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## CSS September Newsletter

"Peace: It's still a good idea"

Mrs. Fametta Jackson, Principal

Mrs. Corinne Davidson, Assistant Principal

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Dear CSS Family,

"Everything God made is waiting with excitement for God to show his children's glory completely."

- Romans 8:19

Welcome back!! I claim that this is going to be an awesome school year for the students, parents, and faculty of the Cardinal Shehan School community. I am sitting with great anticipation and excitement just to see what unfolds for us this year.

As we prepare for another fruitful school year, I would like to invite you to join me in establishing some helpful habits within our student body. During this past week, our teachers have been working diligently at developing procedures and routines for our students. These routines will be shared with you during our annual Back to School Night. This will be a perfect time to help your child establish high expectations for school performance and procedures for homework completion. For when a child plans for success, he/she will become successful.

If you have not done so already, I truly encourage you to develop a strong relationship with your child's teacher(s). By fostering such a connection with the school, your child will be able to flourish and increase the level of academic achievement.

Peace and Blessing,

Mrs. Fametta Jackson/ Principal

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### Upcoming Events

September 7

Back to School Night; 5:30-8:30pm

September 9

Remembrance Day Prayer Service;  
8:45am

September 12

Opening School Mass; 9am

September 16

Summer Reading Assignment Due

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### Character Trait of the Month

## FRIENDLINESS

### Explanation of Trait:

Are you welcoming to others? Do you include others in games and activities? Do you show God's love through your words and actions?

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\*\*\*\*Students who demonstrate such behavior will be identified as the Student of the Month for their homeroom. \*\*\*\*\*

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## **Back To School Night- Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

Back to School Night will be Wednesday, September 7, 2016. During this evening, you will learn about the expectations that have been set for your child. You will also learn how valuable of a role you play in your child's academic success. We look forward to seeing you Wednesday!

## **Important News and Reminders**

### **Full First Week of School = Specials begin!**

This week begins the regular schedule for the Cardinal Shehan School community. All specials (Music, GYM, ART/Library, and Spanish/ Technology) will begin this week. Please make sure that your son/daughter is in proper gym class attire on the designated day.

### **Dismissal Parking Lot Concerns**

As our school community has grown, so has the parking lot concerns. Please be very cautious when driving on the parking lot. By staying alert and reducing the music volume, you will be able to see and hear the directions that are given by the parking lot staff. Remember, the parking lot staff is only equipped with stop signs, so please be patient!!

In addition to the Loch Raven Blvd. parking lot, CSS has access to the Woodbourne Ave. parking lot. You are welcomed to park on the Woodbourne Ave. parking lot during dismissal time and walk to the front parking lot to meet your child. By doing this, you will avoid the front parking lot traffic. Please consider this alternative. **Parents must not park on Loch Raven Blvd. and walk onto the front parking lot. You are stopping traffic and are at risk of getting a ticket. Please do not park on Loch Raven Blvd.!!**

### **Monday Folders**

Every Monday, your child will bring home a folder with all of the completed work from the past week. This will give you a complete understanding of your child's current performance. Some of the assignments will need to be removed from the folder while a few assignments may need to be signed and returned to the teacher. Attached to the inside of the folder will be a form with a list of Monday dates. Please sign the form for that week and make any comments that you feel your child's teacher(s) should see. It is imperative that the folder form is signed and the folder is returned back to your child's teacher by Tuesday of that week. **If the folder is not returned or if the folder is returned but the inside form is not signed by a parent, your child will have a consequence issued, depending on your child's grade level.** This new means of communication is

to increase your awareness of your child's performance and to strengthen the home-school connection!

### **Communication: Website, Facebook and Teacher Webpages**

In another effort to promote a much stronger home-school connection, CSS has made it possible for its families to stay abreast on the current events within the community. By visiting the school's website, [www.cardinalshehanschool.org](http://www.cardinalshehanschool.org), on a regular basis, parents will be able to find school newsletters, important forms, lunch menus, and calendars that will make staying involved a lot easier.

Families can also check out the school's Facebook page, [The Cardinal Shehan School Community](#), to learn about upcoming events and to see pictures of our children actively engaged in their learning. Simply go on to Facebook and like our page.

Finally, each teacher team now has a webpage which provides information that may be useful to parents. CSS is able to continue the learning process, even during snow days!!! You can access teacher webpages by visiting [www.cardinalshehanschool.weebly.com](http://www.cardinalshehanschool.weebly.com). This address can also be found on the Cardinal Shehan School website.

### **School Forms**

It is very important that all school forms are completed and returned back to school as soon as possible. The information found on the forms will help us update our records so that you are able to stay informed. It allows our robo-call system to communicate important information to our families. The robo-call system will send information via phone and by email.

### **Powerschool**

*Powerschool* is an online tool which allows parents the ability to remain aware of their child's academic performance. Grade three to grade eight parents will be able to view their child's classwork grades, quiz and test grades, and homework grades. *Powerschool* access will be sent home to all grade three parents and new families during the month of September. If you are a retuning parent and need access, please contact the school office at 410-433-2775.

### **Learning A to Z for grades K- 5**

Learning A to Z is an online library for grades K – 5. Teachers are able to assign leveled reading assignments and assessments to help develop reading comprehension within their students. Information about Learning A to Z and parent/student access will be sent home during the month of September.

### **New Math Program in Grades K-5**

CSS will be using a new Math program in grades K through 5 this school year. Saxon Math is a comprehensive math program which addresses the needs of students throughout the school

year. With the use of differentiated activities and reinforced home assignments, teachers are able to identify weaknesses in student learning while accommodating and enriching academic strengths within students. Homework may seem a little challenging to students in the beginning of the year, but will allow students to develop the mathematical stamina they will need to help them flourish in both middle and high school. You will learn more about the Saxon Math program during Back to School Night's teacher presentations.

### **Departmentalization in grades 1-5**

Students from grades 1-5 will now have the luxury of experiencing excellent teaching of core subjects from multiple teachers. Rather than having one teacher for all of the major subjects, your child will be able to learn Reading and Social Studies from one teacher and Math and Science from the other teacher. This will allow for more in-depth teaching and learning to occur in the classrooms. Parents will have an opportunity to meet both teachers during Back to School Night!

### **Technology Integration in every classroom!**

Thanks to the generosity of the Women's Education Alliance, CSS now has smart projectors in every classroom. This new addition to each classroom environment will allow for more technology integration during instruction.

### **School Counselor**

This year, CSS will have a school counselor to help enhance its peaceful environment. The school counselor will conduct classroom presentations as well as small group or one on one meeting sessions. More information will be provided once our school counselor has officially joined the family.

### **Volunteer**

Volunteers are essential to the growth of our school family. Ms. Peterson, our new enrollment director, will facilitate volunteer orientations and quarterly parent meetings. If you are interested in attending field trips and/or volunteering in your child's classroom, please contact Ms. Peterson by phone at 410-433-2775 or by email [jpeterson@cardinalshehanschool.org](mailto:jpeterson@cardinalshehanschool.org) as soon as possible.

### **Student Support Team**

At CSS, we work hard at ensuring that all students reach their fullest potential. This is done through differentiated lessons and extracurricular activities. CSS has a Student Support Team which looks examines teacher concerns and previously developed IEPs. These IEPs are **considered** when developing accommodations in the classroom. It is important that parents are aware that CSS does not have a special education department, but will work diligently at providing support for students.

## Uniforms

Please **carefully** read the uniform policy that is located in the Parent/Student handbook. CSS is a professional environment which expects for all its students to be present daily, prepared to learn and become the future leaders of tomorrow!

## Tuition and Exclusion Day Policy

Tuition is essential to the sustainability of our school community. CSS depends on tuition to help provide for the many additions that will make it even stronger. It is for this reason that the tuition and exclusion day policy must be enforced. When there are changes in the payment arrangement, the school must be notified as soon as possible. When communication has not been made and payment has not been received, interruptions to a child's academic program will unfortunately occur. Exclusion days can be found on the monthly school calendar. When an exclusion day is implemented, parents will be contacted by the school office to pick their child up from school. Thank you for choosing our school family and for adhering to the tuition/exclusion policy.