



BARNET SCHOOL *A VT Rural Partnership School Community*

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Barnet School Mission Statement

Barnet School strives to be a supportive community of learners in which every member meets the highest standards.

August 25th, 2020

Dear Barnet Families,

I hope you were able to enjoy this beautiful summer and get some well-deserved rest.

We are quickly approaching the beginning of the new school year. Our teachers are getting ready for a new learning model and are receiving additional training to assist our learners both on campus and online. They are learning about a new Landing Page for parents and students and some additional web tools to better assist students. The individual pages will have video recordings embedded into the weekly assignments and additional resources.

Following the state guidelines, we will have all the students in grades prek-5 on campus everyday with early dismissal at 1:30 pm (Elementary Cohort) and an alternate middle school schedule of in person and online hybrid learning for our middle school students (Middle School Cohort). The early release schedule will allow for the additional cleaning and disinfecting of the school and for extra time for the teachers to follow up with those students who chose full remote learning for this year.

The first 4-6 weeks of morning advisory time with the students will be dedicated to class discussions about social-emotional learning topics (SEL). Our SEL committee is training our teachers on how to use different resources and help our learners to regain some social and team skills after having spent so much time away from school. We believe now more than ever, our students and staff need this time together to connect and adapt again to a normal school environment.

We are planning on using our outdoor space as much as possible, while still following safe distancing guidelines. The school purchased a large 20x30 tent that will be placed on our playground area, and a few 10X10 tents that will be used for different outdoor classrooms and additional coverage for the school entrances in case of rainy days. These tents and our existing pavilion will give us many options for outdoor classes. The outdoors will also provide for some very much needed mask breaks.

Our teachers will soon share with you the individual class schedule for your child(ren). Please keep in mind the recommendations provided by our Nurse, Mrs. Vaal when preparing for your child's school day. I am attaching a letter from Mrs. Vaal to this newsletter with her recommendations. Her letter will also be posted on our website. Please read carefully the requirements for attending in person, to ensure everybody's safety. Unfortunately, we are still under some very strict restrictions due to the pandemic and we all need to help out with observing some basic social distancing rules. Everybody in the building will have to wear a mask. Face shields are an additional precaution, but are not a substitute for a mask. No adults will be allowed into the building (with the exception of the staff, of course) at any time (not even after school).

This is necessary to ensure the minimal possible contact with external agents of contagion. Health screenings will occur at the entrance in an orderly manner and students will be escorted to their classrooms after a temperature check. Anyone with temperature higher than 100 degrees will not be allowed into the building and parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their children.

During the school day, meals will be served in the classrooms, and most of the instruction will occur in the students' homerooms or outdoors. If you are planning on buying lunch and breakfast for your children, you will need to pre-order them the day before. The classroom teacher will help you out with this part of the planning. We will be sending a letter from Mr. Ken Cyr, Food Services Director for CCSU that explains the process of applying for Free-Reduced Lunch as well (FRL). For our remote learners, ordering meals is still an option and there will be some pick up schedule that will be shared with you, if you choose this service. The cost of the breakfast and lunch have increased slightly. Please refer to Ken's letter for details.

Our building underwent a thorough cleaning and disinfecting during the summer and we are very thankful for all the work done by our janitorial staff. The building, once again, looks at its best.

Tina is putting together start of the year packets to be mailed to families on Saturday August 29th. Please make sure to complete all forms and send them back with your child on the first day of school.

As a personal note, I want you to know all of us missed the kids tremendously and we look forward to seeing them again and working with them every day.

A huge thank you to our PTF, who donated ten thermometers for our school screenings. If you are in need of a thermometer, please let us know and we would gladly send you one.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our office if you need any help.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Luisa Millington
Principal, Barnet School*