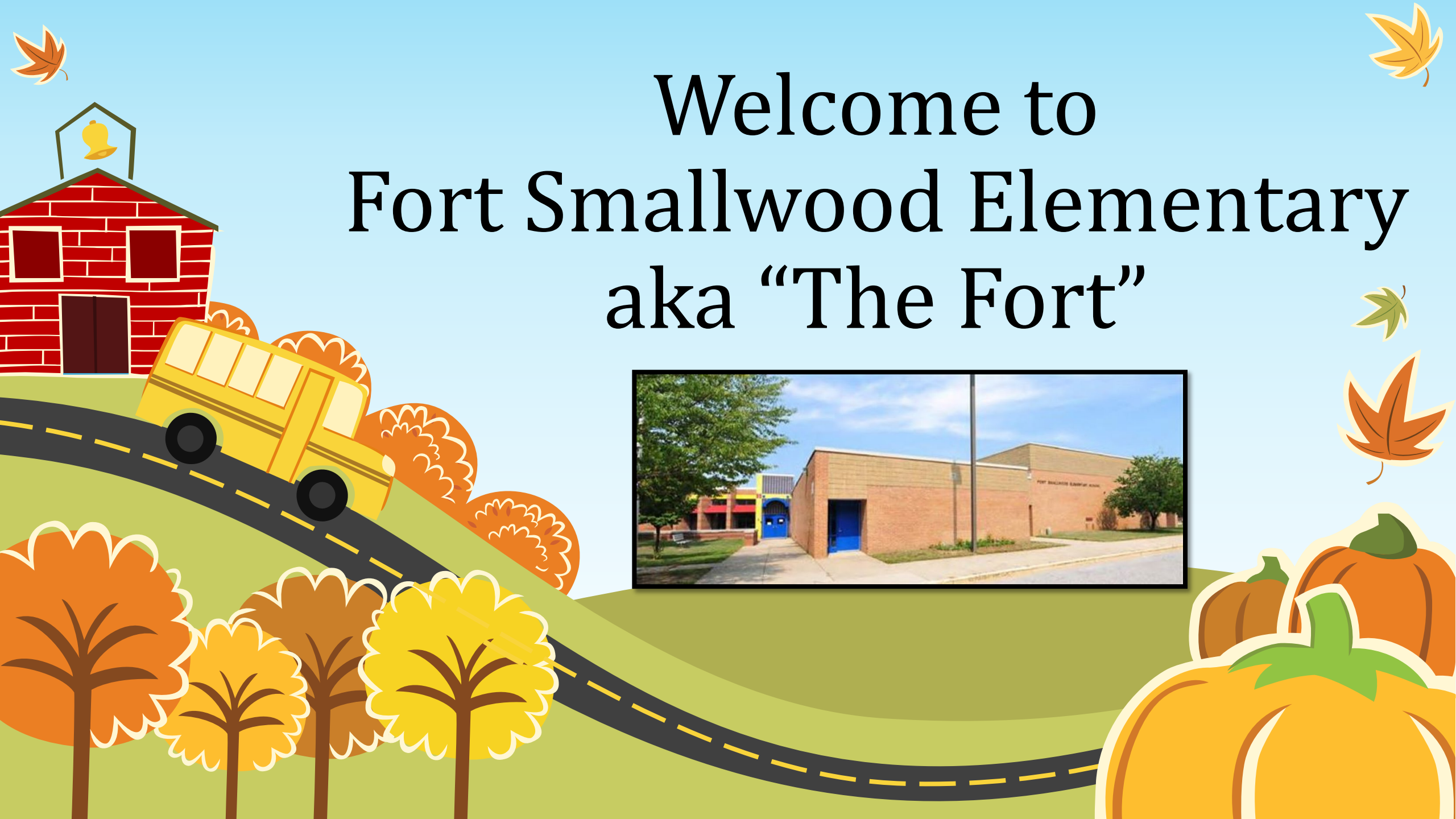


Welcome to
Fort Smallwood Elementary
aka "The Fort"









Welcome Principal, Mrs. Bobbie Kesecker

bkesecker@aacps.org



School: 410-222-6450

Google Voice: 301-744-8473





School Hours

- School doors open at 8:50
 - Please do not drop children before this time as there is no supervision prior to that time.
 - Arrival is 8:50 – 9:10
 - Students who arrive after 9:10 are considered tardy.
 - Dismissal begins at 3:35
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Meet Our Staff

Office Staff

- Bobbie Kesecker
Principal
- Michelle Clendening
Principal Secretary
- Lynda McPheron
Enrollment Secretary

Cultural Arts

- Josh Webster
STEM
- Stacey Phillips
Media
- Emily Pfeifer
Art
- Jessica LeCroy
Music
- Jeff Bruso
Physical Education
- Sarah Walton
Instrumental

ECI

- Jamie Ferguson
Teacher
- Dawn Bopp
Teacher Assistant

Pre-K

- Michelle Kiniry
Teacher
- Tonya Thurston
Teacher Assistant
- Pam Osborne
Teacher
- Debbie Derrossett
Teacher Assistant

Kindergarten

- Mandi Ford
Teacher
- Amanda Barger
Teacher
- Stacey Windsor
Teacher
- Beth Wright
Teacher
- Kim Smith
Teacher Assistant

Meet Our Staff

First Grade

Abbey Groft

Jill Puffenbarger

Heather Lyons

Second Grade

Laura Basil

Melissa Mildenberger

Ashley Aufiero

Third Grade

Elizabeth McArthur

Brianna Ward

Colleen Sullivan

Fourth Grade

Sarah Knight

Kelly Sienkiewicz

Deirdre Smee

Fifth Grade

Carly Ellis

Katie Zorn

Michelle Laurie

Meet Our Staff

Student Services

Rachel Dressin
School Counselor

Katherine Flemister
School Psychologist

Patricia Lynch
PPW

Resource Staff

Kathleen Smith
Literacy Teacher

Janene Miller
Early Intervention TA

Nannette Simmons
ESOL Teacher

Laura Norwood
Computer Support

Special Education

Andrea Fowler
Teacher

Molly Volk
Teacher

Gabby Nicholson
Teacher

Anne Rogers
Teacher Assistant

Katherine Good
Speech

Custodians

Karen Harris
Chief

Richard Michalski

Sterling Hall

Linda Hiltner

Attendance

Regular school attendance is important to the success of your children.

Attendance will be taken in the every day for students in all grades, ECI, Pre-K, and K to 5. Students who arrive after 9:10 am will be marked tardy.

Some absences are excused (illness and death) and others are not (vacation).

In the event of an absence, please send a note in with your child the day s/he returns to school following an absence. You can utilize the electronic note posted on our website: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/4343> found under the picture slide show.

The absence is considered unexcused until a note is sent.








Grading

Grading

- Traditional letter grading will be in effect for the fall semester. The standard grading policy (II-RA, Grading; Administrative Regulation II-RA, Grading) will be followed.
- Students in 2 to 5 will receive letter grades (A, B, C, D, OR E) in all subject areas and grade codes in expected student behaviors (CD, PR, ND).

In ECI, Pre-K, K, and 1 grade codes of CD, PR, EM, ND will be used in all areas of the report card.



Opportunity for Mastery Policy

- up to 2 opportunities for mastery per marking period per graded area
- OFM assignments must be turned in at least 3 days prior to the end of the marking period
– NOTE: it is teacher discretion as to whether to accept the assignment if returned for grading with less than 3 days remaining in the marking period
- upon completion of the redone assignment, the teacher must record the better of the two grades earned
- Assignments that receive a C or below are eligible for redo (excluding district assessments and end of bend/unit writing assignments)
- OFMs must be completed at school; not at home.



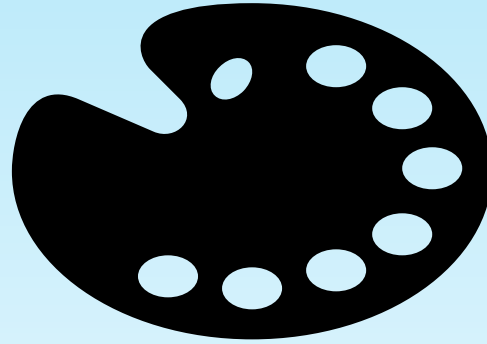
- Monthly: Grade Level Newsletters in the Google Classroom
- Monthly: Elementary Chesapeake Cluster Newsletter
- Weekly: FSES Specific BlackBoard Connect Ed emails, phone calls, and text messages
- Parent Handbook
- Website
- Twitter



Curriculum

- All students will have the following blocks Monday through Friday
 - Math
 - Literacy
 - Science or Social Studies
 - Cultural Arts
 - Wellness
- In addition, students will participate in an Academic Flex block where teachers will differentiate instruction for learners. Students will have opportunities for re-teaching and extension during this time.
- Teachers will provide more in-depth information in your classroom presentation.

A Closer Look at Cultural Arts



- Students participate in
 - Art
 - General Music
 - Media
 - Physical Education
 - STEM
- The Cultural Arts Block is 60 minutes for all grades Pre-K to 5.
- Students in Grade 3 may participate in strings
- Students in Grades 4 and 5 may participate in Band, Strings, and/or Chorus



Behavioral Expectations at The Fort

PBIS is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed. PBIS promotes positivity and encourages students to do their best.



At Fort Smallwood, students are expected to follow the Rs:

- Respectful,
- Responsible,
- Ready to Learn
- Safety

Students are also expected to adhere to the ACCPS Code of Conduct. Lessons will be taught at the beginning of the year. Parents and students shall sign and submit acknowledgement of the code of conduct.







Community Building Circles – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the Wellness Block

- Community Building Circles (CBC) are a time for students and their teacher to build relationships.
 - CBC are meant to be light – no Kale, only Brownies
 - Students will have an opportunity to answer questions during CBC. They also have the option to pass.
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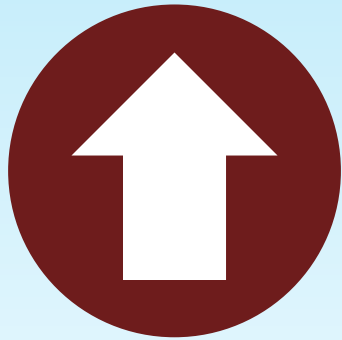




Second Step Program – Tuesday and Thursday during the Wellness Block

- A holistic approach to building supportive communities for every child through social-emotional learning.
 - In the Elementary grades - Universal, classroom-based, social-emotional learning curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 that nurtures children’s social-emotional competence and foundational learning skills.
 - There are 4 units in each grade level that will be taught throughout the year.
 - There is a parent information piece to this program.
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Research Links SEL to Higher Student Success



- 23% gain in social-emotional skills
- 9% gain in attitudes about self/others/school
- 9% gain in prosocial behavior
- **11% gain in academic achievement**



... and Lower Risks for Failure

- 9% difference in problem behavior
- 10% difference in emotional distress

Source: Durlak, J.A., Weissberg, R.P., Dymnicki, A.B., Taylor, R.D., & Schellinger, K. 2011. "The impact of enhancing students' social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions." *Child Development*, 82: 405-432.



School Counseling Program




Counselor – Rachel Dressin

- rdressin@aacps.org
- (301) 744-9462

Counseling- individual and academic based groups



Classroom guidance-every other week in all classes

Any questions or concerns come up please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Dressin using my google voice number or email







School Meals

- School breakfast and lunch will be free for all students again this year.
 - Students are not required to participate. They may bring a lunch from home.
 - The school meal calendar is posted on the AACPS website and shared daily on the announcements
 - We do ask that you complete Free and Reduced Meal applications as this information is used to determine additional federal funding. The link for the application is <https://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>
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Before and After School Age Child Care (SACC)

- The SACC program is run by Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation
 - Melissa Scott is the director
 - If interested in before or after care, please go to <https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/child-care-programs>
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Learning at Home Tips

- Establish a learning from home routine
- Have a consistent spot where children can follow a learn-at-home routine
- Make sure your child has a flat, stable surface for them to work on
- Have a space available for hands-on learning
- Consider having an at home set of supplies for your student.



Get Involved – A Message from the PTA



Fort Smallwood is fortunate to have a supportive, active, and robust PTA. Please consider joining the PTA.

The application link can be found here: <https://2021-2022-pta-membership.cheddarup.com>

The PTA is limiting their cash transactions. Please consider paying by credit card or check whenever possible.

The PTA is planning many events. However, with rising numbers due to the Delta Variant, decisions regarding these large Fort Smallwood Community events will be made when the dates get closer.

For now mark your calendar for these tentatively scheduled events:

- Fri., Sept. 24: Back to School Ice Cream Social (an after school event)
- Fri., Oct. 29: FSES Costume Parade and Trunk or Treat (an after school event)
- Fri., Nov. 5: Race for Education
- Nov. 5 - 11: Book Fair (in school)
- Nov. 11 or 12 (2-hr early days): Snacks for Teachers & Staff

You can contact the PTA via email: ptafortsmallwood@gmail.com

Don't forget to join our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/FortSmallwoodPTA



Stay Informed

For more information about Fall Reopening
<https://www.aacps.org/fall2021>

FSES Website
<https://www.aacps.org/Page/4343>

Follow us on Twitter
@FSESAACPS



**The Fort Smallwood
staff look forward
to a fantastic school year.**

WELCOME BACK!

