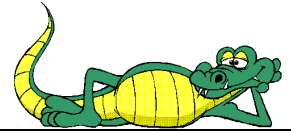




DAVIDSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Imagine, Believe, and Achieve

Mrs. Colleen Harris, Principal
Mrs. Stacy Levery, Assistant Principal
Office (410) 222-1655
Health Room (410) 798-0752



December 2023

School Calendar



DECEMBER

22...Polar Express Day—wear PJs
25-29...No School—Winter Break

JANUARY

1...No School—New Year's Day
9...PTO Meeting, 7pm
11...Winter Concert, 6pm
15...No School—MLK Day
17-18...Early Dismissal, 12:25pm
18...End of 2nd Marking Period
19...No School—Semester Break
26...Mo Gaba Day

FEBRUARY

2...PTO Skate Night, 5-7pm
6...Unity Day—Wear Orange
Early Dismissal, 12:25pm
7...Gr. 3 Field Trip to MD Hall
19...No School—President's Day
20...Vision & Hearing Screenings
21...Yearbook Group/Candid Photos
27...Talent Show Rehearsals @ SRHS
28...Talent Show @ SRHS
29...Vision & Hearing Re-checks

Principal's Message

GATOR FAMILIES—Thank you to all who were able to conference with your child's teacher last month. It is so critical to the growth of students for parents to learn more about academic performance and behaviors at school. I would like to commend our entire teaching staff on the efforts they put into writing meaningful report card comments and the commitment they have to conference with 100% of parents this year.

As the winter draws near, please know we intend to have recess outside daily. We are able to go outside as long as the temperature and wind chill are both above 32°. Please make sure your child is dressed accordingly. As you clean out closets and get rid of old games or puzzles, don't forget these are great donations to your child's classroom for indoor recess days.

Student attendance is an area of focus on our School Improvement Plan this year, as it is a measurable area by the Maryland State Department of Education. According to their standards, students are considered chronically absent when they have missed more than 10% of the school days, regardless of reason. I urge you to really look at your child's attendance and place this as a priority. Children need to know that attending school is their job, and just like the real world, attendance is mandatory. Teachers are specially trained to teach and when students miss multiple lessons, it will have a negative effect on their academic progress. We expect absences to happen due to illness and family needs, but the expectation is that students will stay within the 10% threshold set by the state. In the event of an absence, please communicate with your child's teacher. Our school team is here to support in any way we can.

I wish your family a very happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Mrs. Colleen Harris

SCHOOL SECURITY: DES is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is not monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system.

Office Staff

Amy Luckett, aluckett@aacps.org
Financial Procedures and Payroll

Jackie Clarke, jclarke@aacps.org
Registrar, Chrombook Devices, and Transportation

Nikita Van Zyl, nvanzyl@aacps.org
Attendance Records and Building Use

Triple E at DES

Arts & Humanities classes have begun! Students go to either Mrs. Kochanski or Mrs. Ensley once a week during their Cultural Arts block. EEE uses the project-based learning approach where students begin with a problem, generate ideas, research, revise, reflect, and present their work. Students focus on the four success skills of creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. Units typically last from six to nine weeks. Descriptions of grade level projects are on your student's EEE Brightspace page. Please go there for more detailed information or contact your child's Arts & Humanities teacher.

Lost and Found

Our students have done a better job this year of keeping track of their belongings, although we still have a great deal of items in our Lost & Found. The wardrobe rack is located in the cafeteria and we urge you to check it out when you are in the building. Our office has a small basket of small items like jewelry and glasses if those are missing as well. As done in previous years, we will donate items after the holiday break. Please help your children to find their belongings!

SCHOOL BUS UPDATES

School bus service is provided to all students. As a reminder, students are not able to ride another bus, unless approved due to an emergency.

Our buses are full, so please limit carry-on items to those that can be held in your child's lap or on the seat next to them. In the case of a large instrument, we ask families to consult with our music team about alternatives since our buses cannot always accommodate these large items.

Medication or Not?

As we enter the winter season of illness, keep in mind that certain items are considered medication. Specifically, cough drops containing Menthol are not allowed for student use without first notifying the Health Room. Keep this same concept in mind when sending Chapstick and other lip products.