



**Oak Hill Elementary School
August/September 2026 Newsletter**

"It is the mission of Oak Hill Elementary School to create a rigorous, safe, engaging learning environment where students are life-long learners in a diverse global community."

August/September 2026

**IMPORTANT DATES TO
REMEMBER!**

8/13- New Student Orientation, 1:30 pm
8/20- Sneak-a-Peek,/Back to School Night 3:30-4:15
8/24 -School for grades 1-5
8/24 & 8/25- Conferences for Kindergarten
8/26, 27, 28 -Staggered entrance for Kindergarten
8/31- First day for ALL Kindergarten students
9/7 School closed-Labor Day
9/8 -Virtual PTO Meeting, 6:00pm
9/21- No School

Principal's Message

We hope that everyone had a relaxing summer, and we are looking forward to a productive 2026-2027 school year. This year, our motto continues to be Rise Above It as we continue to encourage children to persevere academically, socially, physically, and mentally.

Families only need to supply will be a backpack (no wheels), an art smock, a lunch box (if your child will bring a lunch) , wired headphones for the chromebook and a non-glass water bottle. Oak Hill will provide everything else.

Teachers will mail home postcards August 17th to introduce themselves to your child. Please know our teams work diligently to place each child. Class lists are finalized for the upcoming school year. We cannot accommodate requests.

Please join us in welcoming the following staff to the Oak Hill faculty.

Jill Puffenbarger, Special Education

Krista Sweeney, part-time IEP Clerk

Megan Cormier, full-time Art

Patrick Hines, part-time PE teacher

Danielle Miller, part time Triple E teacher

Campbell Haney, Temporary Support Assistant

Sneak-a-Peek and Back-to-School Night will be held simultaneously on Thursday, August 20th from 3:30–4:15. This time is for families to meet their teachers and see the classroom. Teachers will send a video after this event with important information which will provide parents with the daily schedule, curriculum, homework policies, and much more.

Please consider joining the PTO if you are not already a member. Our PTO provides amazing opportunities for students and staff. All families are strongly encouraged to sign-up for a FREE membership toolkit account to stay informed with all of the awesome activities at Oak Hill.

School hours will remain the same with the instructional day beginning at 8:00a.m. It is beneficial for students to arrive at 7:45a.m. so they can enter the building and get organized for the school day. Due to supervision factors, students should not arrive at school earlier than 7:45a.m. The school day ends at 2:25p.m. Bus riders, car riders, and walkers will be dismissed beginning at 2:25p.m.

Sincerely,

Deneen Houghton, Principal

Christine Cheesman, Assistant Principal

Policies and Procedures

Always bring your government ID in to school with you at all times.

Please ring doorbell at front door. When you are greeted, please state why you are here and your student's name. Enter through the second door.

Please do not let another person come in with you. Each person MUST ring the bell.

If your child is absent, please input the absence in parent portal or send an email to the teacher or provide a legible written note with child's full name, teacher's name, grade, reason of absence, parent's name and contact number. If your child is out for more than five days, a doctor's note is required.

If your child needs to go home a different way than usual, please send in a note or email to the teacher, Ms. Lull (clull@aapcs.org) and Ms. Stargel (estargel@aapcs.org). Please state child's full name and new transportation mode. If someone else is picking the student up, please include their name and make sure they have their ID. The end of the day is a very busy time.

Please make any dismissal changes prior to 1:30pm. Please note a student CANNOT ride another bus. A form must be filled out and approved at least 24 hours in advance.

When picking your child up from a club or after school activity, please wait outside and the teacher will bring your student to you.



New Student Orientation

Students entering in grades 1–5 and any kindergarten student who did not attend in June who are new to Oak Hill for the 2026-2027 school year are welcome to a new student orientation on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 1:30pm



Dismissal

If your child is a car rider, please pick him/her up around the side of the building where car riders are dismissed. Please wait in line until the staff member directs your child to your car. Several cars load at once. Children will not be permitted to move away from the side of the building until all cars have come to a stop.

It is important to make sure your child meets you in the car riders' line in the side parking lot. Parking in the faculty lot can cause a dangerous situation as students try to cross through the bus lane. Safety is our number one priority, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as you help us keep the children safe.

Changes in your child's dismissal procedure

The school must be notified in writing of any change to a student's usual method of going home prior to 1:30pm. **Children are not permitted to ride a different bus without a parent first completing a special request form.** This form must be completed and submitted to the office at **least 24 hours in advance.** Please note that county policy **does not allow students to ride a different bus for "play date" purposes.**

Procedures for Car Riders

Please adhere to our arrival and dismissal procedures to make things flow as smoothly as possible. If you need to leave your car for any reason (including walking your child to the door, speaking to another adult, etc.), please park your vehicle in a designated parking space. Please drop off and pick up your child in the car riders' loop which is in the side parking lot. For the safety of our students, we ask that you do not drop them off in the staff lot or in the bus loop.

Thank you for your support in our arrival and dismissal procedures.

Visitors and School Safety



The safety of all students and staff members in Anne Arundel County Public Schools is of utmost importance to all of us. Our school will continue using the computerized system for checking in all visitors. When people visit Oak Hill, they will be asked to present a government-issued **photo ID**. This card will be scanned and the following information will be collected: the person's photo, name, and date of birth. This information will be utilized to check the visitor in, create an ID badge, and compare his/her information against sexual offender databases throughout the country. If the visitor's name appears on any of the lists or if he/she refuses to allow the use of his/her ID, the visitor will not gain access to the school. All parents, friends and family are required to check into the system even if they are only coming to school to pick up their child(ren). The information collected will not be disseminated beyond the school building, and it is kept on a secure server. We appreciate your patience as we navigate through the check-in process to ensure the safety of all.

All volunteers, including chaperones, must complete a background investigation form and watch the sexual harassment video every two years. Please allow up to three weeks for the background check to be approved. We recommend you complete the background check now to avoid delays. To complete a background check and watch the video, please use this link — [Background check link](#) or go to AACPS.org, student and families, and go to volunteering.

Any questions or request for technical assistance, please contact Elena Stargel at es-targel@aacps.org or call the school.

Oak Hill Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior areas of the building as well as exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is not monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events when the safety and security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

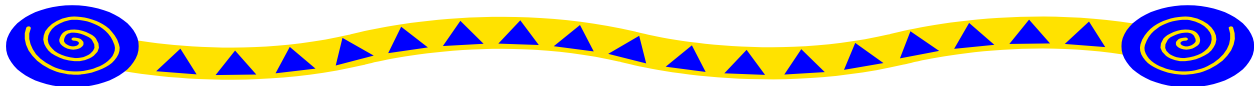
Birthday Treats

Birthdays are special, and we know your child wants to celebrate. As part of our eat-healthy movement, **cupcakes or other food treats to are not permitted for birthdays**. With so many different food allergies and parents requesting their children to eat healthy food, it is best to eliminate any food treats that come in the building throughout the year for birthdays. Parents are welcome to bring in non-food related items such as birthday pencils, stickers, and erasers.



Lunches

Please plan for lunches in advance. To support a smooth and safe lunchtime routine, all students must bring lunch from home or purchase lunch through the school cafeteria. We are not able to accommodate parents bringing in restaurant or fastfood lunches during the school day, as these deliveries disrupt classroom instruction and school operations. Thank you for helping us maintain a consistent and orderly environment for all students.



School Meal Prices for 2026-2027

Breakfast ~ \$1.50

Lunch ~ \$2.75

You can create an account for your child
at

MyPaymentPlus for meals.



"Rise Above It"

OAK HILL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.aacps.org

