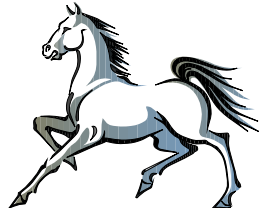


# MUSTANG MESSENGER

Robert Moton Elementary  
1413 Washington Rd.  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Phone: 410-751-3610  
Fax: 410-751-3927



Darryl Robbins, Principal  
Lauren Murray, Asst. Principal  
Jennifer Shipley, Asst. Principal  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
<http://www.carrollk12.org/rme>

## August/September 2021

Dear Robert Moton Families,

It's almost time for school to start! We hope that you enjoyed your summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. We are **very excited** about the beginning of a new year and cannot wait until the Ranch is full with our Mustangs! Please take some time to read through this newsletter, as it contains important information about the upcoming school year. Some staffing changes have occurred over the summer. Please see the special section on page three of the newsletter. We have added some new faces to our staff, and we wish them all great success this school year. Please welcome them to the Ranch!

We hope you can attend our Back to School Night for primary grade levels (Pre K – 2<sup>nd</sup>) on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and for our intermediate grade levels (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>) on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. This important opportunity allows you a chance to meet school staff, learn valuable information about the upcoming school year, and find out changes made to the curriculum as well as receive more information about county and state assessments. Students in grades 3-5 will be taking MCAP Assessments starting in September; but more information will come out directly from your teachers at the start of the year about your child's specific testing dates.

Our custodial and clerical staff have been working hard over the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. The building looks bright and shiny and new materials have arrived. In addition, over the summer, our parking lot has been expanded and all areas of the driveway and parking lot have been resurfaced. Look for new directional signs for buses and parent pick-ups.

Mark your calendar for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House. We will have New Student Orientation from 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Kindergarten and Pre-K orientation will also be during this time in the cafeteria. *Open House for Pre-K through Grade 5 will begin at 2:30 p.m.*

*It is important that you complete and return to the office the attached **STUDENT ARRIVAL – DEPARTURE FORM** during the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House **OR** on/before the first day of school. Please make this a priority as you get your children ready to return to school. Please also continue to check your email for important updates from the school and CCPS.*

*We are sincerely looking forward to the upcoming school year and working with you and your child(ren). We hope that you will continue to be involved in our PTO and Volunteer Program. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. We will see your student for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Giddy up!!*

*Darryl Robbins*  
Principal

*Lauren Murray*  
Asst. Principal

*Jennifer Shipley*  
Asst. Principal

### Important Dates

## SEPTEMBER DATES

- 2** New Student Orientation: 2:00-2:30 p.m.  
Open House (all other students): 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- 8** First Day of School
- 17** PBIS Kickoff Assembly: 2:00 p.m.
- 22** Back to School Night for **Pre K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**  
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 23** Back to School Night for **3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 23** Fall Picture Day – Completed form and money due this day. (Online orders are accepted, as well, at [www.classic-photo.com](http://www.classic-photo.com))



# It Makes Our Day

## When We Hear From You!

Let us know when your student is absent or has an early dismissal at

[RMEAttendance@carrollk12.org](mailto:RMEAttendance@carrollk12.org) or call 410-751-3610. **Please be sure to report dismissal changes by 1:00!**

Please note: **RMEA** is in all caps.

## ATTENDANCE

Students have 180 days each year to learn their grade level curriculum. When a student is absent, late, or leaves early, valuable instructional time is missed, which is hard to make up. We want to see all students here ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, unless they are sick or have an emergency.

## IMPORTANT!

**Robert Moton Elementary School's start time:**

- Doors will open to students at 8:00 a.m.
- The late bell will ring at 8:30 a.m.
- Dismissal will begin at 3:00



A student is counted present for a full day if in attendance four hours or more of the *school day*. A student is counted present for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the day if in attendance for at least two hours of the *school day*, but less than four hours. A student is counted absent when in school less than two hours of the *school day*.

Pupil attendance requirements are described in the Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations. Those absences which are considered lawful and therefore excused with a parent note include: death in the immediate family, illness of the child, court summons, observance of a religious holiday, and suspension.

In addition, *absences* will be considered unlawful if the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) does not provide a lawful explanation of the absence in a written note, fax, e-mail, or phone call within **five days** of the student returning to school.

## Late Arrival:

Parents/Guardians must walk their student into the school office and sign in as a late arrival. ▲

**Please do not drop your child off at the front of the school to walk in unattended.**



## *RME Teaching Teams*

### **PREP**

Lori Callahan  
Heather Carden

### **Pre-Kindergarten**

Melinda Kreimer

### **Kindergarten**

Emily Boylan  
Dorothy Newton  
**Tanya Stephenson**

### **First Grade**

**Diane Bankard**  
Rachel Bucklen  
Asa Evan  
Nicole Mort

### **Second Grade**

Brittany Collett  
Amy Durdon  
Katie Tardif  
**Maggie Wade**

### **Third Grade**

Marilyn Black  
**Kelly Brewer**  
Samantha Havighurst  
Jen Howard

### **Fourth Grade**

**Kristy Groomes**  
Katelyn Richardson  
Brittany Vangaasbeck

### **Fifth Grade**

Kim Larrick  
**Todd Leckron**  
Abby Miller  
Amanda Stevens

### **LFI**

Cristina Mehl

### **BEST**

**Kim DeShong**: Grades 1/2  
Kevin Donahue: Grade 5  
Morgan Hinkle: Grades 2/3  
Antoinette Martin: Grades 3-5  
Eric Schlosser: Grades 3/4  
Stephanie Staples: Grades 2/3  
Shannon Stull: Grades 3/4

### **Fine Arts & Fitness (FAF)**

Stephen Barker: Physical Education  
**Matt Cahill**: Physical Education  
Lisa Dorsey: Art  
Emma Fish: Media Clerk  
Michael Jensen: Physical Education  
Michelle Meagher: Media  
Christie Shifflett: Art (W)  
Michael Skopp: Instrumental Music  
Brian Stojak: Vocal Music  
Mark Topper: Vocal Music  
Susan Vandegrift: Health  
Robert Vaughn: Physical Education

### **Title One**

Mary Jo Custance TIPL  
**Megan Grabowski**  
**Trish McHale**  
Katie Stauder

### **Special Education**

**Gretchen Dix**  
Jane Liwanag  
**Amanda Merriam**  
Katelyn Scarmazzi

### **Specialists**

Karen Alderman  
Kristi Bozzell: Nurse  
Kim Dorsey: School Psychologist  
**Frank Fiore**: BEST Counselor  
**Michelle Fitzgerald**: Math Specialist  
**Kellie Hammersla**: Speech  
Kelly Keefer: Occupational Therapist  
Julie Pennington: COTA  
**Suzanne Peters**: School Counselor  
Miriam Pipes: ESOL  
**Doreen Scott**: BEST Counselor  
Kelley Smith: Advanced Academics  
Kelly Snyder: Pupil Personnel Worker  
**Christina Storie**: ELA Specialist  
*Vacant*: BEST Psychologist  
Julie Yoshioka: Speech

Names in bold indicates the team leader.

## *Welcome to RME*

Asa Evans: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Morgan Hinkle: BEST 2/3  
Morgan Hinkle: BEST 2/3  
Sarah Klein: PreK Para  
Caty LeClere: PT  
Jane Liwanag: Resource

Cristina Mehl  
Cristie Shifflett: Art  
Jennifer Shipley: Assistant Principal  
Amanda Stevens: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Brian Stojak: Music  
Mark Topper: Music



## *Fond Farewells*

Lynnie Hoffman: Varied  
Jean Jordan: BEST  
Jen Katherman: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Barbara Kempton: Café  
Karen Langevin: Varied  
Angela McNamara: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Morgan Monroe: LFI  
Andi O'Connell: Psychologist  
Kelly Smith: BEST  
Carolyn Thomas: Assistant Principal  
Linda Wagner: Café  
Deb Zukowski: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



### **The Carroll County Public School Website ([www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org))**

provides a wealth of useful information and resources. Here you can find the school calendar, lunch menus, a directory of all Carroll County schools and their websites, boundary maps, bus route information, and more. Please refer to this site to help answer any questions that may arise.

You may also want to create a **Home Access Center** account which can be found under the "Student and Parents" tab on the Carroll County Public School website. The Home Access Center can be used to keep track of your child's attendance and verify that your emergency contact information is correct.

**Carroll County Public Schools Student/Parent Handbook:** We ask parents to carefully read the Handbook so they will clearly know what is expected of their children. The Handbook represents only a snapshot of some of the CCPS policies and administrative regulations that may be important to students and parents. For a complete copy of policy and administrative regulations, please visit [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org).



### **Medication for Students While In School**

A parent(s)/legal guardian(s) should make every effort to arrange for medicine to be taken outside of the school day. However, there are occasions when it is determined by an approved licensed health care provider that a child must receive medication during the school day, either on a regular basis or in the event of an emergency, such as bee stings, asthma or diabetes. When these circumstances occur, the health care provider must give written approval and specific directions regarding administration. Forms for this purpose are available online at [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org), from the school, or from the Student Services Department. These forms are to be used for both prescription and over-the-counter medications.

*As a reminder, parents may bring in Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Advil/Motrin (Ibuprofen) to the school nurse for their child's use during the school year. These two medications do not require a doctor's permission; however, you must still complete and sign the School Medication Form. All other medications must have a doctor's order.*

Students are not allowed to transport medications to or from school. Medications must be brought to the school by the parent(s)/guardian(s). Depending on the circumstances, violations of the Medication Policies could be considered a violation of The Carroll County Public Schools Drug and Alcohol Policies, and carry the same consequences as other drug violations.

No medication will be administered by the school unless it is in the original container, marked for the individual student, and accompanied by the appropriate written permission and directions.

Legislation passed in 2013 authorizes school boards to have a policy that will allow auto-injector Epinephrine administered by trained staff to students perceived to be having a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) regardless if they are known to have severe allergies or not. This does not relieve the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) responsibility to provide their child's medication to treat known allergies.

For the complete medication procedure, please refer to the CCPS website at [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org).



### Food/Food Allergies

Because of the increase in food allergies/sensitivities that have serious health implications, parents/legal guardians and students are prohibited from sharing food items with other students. No food may be brought to school to share with others unless approval has been granted in advanced by the school principal.



Please visit [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org) to check out September's Elementary Breakfast and Lunch Menus.



**The School Supply List** can be found on Robert Moton's home page:  
[www.carrollk12.org/rme](http://www.carrollk12.org/rme)

### Kiss 'N Go!

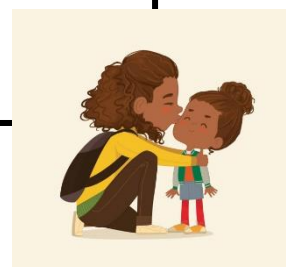
Our front lobby is designated as our Kiss 'N Go Area.

Parents will be able to give their child a hug or kiss as they wish them a great thinking day and bid them farewell until the end of the school day.

Our expectation is that: **STUDENTS ARE TO WALK TO THEIR CLASSROOMS WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF PARENTS.**

The school policy allows us to monitor the safety of the halls, decrease disruptions to the start of the day, and decrease disruptions to morning routines and duties for both students and staff. There are staff members throughout the building to monitor students and to assist them if needed.

*Thank you for your cooperation!*





### **2021-2022 Parent Conference Nights**

Thursday, October 14, 2021 – *by teacher invitation, only*

As the following dates draw near, please call 410-751-3610 to make an appointment to meet with your student's teacher.

- Tuesday, October 26, 2021
- Wednesday, January 12, 2022 (snow date: January 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Thursday, March 10, 2022 (snow date: March 31<sup>st</sup>)



### **Physical Education**

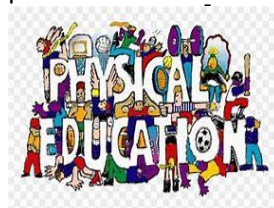
#### **PE Dress Code**

The guidelines for what to wear in PE are based on safety and effectiveness. Students do not need a separate set of clothes. However, students need the following:

1. Athletic shoes for support and traction. If students wear slip-on shoes, sandals, boots, platform shoes, etc., then the student needs to change into tennis shoes for PE.
2. Shorts, pants, or sweats should be worn under skirts and dresses for PE class.

#### **PE Participation Policy**

The PE teachers expect all students to participate in class. All activities are age appropriate and hopefully enjoyed by all students. In case of serious illness or injury that must limit or exclude your child's participation in PE, please send a note excusing him/her and a description of any limitations. If the injury or illness is long term, a doctor's note is expected. If a child sits out of PE, then that child should also refrain from participating in recess.



### **Kindergarten Registration**

If you want to register your child for Kindergarten for the 2021 – 2022 school year, please contact Guadalupe Ramirez at 410-751-3610.

## Things you need to know...

### **Building Security and Safety**

If you come into the building for a meeting, to go to the health room, or for an appointment **you will need to sign in AT THE OFFICE and get a visitor badge or a health room pass.** When you leave, please remember to stop in the office to sign out so we know who is still in the building. We teach our students to be independent, so please do not sign in to walk your child to the classroom. If your child needs help, or you have something that needs to go to the classroom, a staff member will help you or your child.

### **I.D. Required**

**Please remember to always bring your photo identification when entering the school.**

We need to verify your identity before issuing a visitor pass or allowing a student to leave with you. Your photo identification is even needed in the parent pickup line. Even if your student is on the everyday pick up list, there may be a substitute at the parent pick up station who does not know you. The safety of our students is a priority. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### **School Access**

Our building is used by Carroll County Public School groups and the local community throughout the school year. In order to ensure the security and safety of our building, **classrooms and suites will be locked after 3:25 p.m.** If your child forgets something that is needed, please contact the school office before 3:25 p.m. or write a note to give to the classroom teacher the next day.

### **Emergency Card**

It is very important that you return a completed emergency card for your child. We need this information to properly care for your child and need to be able to contact someone that is able to pick up your child, if necessary. Please make sure to list contacts we can call in an emergency **and be sure to update this information** with the school office through the year, when necessary. **The Emergency Card will come home with your child on the first day of school. Please complete it and return it to the school as soon as possible.**

### **RME Communication**

Please refer to the Robert Moton website at [www.carrollk12.org/rme](http://www.carrollk12.org/rme) to find the county school calendar, RME Student Handbook, staff email addresses, blank parent pick up notes, blank absence excuse notes, and other information. Please call the school office to request hard copies.

### **School Messenger Mass Notification Services**

The Carroll County Public School System uses the School Messenger Mass Notification Service to provide parents with information from their child's school and the school system. School Messenger is capable of delivering email AND phone alerts at no charge to the parents. You do not have to sign up; however, please make sure your contact information remains current with the school office, as all information is taken from the school **Emergency Card.**

### **Monthly School-Wide Newsletter**

Our school newsletter will be emailed to you or sent home with your child each month based on your indicated preference. It will help remind you of important dates and keep you informed of school events.

### **Inclement Weather**

When it comes to closed schools, delayed arrival times, and early dismissals due to bad weather we usually think of snow. However, the inclement weather policy applies to extreme heat, wind, hurricanes, tornadoes, ice, and even problems with our school building. In the Student Handbook is a copy of the inclement weather policy. It can also be found on the CCPS website [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org). Please read it so you are aware of how time changes may impact your child's school day and transportation. **Make emergency plans now** with your spouse, relatives, neighbors, or friends to make sure someone is available to meet your child at home. **An Unplanned Early Dismissal Form will be sent home with your child on the first day of school. Please return the completed form to the school and be sure to provide notification of any changes throughout the school year.**



**The CCPS Advanced Academics** is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Advanced Academics teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Advanced Academics Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Advanced Academics teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5. Look for more information about the program to come home throughout the school year.

### **Fall School Picture Day**

Individual portraits will be taken on **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Order forms will be distributed prior to picture day. Students must bring in their completed order form and payment on Picture Day. Pictures may also be ordered online at [www.classic-photo.com](http://www.classic-photo.com). (Make up/Retake day will be Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.)



### **Parent Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures**

Statistics show that students are safest when transported to and from school on a school bus. Every student is entitled to a full day of instruction. Over twenty buses need to circulate through our parking lot to accommodate our student dismissal needs. Dismissal of bus riders will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the conclusion of our instructional day.

Based on the design of our school building and parking lot, we need to give first priority consideration to our buses. In order to efficiently exit all of our students in a safe manner, our bus riders will be dismissed prior to our students who are being picked up by parents and/or day care providers. **Please be cautious of this area as buses will be pulling in/out sporadically during dismissal.**

Once all of our buses have been dismissed, we will begin our parent pick up procedures. Students for pick up will be dismissed to the cafeteria and are to be picked up between 3:10–3:25 p.m. Come into the cafeteria entrance to sign out your student. **Please remember to bring photo identification with you.**

**NOTE:** It is necessary that we keep the front curb available throughout the school day for buses that serve our students in various programs. Please use our visitor parking available in front of the school, or park in an available spot on our parking lot when visiting RME.

**Late Arrival:** *Parents/Guardians must walk their student into the school office and sign in as a late arrival. Please do not drop your child off at the front of the school to walk in unattended.*





## **THE DAILY DOZEN OF BUS RIDING**

1. Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before pick-up time.
2. Walk safely to the bus stop and wait in a safe, orderly manner.
3. Watch your step and use the handrail when getting on and off the bus.
4. Take your seat promptly and remain seated for your ride to and from school.
5. Sit in the seat facing front; keep your feet, books and other articles out of the aisle.
6. Always keep your hands and head inside the bus.
7. Report any damage that you see to the driver.
8. Eating, smoking, or using vulgar language is not permitted.
9. Your conduct should be quiet and orderly so the driver is not distracted from the important job of driving.
10. Your driver is responsible for the safe operation of the bus; listen to the driver's instructions.
11. Wait until the bus has come to a stop before leaving your seat.
12. Cross 10 feet in front of the bus with the "red flashing warning lights" only upon discharge and if you live on the opposite side of the road. Be sure you check traffic both ways.

***NOTE: Glass items and medication are not permitted to be transported on the bus.***

### **Video/Audio Cameras on School Buses**

Video/audio cameras are placed on school buses to protect students and staff and provide for a safe and orderly environment. The privacy of students and the recording are kept secure and are reviewed only by the authorized CCPS personnel.

## **PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (E.G., CELL PHONES) – POLICY AND REGULATIONS**

- Students are not required or expected to bring a personally owned device to school, but if they do, they must abide by CCPS regulations. Misuse shall result in disciplinary action. Parents who need to make emergency contact with their child during the school day should contact the school's main office.
- ***Devices must be silenced and stored (out of sight) upon entry to the school until exit from the school. It is highly recommended that elementary students not bring their devices to school or on the school bus.***
- No portable electronic device shall be used to record, store, or transmit any type of image, sound or video except for approved projects with the express permission of school staff.
- The audible notification sounds and volume of portable electronic devices shall be silenced or directed through headphones at school and on buses.
- Disciplinary action, as outlined in the CCPS student services manual, shall be taken when a student fails to follow the directions of a staff member regarding portable electronic devices or if reasonable belief exists that the student has violated the terms of the acceptable use procedures and guidelines or other school policy.

The complete policy and administrative regulations (JICJ) can be found at [carrollk12.org](http://carrollk12.org). Search terms: *board policies*

### **Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape**

Throughout the school year, the CCPS System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or on the school or school system website or social media, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped or having their image placed on a school website or social media by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media covers certain school events (such as when a governmental leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

### **Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications**

There may be times throughout the year when the CCPS System wishes to display student work on school websites, social media, or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites, social media, or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites, social media, or in publications unless such notification is received.



### **ADA Accessibility Statement**

The CCPS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs, or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or [publicinfo@carrollk12.org](mailto:publicinfo@carrollk12.org), or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, MD 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities or the Supervisor of Community and Media Relations.

Raymond Prokop  
Director of Facilities

125 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-751-3177

Carey Gaddis  
Supervisor of Community & Media  
Relations

125 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-751-3020

### **Asbestos Notice**

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County to prepare, update, and make available all asbestos management plans. The building asbestos management plans are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Facilities Operations, located at 191 Schaeffer Ave., Westminster, MD 21157.

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or age. CCPS provides nondiscriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Gregory J. Bricca  
Director of Research and Accountability  
125 North Court Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-751-3068

### **Certification and Licensure Qualifications**

#### **Statement**

Federal legislation for education entitled, “Every Student Succeeds Act” of 2015 requires all school systems to notify parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child’s classroom teacher. If you would like information regarding the certification and/or licensure qualifications of your child’s teacher(s), please write to:

Kelly Keith  
Department of Human Resources  
Carroll County Public Schools  
125 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

### **Prayer in School and Moments of Silence – Board Policy**

Students may pray when not engaged in instruction, as long as they do not cause a “material disruption.” Students may pray, alone or together, during non-instructional time, to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities. Students may organize *prayer* groups, religious clubs, and gatherings to the same extent they are allowed to organize other *non-curricular activities* (see Student Groups and Organization section of the Student/Parent Handbook).

School employees, in their official capacity, may not encourage or discourage *prayer* or actively participate in it with students. Teachers may participate in religious activities where the overall context makes clear they are not participating in their official capacity.

In accordance with Section 7-104 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, all students may be required to “...participate in opening exercises on each morning of a *school day* and to meditate silently for approximately 1 minute.” It is the policy of Board of Education of Carroll County that schools be required to have a moment of silent meditation for approximately one minute each school day. During this moment of silence, the Carroll County Public School System shall neither advance nor inhibit silent

### *Things you need to know...*

#### **Integrated Pest Management Program**

The Integrated Pest Management (PM) program employed by CCPS uses inspection, monitoring, employee education, and sanitation practices to minimize the use of pesticides in our schools.

Maryland law requires that parents of all elementary students be notified automatically prior to the application of any pesticide. Each parent or guardian of secondary students must request to be placed on a pesticide notification list.

CCPS notifies all students and staff 24 hours prior to scheduled applications of pesticides on school property. If an emergency pest control situation arises and a pesticide is used, notification will be made within 24 hours. Space spraying of a pesticide throughout an entire room or area by fogger or aerosol device requires one week advance notice to all students and staff.

Copies of material safety data sheets (MSDS) and product labels for each pesticide and bait station used on school property are maintained in the Department of Plant Operations. Persons wishing to review this information should contact the Office of Plant Operations at 410-751-3470. For additional information about the Integrated Pest Management Program, please contact the Director of School Support Services at 410-751-3179.





### **We Are a PBIS School**

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a proactive systems approach for creating and maintaining safe and effective learning environments in schools, and ensuring that all students have the social/emotional skills needed to ensure their success at school and beyond.

PBIS is a school-wide program to help students learn positive behaviors and strategies to help achieve important social and academic goals and is supported by the Maryland Department of Education and Carroll County Public Schools.

#### **How is PBIS Different from Other Discipline Systems?**

Typical discipline systems in schools have often relied on reaction to negative behavior and punishment of the offender. Hundreds of studies have shown, however, that this approach does little to reduce chronic misbehavior, nor does it produce positive long-term outcomes for the school or the student. The PBIS method of student discipline is based on four key principles:

1. **Prevention** – Correct behaviors are established, taught, modeled and acknowledged in a systematic way throughout the school. Students are “caught” engaging in the desired behaviors, and this behavior is regularly reinforced and recognized.
2. **Response** – The response to undesirable behavior is organized, systematic, consistent and careful. Considerable thought and effort goes into getting the entire school community on the same page with respect to common definitions of, and the most effective response to, problem behavior.
3. **Data-driven** – Discipline data is collected school-wide in a user-friendly format. Entered and analyzed in an established on-line database provided for school use, the data provides guidance for understanding when and where problem behavior is more likely to occur. Strategies to address behaviors in these situations are developed, and the data then provides evidence for whether these strategies are working.
4. **Process** – PBIS is not a pre-packaged program. Rather, it is a framework that guides the school community through a process of addressing the unique culture, climate, and behavioral issues within each school. The idea is to work smarter, not harder, to improve behavior and school climate.

#### **Why Focus On Behavior?**

Poor behavior in school can be costly to students and teachers, alike.

- Lost teaching time
- Property damage
- Disrespect, discouragement, frustration
- Low student/staff moral
- Lower academic outcomes
- Divisions between administrators, teachers, and parents



Addressing behavioral issues and improving school climate should form the core of any school improvement plan. At Robert Moton we will continue to teach our students the Triple R Ranch Expectations of Respect, Responsibility, and Ready to Learn.

# Counselor's Corner

I have enjoyed watching many children grow and learn in my 12 years as the School Counselor here at Robert Moton and I'm looking forward to another great year.

The coming school year is an opportunity for everyone to acknowledge the challenges of the past school year and take a moment to recognize areas of growth in both academics and social emotional areas. Although there were many challenges presented by virtual and hybrid learning, I encourage each family to take a minute to discuss what skills may have been gained in the face of adversity. These may include gaining expertise in new technologies, learning about time and time management, being creative in keeping social connections, and taking more responsibility for one's own learning. It is easy in tough times to focus on the struggles, but staff, students and families gained many new skills which will help them as we move forward into this school year. Let's take a moment to celebrate our victories, big and small.

This year We will continue our focus on **Growth Mindset and Mindfulness** and work to learn and practice strategies from both concepts. Having a growth mindset is extremely important for academic success and also helps us to believe we can learn new skills that help us interact in a positive way with adults and peers. Those with a growth mindset tend to be more flexible thinkers and are better able to persevere through challenges.

In a **fixed mindset** people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply **fixed** traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success – without effort. They're wrong.

In a **growth mindset** people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just a starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

Classroom teachers and staff encourage students to challenge themselves and be persistent during academic struggles. The purpose is to help students understand that hard work and a positive attitude can help them learn and grow and that mistakes are part of the learning process.

**Mindfulness** is the practice of taking time to calm the brain and body and be present in the moment. It requires nothing more than students learning the skill of mindful breathing and using it on a regular basis. In order to understand how mindful breathing helps the brain and body, students learn about parts of the brain and how the brain works. They learn how to control their body and brain chemistry by slowing down and breathing. They learn to take time to respond in different situations for a more positive outcome. Research in recent years has highlighted many benefits to **Mindfulness** practices. Students are more emotionally regulated and attentive, and their learning improves. For adults and teachers, it can reduce stress and help them focus and be happier.

For more information about Growth Mindset, below is the link to the Carol Dweck website.

<http://mindsetonline.com/>

This is a link to an article from *Parents* magazine about teaching your children mindfulness.

<http://www.parents.com/health/healthy-happy-kids/why-and-how-to-teach-kids-mindfulness/>

*Suzanne Peters*  
*School Counselor*



## Triple R Tidbits

It is time to kick off another school year here at THE TRIPLE R RANCH. Our PBIS program has been in place for 15+ years. Our PBIS team and faculty have worked very hard over the years to embed the Three R's into every aspect of life here at the Ranch.

Each year our students are taught the **Triple R's (Respect, Responsible, and Ready to Learn)** and what these behaviors look like in all areas of our school. We continue to emphasize these expectations on a daily basis. All students are rewarded for showing the **Triple R's** with **Triple R Ranch Tickets** and many other positive incentives for making good choices. Last year we were able to continue teaching students expectations through the Triple Rs, even in the virtual setting.

Typically our PBIS committee uses data from the color system and the discipline system to inform decisions about the program and next steps. The data from last two years does not give an accurate picture, so our committee will collect some survey information this fall to get input from students, staff and families in regards to PBIS here at RME.

We spent the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of last year focusing on the positive and rewarding students for getting on BLUE and being role models. 654 Blue Snowflakes, Green Shamrocks and Blue Flowers were turned in for prizes between January and June. This means students achieved Blue in the color system over 4000 times. Way to go everyone!!

Please look for more information on PBIS in this newsletter.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions or feedback throughout the year about the **Triple R Ranch** Program.



### **RMES Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization, and includes parents and teachers working together for all students at Robert Moton Elementary. We support school staff and provide our school with funds, programs, resources, and volunteer services that enrich the educational experiences of our students. Find us on Facebook at Robert Moton Elementary PTO or at [robertmotonpto.com](http://robertmotonpto.com). You may also email questions, concerns, or ideas to: [rmes.pto@gmail.com](mailto:rmes.pto@gmail.com)