

# BACK TO SCHOOL

AUGUST 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *Greetings from Cash Valley Elementary*

Hello Cash Valley families! As summer break ends, the staff has created engaging classroom environments and prepared hands-on lessons to get the students excited for learning. We will continue to make students the priority, which is the school focus and drives decision-making. Our school motto is "Every Connection Counts," and with the positive partnership established between the school and home, we will maintain the common learning expectations that will enable students' success. The 2023-2024 school year will be an exceptional educational experience for all!

**OPENING DAYS**  
Grades 1-5: August 23  
Grades PK-K: Staggered Starts  
8/29 & 8/31 (Last names A-L)  
8/30 & 9/1 (Last names M-Z)  
**MEET THE FACULTY AND FAMILIES & TITLE I MEETING**  
August 28, 4:30-6:30, Cash Valley School

### ASPEN

#### Assigned Classroom Access:

1. Visit Follett Aspen (md-allegany.myfollett.com)
2. Enter child's information: username login ID (last name.first name) and password.
3. Click My Info tab (top toolbar), then Demographics tab (middle toolbar)
4. Homeroom teacher's name is listed

#### Online Grades Access:

1. Visit Follett Aspen (md-allegany.myfollett.com)
2. Enter child's information: username login ID (last name.first.name) and password.
3. Click the Academics tab (top toolbar)
4. List of child's classes and grade summary

Contact the school with questions or for assistance.

### COMMUNICATION

Let's keep the communication constant and open! Contact between the school/home is vital for students' success. There are a variety of ways to communicate such as phone calls, conferences (in-person/virtual), email, messenger, Schoology, and Blackboard Connect (robocalls). Contact the school anytime to schedule a meeting.

### Schoology – Online Instructional Platform

Online databased used for communication, instruction, and work assignments. Contact teacher with questions.

#### Schoology Access:

1. Visit ACPS Schoology (acpsmd.schoology.com)
2. Enter child's information: username login ID (last name.first name) and password.
3. Enter student's password (4-digit number)
4. Select student's online classroom

### SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The academic, social, and emotional emphasis will continue by building students' attentiveness towards:

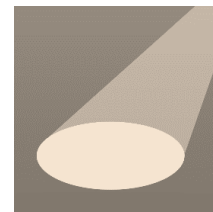
- Understanding their own thought process (metacognition).
- Managing their thoughts, actions, and emotions (executive functioning).
- Integrating techniques for self-regulation and focus (mindfulness).
- Displaying positive thinking for good results (mindset).

Recognized as successful, lifelong skills, children are encouraged to continue practicing "drive their brain" behavior at home.

#### **As the year evolves, information will be updated.**

Visit the school website ([www.acpsmd.org/ca](http://www.acpsmd.org/ca)) and Facebook for updates and information:

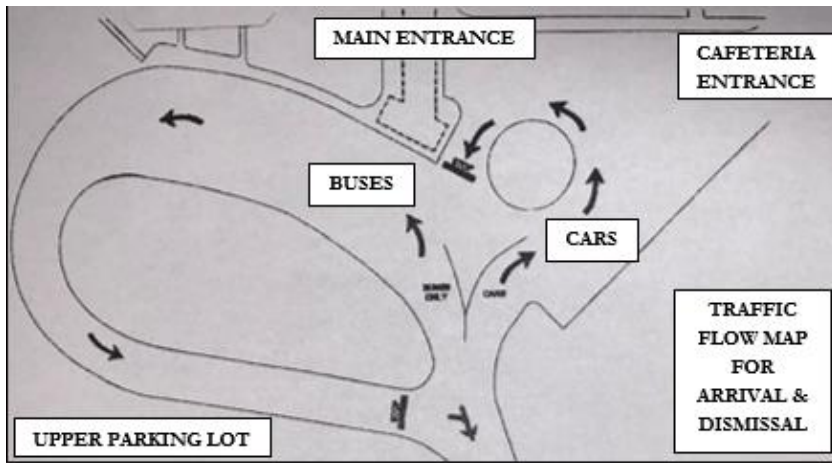
- ✓ Handbook (**important information**)
- ✓ School/District Updates
- ✓ Assessments and Health Protocol
- ✓ Parent Teacher Organization/Title I
- ✓ Learning Resources
- ✓ Calendar and Newsletters
- ✓ School Improvement Plan



### CAFETERIA

Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) application forms should be completed and returned to the office by October 1st to determine eligibility. **Parents must complete a new application each year.** In October, children are removed from the FARM list. Based on specific criteria, Cash Valley is identified as a Community Eligible Provisions (CEP) school, therefore **ALL** students will receive free **breakfast and lunch**. Contact the cafeteria with questions 301.724.2730.

**School Vision:** All students will reach their full potential, achieve success, and become productive citizens.



**(Guidelines are for safety purposes, reference the traffic flow map.)**

**Arrival:** When using the roundabout, children are to exit the vehicle only at the designated cones due to the constant moving traffic. Please be considerate in the roundabout line and quickly allow your child to exit the vehicle to keep the line moving forward.

**Dismissal:** Buses have priority at dismissal due to meeting designated bus stops as scheduled. Do not create unnecessary roadblocks that interfere with the traffic flow at the school driveway entrance.

### ARRIVAL

- 8:20-8:30AM - Children arrive at school and report to designated areas.
- 8:30AM - Children move to classrooms, breakfast is provided (full days only), and preparation for the day.
- 8:40AM - Announcements begin
- **8:45AM** - Official start of the school day and instruction begins  
**Children arriving after 8:45 are tardy based on attendance procedures.**

### DISMISSAL

- 3:10PM - Announcements begin
  1. Private Transportation: Parents must park in the upper lot (exception is a handicap sticker), walk to enter through the cafeteria door, and sign out their child. Please present IDs prior to student release.
  2. Bus Riders: Children will walk in appropriate lines to board buses.
- 3:30PM - All children have been dismissed.

During arrival and dismissal always be alert for children and use the crosswalks for safety. A school resource officer and administration will monitor and assist with the protocol.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

It is important to complete and return the contact and emergency information forms provided by the school. Correct telephone numbers, addresses, and emergency contact information is necessary for school personnel to make home connections. Please inform the school if there are any changes that occur throughout the school year.

### PTO/VOLUNTEERS

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) builds relationships between the home and school by providing funding support, learning activities, and special events that benefit the overall school community. The Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator meets weekly with volunteers to assist school personnel with classroom activities and materials. Contact the school to volunteer!

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The School Improvement Plan is created based on the established goals designed to develop a quality instructional program and learning environment. Through the examination of school performance data, improvement areas are targeted and strategies are determined to reach set goals. Upon the Board of Education approval, the plan becomes the school's central focus to increase student achievement and is revisited regularly to review progress. The plan is available in the school office and website.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

To enforce school security all doors and windows will remain locked and video surveillance is accessible. Visitors must use an intercom system at the main entrance and report to the office. A safety officer is employed to enforce security measures and provide assistance. Health procedures will be followed as directed by the Board of Education.

### MD Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

MCAP provides information on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. The test was administered in spring 2023 in the intermediate grades. Student scores will be sent home once received. The scores will be analyzed to identify areas targeted for support, progress monitoring, and overall school improvement areas.

### TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program provides funding for additional personnel, instructional materials, and professional development. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) outlines the focus of this program. Parents are invited to review and comment on the plan and are encouraged to become a member of an action team. Parent and family input and engagement are recognized as key components of children's success. Parent input is requested on the development and review of the following documents:

- School Improvement Plan
- Parent/Family Engagement Plan
- School Parent Compact
- Parent/Family Engagement Budget
- District Parent and Family Engagement Plan Annual Review

Title I information can be located on the school and district websites:  
[acpsmd.org/ca](http://acpsmd.org/ca)  
[acpsmd.org](http://acpsmd.org)