

MILTON M. SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

300 Willow Lane, La Plata, MD 20646

301.934.4663 | 301.753.1787

Fax: 301.934.2982

<http://www.ccboe.com/beta/somers/>



Mr. Marlon Walker
6th Grade Vice Principal

Ms. Cynthia Panizzi
7th Grade Vice Principal

Mrs. Wualanda Thenstead
8th Grade Vice Principal

Dr. Sonia Matthew
Administrative Assistant

MRS. SANDRA TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL

August 11, 2020

Dear Seahawk Families,

I truly hope you are enjoying your summer vacation. I cannot believe we are just a few weeks away from the start of another school year. Although we are starting the school year virtually which is very different than what we are accustomed to, we are excited about another year of teaching and learning opportunities.

Our Seahawk family welcomes several new teachers and other staff members who you will meet over the course of the year. Our administrative team has experienced some changes however, that I would like to share with you here. Please join me in welcoming two new vice-principals to the Seahawk family, Mr. Marlon Walker and Mrs. Wualanda Thenstead.

Mr. Walker, who brings 10 years of administrative experience with Charles County, will be our sixth-grade vice-principal. He has served as a vice-principal at the middle school level previously however he comes to us most recently from La Plata High School where he served as a vice-principal for three years.

Mrs. Thenstead is also a seasoned vice-principal bringing seven years of administrative experience from the high school level as well. Her most recent tenure being a four year stretch at St. Charles High School. Mrs. Thenstead will oversee 8th grade. Ms. Panizzi will transition with her students and serve as the 7th grade vice-principal, and Dr. Matthew will continue in her role as our Administrative Assistant. To ensure that parental questions and concerns are addressed promptly, please be sure to contact the appropriate grade-level vice-principal.

CCPS Reopening Plan

On Friday, August 7th, Dr. Kimberly Hill released the **CCPS Reopening Plan** that outlines how the school system will resume instructional activities this fall. Click the link below to access the reopening plan.

<https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/reopening-plan-fall-2020>

The plan includes five phases to the road to reopening CCPS schools for all students. Our staff has begun preparations for phase one, which provides virtual instruction for all students, as well as phase two, which provides face-to-face instruction for special population students and virtual instruction for the rest of our student population.

PHASE ONE: MSMS Virtual Learning at a Glance

Milton Somers <i>PHASE 1</i> Bell Schedule			
A - Day (Monday/Thursday)		B - Day (Tuesday/Friday)	
7:30 - 8:30	Block 1 - (Period 1)	7:30 - 8:30	Block 1 - (Period 2)
8:30 - 9:00	Block 1 Flex	8:30 - 9:00	Block 1 Flex
9:00 - 10:00	Block 2 - (Period 3)	9:00 - 10:00	Block 2 - (Period 4)
10:00 - 10:30	Block 2 Flex	10:00 - 10:30	Block 2 Flex
10:30 - 11:30	Block 3 - (Period 5)	10:30 - 11:30	Block 3 - (Period 6)
11:30 - 12:00	Block 3 Flex	11:30 - 12:00	Block 3 Flex
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch & Exercise	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch & Exercise
1:00 - 2:00	Block 4 - (Period 7)	1:00 - 2:00	Block 4 - (Period 8)



Charles County Public Schools
It's all about teaching and learning.

MILTON M. SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

300 Willow Lane, La Plata, MD 20646

301.934.4663 | 301.753.1787

Fax: 301.934.2982

<http://www.ccboe.com/beta/somers/>



Mr. Marlon Walker
6th Grade Vice Principal

Ms. Cynthia Panizzi
7th Grade Vice Principal

Mrs. Wualanda Thenstead
8th Grade Vice Principal

Dr. Sonia Matthew
Administrative Assistant

MRS. SANDRA TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL

Key Components of the Virtual Learning Phase One Bell Schedule:

- Virtual Learning four (4) days a week from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm
- NO online instruction on Wednesdays
- The instructional day will include 4 hours of online instruction
 - Three - 30-minute “flex time” breaks in between for offline instructional support
 - One - hour-long break for lunch/exercise
- Math and Language Arts will meet four (4) days a week
- Science, Social Studies, and Related Arts will meet twice a week
(A day/B day rotation) Odd Periods meet on A days and Even Periods meet on B Days
- Teachers will provide both live and prerecorded instruction to meet the needs of all students
- Students will log into live lessons and access learning resources using Synergy and Microsoft Teams

TECHNOLOGY

During this past spring, Milton Somers distributed over 150 laptops to students. Charles County Public Schools has now purchased new laptops for all students for the upcoming school year. We will begin collecting previously distributed laptops once our new laptops arrive to the building. An email and voicemail message will be sent to all parents and students indicating specific days and times when laptop collection/distribution will occur.

If your child was not issued a laptop in the spring, but is now in need of one to start the school year, please go to www.ccboe.com and click on “AskCCPS”. From here, select the blue tab “Open a New Ticket” and request a laptop.

VIRTUAL LEARNING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We have received several phone calls regarding school supplies. Since the platform for learning has changed to virtual, we are recommending the following items for online learning. If additional school supplies are needed as we move into the different phases of the CCPS Reopening Plan, I will be sure to give parents advanced notice through email and voice messages.

- Comfortable work space
- Earphones, earbuds, or ear pods
- External computer speakers (if your computer or laptop is not already equipped with audio capabilities)
- Pencils
- Loose leaf paper
- 3-ring binder or spiral notebook with at least four sections to organize notes for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies

New Student Virtual Orientation

In preparation for the coming school year, we are creating a “**virtual**” **New Student Orientation** where students will have an opportunity to hear a message from VIPs, get a tour of the school, review a sample schedule, and hear some key points about starting school in a virtual setting. The New Student Virtual Orientation will be posted on our website the week of August 24, 2020.



Charles County Public Schools
It's all about teaching and learning.

MILTON M. SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

300 Willow Lane, La Plata, MD 20646

301.934.4663 | 301.753.1787

Fax: 301.934.2982

<http://www.ccboe.com/beta/somers/>



Mr. Marlon Walker
6th Grade Vice Principal

Ms. Cynthia Panizzi
7th Grade Vice Principal

Mrs. Wualanda Thenstead
8th Grade Vice Principal

Dr. Sonia Matthew
Administrative Assistant

MRS. SANDRA TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL

Proofs of Domicile & Immunizations

August 31st is the first day of school! School hours for students are from **7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Although distance learning is taking place for the first quarter, incoming sixth graders are required to submit two current proofs of domicile. Your child's sixth grade schedule will not be confirmed until proofs have been received. To my 7th grade parents, please know that your child is still required to submit his/her updated immunization record prior to the first day of school. If you are unsure if we have received your proofs or updated shot record, please contact Pam Jenkins, PPW, at pkjenkins@ccboe.com.

Please contact the school at 301-934-4663 if you have any further questions. Continue to have a wonderful summer and we look forward to the start of an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

Sandra Taylor
Principal



Charles County Public Schools
It's all about teaching and learning.