



# ARBUTUS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Michelle P. Feeney, Principal

5525 Shelbourne Road, Arbutus, MD 21227

August 10, 2018

Dear AMS Families,

We are very excited to extend greetings during these final weeks of summer and to welcome our AMS families back to school for the 2018-2019 school year. We are also looking forward to meeting our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Our staff at Arbutus Middle School is preparing for an amazing school year filled with Eagle P.R.I.D.E!

Parents and Guardians, please take time to read the Parent Handbook included in this back-to-school mailing. This guide contains important information regarding the Arbutus Middle School procedures and policies. We ask that parents and guardians take note of our policy pertaining to students' use of cell phones during school hours.

Opening day for students is **Tuesday, September 4, 2018**. Doors open at 8:05am. Students arriving earlier will wait outside the building until the 8:05 bell. Our school day begins promptly at **8:20 am**. Students will proceed directly to their combined first period/homeroom class. Our "Grab and Go Breakfast" will be available from 8:05-8:15am. Students with scheduling questions will be assisted during homeroom time.

It is important that students arrive to school on time so they do not miss the beginning of their first period class. Teachers will be ready to begin instruction by 8:20 am. At the end of the school day, all students will be dismissed at 2:55 pm.

## **Students are assigned to the following staff members for support and guidance this year:**

### **Grade 6**

Counselor - Susan Weinstein

Administrators in Charge - April Jones - A-K, Perry Warren - L-Z

### **Grade 7**

Assistant Principal Perry Warren/Counselor Taylor Edwards

### **Grade 8**

Assistant Principal April Jones/Counselor Kathy Gardner

## **We welcome the following outstanding staffs who are joining AMS this year:**

STAT – Kristin Cunningham

Counselor Grade 6 - Susan Weinstein

Science- Amber Ary

Reading- Nancy Wright

Math 7 – Malkeet Gary

We welcome the return of **Mike Goldberg, our PTA president this school year**. We are looking forward to working with Mike and the other amazing members of our AMS PTA board. Please visit the AMS PTA website for details about membership, fundraisers, and upcoming events.

## **School Security and Safety**

The safety of all students and staff in Baltimore County Public Schools is of utmost importance. Our procedures for student pick-up and dismissal are in place to ensure the safety of all students. We ask that parent and guardians please make sure that all student emergency contacts have been updated so that we have names of those who have consent to pick up your child.

Emergency Contact forms will be sent home with your student the first day of school. Also, every BCPS school utilizes the RAPTOR system for checking in all visitors. Please note that when you visit our school for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID, or a driver's license to a staff member in the school office. The ID will be scanned, and the following information will be collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the country. If your name appears on any of the lists or you refuse to allow the school to scan your ID, you will not be allowed access to the school. You will also be asked to check out with the office staff upon leaving the school. You will be required to check into the system even if you are only coming to school to pick up your child. The information collected will not be shared outside of the school and is kept on a secure server.

Middle and high school students will be responsible for wearing their One cards on a daily basis and will take them home at the end of each day. The One-card identification system is one more step in improving security for students and staff.

### **Other Important Information**

This packet includes **student schedules as well as essential information** to help your child get begin this school year. The enclosed forms should be completed and returned to school with your child for delivery to his or her homeroom teacher during the first week of school. Among these forms is the **health consent form** for our school nurse. Also included in this packet are the AMS Parent Handbook (please review with your child), the school supply list, bus list, and the 2018 PTA membership envelope. please help our PTA sponsor student events and activities donating to our AMS PTA.

Finally, two **important dates**: AMS will host New Students/6th Grade Orientation on August 30. Our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have the opportunity to spend a half day at AMS locating their classes, finding and opening lockers, and most importantly, meeting their teachers. This is school day is only for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Our **AMS Back-to-School Night** will be held on Wednesday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Please join us that evening to meet your child's teachers and the rest of the AMS staff. We have so much to share about the amazing things happening at AMS! We look forward to a year of seeing our Eagles soar to new heights with Eagle P.R.I.D.E.!

Please contact us if you have any questions at (410) 887-1402 and follow us on Twitter for the latest AMS news Arbutus MS@ ArbutusMS and Facebook.

Looking forward to a great year!

Warmest regards,

*Michelle P. Feeney*

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Principal