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# BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

*Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day*

*September 3, 2019*

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## Principal's Corner



*By Karen Caroscio*

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Welcome back! We are excited to welcome our returning and new students on the first day of school! The first week of school is a time for learning about new routines and the clear expectations have been set for students. We are committed to providing our students with the best educational experiences while ensuring that they feel safe and comfortable while they are at Bradley Hills.

Bradley Hills follows the three R's: be respectful, be responsible, and be ready to learn. We have examples of what these three rules look like in different areas: the classroom, the hallway, bathrooms, the playground, and the cafeteria posted throughout the school. These examples will help students understand the expectations of what it means to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn in each area. The expectations can be found in the summer mailing on the website. Any support you can provide to reinforce these expectations will be greatly appreciated!

Our first priority is the safety and security of our students. Any adult entering the building must sign in at the office where they will have their driver's license scanned by our Visitor Management System (VMS). All volunteers and visitors will put on the VMS generated sticker with a photo, while recess volunteers will also be given a red pouch on a lanyard to wear around their neck while outside. Prior to volunteering, the child abuse and neglect training must be completed. The training is good for three years. See the volunteer training requirement section in the newsletter for additional information.

To ensure student safety, we will have numerous fire drills and situation drills throughout the school year. We will have our first fire drill during the first week of school, weather permitting. In September, we will also have a Lockdown drill. If your child comes home and talks about it, please reassure him or her that we practice to make sure we know how to stay safe in case of a real emergency. On the same note, it is important that we have an updated Parent Reunification Form for all students. If there ever were a real emergency, we would use that information to dismiss students directly to their approved caregivers. Please look for the form in the whale folder and be sure to complete and return it as soon as possible. Should this information change, please be sure to let us know.

We have several additional staffing updates. We will be saying farewell to Ms. Harris, who will be moving to the central office. We wish her the best.



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From Ms. Harris: “With earning my master’s degree in business administration, I’ve received the opportunity for a promotion which I gladly accepted for my professional growth. It’s been an absolute pleasure getting to know and work with this amazing community for the past five years. I will miss Bradley Hills Elementary School.”

We would also like to welcome several new staff members. Ms. Hannah Engle, Ms. Maria Garcia Rios, and Mr. Warren Currey have joined our team as lunch/recess teachers and paraeducators. We are excited to have these new additions.

Please remember to check the Bradley Hills website often. This newsletter will be posted on the first school day of each month. Additionally, the News and Announcements section on the homepage will be updated continuously as we have important information to post. Classroom pages, pictures, and links to Parent Portal pages will be updated during the first few weeks of the school year.

We are excited to begin the school year with our newly adopted math curriculum, Eureka Math. The Eureka Math curriculum was created by Great Minds, a nonprofit that brought together teachers and experts to craft a program based on the world’s most successful math programs. Eureka Math was built around the core principle that students need to know more than just what works when solving a problem – they need to understand why it works.

Eureka Math is designed to support students in gaining a solid understanding of concepts, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply the math to solve problems in and outside the classroom. There is also an intentional coherence linking topics and thinking across grades. Each lesson that students engage in is an extension of previous learning and foundational to future learning. Eureka Math will also provide a high level of rigor for all students as they pursue deep, authentic command of mathematical concepts.

As teachers and students work towards building a more conceptual understanding of mathematics you might notice that Eureka Math teaches math differently than how you were taught in school. The Eureka Math curriculum goes beyond facts and formulas by teaching students to think about math conceptually. This helps students become not merely literate, but fluent in mathematics.

With Eureka Math your child will learn that math is fun and exciting. That excitement will help set them up for success!



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Thank you to the PTA for providing a delicious welcome back lunch for the staff. We truly appreciate your support and all that you do for us.

## **ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

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Our car drop-off and pick-up loop is on Folkstone Road. Cars must make a right turn from Folkstone Road to enter and exit the loop during arrival and dismissal. This ensures a consistent flow of traffic. Please have your child exit the car from the right so they can step directly onto the curb. A staff member and safety patrols will be there to assist the students.

Students who walk to and from school should use the recess door by the blacktop or the front door. Both doors will open at 8:45 each morning.

## **RECESS/LUNCH SCHEDULES**

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### **Regular Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Recess</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Grade 4	Grade 3
11:30 – 12:00	Kindergarten & Grade 3	Grade 4
12:00 – 12:30	Grade 1	Kindergarten
12:30 – 1:00	Grade 5	Grades 1 & 2
1:00 – 1:30	Grade 2	Grade 5

### **Early Dismissal 12:55 p.m. – No Recess**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
10:55 – 11:20	Kindergarten & Grade 3
11:25 – 11:50	Grades 2 & 4
11:55 – 12:20	Grades 1 & 5

## **ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL**

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If your child is absent...

- 1) Report the absence by 9:00 a.m. by calling the school office (240-204-5210) or completing the online form- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bradleyhillses/about/absence-form.aspx>



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- 2) Send a note explaining your child's absence the day s/he returns. The note is required by the Maryland State Department of Education. If we do not receive a note on the day your child returns to school, an unexcused absence will be noted.
  
- 3) If your child is out sick, s/he must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. A doctor's note is required when your child has missed 3 or more days of school due to illness.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

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Back-to-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Parents will report directly to their child's classroom. A short message from the principal, the PTA President, and the Bradley Hills Parent Foundation President will be televised in each classroom from 6:30 – 6:50 p.m.

To enable families with more than one child to attend different classrooms, teachers will conduct two identical Back-to-School Night sessions. The first classroom session will be held from 6:50 – 7:20 p.m. At 7:20, parents will either transition to another classroom or leave the building. Classroom teachers will conduct Session 2 of their presentation from 7:25 – 7:55 p.m. The fifth grade will meet in the all purpose room.

Art, Music, and P.E. specialists will also provide two sessions of information during Back-to-School Night in the media center. Our ESOL teacher, Ms. Reaves, will also present two session of information on the ESOL program in RM 124. Fourth and fifth grade parents interested in having their child play an instrument will gather for a meeting at 5:45 p.m. in RM 142.

Over the summer, parents with new students received a letter from MCPS with an access code and password to activate their Parent Portal account associated with their child's account. If you have several children, each child will have a different account and you should have received a letter for each child. Interim grades and finalized report card grades can be found on the portal once they are posted. Parents who cannot find the letter from MCPS about their Parent Portal account, can pick these up at Back-to-School Night in the front hallway.

Please remember, the purpose of this evening is to provide parents with a general overview of the grade level curriculum, how you will receive information about your child's classroom, etc. Teachers will not be able to discuss individual students during this time. It is never appropriate for a teacher to discuss your child with other parents or students present.



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### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING REQUIREMENT**

MCPS requires that all volunteers who work with children in MCPS participate in an online training on Child Abuse and Neglect. Volunteers must complete the training *before* they can volunteer in schools. Confirmation of completion of the course will be sent via email once the course is completed. Volunteers must bring this confirmation to school when they come to volunteer in order to volunteer. If you completed the training last year or the year before, you do NOT have to do it again this year. The link to the training is

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

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### **SATURDAY SCHOOL**

Registration for The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (Saturday School) is open. Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment. The program is in 12 school locations across Montgomery County and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with breakfast provided. For more information and to register, visit [www.saturdayschool.org/](http://www.saturdayschool.org/).

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### **SCHOOL REWARDS PROGRAMS**

Did you know that your regular shopping can serve as an easy way to help raise money for the students at Bradley Hills? Giant and Office Depot offer school rewards programs. Here is how you can help:

Giant: Customer registration begins on August 3rd. Visit this website to link your card to Bradley Hills. Use school number 00665. <https://giantfood.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/?cmPageId=aplus&cmLocation=sidebar&requestid=2393728>

Office Depot: When you check out, give the Bradley Hills code to the cashier – 70046222.

Amazon Smile: Click [here](#) to designate Bradley Hills PTA as the charitable organization of your choice. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

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### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**



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All incoming Grade 7 students, regardless of the date of entry into the school system, must receive vaccination against Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) and Meningococcal meningitis (MCV4) prior to the start of the 2019–2020 school year. In addition, all students newly enrolled in Grades 8 through 12 are required to have one Tdap and MCV4 vaccination. Students will be required to provide documentation of the required Tdap and MCV4 immunizations.

Parents/guardians should contact their doctor to make sure their child is properly immunized and submit a copy of the documentation to the child's school health nurse as soon as possible, but no later than the first day of the 2019–2020 school year on Tuesday, September 3. To ensure all students have a chance to receive the necessary immunizations, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will hold free clinics for students in September. To view the schedule for the immunization clinics please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/immunizations/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/immunizations/).

### **MCPS Give BACKpacks**

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The 2019 MCPS Give BACKpacks campaign has launched and the district needs your help to raise money to purchase backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need.

The Give BACKpacks campaign was created in 2013 in response to a growing need in Montgomery County. Many families are facing financial struggles and need help providing their children with school supplies. Currently, more than 55,000 MCPS students receive Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) services—an indicator of poverty. Last year, thanks to the generous donations of MCPS parents, guardians, staff and community members, the district was able to provide more than 18,000 backpacks to students. MCPS is hoping to serve even more students this year.

A \$10 donation will provide a student in need with a new backpack filled with school supplies. You also have the option to give at the following levels: \$300, \$1,500, \$6,500, \$25,000 or \$50,000.

Visit [www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org](http://www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org) to learn more and donate.

### **ALLERGIC REACTIONS**

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If your child has a known anaphylactic allergy, the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, Section 7-426 states that parents/guardians are responsible for notifying schools of a child's special health care needs or diagnosis and providing appropriate medications. These medications may be kept in the school's health room for your child's use in case of an emergency. To do this, you will



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need to complete MCPS Form 525-14, *Emergency Care for the Management of a Student with a Diagnosis of Anaphylaxis: Release and Indemnification Agreement for Epinephrine Auto Injector* and deliver the properly labeled epinephrine auto-injector to school. The form may be obtained from the school nurse or from the following website: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf)

We understand that parents/guardians or students may not know of an anaphylactic allergy until an emergency situation arises. Maryland requires that all schools train their staff members to recognize signs of anaphylaxis and maintain a stock supply of epinephrine auto-injectors (i.e., EpiPen) for use in case of an emergency. Designated staff members at each school are trained to administer EpiPens. Please be assured that whenever an epinephrine auto-injector is used, whether it belongs to your child or is one of the school's stock supply, 911 and you will be called.

Please be sure to let the teacher know if your child **MUST** sit at the peanut-free table in the cafeteria. This table is reserved for those students who cannot sit at a table with other children who may be eating peanuts or peanut contaminated food.

### **BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION**

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Bullying, harassment, and intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being. It is motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic, threatening or seriously intimidating, and occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus.

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are serious and will not be tolerated. Student victims, parents/guardians of student victims, or close adult relatives who wish to report an incident of alleged bullying, harassment, or intimidation should complete the following form and return it to the principal: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>.

### **SPECIAL DIET MODIFICATIONS**

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Wholesome and nutritious meals are offered daily in our cafeteria. A variety of items are offered to meet each student's needs and preferences. Under Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, a student may be entitled to receive menu substitutions or texture modifications under the school lunch program. This entitlement occurs when a doctor determines that a child has a disability that



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substantially limits one or more major life activities. A signed statement from the student's doctor must verify the existence of the student's disabling condition and an indication that the disability restricts the student's diet. If the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals, the doctor must indicate the substitutions that should be provided to the student. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please contact this office.

### **GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY**

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MCPS believes that academic achievement and social growth occur when students and staff feel safe. Gangs, gang activity, and other similar destructive or illegal group behaviors (gang-related behaviors) interfere with the safe operation of schools. Students who are gang members, who are involved in gang activity, or who participate in similar destructive or illegal group activities, as well as students who are exposed to these activities, are at risk of experiencing a range of negative health, safety, and educational outcomes.

Therefore, MCPS students are strictly prohibited from participation in gang activity. Use the following form if you have reliable information about an act of gang activity or similar destructive and illegal group behavior which occurred on school property, on school buses, at school-sponsored events, or on the way to/from school:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-37.pdf>.

### **RESPECTING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**

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MCPS is committed to promoting respect and appreciation for the religions, beliefs, and customs of our diverse student population. MCPS believes that multiculturalism is one of our greatest strengths and should enrich our community as we learn together in our schools. Respect is a core value of MCPS, and therefore, fostering a culture where all families feel respected is of the utmost importance.

The *MCPS Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity* provides answers to frequently asked questions about the accommodation of students' religious beliefs and practices in MCPS, as well as additional resources related to ensuring safe learning environments for students:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/students/rights/1373.16\\_ReligiousDiversityGuidelines\\_ENG\\_web.pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/students/rights/1373.16_ReligiousDiversityGuidelines_ENG_web.pdf).

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>School Events</b>
September 3, 2019	First Day of School
September 12, 2019	Back to School Night – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
September 15, 2019	PTA Volunteer Training – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
September 15, 2019	PTA Back to School Picnic - 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
September 30, 2019	No School for Students and Teachers
October 1, 2019	PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
October 4, 2019	Early Release Day – Students dismissed at 12:55 p.m.
October 9, 2019	No School for Students and Teachers
October 14, 2019	Open House – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
October 24, 2019	K-Gr. 2 Picture Day
October 25, 2019	Gr. 3-5 Picture Day
October 25, 2019	Bingo Night – Pyle Middle School
October 31, 2019	Halloween Parade – 2:00 p.m. Classroom Halloween Parties – 2:30 p.m.