



The Berry Bulletin

Parent Issue 1
September 8, 2023

Learn • Lead • Achieve



September

9/4: Labor Day – School Closed

9/5: Pre-K First Day

9/12: Reading for Education

Fundraiser Kick-Off Week

-See information below

9/13: First PTO Meeting
Berry Library – 6:30PM



9/14: Hispanic Heritage Kick-Off
Flag Display
10:30AM



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



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. Be sure to connect to your child's "Class Dojo" app to get daily updates on student participation and behavior. 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 September 13th to learn about our Berry PTO.

(Please complete the "Family Needs Survey" and "Volunteer Interest Survey" on page 2.)

If you were unable to attend our Open House, please access the "Principal Message" here.
https://cboe.zoom.us/rec/share/7D8oCOG5i8EromZsUIQF4XIFzdRTDTCOCHDJ4uE_m pK4WMAfAikT-sqfVkg3IU5Kt.jr4QsNMUjlcG0INj

I am super proud of our staff, students, and community.
We are already doing great things! Wishing everyone a fantastic week ahead.

- Ms. McLaud

One School One Community September Acknowledgments

Rosh Hashanah

Hispanic Heritage Month

Attendance Awareness
Month

Spirit Week Sept. 18 -22



Charles County
Public Schools

Working together to achieve excellence for every student.



Staying connected and informed.



On Tuesday, your child is bringing home a Parent Information Envelope letting you know about a safe and easy way for our school to raise funds for essential tools our students and teachers need to succeed.

The Reading for Education fundraiser is 100% online so there is NO face-to-face selling, handling money, or delivering products. Your participation will take less than 12 minutes, and there are exciting prizes to make it fun for the students.

Here is all you need to do to participate:

1. Go to <https://www.rfe.net/sid.t?0000290351> to sign up.
2. Send form emails inviting family, friends and co-workers to support your child.
3. Return the Envelope with the Student Prize Code to school for your child to get their fun participation prize.

Be sure to ask your child for the Parent Envelope.
Your participation will make a difference for our school and teachers!

Berry Elementary School

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 '23 - '24 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.

Your Feedback is Needed!

It is our priority to engage and include our community with opportunities that promote school and home connections.

Please take a minute to answer the questions in these two surveys so that we can plan how to best serve the interests and needs of our school community.

Community/Family Engagement Interests: <https://forms.office.com/r/467XD7fjqH>

Volunteer Interests: <https://forms.office.com/r/1S0dwXdrLk>

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)

Please remember to follow us and stay connected with Berry at:



Instagram

@berryjaguars22



Facebook

Berry Elementary School



Twitter

@berryjaguars



School Wepage

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

Charles County Public Schools is committed to providing all individuals an educational environment that is free from sexual discrimination. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. Sexual discrimination includes sexual harassment, sexual assault and sexual violence and is characterized as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that interferes with an individual's ability to learn, study, work, achieve or participate in school activities. If any individual wishes to file a complaint of sexual discrimination, they should contact the school's Title IX Coordinator, Robin Rubain or Jason Peer, at (301) 753-1782, or speak to any school-based administrator. All complaints may be resolved either informally or through a formal investigation process set out in Superintendent's Rule 5116, found here: [Title IX - Charles County Public Schools \(ccboe.com\)](https://www.ccboe.com). The Rule also outlines supportive measures available to the parties through the Title IX Coordinator or school-based administrator, including counseling, mental health services referral, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring, and other similar measures determined by school officials to be legally permissible and necessary to protect the safety or educational or employment activities of a party.