



August 24, 2018

# The Middleton Minute

## Welcome To A New Year

I trust all of our families had a great summer and are ready to kick off an amazing school year! I am very excited to start a new school year as your principal and I look forward to opportunities to meet all of our students and parents. I appreciate all the students and parents who came out for "Hot Dogs with Harrington", it was great to meet many of you and it was a fun evening!

This summer has been very busy with two major construction projects in the building and two more approved for next summer. The center of our school, which includes 5th grade and the media center now have walls. This has been an incredible transformation. We will be moving the main computer lab into the school by the end of October. Evening work will be continuing in our front office to

improve the secure entrance to our school through the fall season. The kitchen has been renovated and will be fully operational by the second week of school where we will be able to accommodate two serving lines at that time.

This year some notable changes include the parent volunteer background check/screening process, updated phrases used to practice safety drills, and the establishment of a AMES School Safety Committee. These updates are all directly in line with our number one priority which is maintaining a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Throughout the year you will receive communication from me through the contact information you provide on your child's emergency card(s). Communication

from the school you can expect will include Tuesday folders with graded student work and communication from the teacher, an electronic bi-weekly newsletter from me, e-mail correspondence through school messenger, automated phone calls, and text messages through our notification system. Please be sure to reference our school website for important updates and additional information.

I am looking forward to partnering with each student, parent, and family this year and ensure you that my door is always open. Thank you so much for your support in educating your incredible children.

-Ben Harrington, Principal

Follow me on Twitter @AMES\_Principal

## Volunteer Screening Process-Required to Attend Field Trips

The new volunteer application and screening process is designed to keep students safe. Please plan ahead if you intend to participate in field trips this year to ensure you are permitted, by the school district, to attend. The link below can be used to access the online application. <http://www.ccboc.com/index.php/volunteers>. Please note that this process is completed by the Safety and Security Office. All parents,

even parents who are CCPS employees, government employees with security clearances, police officers, or those who were approved volunteers previous years are required to complete this process. We value your willingness to volunteer and are very grateful for your patience with this process. The school will be notified when you are an approved volunteer and you will be issued a volunteer card at that time.

Only persons who plan to volunteer need to complete the application process which takes less than 5 minutes. No "on the spot" applications will be able to be honored at the school level. Please contact CCPS Safety and Security at 301-392-5551 with questions or concerns.

**Volunteer=Person who may be supervising students on field trips with or without an AMES staff member present. MUST BE AN APPROVED CCPS VOLUNTEER.**

**Visitor=Person visiting or assisting and/or helping with a school-based event in direct supervision of a staff member. Also a person who visits their child for lunch or an event.**

### Highlights In This Minute:

◇ New Volunteer Process

### Important Dates:

- > 8/29-Meet and Greet 2-4PM
- > 9/4-First day for K-5
- > 9/11-First day for Pre-k
- > 9/11-CCPS Board Meeting
- > 9/14-Schools closed for students (Fair Day)
- > 9/20-Open House 6-7:30PM
- > 9/26-Two Hour Early Dismissal (AM PK attends)

### Daily Lunch Times

Kindergarten	11:00
1st Grade	11:30
2nd Grade	12:30
3rd Grade	1:00
4th Grade	12:00
5th Grade	1:30

# Instruction

The Middleton Minute

*What's Best, What's Right,*

ALL IN

Beginning on the first day of school students will be setting their success criteria, classroom expectations, and settling into their routines. As a school, all staff will work to develop "I Can.." statements that reflect the criteria that leads to success in the classroom. These agreed upon statements will be sent home by the end of the first week for parents to reference. These "I Can..." statements developed regarding classroom expectations will be linked to our three core values through PBIS of students being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe and will include specific details pertinent to the classroom.

Reading-Kindergarten through Second grade have a unique opportunity to utilize a program called Pearson ReadyGEN as their reading and writing curriculum this year (<https://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZeUe&PMDbProgramId=141261>). Third through Fifth grades will continue to use the county curriculum for instruction with an emphasis on student engagement, higher level questioning, and meaningful discussions. Reading is a designated 2 hour time period each day where students participate in small and full group lessons to develop as readers.

Math-A firm mastery of math concepts are very important and this year we will have an increased emphasis on developing students as problem-solvers as opposed to the traditional memorization of facts. While learning facts is still useful, our focus for all grades is to learn to organize, combine, and solve problems which will assist in laying the groundwork for higher level mathematics in middle and high school. Technology will be used in the math class where students will be able to access dreambox daily which is designed to provide another mode of practice for students. Both full group and small group math support will take place daily to ensure teachers are reaching learners where they are instructionally. The use of dreambox at home is encouraged for all students.

Should you have any questions regarding the Arthur Middleton Elementary Reading or Math programs please feel free to contact Mr. Harrington, Mr. Buzby or our instructional leadership team who will be happy to answer your questions. Our amazing instructional team consists of Mrs. Neely Ellis ([nellis@ccboe.com](mailto:nellis@ccboe.com)) for reading, and Mrs. Michelle Mohler ([mdaggett@ccboe.com/mmohler@ccboe.com](mailto:mdaggett@ccboe.com/mmohler@ccboe.com)) for math.

## First Week Procedures-Reminders

Please verify the mode of transportation your child(ren) will be using each day and complete the Transportation Verification form that will be sent home the first day of school. If your child is walking please note that students in kindergarten through 2nd grade must be signed out by a parent or guardian each day. Arthur Middleton staff are required to check all IDs every single day, please support us in being examples of security and safety and kindly present your ID to staff each day.

Please be sure to complete the free and reduced meals applica-

tion, if applicable, so you can take advantage of the program at: [www.myschoolapps.com/Application](http://www.myschoolapps.com/Application). The monthly lunch menu can be found at: <https://ccboe.nutrislice.com/menu/arthur-middleton>.

Only the custodial parent or legal guardian may sign their student out each day. Any person sent to pick up a student who is not the custodial parent or legal guardian WILL BE required to have a signed note from the custodial parent or legal guardian that may be screened for authenticity by the office staff and/or admin-

istration. When in question the custodial parent or legal guardian will receive a phone call from the school to ensure they provided permission. Phone call permission will not be granted and a signed letter from the custodial parent or legal guardian is required. While the school keeps student emergency cards on file, these emergency contacts are only utilized when the situation is deemed an emergency by a school administrator.



### Arrival/Dismissal Times

#### Arrival: 9:00-9:15 AM

- After 9:15 students must be signed in at the main office

#### Dismissal: 3:40 PM

- After 3:20 students will not be dismissed early through the office due to end of day procedures occurring in the classroom.

Early Dismissal Days: 1:40 PM

2 Hour Delay Day: 11:00-11:15 AM