



August 7, 2023

Greetings Pointer Students and Families,

I'm excited to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year; it's going to be an outstanding year at Sparrows Point High School! Our school community will continue to raise the bar and achieve excellence in academics, athletics and civic engagement. Our goal is to have every student graduate from high school prepared for the demands of postsecondary education, meaningful careers and effective citizenship.

We welcome and encourage active involvement from our parents and families. Please join our PTSA, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @SparrowsPointHS, access our school website <http://sparrowspoinths.bcps.org/>, read our quarterly community newsletter, and attend the many activities and athletic events here on campus.

The first day of school is Monday, August 28. The school day begins at 7:45 am and ends at 2:30 pm.

All students and families are asked to read the **SPHS Student & Parent Guide** before the start of the school year. This guide contains information about our school routines and procedures, including expectations for attendance and student conduct. The SPHS Student & Parent Guide can be found on our school website and will be available by August 21, 2023.

Student Schedules: Schedules will be available to view in FOCUS on or about August 11. Each schedule was developed based on course requests and alternate course selections submitted by the student during the course registration process. As a result, schedule changes will not be made unless the schedule is missing a graduation requirement or if there is an empty class period. Please note that we are unable to adjust schedules for students who did not submit the appropriate CCBC/ECAP paperwork prior to June 1. In the case that a student is missing a graduation requirement from their schedule or if there is an empty class period, the student should contact Ms. Stover in School Counseling at 443-809-7517 to set up an in-person meeting with their counselor.

Grade 9 Early Entry Day: Thursday, August 24, 7:45-11:15 am. Welcome Class of 2027! Students will ride their regular bus to and from SPHS and participate in activities to orient them to high school. Grab and Go lunch will be provided as students are dismissed.

Save the Date! Back to School Night will be on Thursday, August 24 from 5:30-8:00 pm. All students and families are invited to join us for the opening session at 5:30 pm in the auditorium, followed by classroom visits. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Emily J. Caster
Principal
ecaster@bcps.org

Important Information for the 2023-24 School Year:

Morning Arrival Procedures: Students arriving on campus prior to 7:30 am will need to wait outside the school building. At 7:30 am, students may enter the building and move to their first period class. To assist with crowding in the hallways, students are asked to enter the building at the location closest to their first period class. Breakfast is “grab and go” at carts throughout the building.

Transportation: Bus routes and schedules will be posted to our school website before the start of the school year under the “SPHS Bus Routes” tab. Please note that high school students may not ride the BCPS Sparrows Point Middle bus in the morning or afternoon. If you are dropping your student off at school, please loop through the faculty lot on the Main Avenue side of the school. Please do not drop off in the bus loop at the front of the school, senior parking lot or fire hall. Student parking on campus is by permit only.

Sollers Point Technical High School Students: On Monday, August 28, all students scheduled to attend Sollers Point Technical High School in the morning should ride the Sollers Point bus directly to Sollers Point. Afternoon Sollers students should report to their regular first period class at Sparrows Point High School and will be transported to Sollers Point at 11:20 a.m. following their lunch.

Cell Phones: To address excessive student cell phone use and the negative impact on learning, SPHS will be implementing a universal cell phone policy across our school. **We will be implementing a schoolwide policy to stop cellphone and headphone use in all classes.** Students can still use their phones between classes and during lunch. Parents who urgently need to contact their student should call the main office at 443-809-7517. **It is our priority to engage your student in learning and this is a major step toward that goal. Please help reiterate the importance of this policy with your student.**

Home-School Communication: Please be sure you have updated your phone and email addresses in our Focus Student Information System (SIS) so that all communication is received. SPHS will be sending the following emails to families:

- weekly notice to parents if their child has a D/E in any class
- bi-weekly attendance report listing days absent and tardiness report
- Pointer Updates with information about events and general updates

If you have concerns about a specific class, your first point of contact should be the teacher. For all other concerns, your first point of contact should be your student’s school counselor. Counselors are most easily reached by email but may also be reached at 443-809-7519.

Students	Counselor	Administrator
Sollers 9-12, AVID 11	Ms. Jubb ajubb@bcps.org	Assigned by last name alphabetically
A-F	Ms. Fedderick mfedderick@bcps.org	Mr. Hanmer jhanmer@bcps.org
G-O	Mr. Giron egiron@bcps.org	Ms. Wolfe awolfe2@bcps.org
P-Z	Ms. Perdikakis kperdikakis@bcps.org	Ms. Crabbe rcrabbe@bcps.org
AVID 9/10 College & Career Readiness Counselor-9-12	Ms. Bures lbures@bcps.org	Assigned by last name alphabetically

Bell Schedule for the 2023-24 School Year:

Period 1: 7:45-9:15

*Pointer Time Advisory- every Tuesday, 8:55-9:15 am

Period 2: 9:20-10:55

*Announcements Daily- 10:50-10:55 (bell at 10:55)

Period 3: 11:00-1:00

PM Sollers/WBL/Early Release Lunch: 10:55-11:20 am

A Lunch: 11:25-11:55 – class time 11:00-11:25, 12:00-1:00

B Lunch: 11:57-12:27 – class time 11:00-11:57, 12:32-1:00

C Lunch: 12:30-1:00- class time 11:00-12:30

Period 4: 1:05-2:30

Student Pictures: Pictures of students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 will be taken on September 5 and September 6. All students are expected to have their photo taken for the yearbook and ID cards (no cost). Payment for picture packets is made to Lifetouch at the time the picture is taken. Last opportunity for senior photos on site will be September 11 and September 12.

BCPS Behavior Code and Student Handbook: During the first week of school, each student will participate in a presentation about BCPS policy and rule related to student behavior, as well as SPHS specific procedures. <http://www.bcps.org/system/handbooks/Student-Handbook.pdf>

Food Delivery: Delivery of outside food/restaurant meals by services such as Door Dash/Uber Eats or by parents/families members is not allowed. Outside food/restaurant meals delivered to school for a student by a delivery service will be refused and sent back with the driver.

Closed Campus: SPHS is a closed campus and once a student arrives on campus they may not leave until the end of the school day. Students may not go to Food Lion or any other off campus establishments during their scheduled school day. Students who leave campus without permission or are truant from an assigned class can expect disciplinary action as outlined in the BCPS Student Handbook.

Student Tardiness & Attendance: The school day begins at 7:45 am, after the 7:45 am bell, students will not be admitted to their classroom without a pink late pass from the main office. Additionally, SPHS implements daily “hall sweeps” at the start of class periods throughout the day to address lateness to class. Students who are chronically late to school or class can expect disciplinary action as outlined in the BCPS Student Handbook. Students will have the first four days of school to locate their classrooms and will begin being marked tardy to school and classes on Friday, September 1.

Regular school attendance has a positive effect on learning and helps to establish habits necessary for responsible adulthood. Students who frequently attend school feel more connected to their community and develop strong social skills and friendships, which are important life skills. SPHS students are expected to attend school every day, unless their absence can be excused by a parent/guardian.

Focus & Schoology Access: Schoology is the learning management system utilized by students, parents and teachers. All parents should have a Schoology account, providing access to real-time information about grades and assignments. Focus is our student information system. Go to bcps.org and click on “Tech Support” for directions on creating a Focus/Schoology Account.

Visiting SPHS and School Safety: All parents and visitors to our school must use the main entrance located by the flagpole and use the door buzzer system. Parents and visitors are required to show proper photo identification and be listed on the current year emergency contact form. We work collaboratively with School Resource Officer Tidd, the BCPS Office of School Safety and the Baltimore County Police, to ensure we maintain a safe and positive school environment. Detailed safety plans are in place and practiced at regular intervals with students and staff throughout the school year. We are excited to welcome back our Student Safety Assistants, who help establish a safe and welcoming environment at SPHS.

A special note for Class of 2027 Students and Families: We are thrilled to introduce our Dean of Students, Mr. Floyd!

Dear Class of 2027 Students and Families,

As an educator entering my 23rd year, I am excited to join Sparrows Point High School as Dean of Students. In this role, I will be strengthening the transition into high school for our incoming 9th-grade students. During the freshman year, incoming students encounter new emotions, new social situations, and new intellectual challenges, and they also begin creating an enduring academic record that will either open a world of exciting opportunities upon graduation or prematurely foreclose on their collegiate and career prospects.

I will be supporting the academic success of your student(s) while monitoring and supporting attendance, behavior, and grades. In this capacity I will also be holding quarterly student & parent events, parent conferences, and study skills groups. Through on-going work with a team of 9th-grade teachers, there will be forthcoming newsletters, classroom visits with one-on-one student conferencing, and working 1:1 with students as needed. It is my hope that these supports will ensure your freshmen Pointer has a fun, memorable, and successful school year.

I look forward to meeting our 9th-grade students and families in August. If you have any questions or concerns about the transition to high school or would like to set up a time for a personal tour of the building or meeting with me, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mr. Floyd

Dean of Students

Email: dfloyd@bcps.org

Phone: 443-809-7537