Bear Creek Elementary School

Handbook
2019-2020

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Baltimore, MD  21222

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http://BearCreekES.bcps.org  BearCreekES  @BearCreekES
Welcome to Bear Creek Elementary School.
We are a Pre-K to grade 5 elementary school in Baltimore County, Maryland.

This handbook was designed to help families become better acquainted with Bear Creek Elementary School by making you aware of programs, and special opportunities. Please note carefully the bold print as these are rules and school procedures that parents must be aware.

Table of Contents

Faculty and Staff .................................................................1
PTA ..................................................................................2
Mission, Pledge, Conduct ....................................................3
Dismissal Changes ...............................................................5
Car Riders, Bus Riders, Bus Loop ........................................6
Walkers and Other Modes....................................................7
Emergency Contacts, Attendance Policy, Visitors .................8
Conferences, Smoking Policy ..............................................9
Pets, Breakfast/Lunch, Gum Chewing .................................10
Instructional Materials, Dress Code ..................................11
Birthdays, Toys, Cell Phones, Health Suite ..........................12
Special Area News ............................................................13
Pride and Honor Roll ........................................................14
Right to Know ....................................................................15
Our School Family

Administration
R. Matthew Corner, Principal
Kathy Kelbaugh, Assistant Principal

Front Office
Ruth Miloro, Administrative Secretary
Kim Hirsch, Front Office Secretary

PK
Jen Maddox

Kindergarten
Sherri Ford
Nancy Kreitz
Kimberly Rahnis

First Grade
Emma Cabrera
Karissa Collins
Kristina Seeley (Rizza)

Second Grade
Amanda Ballard
Jackie Price
Rebecca Sommerville

Third Grade
Sheena Brulinski
Lauren Hoffman (Duckett)
Morgan Weinstein

Fourth Grade
Colleen Goldenberg
Katie Ruskey
Tammy Yost

Fifth Grade
Christopher Celmer
Megan Lyons (Polatty)
Christine Rider

PK
Caroline Abrams
Emily Mueller
Nicole Peterson
Denise Winkler

CLS
Joseph Gibison

Library
Jaime Hedrick

Music
Laura Allison
Andrew Mueller

Physical Education
Mary Barranco

Spanish
Luz Ampudia-Kordell

ESOL
M. Caroline Clark

Reading Specialist
Kim Campbell

Math Coach
Rebecca Pollock

STAT Coach
Wendy Grieco

Art

Special Educators
Angela Ford
Cindy Laue
Hillary Miklewski

Speech & Language
Elizabeth Wasmer
Deanna Wesley

Library
Jaime Hedrick

Social-Emotional Support
Sarah Walter
Dana Pollara

Music
Laura Allison
Andrew Mueller

School Counselor
Caitlin McGing

Music
Laura Allison
Andrew Mueller

School Nurse
Joyce Maslyk

Physical Education
Mary Barranco

School Psychologist
Deborah Pavey-Scherer

Spanish
Luz Ampudia-Kordell

Pupil Personnel Worker
Mary Jo Slowey

ESOL
M. Caroline Clark

Resource Teacher
Lauren Smith

Building Service Team
Jim Valentine, Chief
Karen Hall
Doris McDougald
Pam Strickland

Paraeducators
Nikki Berry
Kimberly Cornish
Diane Gardner
Lois Hughes
Dawn Matthews

Additional Adult Supports
Julie Baldwin
Tracy Brown
Liz Burkhard
Jennifer Dennis
Tiffany Dushel
Theresa Henry
Jessica Holewinski
Tabbatha Little
Tabitha Moser
Kathleen Pfoff
Frank Riggio-Preston
Christine Seidel
Linda Zeigler
BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Officers:
President ...................................................... Mrs. Melissa Smith-Moser
Vice President ............................................... Mrs. Tanya Masters
Treasurer ....................................................... Ms. Chonte Johnson
Secretary ...................................................... Ms. Sarah Gunzelman

PTA Meetings are held on Monday evenings each month during the school year. Consult the school bulletins for exact dates.

PTA email: ptabearcreek@bcps.org
PTA Facebook: @Bear Creek Elem PTA
**MISSION/VISION**

*Engaging Students Today, Developing Leaders for Tomorrow*

We believe it is our imperative to create a caring, competent, quality student centered learning environment for every learner, every day. We commit to critically evaluate the results of our work through Equity, Commitment, and Focus, in order to build our capacity to grow globally competitive students and future leaders.

**OUR PLEDGE/PROMISE**

We pledge to provide our students and their families:

- A safe and orderly school environment where all are treated with respect
- An environment that provides ongoing communication
- A shared responsibility for students’ success by the entire Bear Creek faculty, staff and PTA
- A high quality instructional program that addresses students’ strengths and needs
- The resources that each child needs to achieve academic success and develop personal growth.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

*At Bear Creek...*

- We are **Respectful** to everyone.
- We are **Ready** for our choices.
- We are **Ready** to learn.

**PBS MATRIX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>CLASSROOM</th>
<th>CAFETERIA</th>
<th>HALL</th>
<th>PLAYGROUND</th>
<th>BATHROOM</th>
<th>BUS &amp; BUS STOPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respectful</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
<td>Move quietly and safely through the hall</td>
<td>Use kind, polite words</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care about others' feelings</td>
<td>Raise my hand to speak</td>
<td>Use an inside voice</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
<td>Treat others like I want to be treated</td>
<td>Stay in my space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use kind, polite words to everyone</td>
<td>Stay in own space</td>
<td>Stay in my space in line</td>
<td>Stay in my own space</td>
<td>Share equipment</td>
<td>Give others privacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Include others</td>
<td>Welcome new friends</td>
<td>at the table</td>
<td>Keep the hallways neat and clean</td>
<td>Include others</td>
<td>Use a quiet voice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome new friends</td>
<td>Listen to others' ideas</td>
<td>Listen to others</td>
<td>Listen to others' ideas</td>
<td>Listen to others</td>
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<td>Listen</td>
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<td>and me</td>
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**August, 2019**
HOME AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Our goal is to provide a sound educational program for boys and girls to meet their needs and to expand their talents. We hope that your child(ren) and you will have many rich and rewarding experiences at Bear Creek. There will be opportunities for you to learn about your child's work, to attend programs, and to observe in the classroom.

*Conferences*
We feel that it is very important to have an open line of communication between home and school. At times, teachers may request parent conferences. We sincerely hope that parents will also request conferences when needed. It will be necessary for you to call for an appointment if you wish to have a conference scheduled. Teachers will not be able to conference during arrival and dismissal; please do not enter the classroom during these times. It is important for the teacher to supervise the children.

IMPORTANT TIMES TO KNOW

School Day
The time of our school day is as follows:
- 8:45 Students may enter the building and breakfast is served
- 9:00 School day begins
- 11:30 End of day for AM Prekindergarten
- 12:55 Afternoon Prekindergarten begins
- 3:30 Dismissal

Your cooperation and consideration will be greatly appreciated and will help us to maintain the safe arrival and dismissal of our students.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival
Our entrance bell rings at 8:45 a.m. Students should not arrive before 8:45 a.m. because supervision is not provided until the bell rings. PreK and Kindergarten students should enter and exit the building by their classroom doors. Grades 1-5 and CALS will enter through the front lobby doors.

Dismissal
Older students walking younger brothers and sisters or other young children to and from school should make arrangements to meet them outside or by designation on our dismissal plan. PreK – grade 3 students will exit through their classroom door. Fourth and fifth graders will exit through the front lobby or the music wing. Parents picking up at multiple classrooms may request for students to meet at sibling pick up in our cafeteria. Sibling pick up is only available if you have more than one child enrolled at Bear Creek.

PICK UP – Parents and siblings must remain outside of the school while waiting for dismissal in order to keep our halls and building safe and secure for students.
Arrival/Dismissal Safety

- All students in PreK and Kindergarten students, except bus riders, will enter and exit the building through their classroom doors. All grades 1-3 students will enter through the front door and exit through the classroom door. Grades 4 & 5 will enter through the lobby doors and exit through the front lobby or the music wing.
- Everyone who has other business in the school may not enter through the classroom door. Everyone must enter through the front door to report directly to the office.
- Students will put their own things in their lockers each morning to teach independence and responsibility. Parents will not escort student to classrooms, except on the first day.
- Parents or other non school-age escorts who are designated to pick up students should meet them at the classroom door or other designated meeting spots. Due to bus dismissal, the school lobby may not be used as a meeting place.
- All non school siblings, family, etc. must wait outside during dismissal.
- Only students who need to meet with siblings for dismissal will be dismissed through the cafeteria. All other students Pre-K through grade three must dismiss through classroom doors or grade four and five through the front door.

CHANGES TO DISMISSAL

Emergency School Closings (Countywide)
Depending on the weather, schools may be closed all day, may be delayed in opening, or may be dismissed early. When this occurs, announcements will be made over the local radio and television stations. Please listen for this announcement and do not call the school. Not only will telephone calls seriously handicap efficient handling of the announcements, but the calls tie up our lines so that we can not get messages through concerning our buses. Parents have the responsibility to develop with their children the procedures that they must follow when schools have an emergency closing.

An emergency closing plan for your child must be completed each year on the Annual Student Information Review in the summer bulletin and returned to the school. Remember to discuss your emergency plan with your child and review the information periodically during the school year. Again the local radio and television stations would be informed and would make the announcements. Our Department of Transportation would be informed and would make arrangements for our buses to come early to do their runs. In addition to the media announcement we would place an automated phone call through our School Messenger system. In the event of Bear Creek Elementary being closed apart from the rest of the system, we will not dismiss children unless we have spoken directly to you or your designee. Therefore, it is imperative that your student’s contact information form contains accurate information.

Early Closing (offsite)
In rare case, there could be a time when not only would Bear Creek Elementary need to close early, but it would also be necessary for us to move off-site. That information would also be announced via the media. At this time, our off-site location is Patapsco High School.

As with the situations described above, we would be using the information from the student contact form to contact you. Remember, anytime Bear Creek Elementary School would close separate from the rest of the system, we would not send students home on the bus without contacting you or your designee first and speaking directly to a person, not an answering machine. That is why it is so important for us to have accurate information. Periodically throughout the year we will ask for you to inform us if your information has changed.
CAR RIDERS

Parking Lot and Driveway
The drive in front of the building is a fire lane on the right and left-hand side. No parking or standing is permitted there. This roadway must be kept open at all times to allow emergency vehicles to enter and to allow school buses to pass through.

Our school parking lot can become very congested at arrival and dismissal times. In the interest of the safety of our children we request that you follow the following rules:

➢ Traffic must flow in one direction only, making a right after entering the lot and continuing around the lot.
➢ Students who are being dropped off or picked up must get in or out of their cars at the curb closest to the school. No parking will be allowed along that curb. It will be for drop off and pick up only. If you intend to walk your child to the classroom door, you must pull into a parking space or park on the street. When cars remain along the curb, others must pull around them and a dangerous situation is created.
➢ Parents who park in the spaces on the lot must walk students to or from the closest curb. We do not want any student to cross the lot because he/she may not be seen by the driver of a moving car.
➢ Every driver needs to show consideration for others. Wait for the car ahead of you to move. It will probably only be there for a few seconds. Pulling around other cars creates a hazardous and confusing situation.
➢ Parking in a handicapped spot is ILLEGAL without handicap tags or window tag.
➢ ONLY vehicles with handicapped tags are permitted in the cafeteria lot!

BUS RIDERS

All pupils transported by the school buses are expected to obey the rules set up by the Department of Transportation. The supervision of students while walking to, from, or waiting at the established bus stop is the responsibility of the students’ and their parents or guardians. Students who disobey the rules may be denied the privilege of riding the bus, making it necessary for the parents to provide transportation to and from school each day. Children must ride only on their assigned bus and get on at the bus stop which has been indicated. At no time are walkers permitted to ride the school bus. We cannot excuse a bus rider from riding the bus on any particular day without a written note from his/her parent.

BUS LOOP

The drive in front of the school will be open until 8:45 in the morning. At that time it will be closed until the last bus has arrived and its students have entered the building.
WALKERS

We will work with students to teach them safety when walking to or from school. We need your help in giving them frequent reminders of the following:

➢ Students may not walk on the parking lot. They must walk around the outside of the lot.
➢ Students may not cross the driveway leading into the lot. They must walk around the outside of the lot if they are coming from a direction that would require crossing the driveway.
➢ Students may not cross the school driveway.
➢ Students who cross Del Haven or Melbourne Roads must cross at the crossing guard.

Crossing Guards
The county provides three crossing guards for our school. Assignments are at:

Gray Haven & Melbourne Roads
Del Haven & Melbourne Roads
Inverness and North Boundary Roads

They are on duty from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. **Children are expected to cross streets with the crossing guard.** They should not cross at other locations. Students should go directly home from school. Please stress the importance of safety going to and from school. Please do not cross students between parked cars.

BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, AND OTHER WHEELS

Students riding bicycles must use the bike rack to lock their bikes. They must have a helmet on school property and are not permitted to ride on the property during school hours, arrival, nor dismissal. The bike must be walked during school to protect pedestrians.

Students who ride scooters may leave it in the lobby; however, it is not locked. Due to the fire hazard of Hover Boards, they are NOT permitted in the school. Students may not wear Wheelie shoes in the school.

**Bicycles** must be locked in the provided rack. **Wheelies** are **not** permitted. **Skateboards and non-motorized folding scooters** must be carried on school property and secured in lockers at the student’s responsibility. Students and siblings are not permitted to ride on school property during school hours.

Early Dismissals
The latest we will call students for early dismissal is 3:15. After 3:15, parents will need to wait for the 3:35 dismissal.

Early dismissals are a disruption to classroom instruction when we have to call into a classroom. Unless your child has an appointment, we ask that you leave your child in school for the entire day. Please help us keep dismissals after 2:30 to a minimum. If you do make an appointment during the day, please bring your child back afterwards to continue learning.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Changes in Residence, Phone, Emergency Contacts
If you are moving please notify the office at least one week in advance so that your child’s transfer papers will be ready for you. If you have any other changes (e.g. telephone number, emergency number, etc.) please notify the office. It is important to be able to reach you at any time.
ATTENDANCE: STARTING A GOOD HABIT NOW!

Absences
If a child is to learn and progress, regular attendance is most important. The standard for satisfactory attendance is 94%. If your child is absent, a written excuse should be sent when he/she returns, and the reason for the absence should be stated. In the case of prolonged absences because of illness, it is strongly recommended that you contact your child's teacher and request make-up assignments. **Students who fall below 94% will be required to provide medical or lawful documentation.** Please contact the nurse when your child is ill for more than one day. We would also appreciate your notifying the nurse immediately if your child has a communicable illness or pediculosis (head lice).

The MSDE attendance rules are:
- A student is counted present for a full day if they are in attendance 4 hours or more of the school day.
- A student is counted present for a ½ day if they are in attendance for at least 2 hours, but less than 4 hours of the school day.
- A student is counted absent if they are in attendance for less than 2 hours of the school day.

Lateness
If your child is to be late to school, a note should accompany him/her explaining the reason for being tardy. Remember to call the school to order lunch by 9:30 a.m. or send a lunch from home. Excessive tardiness may result in a home visit by the Pupil Personnel Worker.

VISITING OUR SCHOOL

Classroom Visitations
Parents are welcome to request a classroom visit, outside of American Education Week and other school events. These visits will be mutually scheduled with parent and teacher and should have a purpose for building parent capacity to support students. We will limit visits to 20 minutes or a single lesson in order to minimize disruptions. In order to be fair and consistent to all children & families, visits will be purposeful, scheduled, and limited in frequency and time. Another way to be part of the school family is to volunteer.

Volunteer Information
Bear Creek is accountable for all volunteer hours during the school year. Each time that you volunteer in the building or on a field trip, you must sign in through Raptor at the front office and wear your volunteer badge at all times. All volunteers must receive online volunteer training and submit the application and training certificate to the school *every year*. When you are a volunteer, you may not bring younger siblings with you.

When visiting our school, you can expect professional service. We ask that you be part of our business by modeling our Code of Conduct for the kids. Our visitor 3 R’s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPECTFUL</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>READY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use kind, caring words.</td>
<td>Report directly to the office and obtain a visitor sticker.</td>
<td>Be ready to state your purpose or business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrain from using your cell phone in the school!</td>
<td>Maintain a quiet, business conduct while in the office and throughout the building.</td>
<td>Please turn off cell phones before entering our office and have your materials ready for assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep younger siblings at home if possible in order to give full attention to your school-aged child and courtesy to children, teachers and other parents.</td>
<td>Keep younger children quiet and in your control during assemblies, American Education Week, etc..in order to allow for the safe and orderly environment of our school.</td>
<td>Plan ahead for field trips by securing babysitters and volunteer applications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VISITING OUR SCHOOL: SIGNING IN

Whenever parents and visitors come into the school, regardless of the reason, they must report to the office. This is for your child’s protection and to help us reduce interruptions in the classrooms.

The safety of all students and staff in Baltimore County Public Schools is of utmost importance to all of us. Baltimore County Public Schools utilizes a system called Raptor.

When you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID, or a driver's license to a staff member in the school office. The ID will be scanned and the following information will be collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be used to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the country. If your name appears on any of the lists or you refuse to allow the school to scan your ID, you will not be allowed access to the school.

The only alternative will be to allow the staff to see your ID, verify your first name, last name, and date of birth to be entered into the system manually. However, this method does not store the information, and you must do this each time you visit the school. If you have your ID scanned, you will be asked to show your ID only on future visits, and your name will be selected from an existing list of previous visitors.

You will also be asked to check out with the office staff upon leaving the school so that we know you are no longer in the building. You will be required to check into the system even if you are only coming to school to pick up your child. The information collected will not be shared outside of the school and is kept on a secure server. Your assistance in keeping our students and schools safe is appreciated.

We welcome families into our building and believe everyone is part of the school family. Unfortunately, in today’s society, we must protect our students and staff from unwelcome strangers in our building.

PARTNERING WITH TEACHERS - CONFERENCES

If you are experiencing concerns about your child's progress behaviorally, academically, or socially, please schedule a phone conference or meeting with the teacher(s) first. They will be able to provide a much more accurate observation of your concerns. If you’ve met with the classroom teacher and still have concerns, please contact the school administration to schedule a meeting with the teacher, parent, and administration.

SMOKING

The Board of Education of Baltimore County is committed to providing a healthful, comfortable, and productive work environment for its students and employees. Due to the evidence concerning the health effects of tobacco use, smoking, and passive smoke, Baltimore County Public Schools will be smoke-free as of July 1, 1993.

The policy will prohibit the sale and use of tobacco (in any form) in the school system owned or leased buildings and vehicles at all times (24 hours a day, every day).

The sale and use of tobacco is also prohibited on school grounds. School grounds is defined as local school system owned or leased land that surrounds a school system building.
PETS

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds during the school day including arrival and dismissal.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

All students receive breakfast in the classroom. Students are not permitted to carry food and beverages into school unless it is packed for lunch. Students may not bring glass containers to school, nor may they bring cans of soda. Children are permitted to purchase only two snacks daily.

Lunch is served in our cafeteria. Hot lunches cost $2.90; fruit juice may be purchased for $.55, milk $.60, snacks range from $.50 - $.75.

Our lunch items are mostly prepared at Patapsco. All lunch choices must be ordered by 9:30 a.m. If your child is going to be late, please call the school and order a lunch or students will have a limited choice of lunch.

At the beginning of the school year applications are sent home with all students for free and reduced lunches. We encourage ALL parents to apply as soon as possible. The applications are then forwarded to the central office where they are approved and returned directly to you. This does take a few days before we have approval to serve your child a free or reduced lunch. Those who received free or reduced lunches last year at Bear Creek are carried over until new forms are completed in September. The carryover will expire in early October.

Lunch ID and My Lunch Money
Students will be issued an ID number for their lunch account. Each time a purchase from the cafeteria is made, the money spent will be deducted from the child’s account. Meals and a la carte food items may be prepaid at any time by giving either a check and/or cash to the cafeteria manager or office. You may also put lunch on your child’s lunch account online at mylunchmoney.com. If a child is eligible for reduced price meals, you may continue to prepay monthly or on a daily basis. If a child is eligible for free meals, entering the ID number will entitle the child to receive the meals. At mealtime, entering the ID number will determine the amount of money owed and the money will be automatically deducted from the account.

GUM CHEWING

Gum chewing is only permitted during the school day under teacher direction. This helps promote healthy oral hygiene and eliminates the problem of chewing gum being stuck to furniture, floors, and clothing. On occasion teachers may permit students to chew gum for instructional reasons. There is research to support gum chewing as a tool for increased focus to task. However, students may not bring chewing gum to school.
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Books and Materials
Students are responsible for all books and materials. Furniture, materials and equipment used by the students must be handled with care and respect, as they would be at home. The county assesses a fee for lost textbooks and library books. This can be obtained through the office.

Student Devices
All students in grades 1-5 are issued a computer or device for instructional use. Students are not permitted to take these home, decorate them or use them for unacceptable use as stated in Board Policy 6202. The policy is stated in the Student Behavior Handbook that will come home with your child in the beginning of the school year and will require a parent and student signature. Students are responsible for the safe transport and use of their device in school. All students will be trained in the proper use and care of devices. Students who violate the policy or misuse devices will be subject to consequences. Theft or loss of a device is reported to authorities.

Headphones or earbuds
Parents are highly encouraged to send personal earphones for use with the devices. Please label them.

DRESS

Suggested Dress
We would like to ask your assistance in helping us maintain the best possible atmosphere for learning. Proper dress helps to create a positive environment for learning and appropriate behavior. As faculty members and parents we feel that appropriate dress enhances the learning atmosphere of the school.

Suitable dress should be comfortable, present a positive appearance, and ensure safety.

1. Proper footwear should be worn by both boys and girls. Students do have active education daily with the physical education teacher or recess with the classroom teacher, therefore, sneakers are encouraged.
2. Extremely tight and “short” shorts, halters, and bare midriffs are not appropriate in school.
3. Shirts with “sayings” on them must be appropriate for school.
4. Outer wear is to be kept in lockers.
5. Students should prepare for physical education by wearing tie or Velcro shoes, socks, and clothing suitable for Physical Education.
6. Shoes with wheels are not permitted.
7. Teachers will be given authority to limit student activity if footwear is unsafe on the playground.

We hope parents will use the above suggestions as a guide for school dress. By cooperating we can improve the health and appearance of our children. Children who dress neatly and take pride in themselves tend to do better in school both academically and socially.

*A word of caution – the police department advised us that children should not wear clothing with their name on it.
BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate every child's birthday in school with an announcement, a birthday pencil, and a book. Due to increasing food allergies and other healthy school recommendations, we CANNOT accept birthday cupcakes, cookies or other food items for student birthdays. If you would like to honor your child's birthday in school, you may do one of the following:

- Donate a book for the class library
- Donate a pencil for each child
- Donate a school supply to the class

NO deliveries, balloons, or flowers please.

TOYS, FIDGETS, CELL PHONES

Toys
Students may not bring electronic toys or music to school. This includes but is not limited to Game Boy and any other types of hand held toys, MP3 players, headphones, CD players, iPods etc.

Students may bring board games that they are willing to leave in school through the winter and willing to play and share with the class. They must have parent permission and permission of the teacher to store these in the classroom.

At the teacher's invitation only, students in the primary grades (prek-3) may bring toys from home that they are willing to leave in school for regular play and sharing. These may include items such as matchbox cars and dolls but should NOT be a child's favorite toy or security item. These should not be in pockets, backpacks, or on the bus on a daily basis. They should come in ONLY by invitation and permission of the individual classroom teacher and kept in a designated location in the classroom.

Fidgets
Fidgets are only permitted to be used by students if it is required as part of their Individual Education Plan or if a teacher permits the use during a lesson, test or activity. Teachers will ask students to put the fidget away if it is used without permission because it is considered a toy.

Cell Phones
Students may carry cell phones to school for parent contact before or after school hours. Phones must be turned off during the school day unless otherwise directed. The school CANNOT be responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or other items. Students are not permitted to make or receive calls during the day from their cell phone. If they are ill or need to reach a parent, with teacher permission, they need to see the nurse or office to do so.

HEALTH SUITE

Bear Creek Elementary has a registered nurse assigned to our school every day. Please contact her if your child requires medication during school hours. Any medication, including cough drops, that must be taken in school must be brought to the nurse. An order from the doctor is required for administering medication. This must be signed by the doctor and the parent. Students who are absent for more than three days may be requested to bring a note from their physician. A similar note is also needed to be excused from physical education for health reasons. Parents are urged to speak to the nurse about any health problems of their children.
SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Bear Creek Elementary School has a guidance counselor who works with students, teachers, parents and specialists. The services of the counselor are available to any parent who wishes to discuss concerns they may have regarding their children. Parent-counselor conferences may be arranged by calling the school and leaving your name and phone number. As soon as possible, the counselor will contact you to arrange a conference date. These conferences are strictly confidential. The counselor has names of various agencies and services, which can be given to you if necessary.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Library hours are 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Checkout policy: Kindergarten students may borrow one book at a time. Students in grades one through five may borrow a maximum of two books at a time. Students are responsible for paying to replace lost or damaged books. Parents and guardians may check-out additional materials to read at home with their children. All students will check out books with their One Card ID badge.

ART

Students receive art instruction a minimum of once per week. The following suggestions can be a great help to the art program:

- Give younger children old shirts or coverings that can be used as paint smocks.
- Hang up your child's work somewhere at home and save a few of their pictures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students receive instruction in physical education. In order for your child to participate in physical activities with a maximum of safety and a minimum of injury, it is important that the proper clothing be worn. Students should wear tie or Velcro shoes, socks, and clothing suitable for physical activities.

We rotate specials on Fridays. Students should check schedules each week to ensure proper attire for P.E.

VOCAL MUSIC

Students receive vocal music once or twice a week. Grades four and five students also participate in the school chorus. The chorus performs in evening concerts twice during the school year. Students in chorus are encouraged to be in attendance at the concerts. Chorus members may be asked to wear special clothing for concerts.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Exploratory music is provided for all fourth grade students and instrumental music is an elective subject for fifth grade children. For those fifth grade students who are interested, instrumental music lessons are offered as a regular part of a school day. Most instrumental music students will participate in band. Band members are encouraged to be in attendance at concerts given by the band.

SPANISH (PASSPORT PROGRAM)

Spanish is provided for all fourth and fifth grade students. This is a combination of learning from a Spanish teacher and online tutorials.
Criteria for Bear Creek PRIDE

• Students receiving the PRIDE award must receive a 2 or 3 in all areas of Skills and Conduct.

• Students must meet 94% Attendance standard for the quarter OR year to date.

PRIDE certificates will be given to students following assemblies each quarter.

Parents will be invited to the assemblies.

Criteria for Bear Creek HONOR ROLL
(Grades 4 & 5 Only)

• Students receiving the HONOR ROLL award must have a Grade Point Average of 3.0 with no more than one C permitted to be balanced with one A.

• Students must have a 2 or 3 in all areas of Skills and Conduct. These areas reflect the Honor Society standard of exemplary character.

  First time recipients of the Honor Roll will receive a certificate.
  Second time recipients of the Honor Roll will receive a blue ribbon.
  Third time recipients of the Honor Roll will receive a yellow ribbon.
  Fourth time recipients of the Honor Roll will receive a lapel pin.

Criteria for National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS)
(Grades 4 & 5 only)

• Students must have a cumulative 3.4 GPA, with no C’s, and on or above grade level standards

• Student must have a 3 in all areas of Skills and Conduct.

Recognition Assemblies

• Held quarterly – parents will be invited to attend.
• Due to limited seating, younger (pre-school aged) children should remain on laps with parents.
• School-aged, family/siblings may not attend assemblies or functions during regularly scheduled school hours.

Thank you for your partnership!
September 1, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) strives to equip every student with the critical 21st century skills needed to be globally competitive. We know that reaching this goal depends on having certified teachers in our classrooms.

You have the right to ask for and receive information about the professional certifications of your child’s classroom teacher, including:

- Any college or university degrees or certifications held by the teacher.
- The subject area of the teacher’s degree or certification.
- Whether the teacher is certified by the state of Maryland to teach a particular grade level or subject area.
- Whether the teacher holds a conditional certificate.

You may also ask whether your child is being served by a paraprofessional. If so, you may request the paraprofessional’s qualifications.

If you would like to receive information about your child’s classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals, please make the request in writing to your school principal. The principal will respond within 30 days.

Thank you for supporting your child’s education. It is through strong partnerships with parents and family members like you that BCPS is able to achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

Verletta White
Interim Superintendent

VW/ms

Developing Lifelong Learners Through Literacy