

# The Splash

## Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year

Welcome back Freetown Families to what will be a great year of in-person learning at Freetown Elementary! We are excited to return to teaching, learning and growing together. We have every intention of beginning the year with in person learning and ending our school year in person. This newsletter contains important reopening information to help you as a family prepare for the 2021/2022 school year. We look forward to an exciting year of growth and opportunity!

Amanda Edmonds, Principal

Melissa Kling, Asst. Principal

## Freetown Information & Updates

**Mask Wearing:** Masks are required of all students, employees, contractors and visitors within Anne Arundel County Public Schools System.

**Back to School Fair:** The Back to School Fair is being adjusted due to anticipated weather. We are however, still offering the opportunity for parents along with current Freetown students to sign up and sneak a peek of the classroom on Thursday, September 2nd. We are using [Sign Up Genius](#) to organize this Sneak a Peek.

**Visitors:** On the first day of school and following, only students will be entering the building. At this time, parents are to only enter the building to retrieve their child from the health room or to attend a pre-arranged meeting or appointment. We will continue the process of receiving and retrieving items at the door. In the month of October, we will provide scheduled opportunities for parents to sign up to visit or volunteer. These opportunities will consist of volunteers for vision/hearing screening, guest readers (2 per grade level) and dolphin depot.

**Absences:** We ask that you keep students home if sick. Perfect attendance will not be recognized during the 2021/2022 school year. We have included on our school website (found within Attendance) a form to be completed to communicate absence. Please submit this electronic note if your child is or will be absent.

**Early Dismissals:** Any requests to have your child (ren) excused from class early should be sent to school the morning of the dismissal with your child and given to teacher. The time and reason for dismissal should be included. Please note that we begin schoolwide dismissal at 3:40pm. No early dismissals will take place after 3:30pm as students and teachers are preparing for departure.

**Meals:** All students will be provided breakfast and lunch daily for free, if desired. We still ask that parents complete a meal application in order to meet state/federal requirements. This application may be found on the county website under School Meals/Apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals.



### Important Information

- Doors Open—8:50am
- Announcements—9:12am
- Instruction Occurs—9:15am-3:40pm
- Breakfast/Lunch (free)-Available to all students

### Dates to remember

#### September

- **September 2-Take a peek at your classroom. Please sign up.**
- September 8—1st day of school for grades 1-5 only
- September 8,9,10-ECI Conference days
- September 8/9-PreK & K Conference days
- September 10,13,14-PreK & K Stagger Days
- September 15—1st day of school for all PreK and Kindergarten students
- September 16—Schools Closed (Yom Kippur)
- September 30- Back to School Night 6:30 pm-7:30pm

#### October

- October 20—2hr Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

# Arrival, Dismissal Procedures and other Information

## Freetown Elementary School

**Mission:** We are a community who collaboratively work to create a safe, engaging and supportive environment. We meet the diverse needs of students to create life-long learners.

**Vision:** Teach, Learn, Grow!



## Arrival:

### Bus Riders

- Bus riders and walkers in ACC, ECI and grades 1,4 and 5 will enter the building through the front door.
- Bus riders and Walkers in Grades PreK, K, 2 &3 will walk down the sidewalk and enter the building by the side door.

### Car Riders

- **REMAIN IN YOUR CAR.** All bookbags and materials should be with students in the car and not needing to be removed from the trunk.
- All cars should follow the direction of staff, pull forward in the car rider line and students will enter the building by the side door.

PreK and K- during the first full week of school will line up on the black top with teachers. Bus riders will be escorted from the bus and led to the blacktop.

## Dismissal:

Car Riders: Families will be provided with two name tags. Have name tag visible. Remain in your car. Students will be called once the car has pulled up to the sidewalk.

Bus Riders: Bus lists are on our school website as well as posted on our front windows. There is a separate lane/loop for buses. Students will be dismissed by number and assigned bus color. i.e. Bus 442 (Yellow).

Medication: Students and parents/guardians are advised that NO medication will be accepted by school personnel, or allowed to be administered under the supervision of school personnel, without the receipt of the completed and signed medication authorization form. Under no circumstances are students permitted to carry any medication on their person, in their desk, in their locker, etc. These medications include such over-the-counter drugs as aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin, cough drops, calamine lotion, cough medicine and all other non-prescription drugs. This could place them in a drug-related situation and possibly lead to suspension. Medical forms may be obtained in the Health Room and may also be downloaded from the AACPS website.

Emergency Form: This important information is collected each year to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact and safety information on file for your student. The **Emergency Card Verification Form** can be accessed online at [www.aacps.org/families](http://www.aacps.org/families). An email with directions on how to access your student's form was sent to the email address for the primary contact for your student. If you do not receive an email or have any problems accessing the form, please reach out to the school.

Cameras: Freetown Elementary 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. If you have any concerns about the system, please call the Supervisor of Security at 410-222-5083.