

# The BUZZ from BESSIE WELLER

July 28, 2020

## Teacher Placement



We appreciate your patience as we have worked through scheduling for the upcoming school year!

## Your child's schedule:

**Student:** «Student»

**Grade:** «Grade»

**Teacher:** «Teacher»

**Model:** «Model»

**Attends on:** «Attends\_On»

**AM Transportation:**

«AM\_Transportation»

**PM Transportation:**

«PM\_Transportation»

Teacher placements are subject to change as new and current families make final decisions between the blended and virtual models. Changes in numbers could necessitate changes in class rolls.

## *We're looking forward to see you again!*

While this school year will look different than years before, our teachers and staff are ready for this different mode of instructional delivery and eager to reunite with students! Ms. McGrath, Mrs. Pyles, the office staff, the custodians, and I have worked many hours this summer cleaning, putting safety procedures into place, and setting the building up to make it a place where students are safe and can learn. Your teachers have also been engaged in learning opportunities this summer to help them work with students in a different learning model.

We recently told the teachers in the staff newsletter that while the 2020-2021 school year is certainly going to be nontraditional, it also provides us a lot of exciting and innovative opportunities for teaching our students. We look forward to working together as a team to navigate the uncertainty and to provide our students a great learning experience. Our goal is to keep our kids safe, to provide them the needed social/emotional support to help them readjust to being in school, and to make sure they all have the opportunity to learn and grow. As we told the teachers recently, it's going to be a "different" year but it's also going to be a GREAT year!

Rich Fletcher  
Principal

Sandra McGrath  
Assistant Principal

## Communication

As we prepare for a nontraditional school year, it is more important than ever that we have your current contact information so we can maintain good communication. If you have changed phone numbers, please contact the main office as soon as possible to get those updated.

Much of the information going out is detailed, so it is going out in the form of email and text. If you are not receiving the school emails and/or texts, please do the following and we will get you set up to receive these:

- If you're not receiving the emails, please email Mr. Fletcher at [rfletcher@staunton.k12.va.us](mailto:rfletcher@staunton.k12.va.us)
- If you're not receiving the texts, please either email your information (your name, your child's name, and your mobile number) to Mr. Fletcher or call the main office and leave the information with our front office staff.

# The BUZZ from BESSIE WELLER

**July 28, 2020**

## **Parent Events:**

We will be having orientations August 10-August 13 (one teacher per team each night to promote low numbers and social distancing) to share more information with each of you about your child's upcoming school experience. We will also be sharing our bus transportation routes during open house.

## **For everyone's safety on Orientation Night:**

- Please limit visitors to one parent and the student so we can maintain social distancing in the classrooms.
- We will be screening all parents/students before they enter the building; those with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter.

We will be sharing a SCS Parent University prior to the start of the year. This will include some virtual resources to learn more about the upcoming year. More information about this will be forthcoming.

## **Monday, August 10**

**Teachers:** Sams (K), Kester (1<sup>st</sup>), Fauber (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jones (3<sup>rd</sup>), Lafon (4<sup>th</sup>), Hoy (5<sup>th</sup>)

- A Day Students 4:00-4:45
- 4:45-5:00 Class Wipe-down
- B Day Students 5:00-5:45

## **Tuesday, August 11**

**Teachers:** Marcum (K), Rawley (1<sup>st</sup>), Monger (2<sup>nd</sup>), Branham (3<sup>rd</sup>), Eckenrode (4<sup>th</sup>), Moore (5<sup>th</sup>)

- A Day Students 4:00-4:45
- 4:45-5:00 Class Wipe-down
- B Day Students 5:00-5:45

## **Wednesday, August 12**

**Teachers:** Megargel (K), Cooper (1<sup>st</sup>), Ward (2<sup>nd</sup>), Baker (3<sup>rd</sup>), Turner (4<sup>th</sup>)

- A Day Students 4:00-4:45
- 4:45-5:00 Class Wipe-down
- B Day Students 5:00-5:45

## **Thursday, August 13 – Virtual Teacher Night**

**Teachers:** Stroop (K), Lloyd (1<sup>st</sup>), Beville (2<sup>nd</sup>), Smith (3<sup>rd</sup>), Charles (4<sup>th</sup>), Quesenberry (5<sup>th</sup>)

- A Day Students 4:00-4:45
- 4:45-5:00 Class Wipe-down
- B Day Students 5:00-5:45

## **Virtual or Blended Model**

We remain committed to providing a high quality of education for all of our students in the upcoming school year. Our teachers have spent much of the summer learning more about best practices in virtual and blended learning to be fully prepared for the upcoming school year. We will all be using common online platforms for managing student learning, communicating with families, and interacting through online sessions. We believe this will help streamline the process for our students and families and provide a clear structure and organization for learning.

We are providing expectations for the models selected by families (virtual or blended) to help outline what students and families may anticipate for the upcoming year. These expectations help define some of the key differences between last year's continuity of learning and this year's virtual and blended model, particularly with regard to attendance, grading, and participation.

Due to planning purposes, any changes to the learning model (virtual or blended) must be communicated to a school administrator no later than **Wednesday, August 5**. After that time, staff will be planning for the student schedule for the first semester.

# The BUZZ from BESSIE WELLER

**July 28, 2020**

*Safety and health will be a #1 focus for all of us in the upcoming year. We will be following many safety precautions, as shared through our recent Health and Safety document. This document may be found on our division and school websites.*

*Please also review the following reminders and updates we will follow to create and maintain a safe learning environment for our students and staff.*

## Visiting the School

**Meetings:** All parent meetings with teachers, administration, counselor, etc. must be scheduled in advance, and parents must wear a mask. Due to the need to minimize the number of people in the office and building, and because staff will be more involved in building supervision, screening of students, etc., please be sure to call the main office to set up a day/time to meet.

**Dropping off student items:** If you need to drop off your child's items, like their lunch, you will leave them on a table in the main foyer and communicate with the office staff through the safety glass. Office staff will retrieve the item(s) for your students.

**Classroom Visits and Volunteers:** Again, to maintain health and safety measures, we will not be accepting volunteers/visits to the classrooms, nor will we be allowing other volunteers into the building (outside of university students placed with us for their teaching practicums and student teaching). In addition, because we don't want students sharing food/items, we will not be accepting cupcakes and other food items for birthdays.

(But we realize celebrating birthdays is an important part of elementary schools, so we will celebrate student birthdays each day on the announcements and provide the birthday classrooms a school-purchased treat!)

## Other Important Reminders

### Guidelines for Student Mask use:

- Wear your face covering at the bus stop and on the bus, sit in your assigned seat to maintain social distancing and stay there throughout the ride, and keep windows open as much as possible during your ride.
- Wear your face covering at all times throughout the day— including in hallways— until your teacher instructs you to remove it.
- Keep your face covering in a safe, clean place when seated at your desk.

**Early Dismissal:** Students will not be called to the office for early dismissal prior to a parent arriving. All parents must come into the foyer to pick their children up in person so that we can check IDs.

**Medication:** Students may not bring any medication to school themselves, including over the counter items such as Advil, cough drops, etc. Medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the school nurse, principal, or school designee by the parent or guardian of the student.

**Parent Notes:** Parents who want someone else to pick their child up need to write a note to the school dated that day. Notes need to be submitted each time; the notes and dates cannot be open-ended.

*Thank you in advance for your assistance in following procedures and maintaining a safe environment for your children!*

# The BUZZ from BESSIE WELLER

July 28, 2020

## Schedule and Calendar

The first bell rings at 8:30, and the tardy bell rings at 8:35. Students who arrive after the tardy bell must be accompanied to the office by an adult and signed in.

Dismissal is at 3:30.

### Division Calendar:

Please find the most recently updated division calendar at [www.staunton.k12.va.us](http://www.staunton.k12.va.us); select *Quick Links* and *Academic Calendar*.

You will notice that this calendar reflects the new start date (August 18) and current student schedule. This schedule is subject to change should Virginia move to a different phase.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

### Bus Riders

- Assigned seats will be used for social distancing.
- All students will be required to wear masks on the bus and at the bus stop.
- Buses will load and unload in a prescribe way to promote social distancing – they will load back to front and unload front to back.
- Staff will user digital thermometers to screen students' temperatures as they exit the bus. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be escorted to a quarantine space for further evaluation by the school nurse.
- At dismissal bus riders will be escorted to their buses by the classroom teachers.

### Car Riders

- Car riders may be dropped off at the side cafeteria door starting at 8:10 each morning. Parents may not enter the school when dropping off a student.
- Traffic needs to enter the parking lot via Gay Street access and exit the same way.
- All students must be dropped off at the cafeteria doors; students may not be dropped off at any

other location that would require them to walk through the parking lot.

- Three cars at a time can pull into the drop-off area (marked by 3 painted symbols) to drop children off. Staff will use digital thermometers to screen students' temperatures before entering the school.
- Any student with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will need to return home with their parent.
- Once three cars have been screened and departed, the next three cars can pull into the drop-off area.
- Car riders will also be picked up at the side cafeteria doors for dismissal.

## Breakfast and Lunch

- All students will continue to receive both breakfast and lunch at no cost.
- We will begin serving breakfast on the first day of school with students picking up a Grab-and-Go breakfast when they enter the building.
- For health and safety purposes, students will eat both breakfast and lunch in the classroom with their teacher so they can maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Desks will be disinfected after each meal.
- For now, parents will not be able to enter the building to eat with students in the classrooms.

We realize this newsletter, as well as the weekly parent communications, include a lot of new procedures and expectations, and we understand much of this can be overwhelming. Please remember that our primary goal is the safety and well-being of your children, and the protocols are in place to keep them, our staff, and you safe and healthy. We will continue to work through this together and do all we can to support our students and make this a great year!

*We hope your families remain well!*

# The BUZZ from BESSIE WELLER

July 28, 2020

## Staunton City School Elementary School Supply List 2020-2021

We have updated our supply list to help ensure that students have access to materials that will be needed at school and to avoid use of shared items, such as water fountains. Please note we are asking students to bring their own reusable water bottle.

We also recommend all students keep a small towel or blanket in their backpacks to use in cases when we want students to have something to sit on to mark their personal space, such as outdoor class meetings. The towel/ blanket should fit easily into your child's backpack with his/her other belongings (in some cases a hand towel may be sufficient).

### Required supplies for each student

Kindergarten and First Grade	Grades 2-5
<p><b>BOOK BAG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 black marble composition books</li><li>• #2 pencils (<i>Please provide your student with additional #2 pencils through the year, as needed</i>)</li><li>• 4 glue sticks</li><li>• 24 pack crayons</li><li>• 1 pack colored pencils</li><li>• 1 school safe scissors (not pointed)</li><li>• 1 large box personal tissues</li><li>• 1 set headphones for computer use</li><li>• (K only) Complete change of clothes with name; please place in a large ziplock bag</li><li>• Reusable water bottle</li></ul> <p>** Personal hand sanitizer is recommended</p>	<p><b>BOOK BAG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 black marble composition books</li><li>• #2 pencils (<i>Please provide your student with additional #2 pencils through the year, as needed</i>)</li><li>• 4 glue sticks</li><li>• 1 pack colored pencils</li><li>• 1 pack of markers</li><li>• 1 school safe scissors (not pointed)</li><li>• 1 large box personal tissues</li><li>• 1 set headphones for computer use</li><li>• Reusable water bottle</li></ul> <p>** Personal hand sanitizer is recommended</p>