Dear Families of Our Eagle Scholars,

Welcome to the start of another school year! We trust your families and friends are staying safe as well as mentally/physical healthy. This school year will start a little different than in previous years, but we are confident that we will make it a FANTASTIC year. When we all walked out of the doors of Barack Obama ES on March 13, 2019 we never imagined how our world would change. Given the ongoing pandemic, we hope that your family found joy this summer and enjoyed time with family and friends. I trust you all had time to relax, rejuvenate, and appreciate the little things.

We are humbled to once again be a part of the dedicated educators, students, parents, and community members who have made Barack Obama Elementary exemplary! Your scholars have been missed over the summer, but we are ready to begin a virtual school together. We may not be in the school building, but our staff will continue to instill high expectations for academic achievement by providing a program that is robust, engaging and effective without compromising equity and excellence.

We are pleased to announce that we are fully staffed for SY21 with little transition and movement of our current staff. We do have a few new faces joining our amazing staff this school year. Mr. Quinton Hall, Miss Jordyn Florance and Mrs. Veronica Anderson will join our 3rd grade team. Unfortunately, Ms. T. Green and Ms. McNeill will be transitioning to a new adventure this year. Also, Ms. Olga Lopez Rodriquez joins the Spanish Team due to Ms. Gallego traveling back to Spain as a result of the pandemic. We have a new full time ESOL Teacher – Mrs. Teresa Hayden. Mr. Haegele has transitioned to a full time position at Perrywood ES. Finally, Erin Newman will join our Special Education team and serve as an ISEA.

Our instructional program for the 2020 - 2021 school year will include reading and writing across disciplines, mathematics to include a wide variety of online programs and manipulatives. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction created Bridging Documents for all grade levels for the first 3 weeks of school to support students with 4th Quarter SY20 information as well as beginning of the year SY21 information. In addition, we will be adding a Social/Emotional component for our scholars during the school day. Please make sure your scholar is logging in on time each morning. Be assured that we are committed to doing our part to ensure your child achieves our goal of outstanding achievement; we look forward to partnering with you to achieve this goal. YOU play a key role in the academic success of our school; hence, school-parent communication is crucial. Our focus on instruction and learning will not be compromised. To further ensure a successful school year please:

- Make your child’s prompt attendance to school a priority - Instruction begins promptly at 7:50 a.m. daily.
- A routine and schedule will be imperative for your scholars to benefit from our virtual learning environment.
- Expect homework Monday through Friday and projects on a regular basis
- Allot time for reading and practicing basic math facts with your child on a nightly basis
- Ensure your child is up to date on all immunizations and our Nurse is aware of any health conditions

I am very pleased to announce that our students in grades K-5 will continue to receive Spanish instruction during their instructional day. This countywide initiative will help our students to embrace diversity and learn Hispanic culture. The Spanish classes will also prepare our fifth graders as they transition to middle school in September 2021.
Below you will find key information about the start of the school year.

**School Hours/School Day:** School begins promptly at 7:50 a.m. and will end at 1:50 p.m. Students should be logged in to the computer and ready to participate by 7:50 a.m. We are not enforcing the uniform policy for the duration of distance learning. However, all students must follow the system-wide dress code included in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. It is important that all students have a quiet place at home where they can actively participate, focus, and concentrate on daily lessons and activities. Please work to designate such a place at home before the beginning of the school year.

In an effort to support the saving of our environment and conserve our school’s resources, we will utilize the school’s website at [https://www.pgcps.org/barackobama/](https://www.pgcps.org/barackobama/) Blackboard call out system, and Class Dojo in all grade levels for communication. The website is currently under construction as we prepare for a new school year, but will be up and running by the week of August 31, 2020.

**Updates:**

**Welcome to Barack Obama Elementary School**

**Will attendance be taken?**

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to follow the state and local guidance in collection of student and teacher attendance. There is currently a procedure in place to identify the process in which attendance is both collected and reported for both students and teachers. PGCPS is responsible for identifying, collecting and transmitting data to local, state and federal agencies for purposes of compliance, accountability and school system funding for student attendance. Strong monitoring of systems, implementation of a streamlined process, and using objective and accurate data related to attendance collection is crucial.

Physical and virtual attendance will be collected in the 2020-2021 school year and daily attendance procedures will be communicated so all stakeholders know PGCPS’ definition of being considered present.

**Attendance for Students during Distance Learning Instruction:** Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each day in SchoolMax. Attendance will be reviewed again after lunch to ensure students return virtually and are accounted for. In the event a student does not return for the afternoon, the student should be recorded as attending school for a ½ day and contact made with the home to ensure the student is safe.

- Students are expected to be in attendance for class daily and present for each session.
- Special attendance codes will be used for students who are online learning.
- After a certain day, require students to provide an absence note in order to be considered lawfully absent.

**Will scholars receive additional instructional materials? When will Chromebook be distributed?**

In addition to the materials parents/guardians are asked to provide from the school supply list, [https://www.pgcps.org/school-supplies/](https://www.pgcps.org/school-supplies/) our students will be provided a device (chromebook or ipad in primary grades). It is important that our Eagle Scholars care for their learning tools so they are available for instruction when needed. When students are not using textbooks and learning tools, they should be in a safe place to avoid loss and damage. Parents/Guardians, please help your Eagle Scholars care for their learning tools and textbooks.

**Please save the following dates for Distribution Days**

- **August 24, 2020** – All students in 1st Grade - 2nd Grade (Multi-Purpose Room) 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- **August 27, 2020** – All students in 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, & 5th Grade (Multi-Purpose Room) 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Distribution of Devices for PreK and Kindergarten:
PreK and Kindergarten students will receive an iPad for instruction this school year. They have not arrived to the school but we anticipate their arrival in the next few weeks. Once they arrive we will communicate the distribution dates for those scholars on our website, robocall and Class Dojo.

Distribution Days: Please wear a mask and social distance during distribution of devices and instructional materials.

Prince George’s County Public Schools and Barack Obama ES has a limited amount of devices at the school to distribute on the scheduled distribution days. We will continue to hand out devices until we run out.

Nationally, there has been a high demand for the procurement of electronic devices, which has resulted in delay of receiving them for PGCPS. An order has been placed and PGCPS is awaiting delivery. If your scholar is currently utilizing a personal device in the home, we ask that they continue to do so until the PGCPS order is processed. It is anticipated that additional devices will be available by September 21, 2020. Once received, you will be notified and a date and time will be scheduled for you to pick up a device. Your understanding is much appreciated.

Will scholars earn letter grades for SY21?

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) is committed to providing our students with an educational program based on instructional practices that are rooted in educational research and support student achievement. To support these efforts and establish a system where assignments and assessment both inform and drive instruction as well as provide an accurate measure of a student’s academic achievement, we will incorporate an equitable grading practice in every content area to ensure all learners’ academic success is measured with fidelity.

A systemic grading procedure provides guidance to administrators and teachers in the implementation of the grading and reporting systems to be used in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and Grades 1 through 12 in all elementary, middle, and high schools and centers in Prince George’s County Public Schools. As defined in COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) 13A.03.02.08, each local school system shall develop a written policy on grading and reporting. The PGCPS grading procedures have been developed according to COMAR regulations and outline a process so that all students can learn and achieve at high levels, rigorous performance standards and achievement standards are embedded as essential components of developing and delivering quality instruction, and regular assessment is an important component of an effective teaching and learning environment and an important tool in measuring students’ learning. School-based administrators, teachers and students will be familiar with procedures to ensure that grading and reporting policies are applied consistently within their school for hybrid and virtual learners.

- Content supervisors reviewed grading factors (homework, classwork, assessments) for appropriateness for face-to-face learners/hybrid and virtual learners as defined by each of the three factors.
- Teachers will collect a minimum of two grades per week for elementary/middle/high (per period/class) depending on the number of meetings/periods (please see Administrative Procedure 5121.1 for guidance).

Will scholars return back to the building?

PGCPS will start the school year with full distance learning for the first semester. Students will participate daily in a full school day of instruction with classes aligned to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requirements. Teachers will have the option of providing instruction from home utilizing curriculum documents and resources or using their classroom to provide instruction during the workday. Starting December 1, 2020, we will reassess the impact of COVID-19 on our state, county and school system. During this time, a parent survey will be distributed for input on the feasibility of transitioning to a hybrid learning model or maintaining the full distance learning model for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Class Assignments:
Teacher assignments will be available in the Family Portal (SchoolMax) on August 27, 2020.

**Meals:**
Meals will be delivered to mobile sites on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. More information forthcoming but students will need to know their pin numbers on the days of deliveries.

The following information is provided to help you plan for the first few months of school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 20th</td>
<td>Teachers Return to School</td>
<td>Virtually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 24th</td>
<td>Distribution of Devices for 1st and 2nd Gr.</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 27th</td>
<td>Distribution of Devices for 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 28th</td>
<td>Mock Orientation Day for ALL STUDENTS and Meet the Teacher</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 31st</td>
<td>First Day of Virtual School</td>
<td>7:50 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 7th</td>
<td>Labor Day – NO School for Students and Staff</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 15th</td>
<td>VIRTUAL Back to School Night PreK-2</td>
<td>6:00 – 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 17th</td>
<td>VIRTUAL Back to School Night 3-5</td>
<td>6:00 – 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, September 25, 2020</td>
<td>Professional Development Day – No School for Students</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 28, 2020</td>
<td>Yom Kippur – Jewish Holiday – No School for Students</td>
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Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. We look forward to seeing you virtually on August 28th for MOCK ORIENTATION DAY and August 31st for the FIRST DAY as we continue learning and leading as well as soaring to new heights in our new virtual learning environments. As always, please feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions. Megan.ashworth@pgcps.org or Brittany.pace@pgcps.org

Sincerely,

Megan K. Ashworth, Ed.D.
Principal

Brittany Pace-Walker
Assistant Principal

(see next page for examples of how to set up learning spaces at home for your scholar(s))
Examples of Learning Spaces for Scholars

Distance Learning Expectations
1. When in learning area, work hard and try my best.
2. Stay seated and listen to teacher during video.
3. A quiet voice is needed and dad is working.
4. Wash hands before eating, eating a small snack, and after bathroom.

My Schedule or Practice Week

Peyton