



WELCOME BACK



August 15th, 2022

Dear DCMS Parent/Guardian and Student:

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year! The administrative team as well as the entire faculty and staff are looking forward to an outstanding year. The first day of school for students is **Tuesday, September 6th**. Please review the information below so that you and your child can be fully prepared for the first day of school.

Supply List. [Click here](#) for a list of needed items.

Schoology. Schoology will again be utilized as our learning platform, where teachers will provide learning resources, activities, and assessments for their students. Also, Schoology does show grades for your child. However, please understand that the grade seen in Schoology is not the student's official grade. Synergy will continue to be the location of your child's official academic performance, which you can monitor at any time via ParentVue.

ParentVue. If you do not have access to Synergy ParentVue, please contact your child's grade-level guidance counselor to assist you with setting up your account. Schedules and report cards are not mailed home; therefore, it is important that you have access to ParentVue.

Student Schedules. Schedules will be available in ParentVue and StudentVue on Thursday, September 1st.

Student Planners. Unlike in years past, we will not be issuing planners to students. The planners were a place for students to write down homework assignments. With Schoology, all assignments are posted electronically. Students can also create their own calendar in Google. We do still have a [DCMS Student Handbook](#), and it will be accessible in Schoology and on our school [website](#). Chesapeake Public Schools has also developed a [digital handbook](#).

Electronic Hall Pass (E-Hall Pass). The student planner also served as a hall pass for students. This is no longer necessary, for we will again be utilizing the E-Hall Pass system. Deep Creek Middle School was fortunate to be able to pilot this new system last year, and we were the only middle school to use it. For this school year, all middle and high schools will be using the E-Hall Pass system. For those of you unfamiliar with E-Hall Pass, students enter a request to leave the classroom on their Chromebook. Once the teacher approves the pass, the student may then leave the classroom. The E-Hall Pass system allows us to control student movement, which keeps students in classes longer, and ultimately makes our school safer.

Student Dress Code. In an effort to provide consistency across the district, Chesapeake Public Schools has revised the Student Dress Code. [Click here](#) to view the revised dress code.

Lightspeed Classroom. This school year, teachers will be utilizing a program called Lightspeed Classroom. This program allows teachers to monitor student activity on their Chromebooks during class time. The value of this program is that it provides teachers with a greater ability to keep students on-task, and not become distracted from their primary objective, which is learning.

Security Vestibule. In an effort to make our schools more secure, Chesapeake Public Schools is adding an extra layer of security at our main entrances. For Deep Creek Middle School, this involves the construction of a Security Vestibule. Construction began on June 17th, and is expected to be completed by mid-October. This will affect those who need to gain access to the building during the school day. If you need to pick your child up early, or drop off an item, please park in our front parking lot, and then come around to the set of doors on the front-right portion of the building. Please be sure to have your Driver's License with you.

School Bus Hub. Please be sure to register for a [School Bus Hub](#) account, so that you can track your child's bus in real-time. Complete bus routes will be available on the CPS Transportation website soon.

Parent Drop-Off. For those of you that will be dropping your students off in the morning, our Parent Drop-Off is located in the front of the school. When you arrive, please pull into the front parking lot, and pull forward as far as you can. We ask that you do not stop as soon as you enter the parking lot. Doing so causes a back-up of traffic on Deal Drive, and also creates issues for our school buses. Students that are dropped off will enter the building via the Auditorium entrance until construction on our main entrance is complete. Students begin entering the building at 7:45 AM.

Parent Pick-Up. If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, our Parent Pick-Up loop is located at the back of the school off Shell Road. Students being picked up by a parent will be released at approximately 2:50 PM. When you pull into the back parking lot, please stay to the right to the extent possible. We do have night time employees that need to be able to pass through the line in their vehicles so that they can begin their shift on time.

Open House. We will be hosting in-person Open House events for each grade level. Each event will begin with a presentation in the Auditorium. Once the presentation has concluded, students will be able to visit each of their classes and meet their teachers.

Grade 6: Tuesday, August 30th at 5:30 PM

Grade 7: Thursday, September 1st at 1:30 PM

Grade 8: Thursday, September 1st at 4:00 PM

MTSS. MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports) is a framework for educators that encompasses PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and SEL (Social-Emotional Learning). This framework provides evidence-based best practices for addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of every student. At DCMS, our PBIS goal is to cultivate an environment of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety. We believe that creating an environment with high expectations and multiple tiers of support, our students can achieve their highest potential. In addition, teachers will integrate SEL into their instruction.

Again, I am excited to begin the 2022-2023 school year. I encourage you to email or call if you have any questions or concerns. Together we can make a difference for your child!

John P. Cavanaugh
Principal, Deep Creek Middle School