



Week of
September 20, 2021



Walter J. Mitchell Bulldogs!

Dear WJM Parent/Guardian,

Thank you so much for everyone's cooperation at dismissal. I'm not sure if you noticed, but it was significantly better. I know that it is still taking longer than previous years, but we will continue to chip away at the time in an effort to make it shorter.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL



Dismissal of children during the school day (9:00 – 3:30 p.m.) is discouraged because it creates some of the same problems as tardiness & missing out on directions or important parts of a lesson. Occasions do arise, however, when it is necessary for parents to pick children up early. In such cases, please remember the following

- **Send an email to Ms. Gomez (dgomez@ccboe.com) and Ms. Williams (ddwilliams@ccboe.com) by 12:00 PM (noon).** It is very difficult to ensure a dismissal meets a change if it is not received by noon.
- When the parent or guardian comes to pick up the child, he/she must show identification (**state issued ID**) and sign out the child. Office staff will then call the child to report to the office.
- Please remember students will not be called for early dismissal after 2:50 PM. If possible, try to schedule appointments during the morning, as this does not impact the regular dismissal process. Any student being picked up prior to the end of the day will receive an afternoon tardy.

CHANGES IN STUDENT'S SCHOOL DEPARTURE ROUTINE

WHAT TO DO?

To ensure your child's safety, we enforce the following:

- Students must have a regular and consistent school dismissal routine. Your options include the following: Bus Rider, Car Rider, Daycare Van, and Alphabest.
- If your child's dismissal needs to be different from the regular routine, parents **must** submit a written request.
- **Phone calls will not be permitted as a method to change your child's dismissal routines. We require this notification in writing by 12:00 PM (noon) to both office secretaries, Deanna Gomez (dgomez@ccboe.com) and Deborah Williams (ddwilliams@ccboe.com). Please also include the classroom teacher.**
- If for some reason you must send someone else to pick up your child, you MUST send a note (with your signature) giving the school permission to release your child to that person – even if their name is listed as an emergency contact! The person must present a state issued ID before signing out the child.

Important Dates to Remember

- **September 28-** 2 hr. early dismissal **AND** Open House from 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- **October 8-** 2 hr. early dismissal
- **October 11-** Columbus Day – School Closed for students.
- **October 12 -** Chipotle Spirit Night
- **October 29 –** Fall Picture Day

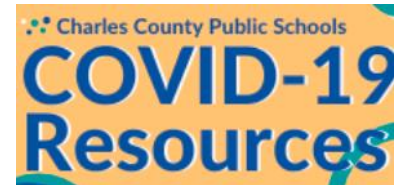
CCPS UPDATED COVID-19 PROCEDURES

CCPS has updated its protocols for the testing of sick students and staff by a school nurse. Students with a known exposure who want to test out of quarantine after **seven days** with a negative COVID-19 test must now visit their doctor, use an outside vendor or test through the Charles County Department of Health. The health department offers free testing three times a week. Families may also elect to quarantine their child for **10 days** and return to school without testing. Any student or staff member who pre-screens at school as potentially positive for COVID-19 will be offered a PCR test. Staff and students may not return to school or school activities until the results of the test are known.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the updated SOP.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the updated prescreening questionnaire.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the covid quarantine protocol for CCPS.



REMINDER

- This year's open house, scheduled for September 28, will be held in a virtual format. Times and links will be sent by classroom teachers on September 27.
- All visitors are **required to present photo** identification before entering the school building.
- Parent / Guardians picking up their child should not park along the road/parking lots and walk up to the school during car rider dismissal. You must stay in the car rider line.
- Students will not be released from school after 2:50 PM for early dismissal as we are preparing for our dismissal procedures. This allows for a safe and orderly dismissal of all students.
- Students in grades 1-5 should bring in headphones or earbuds for i-Ready and MCAP testing. They have to be wired, no Bluetooth.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to access the CCPS Parent Handbook/Calendar online.
- Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) offers families an option to look up transportation information for students. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the portal. This portal requires users to enter their child's six-digit student identification number and birth date to access transportation details.
- Synergy, and the different "views" called VUES, is Charles County Public Schools Information System. The system allows parents and students to monitor grades, assignments, class information and more. StudentVue activation information is posted [HERE](#) on the CCPS website.
- When visiting the school, we request that you contact us by phone first, if possible, to handle any school business (301-753-1760). **Picture ID's, social distancing and facemasks are required for all visitors to Mitchell Elementary School.**

