

Welcome Back from Principal Haddock



Dear Emerick Families,

The beginning of a new school year, like the dawning of a new day, reminds us that the future holds infinite possibilities. I hope that your summer was relaxing, filled with adventures and good health because you deserve it. The opportunity to refuel over the summer was necessary as you played such an important role with us last spring with jumping right in and supporting us with your child's learning. I know that we are about to begin a great school year filled with hope, vision, and excitement. As we begin this new year, I am excited to share with you that we will be a wall to wall Project Based Learning school and you will play a big role in making this deeper learning experience a great one for your child. PBL is not new to the Emerick staff or the families here at the school. Teachers have been involved in the last five years, working on PBL projects, but now we are implementing more Gold Standards that will push our children to become self-motivated learners. I can say with the PBL projects done at Emerick by the faculty and staff, their accomplishments have been monumental, and we will continue our focus on teaching and learning so that our students graduate to be sound thinkers, and strong communicators. While maintaining the implementation of the initiatives already in place, this year we will also focus on addressing targeted mental health and Computational thinking skills. Clearly, it is a year of great ambition as Henry Ford once said, "If you think you can do a thing, or you think you can't, you're right." I know that we can meet all our initiatives because we have a faculty and staff that believes in the promise of educational excellence. We know that we have work to do, work that requires commitment, focus and collaboration and we know that we will succeed.

I do not need to remind you of how important your job is for our children here at Emerick. Your child needs your wisdom and your care. My hope is that through our reinvigorated Learning Community, both you and our Emerick students will think of our schools as places where community of learners come together to do interesting, problem solving work, that builds their brain to become great thinkers. I hope that you attempt new things this year and that you challenge your child with hard and interesting questions.

In closing, please let me reaffirm what I believe - that I know each of us wants to make a difference in the lives of our children. As we move forward with distance learning, I invite you to think about something written so long ago but something that still resonates today. Emerson said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." I am confident that we will blaze a trail filled with success and accomplishments, and we look back at what was accomplished, we will have shown that anything is possible if you believe. Let's make this the best year ever.

Watch Dog Dad

We are so excited to once again be participating in the "Watch Dog Dad" program for the 2020-2021 school year. Although it may look a little different this year, but it is an essential program to our school and our students. Watch Dog dads provide an extra set of eyes and ears to our school. They also assist in our classrooms and lunchroom providing an extra set of hands to our staff. There will be additional information on how this will look and operate this year coming soon. We welcome all dads to participate in this important and valuable program.

Save The Dates

We gear up for the upcoming school year, we have a couple of dates to save.

For students in **kindergarten thru 3rd grade**, Chromebook pick up will be **August 26th and 27th** between 1-7pm. Please see the schedule below.

August 26th

A-L 1:00-3:30pm

M-Z 3:30-7:00pm

August 27th

M-Z 1:00-3:30pm

A-L 3:30-7:00pm

Please have a sign up with your students name and grade in a visible location on your window.

ParentVue goes live on **August 28th** and you will be able to see your child's teacher. If you have difficulty logging on to ParentVue, email or call Maral Amado at 540-751-2440.

Virtual Back to School Night will be **September 2nd**, We will have two sessions at 6pm and 7pm. Teachers will send out links to meet.

Virtual Open House will be on **September 3rd** at 10:00am, 10:30am, and 11:00am. This will be a quick meet and greet with your teacher and to check that everyone is ready to log on to their Chromebooks for the first day of school. Keep an eye out for a link from your child's teacher.

There will be a meeting on **September 1st** for Daycare providers, parents, and anyone that may be providing instruction. We will share information on ways to help students be successful in using the technology being provided for distance learning. Please share the following link with anyone who will be working with your child. Meeting times are 1pm and 3pm.

Google Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/izf-qyfs-rkg>

Or dial: +1 413-591-4123 PIN: 212 278 629#

Save The Date

Family Life Education Parent Preview

Annual Parent Preview of Family Life Education ←

Admin Building · Room 101-C

10:00 am - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 27th

Wednesday, August 28th

Thursday, August 29th

In response to the requirements of Section 22.1-207.1 of the Code of Virginia, Loudoun County Public Schools has implemented a comprehensive, sequential, abstinence-based, age-appropriate Family Life Education curriculum grades 4-10.

The Loudoun County Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum is designed to:

Emphasize the importance of family

- Stress the need for individuals to make decisions appropriate to values established within their families;
- Assist students of all ages in accepting the responsibilities for and consequences of their behavior;
- Encourage child-parent discussion in order to foster mutual support between the home and the school; and
- Stress the value of life and the multiplicity of opportunities available to young people.

Although the Family Life Education curriculum is compatible with existing curricula and serves to enrich the educational experiences of the students in the Loudoun County Public Schools, some objectives in the Family Life Education curriculum may be considered sensitive by some parents. Therefore, parents may choose to opt their child out of the program. Please note that Emerick does not teach Family Life until June.

Contact Amy Wheeler for more information at 571-252-1430

Attendance

Emerick will be maintaining strict attendance expectations while instruction is in progress even with the Distance Learning model. Attendance at school on a regular basis is vital in maintaining satisfactory school progress. We ask that you have your child attend school each day that he/she is healthy. It is disruptive to your child's educational program when you remove him/her from school for trips or family outings. Parents should make every effort to plan these outings so as not to conflict with the school's instructional calendar.

Our school day begins promptly at 7:50 a.m. Students are expected to be in their virtual classroom by that time, ready to begin their day. Students who are not in their virtual classroom at 7:50 a.m. will be considered tardy. Students arriving late to their virtual classrooms or dismissing early for a doctor/dentist appointment will need a note from the doctor/dentist office for the absence to be excused.

If your child will be absent/tardy due to illness/appointment or other circumstances, please call our absentee call in line at 540-751-2441 or visit our Emerick website at www.lcps.org/emerrick and complete the "Sick as a Dog" online absence form. Should you need to speak to someone in the school office, please call 540-751-2440. Upon returning to school following an absence, a written explanation is required. This note should be given to your child's teacher.

Students must be fever free and Covid 19/Flu/Strep **negative** before returning to school.

Students who will be absent due to vacation, and will be absent for three or more days, will need approval from the principal. You can email her at dawn.haddock@lcps.org for approval.

If you have not notified the school either through the absentee line or "Sick as a Dog" of your child's absence, school personnel will make reasonable effort to contact you concerning the absence of your child. **Unconfirmed absences are marked unexcused.**

Please note that an excessive amount of excused absences and or tardies may require a doctor's note to continue being marked as excused.

The following changes in attendance have been made effective the 2020-21-021 school year:

Students with 5 unexcused absences will receive a letter from the principal. The 6th unexcused absence will require a meeting with the Guidance Counselor to develop an attendance plan. The 7th unexcused absence will require a meeting with the Principal and the LCPS truancy office.

Staying Connected

There are several ways to stay connected and up-to-date with what is happening at Emerick.

Emerick website: visit us at www.lcps.org/emerrick

Emerick Twitter: dawnhaddock@lcps-eme
Emerickelem1967@emerickelem1967



Parent Vue: allows access to your child's grades, report cards, progress reports, attendance, and assignments

LCPS App: free download from the Apple App store and Google Play App Store

For the 2020-2021 school year, Emerick will publish a quarterly newsletter. We will continue with our weekly connect ed message. The weekly connect ed will be both a voice and an email and will highlight the upcoming week activities. The weekly message will be sent on Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. It is very important that you notify the office if you are not receiving these weekly messages. We will verify that we have the correct phone number and email address on file for you.

Parent Vue/Virtual First Day

The Public Information Office and Department of Digital Innovation will release the 2020 Virtual First Day and Online Verification Process for parents on **Friday, August 28**. This date is consistent with feedback we received from you in past focus groups that 10 days before the start of school is the optimum window for parents to access this information.

As always, the website will contain PDFs and links to documents families may need to start their new school year—free and reduced lunch applications, McKinney-Vento applications, information about insurance and COVID mitigation strategies, calendars and directories.

In addition, the Online Verification Process will enable parents to log into ParentVue to enter updates to important information in the system, including emergency contacts, demographics, dismissal details, medical information, information release, permissions for notification, and more. Families will also acknowledge the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and student device documents. Once families have completed the Online Verification steps they will be able to see their student's schedule/teacher assignment. Please note that online verification is only accessible through ParentVue on the web (portal.lcps.org) and not through the mobile app currently.

Please note that DDI will again be pushing out the shared app to your websites on this date so that families may access it through both the LCPS homepage and your school's webpage.

For questions regarding Parent VUE, contact Maral Amado, Registrar at maral.amado@lcps.org or call the school at 540-751-2440.

Breakfast/Lunch

Community Meals program.

The School Nutrition Services and Transportation divisions of the Support Services Department are continuing to support the community through meals served at one of 28 school sites or by school bus delivery across the County for the 2020-2021 school year. Bus meal deliveries are Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Weekly updates of bus meal stop changes (added, removed, time changes) will be communicated as attained.

IMPORTANT Meals program links:

- School Nutrition Services homepage: <https://lcpshealthycafe.org/>
- Community Meal Service interactive map prepared by the Planning Division: <https://lcps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=615171005a9a4ccf8f38c86b387632a0>
- Transportation homepage: <https://www.lcps.org/Transportation> (for more info on bus stops)

School Supply List, and Summer Reading/Writing

The school supply list is located on the Emerick website. The list was also recently sent out in a Connect Ed email. The School Supply list this year reflects supplies needed virtually as well as when we return to the building in person. Your classroom teacher will make you aware if the class will be purchasing Scholastic News. If so, you will be able to pay for this online. If you ever need assistance with paying for something at school, please email Mrs. Haddock or give us a call at 540-751-2440.

Back to School Night/Open House

Mark your calendars for Emerick's Back school night

Event: Back-To-School night – September 2nd 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM Virtually (Parents Only)

Open House - September 3rd 10:00 & 10:30 & 11:00 Virtually

Watch for links sent out by teachers to join meetings

Census

Please continue to convey the importance of the census with any communications to our school communities. It is critical that there is a complete count of all persons. An accurate count of Loudoun County residents is important in many ways, including the allocation of federal funding and how legislative districts are drawn on the state and national level. Over \$30 million in federal funding for Loudoun is impacted by the number of people counted in the census including Head Start, free/reduced school meals, healthcare services, affordable housing, as well as transportation and roads.

Additional information on the 2020 U.S. Census is available on both the [Loudoun County website](#) and [LCPS website](#).

Parent Liaison

Welcome back to school! My name is Tiffany Mussmon and I am the Parent Liaison at Emerick Elementary. The primary role of the Parent Liaison is to empower parents/families to become active participants in the education of their children.

We are happy to say that we will be able to continue our backpack buddies program this year. This program provides supplemental food to students over the weekends and breaks. Please let me know if you need any help with school supplies to help your student have a successful new year.

If you are interested in school supplies or receiving a bag each week and please email me at tiffany.mussmon@lcps.org or call 703-887-3555



Clinic Corner



Your mask may protect them. Their mask may protect you. Wear a mask! 🧐

How to Safely Wear a Mask

WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2

USE A MASK TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a mask to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the mask on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the mask, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Wishing everyone a healthy and safe start to this school year! Don't forget to wear a mask and wash your hands 😊

Take care, Nurse Carly



Emerick Elementary School
PBIS DISTANCE LEARNING Teaching Matrix

Expectations	Definition	<u>Google/ Virtual Classroom</u> I will	<u>Using Technology</u> I will
Respectful	Show courtesy, appreciation, and regard for others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words, actions and facial expressions while communicating - show respect for all cultures, opinions, and viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Use my account to access appropriate resources ☑ Only share appropriate content related to school
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be an active participant in online discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Use my device only as directed by my teacher and parents
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Take turns talking during online lessons (honor one voice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Keep my login, passwords, and private information private
Responsible	Be accountable for your actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do my best to complete my work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Care for my device by carrying it correctly (walking- two hands/ from place to place- in a bag)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond as my teacher directs (raise hand feature, chat box) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Keep food and liquids away while I am working
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions if material presented doesn't make sense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Keep my computer out of intense heat or direct sunlight
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be an active participant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Report any technology issues to your teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mute/unmute my microphone accordingly
Ready to Learn	Be prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do my best to complete the given tasks Be on-time for your online learning MEETS Have materials ready 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Treat all the devices as if they are my own.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a low distraction or distraction free space to do work Try to stay in one location during your online learning MEETS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Make sure to sign into my account to work, and sign out when I am done.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be an upstander (if I see mean acts I will report them to the teacher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Look into the camera and show SLANT (Sit up, Lean in, Ask questions, Nod, Track your teacher).

Helpful Tips For Parents During Distance Learning:



Emerick Elementary believes in supporting the safe and responsible use of all online and digital technologies for teaching and learning. During this period of distance learning, all students are responsible for continuing to practice positive digital citizenship by protecting and respecting their peers and teachers. We all must understand, practice, and model positive and productive behaviors when we are online. Because a remote learning environment is still a classroom, school behavior norms and rules are to be followed just as expected in the regular educational setting/classroom.

- Make respectful comments, showing respect for all cultures, opinions, and viewpoints.
- Allow students to demonstrate their knowledge by using the skills and resources provided by LCPS and teachers.
 - THINK before posting, always using appropriate language in all electronic communications, including, email, social media posts, audio recordings, and/or video conferencing.
- Use teacher provided office hours to ask for additional guidance in assisting your student with distance learning.
- Try to prepare a designated learning and work space for students with low distractions.
- Practicing cyber safety includes not making your profile public, not speaking to strangers, not sharing personal information, and not sharing your camera or photos.
- Try to limit your background sounds when students are sharing their learning.
- Students can use headphones if they want.
- Remind students of expectations during distance learning.
- Try to stick to a schedule.
- LCPS [Distance Learning Code of Conduct](#) and [Google Meet - Families and Students](#)