please call and schedule an appointment (301-753-1766/301-934-4091). Social distancing and facemasks are required for all visitors to Dr. Higdon Elementary.

Important Dates to Know:

August

27th Meet the Teacher and pick up of learning material bags (3:30-5:30 P.M)

31st First Day of School for K -Grade 5 students

September

3rd Schools Closed for Labor Day

8th 1st day of school for Pre-K (Parents will be notified when their child is accepted to Pre-K.)

10th Open House (virtual presentations-times to be announced)

Staff Changes for SY 2020-21

This summer brought some changes to the Dr. Higdon staff. At the end of June, Mrs. St. Clair retired and we welcomed our new Principal Secretary, Mrs. Lisa Parker. Mrs. Earnshaw moved on to a new position as an ESOL teacher and Ms. Taylor transferred to a 5th grade position at Diggs Elementary. Mrs. Hyde (Instructional Resource Teacher) was transferred to Matula Elementary. We wish all of our former staff members the best of luck as they transition into their new roles and they will be greatly missed. We are very excited to welcome several new staff members to Dr. Higdon Elementary:

Mrs. Lisa Parker- Principal's Secretary
Ms. Danielle Nagle- Instructional Resource Teacher
Mrs. Toni Kim- 4th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Lyndee Henrichsen- 5th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Krysta Jones- PPW



Dr. Higdon is on Twitter

Join Dr. Higdon on Twitter @Higdon Huskies. We keep our community informed through our web page, newsletters and on Twitter. Please consider following what is happening at Dr. Higdon on Twitter!



PBIS Program

We know that many children are struggling with the concept of distance learning and not returning to school as normal. Our counselor, Ms. Fretwell and school psychologist, Mr. Paterson are available to work with students and families through a virtual format to offer support. As a school, we will continue to support our PBIS program and school wide rules, we teach will continue to virtually teach character traits. The character traits support the school rules: **Respect, Responsibility & Safety**. Parents and family members can help our students by reinforcing the character traits at home.

Each month we will focus on a different character trait and will work to reinforce each trait with the students through news announcements, classroom guidance lessons, etc.

Move This World

Last school year, students were introduced to Move This World activities through their homeroom classrooms. Move This World provides social emotional learning (SEL) with the use of interactive videos, movement, and creative expression to help students and educators develop emotional intelligence skills for long-term wellbeing. Schools implement Move This World's curriculum seamlessly into their day with short evidence-based videos that introduce a common language and methods for expressing emotion. Move This World's programs lead to deeper self awareness, stronger relationships, effective communication and a culture of safety and support. Dr. Higdon students will begin their day working with their classroom teacher and Move This World activities from 9:00-9:15 a.m. Students will have movement activities that they will do along with strategies to help with managing their emotions and emotional well being. These strategies include positive ways of dealing with stress and getting along with others. Each grade level will have specific activities that are designed to align with developmental levels. Parents may choose to join in on the activities to further learn ways to support their child/children at home during virtual learning.

Free/Reduced Meal Applications

CCPS will be mailing applications to students' homes this year as well as having the forms posted on the CCPS website. We are encouraging parents to submit SY 2020-21 applications online, it is quick, easy, secure and reduces the chance of error. The online application is found on the CCBOE website homepage at the bottom OR at www.myschoolapps.com.
