



Barack Obama Elementary School

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“Learning and Leading is Our Legacy – Eagle Scholars Soaring to New Heights to be Great by Choice”

Megan K. Ashworth, Principal

Michelle Jefferson-Lambert, Assistant Principal

August 9, 2017

Dear Families of our Eagle Scholars,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! What an honor it is to continue to serve as Principal of Barack Obama ES for the 4th year! We are excited to enter this school year with new ideas, fresh faces and an outstanding community support system. I welcome each and every one of you to our school at any time and encourage you to find ways to partner with us. Your scholars have been missed over the summer, so we are ready to begin another fantastic year together.

I trust that you and your family are having a wonderful summer and we are eagerly anticipating their arrival on September 6th. Here at Barack Obama ES, we believe that high expectations bring about academic transformation for all students. Be assured that we are committed to doing our part to ensure our goal that outstanding academic achievement is met. We look forward to partnering with you to achieve this goal and challenge each of you to become actively engaged in your scholar's education by joining our P.T.A. Annual membership dues are \$15.00. **YOU** play a key role in the academic success of our school; hence, school-parent communication is crucial. We are committed to instruction and learning without compromise. The following parental supports are imperative to ensure a successful school year.

Make your child's prompt attendance to school a priority - Instruction begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. daily.

- **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**
- **Return all requested forms and documents to school in a timely manner**
- **Ensure your child is up to date on all immunizations and that our Nurse is aware of any health conditions or medications your child is to be administered during school hours.**
- **PRE-K Students – SUBMIT HEALTH INVENTORY forms as soon as possible.**

Parents, recognize that the expectations are high and that the instructional program will be rigorous and challenging, yet rewarding. Reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science instruction will include the use of several resources to stimulate engagement. Your active involvement in our partnership will increase the effectiveness of our efforts. Please send your children to us with your expectation to demonstrate respect for their peers and staff, on-time, focused, equipped with the proper materials and encouraged to do their very best. We, in-turn will continue to provide a safe and engaging place for them to learn, create and develop skills toward becoming college and career ready. **Your presence is not only welcomed, but it is greatly needed and appreciated!**

I am very pleased to announce that our students in grades Pre-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 August 2018.

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Below you will find key information about the start of the school year.

School begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 1:55 p.m. Students are not allowed to enter the building until 7:30 a.m. Our front doors will remain locked until 7:30 a.m. **Prior to that time, there is no adult supervision outside except for those that have been approved for the Before and After Care Program.** It is important to be present and on time every day in order to receive the full benefit of the instructional program.

In an effort to support the saving of our environment and conserve our school's resources we will utilize the school's website at www1.pgcps.org/barackobama, call out system and agenda books in K-5 for communication; a requirement for all students. Parents can access pertinent information about BOES in our Parent-Student Handbook located on our school's website and in student agenda books. Additionally, essential **Back to School forms** that must be returned the first day of school may be accessed on the website, under "Back to School Link". If you do not have the ability to download the forms, please come in to the school to get what you need. Please thoroughly review the handbook with your child prior to the first day of school. The signature page for confirming receipt of the handbook will be sent out on the first day of school.

On-line lunch application: <https://www.applyforlunch.com/>

On-line payment site: www.SchoolPaymentSolutions.com

You will need your child's school, student ID number, name, address and birth date (to complete the form).

Please visit the following website <http://www.1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/>. For information regarding lunches and to complete the on-line free or reduced lunch application as early as possible (before September 30th) to ensure your scholar eats breakfast and lunch.

Our school supply list and uniform policy will be available on the school's website as well. Students should come to school each day dressed for success and equipped with the necessary supplies. School uniforms can be purchased from one of our community partners (Kids 4 Less or Target).

Class assignments for returning students are included in this letter and will be available in the Family Portal after August 28th. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be informed of teacher assignments at the orientation on August 31st from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. We will also host a **“Sneek a Peek at your Scholar's Seat”** on August 31st for students in **grades 1-5** from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to meet your teacher, identify their classroom, update transportation and bring in school supplies.

CHANGE: Birthday celebrations: (store bought cupcakes with NO PEANUTS and juice only) will be allowed in the cafeteria at the child's lunch time. A responsible adult must be available to pass out the cupcakes and juice during lunch. No celebrations will occur in the classrooms so that all of our time is dedicated to instruction. Please do not bring any decorations or grab bags for students.

Class assignments are included in this letter. A team is organized for this collaborative work in an effort to place students strategically based on their strengths. Students are assigned to classroom teachers based on several school assessment data points. Unfortunately, we have a few staff members who have transitioned; Miss Hapach moved to Kentucky, Miss Williams is headed to Law School, Mr. Hodge has transitioned to another to another school district, Mr. Butler transitioned to James Madison MS, Mrs. Gilbert is now officially an Assistant Principal at Cherokee Lane, Mrs. Walker is an Instructional Lead Teacher here at BOES, Ms. Virkus and Ms. Elder transferred to another school. We have new faces who will join our BOES family and we are excited about the knowledge they will bring to our team.

Date	Event	Time
Thursday, August 31 st	Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten Orientation & P.T.A. Membership Drive	1:30 - 3:00 P.M.
Thursday, August 31 st	“Sneek a Peek at your Scholars Seat” (NEW this year! Visit the school to briefly meet your teacher and bring in all of your school supplies)	6:30 – 7:30 P.M.
September	PTA Spiritwear Fundraiser	TBD
Wednesday, Sept. 6 th	First Day of School (PK-5)	7:45 - 1:55 P.M.
Monday, September 4 th	No School-Labor Day	
	1 st P.T.A Meeting and P.T.A. Membership Drive	6:30 – 7:30 P.M.
Tuesday, September 19 th	Grandparents Day – Classic Photography will take photos	8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 20 th	Back to School Night & P.T.A. Membership Drive Pre-K - 2	6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, September 21 st	Back to School Night & P.T.A. Membership Drive Grades 3-5	6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Friday, September 29 th	2-Hour Early Dismissal Professional Dev. Day	School dismisses at 11:50 a.m. (students will eat lunch before they leave school)
Tuesday, October 3 rd	PTA Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
	PTA – Out of Uniform Day – make sure you attend the PTA meeting to receive the coupon	TBD
September 12 th -October 7 th	P.T.A Claire’s Fundraiser	TBD
Wednesday, October 18 th	BOES Jog-A-Thon	All Day at Wise HS Track
Friday, October 20 th	Professional Development – No School for Students	All Day
Tuesday, October 24 th	Fall Pictures – Classic Photography – UNIFORM DAY	All Day
Friday, October 30 th	2 hour Early Dismissal Day	School dismisses at 11:50 a.m. (Students will eat lunch before they leave school)

The cost for school breakfast will be \$1.60 and \$2.75 for lunch. The cost for reduced school breakfast is \$0.30 and \$0.40 for lunch. Students that received free or reduced lunch last year will be able to purchase lunch at the price they paid last year for approximately the first three weeks of school only. A new application for free or reduced lunch will be available on the PGCPs website and must be completed before September 30, 2017. For more information on lunches please visit the Food and Nutrition website <http://www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/index.aspx?id=190974>

G Suite Account: PGCPs is a G Suite (formerly Google Apps) for Education school system. This provides staff and students with a free suite of communication and productivity tools. Using these tools, students can build literacy across content areas and develop skills that will help prepare them for college and careers. A flyer will be sent home on the first day of school outlining the procedures to get your scholar signed up for their account. If you do not want your scholar to participate there is an opt out policy in place.

Medications at school: We urge you to dispense all medications at home whenever possible. If medications must be taken at school, clearly defined guidelines must be followed. Any medications brought to school must be left in the health room where they are secured. All medications require a written permission form from a physician specifying dosage, child's name, and the time the medication is to be given, with authorization for us to administer the medication at school. A "Physician's Medication Authorization for Prescription and Nonprescription Medication," Form PS-51, or a "Parent's/Guardian's and Physician's Medication Authorization Form for Emergency Medication —Epipen—for Management of Acute Allergic Reaction," Form PS-51 EPIPEN, or a "Physician's Authorization for Medication by Inhaler/Mechanical Device," Form PS-51/INH, must be on file for each individual situation. Upon taking the medication, the student signs a log indicating receipt of the medication.

Information about bus routes, pick-up, and drop-off times will be mailed to your homes under separate cover from the Transportation Office. You may also go online to www.pgcps.org to get information regarding transportation.

If your child's pick-up (A.M.) and/or drop-off (P.M.) address is different from your home address, please provide the alternate address, point of contact, and phone number to the main office as soon as possible. If your child is taking the school bus to a local after care please ensure this information is updated with the office.

Also, please review the A.M. and P.M. bus numbers with your child, complete the bus information card, and send it with your child on the first day. If there are any questions, please contact the school or the Department of Transportation at 301-952-6570 or via email at Transpor@pgcps.org. If your child has an alternate PM address, please notify the Main Office immediately.

Thank you for the commitment to your child's education. We look forward to seeing you on September 6th as we continue to soar to new heights to be Great by Choice. As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions at 301-574-4020.

Educationally yours,

Megan K. Ashworth
Principal

Michelle Jefferson-Lambert
Assistant Principal