



**Week of  
September 13, 2021**



## **Walter J. Mitchell Bulldogs!**

Dear WJM Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for another wonderful week at Mitchell. We welcomed our pre-kindergarten classes to school last week, and they have done a fantastic job!

### **VIRTUAL EVENTS**

Schools have been asked to offer meetings virtually or outdoors when possible. This may include parent conferences and meetings, PTO meetings, and open house events.

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.

### **CCPS UPDATED COVID-19 PROCEDURES**

CCPS tightens COVID-19 testing procedures at schools. 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.

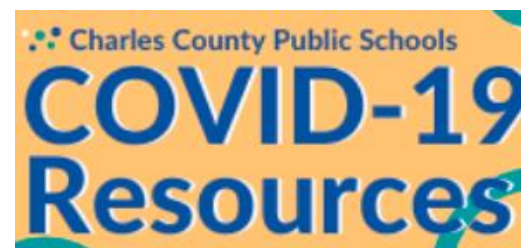
Staff who are exposed outside of school will no longer be allowed to receive a COVID-19 test at school to end a quarantine early. Staff should visit their doctor, use an outside vendor or test through the health department on day seven, or wait until day 10 to return to work without a test.

Rapid tests will only be administered by nurses at their discretion for students or staff who display COVID-19 symptoms. Any student or staff member who pre-screens 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. Additionally, individuals who refuse the PCR test after pre-screening as potentially positive will be presumed COVID-19 positive and excluded from school and school activities for ten days. CCPS also updated the COVID-19 prescreening questionnaire.

[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.



# 100% ID CHECK

## Important Notice to Parent/Guardians & Visitors

All visitors are **required to present photo** identification before entering the school building. During dismissal, all Parent/Guardians are **required to present photo identification** when picking up their child. **This is the policy for all CCPS schools including Walter J. Mitchell Elementary.** This process helps ensure the safety and security of all students. If you would like to discuss this policy, you are asked to contact Mr. Adam, Principal, by phone: 301-751-1760 or email: [nadam@ccboe.com](mailto:nadam@ccboe.com).

### Important Dates to Remember

- September 11 – Patriots Day
- September 12 - National Grandparents Day – You are awesome!
- September 14 – Board of Education Meeting
- September 16 – Spirit Day- School Pride (Wear Mitchell Spirit or School Colors)
- September 17 - Schools closed for students. Charles County Fair Day!
- September 22 – Spirit Day- First Day of Autumn (Wear Fall Colors)
- September 27 – Fall Picture Day
- September 28 - 2 hr. early dismissal
- September 28 - Open House 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- October 1 – PBIS Celebration (Referral Free for the month of September)
- October 12 - Chipotle Spirit Night

## POLICY UPDATES

- After consultation with the Charles County Sheriff's Office and CCPS Central office, parents **should no longer park along the road/parking lots and walk up to the school during car rider dismissal.** When you do this, it takes away resources, (Principal and Vice Principal who need to ID check) needed for car riders, causing further delays to 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 who are signed out prior to 2:50 PM will receive afternoon tardy, negatively impacting grades.**
- From Ms. Smigal, Testing Coordinator: Students in grades 1-5 should bring in headphones or earbuds for i-Ready and MCAP testing. They have to be wired, no Bluetooth. If parents can label them with the students' names, that would be awesome!

## DON'T FORGET

- Thank you to everyone who submitted a transportation form - it helps to be able to plan for a safe and efficient dismissal process. As a reminder – parents should select the method in which their

child will be transported HOME. We require that parents select **ONE METHOD** for afternoon transportation. Options for dismissal include:

- **Bus** (must be the bus assigned to the student's home address)
- **Car/van rider**
- **Alphabest** (student will remain at school for aftercare).
- Be sure to sign and return the following items that were sent home: **Student Emergency Card and CCPS Code of Conduct Signature Page.**
- Use the CCPS Pre-Screening Questionnaire to assess your child before sending them to school daily. If your child presents any symptoms, they should stay home from school and you should contact your child's doctor. [CLICK HERE](#) to **access the Questionnaire.**
- Please send a reusable water bottle for your child to use. Water fountains will only be used to fill up water bottles.

Keep the 2021-22 Parent Handbook/School Calendar handy! This valuable resource includes school system policies as well as important dates (early dismissals, vacation days, report card/progress report dates, etc. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the CCPS Parent Handbook/Calendar online.



### PTO NEWS

We are very excited to kick off our PTO fall Spirit Wear Fundraiser! Items include masks and hoodies - perfect for a fall day! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access our Mitchell Team Store! Use the code **WJMFALL21**. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the attached flyer for more information.

### Elementary Cell Phone Rule



As many of our students' parents desire them to have a cell phone for safety reasons, please note the CCPS rule regarding cell phones at school for elementary students. The following conditions outline the standard expectations for the possession and/or the use of cell phones and electronic devices by students at school.

**Elementary school students:** Students may only bring their phone or device, with a written request from the parent or guardian for a specific purpose, **and** upon receipt of written **approval from the principal**. Once approved, students must keep their phone or device powered **completely off** (not on vibrate or silent) and inside their book bag, locker or cubby throughout the entirety of each school day, unless other storage arrangements are made with the teacher.

### Laptops & Student Devices



Parents in grades KD-3 should monitor their email for information about returning devices from their teacher. **Please note** –Only CCPS devices should be returned to school. No personal device should be brought to school. Students should also bring a pair of headphones.



### Bus Information

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) now offers families a second option to look up transportation information for students. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the new portal. The new portal requires users to enter their child's six-digit student identification number and birth date to access transportation details. Additionally, the new system allows families of students with special needs transportation or eligible out-of-zone bus assignments to view their child's transportation information. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the School Locator available on the CCPS website. School Locator is designed to allow the public to enter an address and see which three schools – elementary, middle and high – an address is zoned for. It also indicates if the address is eligible for bus transportation to a particular school, the bus number for each route, and the location of the closest bus stop to the address.



CCPS has a reopening plan for all schools posted on the county website at [CCPS Reopening Guide](#), as well as, [Standard Operating Procedures](#) in place that address COVID-19, safety measures, testing procedures for sick students/staff and guidelines for classrooms and schools. These procedures are posted [HERE](#) on the CCPS website. Staff regularly meet with state and local officials to monitor health and safety data. Any updates to CCPS standard operating procedures will be shared on the school system website at ccboe.com.



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.**



Synergy, and the different "views" called VUES, is Charles County Public Schools Information System. The system allows parents, students, teachers and administrators to monitor grades, assignments, class information and more. Parents will need their child's six-digit student identification number to use the system; student ID numbers are located at the top of report cards. The system is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are free apps in both the Apple and Android stores, and the system can be accessed through the school system website. Parent/StudentVUE now displays student CCPS passwords and CCPS device information. When you log in, click student information, then additional information and you will find passwords and CCPS device information. If you have questions about your current account, please call the front office and someone will be able to assist you or email [parentvue@ccboe.com](mailto:parentvue@ccboe.com). StudentVue activation information is posted [HERE](#) on the CCPS website.



We value our home-school connection! Collaboration with your student's teacher and administration is important to a healthy and successful year. Open communication is vital to ensure a productive home-school partnership throughout the year. With this partnership, we will continue our pursuit of providing outstanding academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant and foster great relationships. Please do not hesitate to share any great ideas, questions, or concerns with our administrative team. You can call at 301-753-1760 or email us at [nadam@ccboe.com](mailto:nadam@ccboe.com) / [avalenzuela-carrington@ccboe.com](mailto:avalenzuela-carrington@ccboe.com) with questions, concerns or comments.

