

# Relay Elementary

## School News

### September 2022

#### Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar This Month

#### September

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day - Schools Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Back to School Night at 6:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24
25	26 Rosh Hashanah - Schools Closed	27 Kindergarten Meet and Greet - Arbutus Library at 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30	

Looking Ahead to Next Month:

October 5<sup>th</sup> - Yom Kippur (schools closed)

October 6<sup>th</sup> - PTA Meeting at 6:00pm in the Library

October 21<sup>st</sup> - Schools Closed (MSEA Convention)

October 24<sup>th</sup> – Systemwide PD DAY (schools closed for students)



## *Principal's Message*

Welcome back!! Here are some of the wonderful things we worked on this summer in order to ensure Relay was ready to welcome students back:

- New desks with built in storage bins arrived for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Our school grounds were beautified – mulching, weeding, flowers planted
- New books arrived and were loaded into our book vending machine for students to receive on their birthdays and other special occasions
- Teachers and staff engaged in professional development aligned to our school progress plan on the topics of ELA, Math, Safe and Supportive School Environment, and Equity
- Our building service crew completed a full building summer cleaning regimen
- Code of Conduct posters were updated for a fresh look in all classrooms and throughout the building
- Updated our school website to reflect accurate and up to date information – this remains an ongoing work in progress; thank you for your patience!

It was such a joy-filled event, seeing so many of you at Sneak a Peek on August 26<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it, don't worry – you will have another opportunity to visit when we have our Back to School Night on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.!

Our BCPS Superintendent, Dr. Williams, stopped by for a visit and to have lunch with some of our students during the first week back. We were proud to celebrate the collective 34 years of service at Relay of our cafeteria crew, and students enjoyed sharing their best jokes and stories from the first day of school with our Team BCPS leader.

We practiced our first fire drill which was a great success! Our School Safety Manager, Dr. Ford, was on site to observe and support. Students did an excellent job following directions and demonstrating preparedness for staying safe.

As always, we are so grateful to you, our Relay community, for partnering with us to keep our students safe and learning. Please remember to reach out any time to share your concerns, questions, ideas, and feedback. You can reach me by email at [lgrace3@bcps.org](mailto:lgrace3@bcps.org) or by calling the school at 443-809-1426.



**From Your Very Proud Principal, *Lisa***

***Grace***

## **Relay Elementary Staffing Update**



While we were not immune to the teacher shortage, we have been very lucky to have a school community of dedicated staff who are flexible, creative, and solution-driven. As a result, instead of having vacancies, we were able to form complete grade levels of teachers, supported by solid teams of knowledgeable and experienced resource staff. Please direct any questions or concerns about staffing to administration. Thank you for your support of our teachers!

## **School Attendance**

It is very important that children start their day at school in a calm and consistent manner so that they can gain maximum benefit from the instructional program. Thanks for your continued cooperation to ensure all students arrive to school on time.

### **Relay Elementary's Bell Schedule:**

<b>Opening Bell</b>	<b>8:40am</b>
<b>Late Bell</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
<b>Dismissal Bell</b>	<b>3:40pm</b>

## **Cell phones**

Please remind students of the cell phone policy: If you choose to bring your cell phone to school, it must be off and away during school hours. This includes similar devices, including smart watches. Students are not permitted to make phone calls, text, use social media, take photos or videos, etc. while at school. If parents need to reach students or vice versa, please call into the front office at 443-809-1426.

## **Dismissal Changes**

We understand that life requires changes so please follow the steps below if your child will need to change their normal dismissal plan.

- Send in a note indicating the normal plan, the change, and the reason.
- Your child should give the note to his/her teacher. Children are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one assigned to them. If you are concerned that the note will not find its way to the teacher, please email your child's teacher along with the office staff, Jennifer Szczesniakowski at [jszczesniakowski@bcps.org](mailto:jszczesniakowski@bcps.org), Stacey Cronin at [scronin@bcps.org](mailto:scronin@bcps.org), and Robin Kodek at [rkodek@bcps.org](mailto:rkodek@bcps.org).
- If you have not received a confirmation email by 3:00, please call the main office at 443-809-1426 to ensure your child is dismissed properly. **Please make sure dismissal plans are in place prior to 3:00pm.**
- We are unable to make changes to dismissal plans after 3:00, unless there is an emergency.

## **School Meals**



Breakfast will be offered free of charge to all students this year. Lunch will be available for purchase, and parents must complete the online Free and Reduced Meal application to determine eligibility for meals at no cost: [MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)

## **Safe and Healthy Environment**



Masks remain optional for everyone in the building. We will continue to implement other healthy habits, including frequent hand washing and safe distancing whenever possible.

We ask that families update all student emergency contacts; anyone who comes to pick up a child MUST be listed on the contact form.

ALL visitors will be asked their reason for visiting and must show ID upon entering the building. Visits to classrooms will be allowed only when scheduled in advance with the teacher.

Officer Barbour is our School Resource Officer, and he will be visiting Relay regularly to conduct safety checks, to respond to situations as needed, and to build positive rapport and relationships with students, staff, and families. He visited this week with our Superintendent, Dr. Williams, to get the year off to a safe start!

## **Special Thanks**

The following community partners provided generous donations during pre-service week to help welcome our Relay family back to school. We are so grateful for the service, support, and partnership!

**B & O Railroad Museum**

**Pat's Porch**

**Mosaic Community Church**

**Relay PTA**

**Kaiser Permanente - Halethorpe**

**Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine**

## **Where to find Information**

Updates and information will be shared out regularly by teachers, and by administration via our SchoolMessenger tool as needed, which may include text, email, and/or phone calls. Contact the front office if you need to update any of your contact information to ensure you receive this information.

School Website:

<https://relay.es.bcps.org>

BCPS Website:

[www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org)

Relay Elementary Main Office

443-809-1426

Twitter:

@BaltCoPS

@Relay\_BCPS

@LisaGraceRelay

BCPS Transportation Department

[Transportation\\_Contact\\_Us@bcps.org](mailto:Transportation_Contact_Us@bcps.org)

443-809-4321

