

September 5, 2017

Dear Talbott Springs Elementary School Families,

Welcome to Talbott Springs Elementary for the start of the 2017-2018 school year! I hope the summer has been calm and rewarding, complete with an abundance of family time.

I am looking forward to an incredible and productive school year. The devoted staff of TSES have been learning, planning and preparing for your child(ren) for the past week and a half. Our impressive office staff has been registering new families, updating student files and ensuring all our materials of instruction are in place. Our hard working custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the school building. Our much-appreciated PTA has been gearing up to welcome families, advocating for our school, planning for membership and volunteer opportunities and preparing for many exciting events and programs. We are a joyous and caring school community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, empathetic students while promoting high-level learning through outstanding, effective teaching.

Time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2017-2018 school year. Careful consideration is given to your child's learning strengths and to matching his or her learning style with teachers at each grade level. Thank you so much for having positive conversations with your child and for helping him or her acclimate to his or her new classroom or school surroundings. At times, we may recommend a change of teacher to create a better learning match for your child. We will contact you prior to making any classroom changes. All of our staff members work hard to make school a positive experience for all of our students. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher. Please contact us if you need additional support!

This year we are saying good-bye to some staff members including Ms. Tara Brown and Mr. Eric Bishop. Each of these valued members of our school has moved to a different position within the Howard County Public School System. Please join me in wishing them the best of luck this year!

Please welcome the following staff members to the Talbott Springs Elementary School family:

Ms. Taffie Clark: Grade 1 Teacher

Mr. Charles Wehr: Art (2 days/week)

Ms. Caroline Marcotte: Music (2 days/week)

Miss Sarah Parker: Physical Education

Ms. Gina Pi: ESOL Teacher (5 half days/week)

Ms. Chantel Williams: Kindergarten Paraeducator (5 half days/week)

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is asking that parents complete an on-line Emergency Procedure Card for each child attending a Howard County Public school using [HCPSS Connect](#). **Your completion of this Family File will ensure our capacity to reach a family member in the event that your child needs support during the school day. I urge to do this as quickly as possible-if not today, please do it before the end of the first week of school!**

This year, the charge for school lunch is \$2.75 and the cost of milk not purchased as part of the school lunch is \$0.50. Please make every attempt to ensure that your child's point of sale account has funds! If we loan your child funds for lunch, please re-pay us as soon as possible. If there is any chance that you might qualify, please complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application as soon as possible and return according to the directions on the form. This form and all other information related to school meals is located at :
<http://www.hcpss.org/foodservice/index.shtml>.

TSES will be sending home a copy of the school newsletter. In addition, this newsletter will be sent out via School Messenger (HCPSS email) and will be available on the school website. I recommend that you log into <http://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/> and OPT IN to the emergency text message feature. This is a very useful service particularly in the event of a school emergency or unexpected change in plans for the school day. TSES can not call every parent individually if there is a school wide emergency.

The youngest (or only) child who attends school within HCPSS will receive a paper copy of the school calendar. Please hold onto this calendar so that you can plan for early dismissal days or days off from school! This calendar is also available at <http://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>

Our Back to School Events on September 18, 2017 for students in Grade 1 through Grade 5 will provide families with an overview of the curriculum that will be taught at each grade level. Please take some time to look more in depth at the curriculum for each of our grade levels-Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 in the "[What Your Child Will Learn](#)" Guides.

Your commitment to insuring that Talbott Springs remains a successful and caring community school is awe-inspiring. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families each day. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello! Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paul Linkins or me. We are looking forward to a wonderful year at Talbott Springs!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nancy Thompson
Principal