A message from BULL RUN ES

**Bull Run Principal's Press
August 25, 2015**

*The smell of newly sharpened pencils and a fresh box of crayons…cooler weather and bag lunches…the aroma of baked bread and smiley fries wafting through the hallways…a teacher’s warm smile…a blanket of yellow covering the neighborhood streets -- Back to School … the very BEST time of the year!*

Dear Bull Run Families,

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year.  Hopefully, it was a restful and memorable summer and you’re filled with renewed energy and hopeful anticipation for the year that lies ahead.  The start of a new school year is often very exciting for children.  A smooth transition is so important for student success; it influences a child’s attitude and confidence which play an important part in social and academic performance.  How can you help your child positively adjust to the beginning a new school year?  Children typically feel less anxious when they know what to expect and feel that they have some control over what will happen.  By planning ahead, establishing routines, and maintaining a positive attitude, you can promote a healthy adjustment and help make going back to school a pleasant experience.  We will be right here at Bull Run Elementary, doing the very same thing.  Let’s work together to make this school year a great one for your child and the whole family!  Here are a few resources at your fingertips to help you get started with the back-to-school transition…

* [Back to School](http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool.shtml)
* [Strategies for School Success](http://www.fcps.edu/is/fam/resources/publications/index.shtml)

You may have already heard that we’ve had a change in Administration this summer.  Ms. Fallen will continue her leadership journey as an AssistantPrincipal at Braddock Elementary.  We will truly miss her and wish her the very best in her new endeavors.  We are fortunate to welcome Ms. Kendra Chapman, who joins us as Assistant Principal.  Ms. Chapman comes to us with a variety of rich experiences. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Principal of Cherry Run Elementary School.  Prior to that, she was an Instructional Coach at Little Run and Sleepy Hollow Elementary Schools, a Test Administration Specialist for the Office of Student Testing, and she taught for eight years as a special education teacher. Please help us welcome Ms. Chapman to the Bull Run family!

I’m sure your house is filled with anticipation and wonderings about who your child’s teacher will be this school year.  Class placement letters will be mailed out to families on Friday, August 28.  If, for some reason, your child’s letter is not delivered by Thursday, September 3 (our Open House date), we invite you to come to Open House where our staff will be available to assist you and direct you to your child’s new classroom.

Enjoy these last few days of summer, making memories and relaxing with your family.

Warm regards,

Patti Brown

**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Bell Schedule Change**

Our new school hours, beginning on September 8, 2015 will be 9:15AM – 4:00 PM.  School doors will open at 9:05 each morning; students must be in their classrooms by the 9:15 bell.  Dismissal will begin at 4:00.

**PTA Requests Donations for Staff Breakfast**

Our PTA is graciously hosting a back-to-school breakfast for our faculty and staff on September 1st.  If you would like to donate food, paper products, or volunteer your time, please click [here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4cabab29a7fc1-back) to sign up.

**Family Life Education (FLE)**

On June 25, 2015, the FCPS School Board voted to approve updates to the Family Life Education (FLE) program related to new state health standards and recommendations from the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee. These updates will not be implemented until the 2016-2017 school year. For school year 2015-2016, the Family Life Education program will remain unchanged from school year 2014-2015. Parents/guardians will continue to be able to opt their child out of any or all Family Life Education instruction. The family life education lessons for school year 2015-2016 will be available to view on FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) through Parent View beginning in September 2015. The lessons that will reflect the updates approved by the School Board and that will go into effect during the 2016-17 school year have not been written. They will be available in September 2016. For more information, and to access program descriptions and opt-out forms, please visit the website at<http://www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml>.

**FCPS Go To Guide**

This FCPS Parent Handbook guide is now available online on the FCPS mobile app and at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/handbook.pdf>.  The mobile app is free and available for download on Android devices, iPhones, and iPads, and in the iTunes or Google Play stores.

**Back-to-School Night**

Our Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 24, from 6:30-8:00 PM.  This event is for parents only.  For your convenience, teachers will present two sessions to accommodate families with more than one Bull Run student.  To alleviate parking overflow, shuttle bus service will be available at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway.  Please park in the lower parking lot of the church, and a Fairfax County School Bus will shuttle you to and from the school.  For safety reasons, and to avoid ticketing and/or towing, do not park along Route 29/Lee Highway.

**Fall Community Flyer Distribution**

Non-profit organizations who wish to distribute program information may do so via our **September 29** Tuesday Folders.  Materials to be distributed must be pre-approved by Bull Run Administration no later than September 22.   Organizations will be responsible for collating and counting packets for individual classrooms.  Please call the main office for details.

**Adult English Lessons**

Classes will again be held this year at Bull Run ES for Adult learners of English as a second language.  The fall session will begin on Wednesday, September 30, and will be held each Wednesday evening through December 9.  The classes will meet in the Bull Run Theatre from 6:30-8:00 PM.  Please contact our parent liaisons for registration information:  Maria Lara (Spanish) and Sook Smith (Korean): 703-227-1447.

**Community Dialog on School Attendance**

Mark your calendar and register now for the **Community Dialogue on School Attendance**, co-sponsored by FCPS and Fairfax County Government. Together, school system and government professionals will outline challenges and develop strategies to ensure that all students are willing and able to attend school while receiving family and community support for their education. The Community Dialogue on School Attendance will be held on September 21, from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM at the Fairfax County Government Center.  [Registration is now open](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-dialogue-on-school-attendance-registration-17603945876) for this free event.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**September 3**

Open House, 2:00-3:30.

**September 8**

First Day of School (New Bell Schedule:  9:15 AM - 4:00 PM)

**September 21**

Community Dialog on School Attendance, Fairfax County Government Center, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM.

**September 24**

Back to School Night, 6:30-8:00 PM.

**September 29**

Community flyer date for non-profit organizations.

**September 30**

Adult English classes begin, BRES Theatre, 6:30-8:00 PM.

If you have a question about these or any other events at Bull Run Elementary School, please check our [BRES website](http://www.fcps.edu/BullRunES/) or call the main office at 703-227-1400.

The Keep in Touch subscription service (KIT Plus) is a self-subscribing, self-updating, and self-unsubscribing service. To update your contact information and/or topic selections, or to unsubscribe, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/index.shtml#update> for instructions. Schools and offices cannot update or delete subscribers.

Parents of FCPS students may update contact information online through weCare@School <http://www.fcps.edu/news/wecare.shtml>, a feature of FCPS 24/7 Learning (Blackboard) or by contacting the student information officer at their child(ren)'s school to have the contact information updated in the student information system.

FCPS employees may update (KIT Basic) contact information through UConnect <http://www.fcps.edu/hr/technology/uconnect.shtml>.

If you are not a parent or guardian of a child who attends an FCPS school please reply to this message with the words “ERROR –NOT MY CHILD” in the subject line.