



BEL AIR ELEMENTARY – BACK TO SCHOOL 2022–2023

# BULLDOG BULLETIN

August 2022 – SUMMER EDITION!

Happy summer! It is with great excitement that I write this 2022 *Summer Edition* of our Bulldog Bulletin as we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year together. This *Summer Edition* of the Bulldog Bulletin includes news from school regarding staff updates, important upcoming dates to mark your calendar, and where to look if you need additional information. Parents are encouraged to visit the [HCPS Back to School Information](https://hcps.org) page on [hcps.org](https://hcps.org) to complete the required forms for this school year [online](https://hcps.org). Don't forget to access the [HCPS 22-23 Calendar and HCPS Parent Handbook](https://hcps.org) available on the HCPS.org website for your reference. Now it's time to get ready to ***Set Sail & Shine On*** this school year!

With Bulldog Pride,  
Ms. Heather Skopak, Principal

## Some farewells! Congratulations to the following Bulldogs who are moving on...

- Mrs. Stephanie Platt moved to Korea with her family to be a teacher abroad.
- Mr. Zach Smith moved home to Pittsburg to be closer to his family.
- Mrs. Kim Chell retired after 36 years of teaching in HCPS.
- Mrs. Nichole Eveland will be teaching at Ring Factory Elementary where she will open a new Strive Program.
- Mrs. Sharra Lear will now serve EL students at the middle school level.
- Ms. Brittany Pritchett accepted a promotion to Human Resources as an HR Staffing Specialist for HCPS.
- Mrs. Laura Wheeler moved to the Eastern Shore with her family after her maternity leave.

## Welcome to BAES! A warm welcome to our newest Bulldogs joining us in the fall...

- Mrs. Barbara Shoemaker is not new to BAES, but she will now be with us fulltime as our Media Specialist.
- Ms. Kaylie Mikkonen will be joining Mrs. Shoemaker as an additional Media Specialist 1-day a week at BAES.
- Ms. Lucy Roderick is our new Band & Orchestra teacher who previously taught at FGES.
- Mrs. Pam Gostomski is not new to BAES, but she is returning home to BAES as our fulltime PE teacher.
- Mrs. Sarah O'Donnell is our new FULLTIME English Language teacher joining us from BCPS.
- Ms. Corinne Almeida is our new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher joining us from New Jersey where she taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Mrs. Barbara Meserve is our new paraeducator joining us from PMHS where she worked for 15+ years as para.
- BAES will again host substitutes allocated to support our school 3-days a week. Please welcome back Shannon Sepulveda, Kim Plant, Sara Sappington, Mandy Ward, and Ally Owens.

## Current teachers excited for a new opportunity at BAES...

- Mrs. Amber Bailey has joined the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team as a homeroom teacher.
- Mrs. Holly Robinson is our long-term substitute in Kindergarten for Mrs. Backert during her maternity leave through October.
- Mrs. Krabitz has joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team to support smaller class sizes for reading & math.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! IMPORTANT DATES AT BAES:

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2022:

- **HOMEROOM TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:** Parents/guardians of students in grade K-5 can log onto Home Access Center (HAC) on **August 26<sup>th</sup> after 5pm** to view teacher homeroom assignments.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022: (2 events!)

- **SNEAK-A-PEEK OPEN HOUSE 4:30-6:00pm:** We will open our schoolhouse doors to welcome families to sneak-a-peek at your classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to practice walking down to his/her new classroom. Students can also bring their school supplies or will receive their Pre-Ordered School Supply Box from the PTA on their desk. If you ordered a 22-22 yearbook, it will be available for pick up at the PTA table. Also, a food truck and Kona Ice will be available for purchase!
- **PTA KINDERGARTEN PLAYDATE 4:30-6:30pm:** Join your fellow incoming kindergarten families on the BAES playground to meet up and get to know one another. Meet our PTA and grab a Kona Ice or snack from a food truck and meet classmates and their families before the school year begins. **PLEASE NOTE: Sneak-a-Peek ends at 6pm, therefore, you should plan to visit your classroom first before heading outside to the playground.**

***Believe • Achieve • Empower • Succeed***

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022:** Schools/offices closed for Labor Day.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022:**

- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** at 9:00 am for **grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**: Doors open at 9:00am and students must arrive by 9:20am. Our staff supports student entry & dismissal to ensure a smooth takeoff and landing! Students are dismissed at 4:00pm- if your child is a walker, please plan to arrive to their assigned back dismissal door by 3:50pm the first week or so of school. We recommend having your child travel to school as he/she will normally (bus, walk, car) the first day so that we can make sure we have accurate information about transportation/dismissal. If your child will be dismissing other than their designated walker/bus assignment, please send in a note to the main office explaining their dismissal routine. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school!

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022:**

- **KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRANCE:** KDG parents will receive an assigned 1-hour time slot to attend school with their child on this day. Parents/guardians learn about the curriculum and classroom expectations for the school year in a small group format (*This is in place of Back to School Night for KDG*). Information regarding your assigned time will be communicated via email.
- First full day of school for **Kindergarten is Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022:**

- **Pre-KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRANCE:** Pre-K parents will receive an assigned 1-hour time slot to attend school with their child on this day. Information regarding your assigned time will be communicated by your teacher.
- First full day of school for **Pre-K students is Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022:**

- **Grades 1-5 BAES BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT 6:00pm:** We will host two sessions of Back-to-School night for parents of students in **1-5<sup>th</sup> grades**. (*Kindergarten families receive this information at their scheduled Gradual Entrance, however, are invited to attend just the vendor fair on this evening anytime from 6-7:30pm, if interested.*) During the Back to School Night, parents/guardians in grades 1-5 hear about the curriculum and classroom expectations for the school year. The first session will begin at 6:30pm, however a community vendor fair will be available for families beginning at 6pm in the Bulldog Café. Please review the included schedule for this event:

Back To School Night Schedule:	
6:00-6:20pm	Vendor Fair in the Bulldog Café
6:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades Back to School Night
	• Parents/Guardians in child's classroom
	• Video welcome from Ms. Skopak, Principal & Mrs. Culver, Asst. Principal
6:40pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Back to School Night Session
7:10pm	End of first session
	• For parents with multiple students at Bel Air Elementary, they can transition to the next classroom
	• For parents with one child at Bel Air Elementary, they can end their evening at this time and stop by the Vendor Fair in the Cafeteria/Gym on the way out.
7:15pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> session
7:45pm	End of Back to School Night

**INFORMATION TO KNOW: READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

☆ **How do I find my child's ID number?**

1. Ask your child! This is also their lunch pin number which most students have memorized!
2. Did you register your child online? Did you complete the previous year's online forms? Log into your account... [HCPS ONLINE FORMS LINK](#)
3. Create an Online Forms account and you will be able to view your child's ID # along with siblings [HCPS ONLINE FORMS LINK](#)

☆ **School Hours:** Doors open for students at 9:00am and students must arrive by 9:20am. Students are dismissed at 4:00pm. Students dismiss as bus riders or walkers. Walker dismissal is located at the rear of the building near the playground. Your assigned walker dismissal door is shared below under **Dismissal Doors:**

☆☆ **NEW** \* this year! **WEDNESDAY FOLDER:** We will provide every student with a bright yellow folder designated as the “Wednesday Folder”. This folder will come home each Wednesday throughout the school year and will contain important papers, flyers from the main office and/or from teachers which is an important communication or might require a signature. This concept simplifies the busy life of families knowing that every Wednesday you need to check the **Wednesday Folder** and that is when such papers/forms will be sent home for parent review. (Our red take home folders will still be in place for any daily classroom homework).

☆ **Bulldog Café:** Students can choose to purchase lunch & breakfast daily or they may choose to pack their lunch. If purchasing lunch or breakfast, parents can load lunch/snack money onto **MySchoolBucks**. Snacks and ala carte items are available for purchase.

- **The FREE lunch program for all from the 21-22 school year HAS ENDED.** Free or Reduced lunch is available to those students who **complete the application online and qualify** for free/reduced lunch. Parents/guardians are encouraged to apply online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) to ensure benefits are processed quickly. Benefits are only valid after Food and Nutrition receives and processes a completed application. The families that apply and are approved for meal benefits will automatically receive the device protection plan this year which covers a damaged device or charger.
- **Meal Benefit Resources:**  
[LINK: Meal Benefit Application, 2022-2023 School Year](#)  
[LINK: Meal Application QR Code](#)  
[Link: Meal Application QR Code SPANISH](#)

☆ **LINK: My School Bucks:** Funds can be added to your child’s account by debit or credit card to purchase snacks and ala carte items.

☆ **LINK: Parent Connect Portal:** This tool allows you to manage communication from HCPS & BAES. It is very helpful to choose to receive phone calls, texts, and emails. A weekly BAES Monday *Bulldog Happenings* call and email communicates important upcoming news and information. Please be sure you are signed up to receive calls and emails to receive these.

☆ **LINK: Home Access Center (HAC):** This account is created to view emergency contacts on file, access report cards for K-5<sup>th</sup> grades, and you may view test/assignment grades for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. *Homeroom Teacher Assignments* will be available for viewing on August 26<sup>th</sup> after 5 p.m. through HAC for all grades K-5.

☆ **Is your child riding the bus?** Bus stop information can be located on the **LINK: school/bus locator** on the home page of [hcps.org](http://hcps.org). Enter your address and it will locate your bus number, bus stop, and approximate times for pick up/drop off. (Bus stops are currently being updated; you may need to check back again as the routes become available.)

☆ **Do you have a dismissal change for your child?** If your child will dismiss differently from their HCPS assigned walker/bus rider designation, such as YMCA after school care, commercial daycare or will not be riding the bus, please be sure to send in a note to your child’s teacher **the first day of school** so it can be sent to the main office to plan accordingly.

☆ **22-23 School Supply Lists:** Our BAES school supply lists are posted on Instagram and can be located on the **LINK: BAES website**.

**2022-2023 Early Dismissal Days**  
**1:00 pm dismissal schedule / NO PreK:**

Friday, September 23  
Thursday, October 20  
Friday, November 4  
Friday, November 11 (school/office early dismissal)  
Wednesday, November 23 (school/office early dismissal)  
Friday, December 9  
Friday, December 23 (school/office early dismissal)  
Friday, January 27  
Thursday, February 16  
Friday, March 10  
Friday, April 28  
Friday, May 26

## ARRIVAL PROCEDURES & WALKER DISMISSAL DOORS: HOW DO I DROP OFF AND PICK UP MY CHILD?

### BAES ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Buses drop off in the main bus loop.
- Cars are NOT allowed into the school parking lot or bus loop after 9:00 a.m.
- Car drop off is in the smaller loop with staff assistance. *Kiss & Go* - Parents **REMAIN IN CAR** and staff will assist students.
- Adults walking with students may walk their child up to the front sidewalk.
- Parent/guardians remain outside as the students enter the building.
- Kindergarten teachers are out front of the building to meet kindergarten students during the first days of school.
- Staff will be stationed inside and outside of the building to assist students in finding their classrooms.

### BAES DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

*If your child will be dismissed differently from their HCPS assignment (Walker or HCPS assigned Bus Number), you must send in a note to your child's teacher on the first day of school so they will be dismissed accordingly.*

- Bus riders will be dismissed at 4 P.M. and assisted to their buses by staff members.
- Parents picking up students at school should arrive a few minutes early to allow time to legally park and be at your child's assigned pick-up location. (See below)
- Please be sure to have a back-up plan for picking up your child or meeting them at the bus stop.
- Any change to a student's daily dismissal procedure should be communicated using the dismissal change notepad to the teacher/office. Dismissal changes will not be made after 3:30 p.m. unless there is an emergency.

#### WALKER DISMISSAL LOCATIONS:

*All exterior doors have large numbers to identify each door.* Parent/Guardian or designated adult will meet walker students at the following locations:

DISMISSAL DOORS	
Kindergarten – Classroom Doors *Nibbana: Door #28 *Whitescarver: Door #30 *Daniloski: Door #31 *Backert: Door #33	1 <sup>st</sup> grade – Out back next to the playground; Door # 23/24
	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade – Out back next to the playground; Door # 21/22
	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade – Out back next to the playground; Door # 21/22
	4 <sup>th</sup> grade – Out back next to the playground; Door # 23/24
	5 <sup>th</sup> grade – Out back next to the playground; Door # 19/20

## BAES 2022-23 PARENT HANDBOOK WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS AT BAES?

As we recover from a pandemic and resume traditional schoolwide expectations and protocols, you will have access to our new school handbook as a resource for information, such as medication policy, attendance protocols, volunteers, celebrations, special programs, and behavioral expectations at BAES. The Handbook will be shared with parents in an early *Bulldog Happenings Monday Call/Email*!

## STAY CONNECTED! WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

1. BAES BULLDOG INSTAGRAM: [HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/BULLDOGBAES/](https://www.instagram.com/BULLDOGBAES/)
2. BAES WEBSITE: [HTTP://BAES-HARFORD.SS18.SHARPSCHOOL.COM/](http://baes-harford.ss18.sharpschool.com/)
3. BAES COMMUNITY RESOURCES: [HTTPS://WWW.SMORES.COM/1W5VU](https://www.smores.com/1W5VU)
4. BAES PTA WEBSITE: [HTTPS://HOME.BAESPTA.ORG/](https://home.baespta.org/)
5. BAES PTA FACEBOOK PAGE: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/86549153980/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/86549153980/)
6. HCPS WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.HCPS.ORG/](https://www.hcps.org/)



Find us, Like us, Stay Informed!

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