

## Calendar Notes

**9/14—Back to School  
Night Grades 1-5  
6:30 p.m.**

**9/16-No School**

**10/5—PTA Meeting**

**10/8—Early  
Dismissal; 12:55 pm**

# The Bulldog

“Learning today, leading tomorrow”



S e p t e m b e r 2 0 2 1

Dear Belmont families,

I am so happy to welcome you back to Belmont! Our students have been coming in with smiling faces ready to go! As a staff, we have been working hard to ensure that we create the structure for students to come back to a nurturing environment that will encourage students to be safe, kind, and prepared to learn. While it will be another interesting year, we will do everything we can to make it a great one!

As you may have seen, MCPS and DHHS issued new quarantine guidelines for schools. If a student goes home with one COVID symptom, all close contacts will be sent home until a negative test result or alternative diagnosis is produced. If there is no test, the full 10-day quarantine period will be in effect. We should expect a rise in the number of students and classes that will be quarantining on short-notice. We thank you for your support and understanding that this is not a local Belmont decision, but county-wide directive.

This year, as we fully engage our new MCPS Benchmark Literacy and Eureka Math curriculums, we will be paying close attention to where students are starting the year with skills, so we can instruct in a way to allow for progress with grade-level content. Additionally, we will be focusing on 4 areas to ensure success: Interventions for students not at grade level, enrichment for students above grade level, social-emotional learning (SEL), and instructional touchstones focusing on content hindered due to virtual learning last year. Use of approved curriculum, research-based interventions, and Sanford Harmony practices for SEL, will provide students with the academic and social tools to be successful.

Thank you for the support you provide your child every day. *Your* partnership in your child's education assists us in making sure your child meets his/her potential. Know that if there is ever a concern, you can always contact your child's teacher. I also welcome your feedback regarding great things that are happening or concerns by email at [Evan\\_J\\_Pinkowitz@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Evan_J_Pinkowitz@mcpsmd.org) or phone at 240-740-5705. We appreciate the trust you place in us in providing a safe, engaging learning environment.

Sincerely,

Mr. Pinkowitz  
Principal

## Core Values/PBIS Trait: Safety and Communication

### Arrival and Dismissal Notes

Please help us in keeping our children safe when dropping off students in the morning by **NOT dropping off students before 8:40 a.m.** Children dropped off before 8:40 a.m. will need to wait outside the building and will be **unsupervised** unless dropped off by bus due to an early bus route. Thank you for assisting us in preventing students being put in this situation.

Afternoon dismissal begins at 3:25 p.m. Buses are scheduled to depart Belmont beginning at 3:32 and have a 20 minute departure window to account for traffic, weather, and other delays. There are times when buses which usually depart early do run late. We will do our best to communicate through our e-mail messaging system if a bus departs Belmont outside the 3:32-3:52 departure window.

**ATTENTION parents whose child(ren) goes/go to Bar-T after school:** If your child is scheduled to go to Bar-T after school, and you are changing plans to have them ride the bus or be picked-up, we ask that you notify **both**, Bar-T AND the school office. While we closely partner, Bar-T and Belmont are two separate entities. Bar-T is a private organization that rents space at Belmont, and therefore, we cannot guarantee that the two operations will be able to communicate about changes made during the school day. Thank you for notifying both Bar-T and Belmont when plans change.



## VIRTUAL Back to School Night (Grades 1-5)

Back to School Night (BTSN) for grades 1-5 will take place Thursday, September 14th, over Zoom, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will begin with a short whole school/PTA meeting, followed by teachers delivering two identical sessions, allowing parents with children at multiple grade levels to attend both presentations and for parents with only one child, to hear from their child's teacher during the first session. The schedule for the evening will be as follows:

- 6:30-7:00 p.m. - Whole school parent meeting
- 7:05—7:45 p.m. - Session 1
- 7:50-8:30 p.m. - Session 2

**ZOOM links will be sent out at the end of this week by Mr. Pinkowitz and classroom teachers.**

## Upcoming Testing

This month, our students at all grade levels will be engaging in various assessments in order for us to gather current data on where students are in different subjects so that we may best meet their needs during instruction. Students in grades K-5 will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing in both reading and math. Students in grades 4 and 5 will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP-formerly PARCC) as required by the Maryland State Department of Education. Students who receive ESOL services will also be assessed on various skills. Additionally, in our classrooms, we will be doing informal class-based data gathering. We know this is a lot of testing up front, but will use this data in planning for successful year!

## Core Value: Engagement

### Volunteering at Belmont

One of the special facets of Belmont is the engaged parent community we have. Thank you all for your assistance to our staff and students.



According to MCPS policy, those wishing to volunteer in schools during the student day, must complete an online training called Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. The training **must** be completed before an individual is allowed to volunteer in a school building. This means for admittance to the building during the school day for purposes other than a school event (parties, promotion, etc.), the training must be completed (volunteer in the classroom, media center, computer lab, lunch, recess or go on field trips). The training can be found at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

Once the training is completed, you will receive an email confirmation that you should forward or print and submit to the office staff. Please note, current MCPS employees and substitutes do not have to complete the volunteer training as they have already completed trainings. Please bring your MCPS/Sub ID when volunteering.



While we are currently hosting lunch volunteers, other volunteer opportunities will later in the school year.

## MASTER METHOD KARATE

Free annual 4-Week Programs

Since 2011, we've been offering our annual programs with topics including - *Focus for Better Grades, Goal Setting, Bully Prevention, Kindness, Confidence* and *Safety* to help students develop valuable life skills in addition to their physical health and wellness. This Fall, our program - "FOCUS FOR BETTER GRADES & OVERCOMING CHALLENGES," will be back **in person at our studios**, focusing on helping students: stay **healthy & active**, develop a **positive mindset for achievement this school year**, and practice some really fun and important introductory **martial arts** skills!

### FALL PROGRAM

#### **DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS:**

#### **ROCKVILLE:**

**SATURDAYS, 9:15am: Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9 & 16 (no class Oct 2)**

Master Method Karate – Headquarters

5538 Randolph Road

Rockville, MD 20852

#### **GAITHERSBURG:**

**SATURDAYS, 1:15pm: Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9 & 16 (no class Oct 2)**

PowerHouse Studio

615 S. Frederick Avenue (Rear, Lower Level)

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

#### **OLNEY :**

**TUESDAYS 4:40pm: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12 & 19**

Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House – Lyceum Room

17801 Meeting House Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

**TO REGISTER:** Please send an email to [success@mastermethodkarate.com](mailto:success@mastermethodkarate.com)

and include the following information:

- **PREFERRED LOCATION: (Rockville / Gaithersburg / Olney)**
- **2nd & 3rd CHOICE: (Rockville / Gaithersburg / Olney)**
- **STUDENT'S FIRST & LAST NAME**
- **STUDENT'S AGE**
- **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**TEXT/PHONE NUMBER**

**\*\*Please note: SPACE IS LIMITED.\*\***

**\*\*If a class/time fills up, we will notify you of an alternate time and/or location you may be able to attend.\*\***

[www.mastermethodacademy.com](http://www.mastermethodacademy.com)