



"Cultivating Strengths, Unleashing Potential"

August 11, 2023

Dear Team Anne Arundel,

Oh my gosh; I cannot believe I am the one writing this letter! I am still getting myself settled and am truly honored and excited to be working with such an amazing and talented team. Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. I will get to meet more of you, in person, on Monday August 21st at 8:00 am at the Anne Arundel site. We will mostly meet there but there are a few events which will take us out of the building.

It seems we have only a small number of true newcomers to the team so far. As is the case with schools all around the country, we have staffing concerns. But I am thrilled to say that this veteran crew is coming back strong and confident with very few changes. I am anxious to know your thoughts and ideas for how to create the best and most supportive learning environment for everyone, starting with how we should welcome back our returning Pathways Panthers and orient their families.

We will have three social work interns this year. They will be with us for different periods of time and will be introduced as they come to the building.

Our school hours for this year:

Student hours: 8:25am-3:25pm; 1:00pm dismissal on Wednesdays and early dismissal days.

Staff hours: 8:00am-3:30pm

Staff should be available by phone at 8:00am daily, if not scheduled to be on site.

Please take a moment to review the 2023-2024 school year calendar, making special note of the Professional Days, so that you can make every effort to be here on those days. I look forward to seeing you on the 21st. A few points to keep in mind as you review the **Orientation Week Schedule**:

- Orientation week is 5 days this year. I am still learning, so I welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have. I want you to have plenty of planning time with some structured training and activities mixed in.
- A light breakfast (i.e., bagels, fruit, nuts, chocolate and coffee, tea) will be provided on Monday August 21st. J
- We will start at 8:00am daily, to make skillful use of our limited time together.
- We will be at an alternate location for All Staff Orientation (Columbia Meeting House) on Wednesday, 8/23.
- Think about what committees you will serve on this year (e.g., site beautification, fundraising, yearbook, Sunshine fund, Thanksgiving, Spring Retreat, field trips, Green committee, etc.).

Respectfully,

Dr. Lisa Baker

The Pathways School – Anne Arundel Principal

