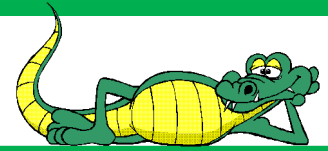


# Davidsonville Elementary School

## Gator Parent Updates—BTSN 2023



Welcome to Back-to-School Night! We have had such an amazing start to the school year—both smooth and positive! We're excited to share some school and classroom details with you tonight. In addition, we also wanted to provide some updates and reminders as we move forward:

**SCHOOL HOURS:** Our school hours are 8:00am—2:25pm. Our school doors open at 7:40am. Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to start their day at 8:00am.

**ATTENDANCE:** Consistent student attendance is extremely important for a student's well being and academic growth. We understand throughout the year absences will occur, but the Maryland State Department of Education considers students who miss more than 10% of their school days chronically absent. Our attendance committee will meet monthly to review student records. Please make a habit of notifying the school when your child will be out. On the other side of this update you will find directions to an attendance form that can be accessed within the Parent Portal. You are also welcome to use this form or email your child's teacher. When doing so, please always include our secretary, Nikita VanZyl at [nvanzyl@aacps.org](mailto:nvanzyl@aacps.org).

**BUSES:** We have 15 buses to support students this school year. Other than a bus change this week, we've been lucky to have all buses running consistently. Just a reminder that students are not able to ride another bus **for any reason**. In the case of a consistent change due to childcare, an Exceptional Transportation Request can be made. Please contact Jackie in our office at [jdclarke@aacps.org](mailto:jdclarke@aacps.org) with questions.

**CAR LANE:** Thank you to all who are supporting the smooth flow of our car lane. We continue to ask that cars **not block** our entrance to the school during arrival and dismissal. This is for safety reasons as it allows our exiting cars to see clearer and allows cars into our school parking lot during these times. Please pay attention to the signs as you approach our school entrance and as you pull forward. To support a smoother flow, we also ask that parents **remain in their vehicles** during drop off and pick-up. Also, if children need to be supported with seatbelts or car seats, we ask that you **pull forward** after they get into the car in the afternoon. To support overflow in the morning and afternoon, we will allow cars to move into the bus side of the school. When this is possible, we will utilize a large sign to indicate when this lot is open (green) and closed (red).

**CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL:** Email is often the best way to contact school staff. You can find all email addresses on our school's website. If you need to notify the teacher of dismissal changes after the start of the day, please email the teacher AND the school secretaries. Often, teachers are teaching all day and they don't always have a chance to check their email before dismissal. You can also call the school office to make changes, but please do so prior to 2:00pm.

**LUNCH :** Breakfast costs \$1.50. In addition, students are able to purchase an individual juice. Lunch costs \$2.75 and students can purchase milk a la carte during this time. Parents can manage their child's lunch account balance by going to the school system website ([www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)) and clicking on *School Meals* at the top. Once there, go to *Purchasing School Meals* and go to *Pay Online*. This will link you to Payments Plus, where you will enter in your child's log-in credentials (or create an account) in order to view their account. This site allows you to monitor purchases and reload the balance. If your child has a balance due, our office will send home notices in Wednesday folders. Also, should you need to, you can apply for free or reduced meal prices on the School Meals website as well.

**PARENT CONTACT:** This year, every classroom will send home Wednesday folders that contain important information. In addition, students in grades 1-5 will utilize agenda books to communicate as needed with parents. Please check these often. Our office will communicate with families most often through email and text messages. We will send a monthly newsletter at the start of each month. In addition, our PTO will send a weekly email newsletter containing all DES information. Please see their information to sign up for this distribution. PTO membership is not required. Don't forget, our school utilizes Twitter ([@DESAACPS](https://twitter.com/DESAACPS)) for pictures of school happenings, upcoming events, and emergency notifications. Please consider creating a Twitter account if you don't have one so you are all set should you need to check for updates.

Principal, Colleen Harris: [charris@aacps.org](mailto:charris@aacps.org)

Assistant Principal, Stacy Levery: [slevery@aacps.org](mailto:slevery@aacps.org)

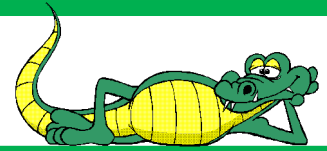
Secretaries: Amy Luckett: [aluckett@aacps.org](mailto:aluckett@aacps.org)

Jackie Clarke: [jdclarke@aacps.org](mailto:jdclarke@aacps.org)

Nikita VanZyl: [nvanzyl@aacps.org](mailto:nvanzyl@aacps.org)

# Davidsonville Elementary School

## Gator Parent Updates—BTSN 2023



**COVID PROTOCOLS:** AACPS continues to follow the CDC guidelines related to positive Covid19 cases. Details can be found on the AACPS website under *Back to School 2023-2024*. As part of this guidance, a positive result requires a 5-day isolation out of school. Five additional days of masking is recommended. Please keep the school informed so we can mark attendance accordingly and keep our students and staff healthy.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:** We love birthdays, but we are unable to celebrate them at school with treats from home. We announce birthdays on the morning announcements and our teachers try to make the day special for students. We encourage you to join the PTO to have access to the student directory where you can connect with other families regarding birthday parties. School staff are not able to provide emails of other parents nor pass out party invitations at school.

**CELL PHONES & SMART WATCHES:** We've had an increase in elementary students who bring cell phones to school or have smart watches on during the school day. Cell phones must remain stowed in a backpack throughout the school day. Smart watches should not be used for any reasons other than keeping time during the school day. Thank you for talking with your child should your family utilize these devices.

**SCHOOL VISITORS:** We are so blessed to have a community of parent support. We have many parents who have already come to the school to guest read, and we know as time goes by we'll have many more coming in to support events. Our office has routines for checking in visitors and we ask everyone to wear the office-issued sticker while in the school. It is important for us to keep track of all external visitors during the school day.

This year, we will start allowing parents to join their child for lunch in the cafeteria, if desired. While we do have full tables of students, we will offer a space to parents should they want to join their child during this time. In the past, parents have elected to bring external food for their child and friend/s. Per our school system policy, there is no sharing of food in the cafeteria so we ask parents to only provide food for their child. We will limit these daytime visits to the cafeteria and not allow parent visitors at recess due to the unstructured access this gives our visitors.

**RECESS:** Our students are able to enjoy outdoor recess daily for thirty-minutes. In the event of rain or when the temperature drops below 32 degrees, they will have indoor recess instead. Please help your child bring appropriate outerwear during the cold months and monitor whether these clothing items come home. We are eager to control our Lost & Found this year.

### PARENT PORTAL ATTENDANCE NOTE DIRECTIONS

#### Submitting Online:

- Log into your Parent Portal account.
- Click on *Forms* on the lefthand side.
- Click on the 2023-2024 Absence or Early Dismissal Form.
- Complete all areas of the form and click submit.

#### Submitting through the PowerSchool App:

- Click *More* (with the 3 dots) on the bottom right.
- Click on *Forms*.
- Scroll down and click on the 2023-2024 Absence or Early Dismissal Form.
- Complete all areas of the form and click submit.

\*Please note that our office will handle early dismissal documentation when you pick your child up at school. You do not need to utilize the form for this purpose.