



Pamela Kasulke, Principal
Eric Ruffo, Vice Principal

"SPIRIT" the Seahawk

Sunderland Promotes Integrity
Responsibility Independence &

Barbie Tompkins, Dean
Eileen Snowden, Counselor

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Ms. Kasulke's Notes.....

Thank you for your patience as we make adjustments to our communication methods along with some routines and procedures to help support the safety and security of the students.

- Interims for 1st Quarter will be available on HAC October 7th. Please take the time to review them with your student. Contact the office if you need your HAC information.
- PARCC Reports will be sent home this week. I'm sure many of you saw the state release in the newspaper. Please contact us with questions or you can go to www.parcconline.org
- We are requesting sponsors for clubs that parents and staff are willing to run. Club sponsors must be approved volunteers. See the attached form.
- When you volunteer, please do not bring younger children to school with you. It is disruptive to the classrooms to have infants or toddlers crying and walking around the classroom. We appreciate every volunteer who gives their time to make SES a great place, but we must ask for your cooperation with this.
- As much as we would love to be able to have parents join students in the cafeteria for lunch, we do not have sufficient room. Our tables are filled with students and there is no additional space on any lunch shift for additional people. We will be looking at possible ways to allow for this in the near future.
- Doctor's rating scales or forms should be sent to Mrs. Tompkins. She will distribute them and collect for the doctor. We send/fax the scales/forms directly to the doctor.
- Dismissal: If your child is going to be a SURPRISE car rider or an EVERYDAY car rider, you must sign the student out in the cafeteria between 3:30—3:40 (1:30 –1:40 for early Release days). I appreciate those of you who have been understanding of the "bigger picture". See the next page to review our rationale behind our procedures.
- There are updates to the CCPS school calendar. I am attaching a copy but you can see the calendar at:

http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_123339/File/Calvertnet/District%20Info/Calendar%20by%20School%20Year/CCPS%20District/fy2017.pdf

- Please join the SES FSO. Your \$10 membership fee goes to support the numerous student activities both in school and out of school. More information is on page 3. Membership Form is attached.
- The school office closes at 4:05PM. If your child forgets something at school, such as homework or an instrument, please call the school to see if an administrator is available to walk your child down. The Before and Aftercare staff and the custodial staff will NOT be able to let students and parents into the building. If no one is available, please send an email or note to your child's teacher letting him/her know the item was forgotten. Teachers make great efforts to remind students of their homework written in their agenda books and their belongings that need to be taken home.

Dismissal Procedures and Why

This year, we made some adjustments to the dismissal process for our school to help ensure a safe, efficient and organized dismissal. As you know, specific information was sent home to describe the process. The changes have made a huge, positive impact related to traffic backups and the overall order of the school during the dismissal window. Specifically, all car riders (both surprise and everyday) must be signed out between 3:30-3:40 (1:30-1:40 Early Release days). We begin dismissal promptly at 3:40 so students are heading towards the front of the building. Within minutes, we begin the bus dismissal. So...I would like to share the "bigger picture" with you to help everyone understand why our procedures are important and must be followed.

Our school population is 723 students from ages 3–12. Each day, we have a range of car riders dismissed...100-140 students. Once these students are called for dismissal, our staff switches into bus dismissal. Car riders leave the building as buses continue to arrive and the first set of buses are called to dismiss. Our goal is to have car riders out of the parking lot when buses are ready to leave to avoid traffic jams.

Typically, 7-8 buses are called at one time to dismiss. Safety patrols assist younger students to their buses and staff members are distributed along the halls and sidewalks to monitor the safety of students. At the same time that dismissal is occurring, our front office staff continues to answer phone calls. For those of you who have been here during this time, you recognize the "busy" atmosphere. Our goal is to keep the front area, interior and exterior, clear of people other than staff on duty and students dismissing to ensure that ALL students board the correct bus and is delivered safely to their bus stop.

Needless to say, we have received the question...why does it matter if I'm a minute or two late? A few minutes late arriving as a car rider means that staff has to now refocus on you as a car rider, pull out the sign out sheets that have been put away and it takes their attention away from the bus dismissal. It also means we have extra adults (picking up parent/guardian may or may not be approved volunteers) in the front hall area as students are dismissing.

The other question we have had once bus dismissal has started is...why can't you pull my child off the bus? It simply creates a feeling of chaos. Our goal is to have a smooth and safe dismissal, not staff members or parents running after buses to pull a student off. Parents are NOT permitted on the buses at any time.

I want to remind all parents and guardians that you are the role models for our children, along with all staff in our building. We lead by example. Please know that when a parent who is running late **chooses** to become irate and shows no regard for the school's procedures and ignores the staff's directions, **ALL** students are watching. Just keep this in mind.

Please let Ms. Kasulke or Mr. Ruffo know if you have specific questions regarding this. We appreciate the cooperation that we have received so far. Remember, we want our students kept safe at all times and to experience smooth transitions.

Seahawk News is changing....

After some thoughts and discussions with different groups of parents, it was decided that we will send a Monthly Calendar out for families instead of weekly. The format is an actual calendar. This will allow for students to use the calendar, along with their parents.

Being able to read a calendar is a life skill that we want to encourage within our students. Students knowing what day comes before and after a day is important, along with other essential knowledge such as the days of the week, how many days are in a week, etc.

Along with the calendar change and some reflection as both a parent and principal, Mrs. Kasulke is going to send a monthly newsletter and she will attempt to streamline the information. She will have bulleted items that are essential for parents to know. The newsletter will continue to have additional information that is applicable to our school.

We always welcome your feedback and truly hope you will share your thoughts. If any changes occur during the month, we will make sure to communicate that change as well. We will send School Messenger messages as friendly reminders throughout the month.

SES Family School Organization

The Sunderland Family and School Organization (FSO) supports the children, families and teachers of our community. All families are invited to attend monthly SES FSO parent meetings and are strongly encouraged to participate in an extensive array of SES FSO "Family Fun Nights" planned throughout the school year. Parents who register with SchoolMessenger on the CCPS website (www.calvertnet.k12.md.us) will also receive special announcements and weekly updates related to upcoming events at Sunderland.

- The Ice Cream Social was a sweet success! Thanks to all the Sunderland family and friends who came out and celebrated back to school with us. A special thank you to everyone who donated toppings and the volunteers who helped at this event.
- Fall Festival - Our Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday October 28th, 6-8 pm. Join us for a night of food, games, trunk-or-treating, and the 5th grade funhouse. Fall Book Fair will be open! We are still in need of volunteers to help set-up, clean-up, serve food and run games. Please contact Colleen Thompson at thompson2541@comcast.net to volunteer.
- We need you - please sign-up! Membership is only \$10 per family and is used to support FSO sponsored events. You will also receive special yearbook pricing and reduced entry fee for certain Family Fun Night events.
- Our Labels and Receipts (Box Tops) Program is kicking off! The first collection is October 18th. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- Join our Facebook page and visit our website www.sunderlandfso.org for all SES FSO related information
- Order your Sunderland spiritwear! Order forms are attached or available on our website www.sunderlandfso.org
- Stay Connected! Facebook - Sunderland Elementary School FSO Parent Group
Website - www.sunderlandfso.org
Email - sesfso@yahoo.com

ALL Volunteers Must Register

For the safety of our students, **ALL** volunteers for CCPS must reapply annually through KeepNTrack prior to volunteering or chaperoning field trips. All previous volunteer information has been deleted from the system. It is important to apply before you plan to volunteer. The link to this application process can be found in the Volunteer section of our district website.

<http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/instruction/volunteer/applicationprocess.asp>

School Bus Drivers Wanted

The Student Transportation Department for Calvert County Public Schools is seeking qualified candidates to train and certify as school bus drivers. School bus drivers work for independent school bus contractors throughout Calvert County. These contractors hire drivers to work on everyday routes, to work as substitute drivers and to drive trips to athletic and extracurricular events. Contractors are paid \$16.16 an hour for a brand new driver, and there are increases for those individuals with more verified experience. This is a great opportunity to work close to home and to serve the children and schools in our community.

Download the Application <http://calvertcounty.education> then go to Departments → Student Transportation → Certified School Bus Driver Application

Contact **Chuck Baker** for questions and details on earning certifications 410-535-7325



School Messenger (you must have your HAC info)

What if I am not receiving text messages or don't want them?

SchoolMessenger notifications are sent automatically to the email address and phone numbers on file in HAC. In order to receive text messages, you must have a Cell or Cell2 in HAC. Additionally, you will need to opt-in to receive text messages from SchoolMessenger by texting Y to 67587 from your cell phone. You should receive a confirmation text that you are registered to receive texts from SM. To stop receiving text messages, you can toggle them off on your Preferences screen or text STOP to 67587 at any time.

Overall School Safety

As always, ensuring the **safety and security of our students, staff** and visitors is paramount. We do not want to deter visitors, however, please remember the protocol for entering the building.

- The main entrance to the school will remain locked during school hours and when the office is closed.
- Stand at the black [X] to the right of the front doors and push the bell to request access.
- All visitors must report directly to the main office upon entering.

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: > Director of Student Services > Director of Human Resources 1305 Dares Beach Road 1305 Dares Beach Road Prince Frederick, MD 20678 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 410-535-1700 For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcplp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

***** Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals. Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents and community members may Employees may report allegations of harassment to: report allegations of harassment to: Ms. Kimberly Roof Dr. Vicky Karol Director of Student Services Director of Human Resources Calvert County Public Schools Calvert County Public Schools 1305 Dares Beach Road 1305 Dares Beach Road Prince Frederick, MD 20678 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment. If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination. Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.