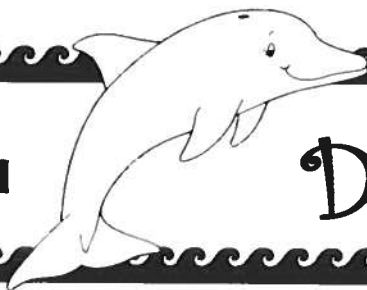


Mary H. Matula Elementary School

November 3, 2022



Dolphins' Cove

Fall Chess Tournament

More than 90 CCPS students in kindergarten to 12th grade took part in the fall chess tournament on October 22nd at Thomas Stone High School. Matula was well represented by the following "Top Finishers":

Grade 2: Aaron Matailo

Grade 4: Marshall Fletcher, Derek Fletcher, Jason Falkler, Tanner Hedman

Grade 5: Zander House

Boosterthon Update

Our Dolphin Dash Fun Run is tomorrow!!! Thank you to the many Matula supporters for such generous donations! As of today, we have raised over \$17,000!!! We are getting close to our goal of \$22,000! If you haven't registered and donated, it's not too late! Donations will be accepted through Friday, November 4th!

Food and Drink at School

Recently, students have been walking into school in the mornings eating and drinking breakfast items. Students need to finish all breakfast items before they will be permitted to enter the school. They are also welcome to purchase breakfast from the school cafeteria should that work better for your family.

Gum at School

As a reminder, chewing gum is not allowed at school. Your help in reminding children not to bring chewing gum to school is very much appreciated.

PM Car Rider Pick-Up

Our PM car ride pick-up routine is running very smoothly, and we are usually done by 4:10 PM. While we understand emergency situations resulting in a late pick-up, they should be the exception, not the rule. Please help us by being in the car rider line on time to pick-up your student. We appreciate it!

Calendar of Events

Friday, November 4 - Dolphin Dash Fun Run - Please see the flyer that came home earlier this week about volunteering to help

Sunday, November 6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Don't forget to "fall back!"

Tuesday, November 8 - Schools Closed for Students - Teacher In-Service

Thursday, November 10 - Mrs. Dunn's and Ms. Jones' SOAR classes visit Serenity Farm

Sunday, November 13 - World Kindness Day!

Monday, November 14 - Report Cards Posted

Thursday, November 17 - Mrs. Cooke's and Mrs. Richardson's Classes visit JER Science Center

Monday, November 21 - Ms. Clark's and Mrs. Hash's classes visit JER Science Center

Wednesday, November 23-Friday, November 25 Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving



CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5980 Radio Station Road
P.O. Box 2770
La Plata, MD 20646
www.ccboe.com

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent
301-934-7223
Fax: 301-932-8651

November 2, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

In recent weeks, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has experienced higher than normal absentee rates for students. Many of these students are returning to school with doctor or parent notes that indicate they were out due to an illness. Illnesses among staff have also contributed to a higher request for substitute teacher coverage in recent weeks. According to our school nurses, student health office visits have increased as well for reports of fevers, headaches, coughs and stomach aches.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), illnesses such as the flu, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and COVID-19 are common right now among both adults and children. I ask that if your child is exhibiting symptoms of any illness that you please keep them home from school and seek medical treatment.

Students should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school from any illness. When a student becomes sick at school, the school nurse or other staff member will contact the child's parent/guardian. If a parent or guardian is not reached, emergency contacts listed on the student emergency card will be called and required to pick up the student from school. Please make sure your contact information on file at your child's school is current, and that you notify school staff quickly of any changes. This will ensure you can be reached when your child becomes sick at school or in case of an emergency.

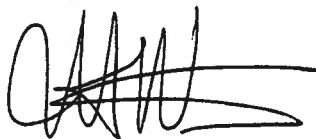
Parents of students who are sick should report their child's absence to the attendance secretary at their child's school. A written excuse note signed by a parent, guardian or doctor must be submitted to the school within five days of the child's return to school for the absence to be excused. If you are not sure who the attendance secretary is at your child's school, please contact a staff member in the main office to ask.

Some teachers may share such notes with the attendance secretary, but parents should not rely on teachers to submit the information on their child's behalf. Students who have verified excused absences (with parent/guardian or doctor note confirmation) are eligible to make up missed class work. Please reach out to your child's teachers or school principal for information about missed classwork and the expected timeline for completion and grading.

The Charles County Department of Health continues to host free vaccination clinics for children that offer both the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Attached to this message is a list of upcoming vaccination clinics sponsored by the health department. Please consider talking to your family doctor about vaccination options for your child. Please remind your child about healthy habits, such as proper hand washing, getting quality sleep and eating healthy foods.

I appreciate the support of all parents, staff and students, and our health care providers and school nurses. If you have any questions or need medical assistance for your child, please contact your family doctor or call the health department at 301-609-6900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Navarro', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools