



The Berry Bulletin

Parent Issue 1
September 9, 2022

Learn • Lead • Achieve



September

9/5: Labor Day – School Closed

9/6: Pre-K First Day

9/12: Reading for Education
Fundraiser Kick-Off Week

9/13: Board Meeting
Public Forum – 6pm

9/16: Fair Day
School Closed for Students
Fair Open to the public 9/15 – 9/18

9/21: First PTO Meeting
6:30PM - Library



9/29: Open House PK-5
6-8 PM



One School

One Community

September Acknowledgments

Rosh Hashanah

Hispanic Heritage Month

Attendance Awareness
Month

Spirit Week Sept. 19 -23

See additional information - page 3.



Principal's Message

Our first two-weeks with students was a great success! It was amazing to welcome back all of our students and families to a new school year. Students arrived with smiles and an eagerness to see their friends and teachers. The wonderful Berry staff was also ready to help all students as they found their way to their new classrooms as well as keeping them safe with arrival, dismissal, safety drills, and our day-to-day standard procedures.

I am very appreciative to our families that have respected our arrival and dismissal procedures. Equally, we acknowledge that CCPS's transportation department has had some unforeseen changes that also impacted a couple of our buses. Thank You for your patience, your understanding, as well as your communication. We are confident in the many efforts it takes to ensure all students arrive and dismiss safely. However, we also acknowledge that the first two-weeks require additional documentation, verifications, and confirmations in order to get students accounted for. Every effort made is with your child's safety in mind. Again, THANK YOU!

With two solid weeks behind us, all grade levels are diving into their instructional programs. You can expect your child to have a daily schedule that includes: Reading, Math, Writing, Science, Social Studies, Special Areas (Art, Music, Library, PE, and Computers), as well as Personal Responsibility/Social/Emotional learning. We are also preparing to begin some of our special clubs and extra-curricular programs offered to some grade-levels and students. Stay informed about these opportunities through classroom communication or on our Social Media sites and newsletter communication.

In addition to the "3 R's," I have implemented a school-wide motto for both staff and students alike: LEARN - LEAD - ACHIEVE. It is my belief that when a school community showcases a commitment to LEARNING together, being LEADers personally and academically, we will all ACHIEVE great success. We are here to help and encourage each other regardless of our differences. One of my ultimate goals as a Principal is to continually be a role model of integrity, patience, perspective, and compassion. Our community, students, teachers, and staff are the most essential asset to our school. Therefore, it is ALL of our job to lift each other up, share kind words and actions, and become an invested contributing member of our school. With that said, many people shared an interest to participate in PTO and/or Volunteering. Please plan to attend the PTO meeting on the 21st to learn about our Berry PTO and the exciting idea that they are planning for this school year. (Volunteer link on page 2.)

I am super proud of our staff, students, and community.

We are already doing great things! Wishing everyone a fantastic week ahead.

- Ms. McLaud



Stay Informed...Please read the following notes and reminders.

Instruction: Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)

Reading Resource Teacher: Mrs. DeAtley

Reading every day is one of the best ways to improve reading skills. Reading builds a child's vocabulary, develops imagination, promotes logical thinking, allows children to explore new places and different situations, and increases awareness and comprehension. Establish a regular reading time at the beginning of the school year, and it will become routine in no time! To develop reading routines and make reading a regular part of your family's schedule you can:

- Let your child see you as a reader
- Create a cozy, comfortable spot for reading at home. Be sure there is good lighting in this area.
- Establish a time for reading. After dinner or right before bedtime are great options.
- Share and talk about what everyone in the family is reading.
- Take a field trip to a bookstore or local library.
- Buy books as gifts

Make Reading FUN – not a chore or punishment!

Learning Resource Teacher: Mrs. Fenton

During the month of September, students in grades 1-5 will take iReady diagnostic assessments in both reading and math. The data from these online tests will provide valuable information that will be used to drive instruction for the first quarter. Please encourage your child to do their best during testing and, if possible, please send wired headphones/earbuds (labeled with your child's name) to school to use when completing the iReady assessments. Home reports with the results of each test will be sent home after testing is complete.

Instructional Specialist – Math: Mrs. Clements

In the first week of school, we are working on building a math community. It is important that our students learn how to use math tools, communicate ideas, listen to each other, and most importantly learn from their mistakes.

You are probably wondering how you can help your child at home. All students at Berry Elementary have access to an online math program called Dreambox. This computer program matches the standards we are teaching in school. Each child will follow their own adaptive pathway and have an individualized learning experience. Important reminders for using the program at home:

- Make sure students are working INDEPENDENTLY so students are working at their level.
- Students should complete five lessons weekly and spend approximately 60 minutes total a week (preferably not all in one sitting).
- Students should log in through their Office 365 account and access Dreambox through Clever.

Safety and Security

Safety for all students and staff is the number one priority. You child may have shared that they are practicing a variety of drill since the start of school. So that all families feel informed about our safety protocol as well as the language and safe-practices that we participate in regularly, I am including some quick links and resources for your convenience.

- Use the following link for more information and access to all of the specific details about all of our drills, protocol and other safety and security measures at all Charles County Public Schools. Talking to your children about the importance of safety at school and following directions when practicing drills will help support our efforts here.

[Safety and Security - Charles County Public Schools \(ccboe.com\)](https://www2.ccboe.com/survey2/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/156798&lang=en&newtest=Y)

FAQ's

- **Can I Volunteer?**

YES – In school, on Field Trips, Special Events, and other occasions – WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS. Use this link to go through a quick Security check to clear you for the '22 - '23 school year.

<https://www2.ccboe.com/survey2/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/156798&lang=en&newtest=Y>

- **What's the cut-off time to pick up my child during school hours?**

You must sign out your child by 3PM or you must wait until dismissal.

- **Can I bring in birthday treats for my child's birthday?**

Yes! However, the treat must be for the whole class. Additionally, each treat must be individually wrapped with the ingredients listed. With severe allergies and nutritional exceptions for so many students, we cannot risk a medical emergency by not following these guidelines.

Please no latex balloons. We have two SEVERE latex allergies. Even the airborne presence of latex can cause a medical emergency.

Additional Resources and Reminders:

For all Community, Engagement, and Equity connections, please visit:

[Community Engagement and Equity - Charles County Public Schools \(ccboe.com\)](https://www.ccboe.com)

Hispanic Heritage Month:



Attendance Awareness Month:



Please remember to stay connected with Berry at:



Instagram



Facebook



Twitter

[HOME - Berry Elementary School \(ccboe.com\)](https://www.ccboe.com)



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