



# Starfish Scoop

*Empowering Every Starfish to be a Life Long Learner*

Nantucket Elementary  
School  
2350 Nantucket Drive  
Crofton, MD 21114  
410-451-6120

September 2020

## Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year at Nantucket Elementary! While this school opening will be like no other, the staff at Nantucket is prepared and excited for an amazing school year! We have all been working hard to make sure that our students grow and learn. I cannot thank you enough for all of your patience, support and encouragement. We can not do this without you!

Our theme this year is “Sticking Together as the Nantucket Family.” Last year we started on our journey learning about people’s differences and how those differences make us better together. We demonstrated that Nantucket Elementary is truly one family- even through a global pandemic.

We have had some staffing changes over the summer and added a few family members to Nantucket Elementary. The following is an update of the changes and additions:

**Mirae Choi, 1st grade**  
**Angie Calloway, 2nd grade**  
**Alexzandra Brown, 3rd Grade**  
**Mallory Sauble, 3rd Grade**  
**Kaitlyn Salapong, PT Art**  
**Kathleen Johnson, PT Music**  
**Zainab Ahmed, ELA**  
**Sam Furlow, ELA (0.5)**  
**Michael Roberts, PPW**  
**Laura Gottlieb, Media (0.2)**

During this time of uncertainty, communication is paramount. We will strive to provide our families with the most up-to-date information. In addition to monthly newsletters, which will be sent through Blackboard Connect and posted to the school website, there will be grade level updates, as well as PTA news and events. We will also use the Blackboard Connect system to send texts, emails, and phone calls with any important information that becomes available. Please be sure that your contact information is correct on the emergency cards so that you get all of this important communication.

We do miss seeing all of our Starfish in person, but the staff is looking forward to making this a memorable and enriching year for all of our students!

Sincerely,

Alexis McKay, Principal

Megan Edwards, Assistant Principal

## Mark Your Calendar

|           |      |   |
|-----------|------|---|
| September | 3rd  | Virtual Sneak-a-Peek 2:30-3:30                              |
|           | 7th  | <b>NO SCHOOL– Labor Day</b>                                 |
|           | 8th  | First Day of School- Grades 1-5<br>Kindergarten Conferences |
|           | 9th  | Kindergarten Conferences                                    |
|           | 10th | Staggered entrance for kindergarten                         |
|           | 11th | Staggered entrance for kindergarten                         |
|           | 14th | Staggered entrance for kindergarten                         |
|           | 15th | First Day of School for ALL Kindergarten                    |
|           | 17th | Virtual Back to School Night, 6:30 pm                       |
|           | 23rd | PTA Catch Up, 6:30 pm                                       |
|           | 28th | <b>NO SCHOOL– Rosh Hashanah</b>                             |



## Vision & Core Values

Our Vision at Nantucket Elementary:

*Empower Every Starfish to be a Life Long Learner.*

Our Core Values:

- *Build Caring Relationships*
- *Embrace & Celebrate Diversity*
- *Be Kind*
- *Show Perseverance*



## **PBIS**

This year, Nantucket Elementary will continue to be a PBIS school even in the virtual world! PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. PBIS is a framework for reinforcing appropriate behavior by accentuating the positive. Children are encouraged to make good choices that ensure the safety of others and respect for the learning environment.

Teachers will reward appropriate behaviors in a variety of ways, including utilizing Class DOJO. Through this online application, students receive DOJO points for appropriate behavior. They can then 'spend' these points on rewards in the virtual classroom. Verbal reminders, think time, counseling and logical consequences are used to discourage inappropriate behavior. Parents will be notified of inappropriate behavior that occurs so that we can work together closely to modify and correct unacceptable behavior. We also have quarterly school-wide celebrations for students who "Stay in the Loop."

It is essential that parents reinforce our behavioral expectations at home. The staff will maintain close contact and open communication with families in order to ensure that every child has the chance to benefit from the instructional program in a safe, caring environment.

### **Nantucket Expectations:**

#### **Respect Learning**

Students will demonstrate respect for learning by participating appropriately in class activities, staying focused on work and following all adult directions.

#### **Respect Ourselves**

Students will demonstrate respect for themselves by listening carefully, controlling personal behavior and completing all assignments to the best of their ability.

#### **Respect Others**

Students will demonstrate respect for others by working cooperatively, using positive language, showing empathy and treating others as they would like to be treated (no bullying).

#### **Respect Property**

Students will demonstrate respect for our school by taking care of their materials, keeping their work space neat and organized and using all school materials appropriately.

Starfish stay in the LOOP by respecting:

**Learning**

**Ourselves**

**Others**

**Property**

## **Back to School Night**

Thursday, September 17th is our virtual Back to School Night. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a welcome from the administration and PTA. Following the welcome, there will be two classroom information sessions in which you will have the opportunity to learn more about your child's academic programs. More information will be forthcoming.

## **Breakfast and Lunch**

If you would like to apply for school meal benefits (free or reduced price lunches), please go to [www.applyformeals.aacps.org](http://www.applyformeals.aacps.org). The application is online at this site. Families who received benefits last year, must complete a new application each year. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the school office for assistance.

Due to the extension of a grant, meals will be provided for children from 2-18 years old. Nantucket Elementary will be a meal site beginning September 8th. Meals will be distributed from 12:00-12:30 pm on days when school is in session.



## **Cameras**

Nantucket Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and 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 or 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.

## **Attendance**

Regular school attendance is an important factor in student success. As a parent, you can encourage proper attendance by ensuring that your child gets adequate rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and has adequate time to log on to the computer.

There are lawful reasons for absence from school. Whenever your child is absent, you must provide a note of explanation to the school within three days of your child's return to school. Absences of five consecutive days or more require a physician's note. Please refer to the Student and Parent Handbook for examples of excused vs. unexcused absences.

## 2020-21 Nantucket Elementary Staff

|                     |                       |                        |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Alexis McKay        | Principal             | amckay@aacps.org       |
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|                         |                        |  |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
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| Carroll Hicks           | Custodian              |  |
| Onell Karr              | Custodian              |  |
| Carla Parker            | Custodian              |  |
| Sharon Groves           | Cafeteria Manager      |  |