***“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point”***

***-C.S. Lewis***

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope that everyone is enjoying a restful and pleasant summer! The warm sunshine is a reminder that now is the best time of year to gather with family and friends and to enjoy as much time together as our schedules permit! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you to the Crossroads Family. Our school is truly a place where students are inspired to succeed. I have always believed that students need more than a new binder, or a brand new pair of sneakers to have a successful school year. While those things are important, I believe that students truly need to be welcomed when they walk through our doors. At Crossroads Center, we value a sense of belonging. Our students come to us from all over Baltimore County, so how we make them *feel* when they arrive is extremely important. As you may know, we are made up of small learning communities at Crossroads Center. We believe that this arrangement allows us to maximize our efforts with our students. When students arrive on September 4th, they will each be welcomed by teachers, para-educators and support staff in these small learning communities. Our communities are arranged by grade level as follows:

* Antarctic Community – Grade 7
* Indian Community – Grade 8
* Atlantic Community – World Language, PE and Technology Education
* Pacific Community – Grade 9
* Arctic Community – Grades 10-12

After we all get to know each other, our students and parents will find that the staff at Crossroads will leave nothing to chance. We will expect that our students take advantage of what we offer, but we will make sure that each gets instruction that is personalized for their individual success. Students should not have to conform their learning to the constraints of a school, and it is up to us to help each of our students overcome those barriers to success that may be standing in the way.

At Crossroads Center, we have been doing this for the last 11 years. We have found that the best way to accomplish this, is by doing three things very well:

1. We provide creative instruction that is learner centered, personalized, and invites students to be invested in their own learning, rather than become passive recipients of knowledge. We want them to be thinkers and problem solvers. We are in the business of creating future citizens, not just workers.
2. We forge strong and caring relationships, based on trust and respect. Our communities allow us all to know each student. A student never feels anonymous at Crossroads Center.
3. We communicate effectively with all stakeholders--students, parents, staff, and community. We invite parents and members of our community to be partners in our mission, and we really cannot accomplish anything without your help.

At the Crossroads Center, we believe that students learn best when they have personalized, face to face instruction, and the full use of technological tools to access information and to create. Technology alone is never enough to ensure success. In fact, it makes poor instruction more obvious in my opinion. Technology only allows students to get closer to the information. It is up to teachers and students together to use these tools to investigate and ask questions that we do not know the answers to. At Crossroads Center, we are becoming innovators and leaders in the field of blended learning. In fact, five of our staff attended and presented at the Mid Atlantic Conference on Personalized Learning in February of this year.

I am also proud of the progress that Crossroads has made with AVID over the last year. AVID stands for *Advancement Via Individual Determination.* The stated mission of this organization is to “close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college (and career) readiness.” This fits neatly with our own vision, which encompasses preparing students “to succeed in college or a career through innovative teaching and learning practices.”

AVID is a great way to take our gifts for teaching and turn them into models for intentional, purposeful and repeatable student successes. We began applying the AVID approach in grade 8, in the Indian Community, and will gradually expand to other grade levels. Soon, teachers and students throughout the school will become familiar with skills in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR).

These are exciting times at Crossroads, and I would like to extend to each of you, an invitation to visit us for our Back to School Night on Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 PM. This is your opportunity to meet with us and hear about the great things that are happening at our school. In the meantime, please feel free to visit us! Stay current with what is going on by visiting our website at: <http://crossroadscenter.bcps.org>.

I also welcome your input and feedback. Please participate in parent surveys and join us for our many events through the year. We will do our part to challenge, engage, and encourage each student. We need you to help make sure that your child takes full advantage of what we offer at Crossroads. Through our partnership, we will make 2018-19 an outstanding year for our students!

Sincerely,

John S. Ward

Principal

| **ALL STUDENTS REPORT** **SEPTEMBER 4, 2018****Crossroads Center Back-to-School Night****Thursday, September 13, 2018****6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** |
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| Back-to-School Night gives you the opportunity to meet faculty and staff, follow your student’s schedule, and learn about academic expectations andthe Crossroads program. |

**HOURS**

Daily attendance is the expectation and students will earn rewards by coming daily and working responsibly during each day.

**School hours are 9:30 AM until 4:05 PM**

Students may enter the building at 9:10 AM and go directly to their first scheduled class. School is dismissed at 4:05 PM when all students will board the buses for the trip home. Any after school activities will be arranged by teachers directly with parents who will be responsible for all after school transportation.

### **DRESS FOR SUCCESS**

All students will dress for success. Keep in mind our environment is air conditioned. We are building habits for the future in the way we present ourselves each day.

**Please keep in mind the following guidelines:**

 No undergarments should be exposed.

 Shoes or sandals should be suitable for outdoor wear.

 Headwear, except as worn for medical reasons or as a legitimate expression of a student’s religious practice and faith, must be kept in the locker or at home.

 Avoid items that may present a danger to others.

 Expensive jewelry, electronic devices/headsets should be kept at home and cell phones should be kept in the student’s locker.

Our focus is on achievement.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

These supplies are a basic list to get started for the year. Teachers may request additional supplies for individual classes. Each student should have a **large 3-ringed binder with a constant supply of 3 holed paper, dividers, a pencil case for the binder with pencils, pens, highlighters, colored markers, and a marble notebook. Backpacks must fit into a student’s locker.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Bus stop locations and first day pick-up times are included in this newsletter. Students should report to the closest bus stop location to their home the first day of school. Students will receive a bus assignment sheet during homeroom on their first day of attendance at the Crossroads Center. This assignment sheet will provide students with the bus stop that has been assigned to them and a specific pick-up time that they will use starting on the second day of school. Pick-up times will fluctuate in the first few weeks of school as bus routes are stabilized; therefore it is important that starting with the second day of school, students should be at their bus stops at least 10 minutes before their scheduled pick-up time and remain at the stop at least 10 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time. In the first few weeks of school you may want to allow even more wait time until you feel comfortable that the bus route has stabilized. Parents who wish to drive their children to school may drop them off on the sidewalk nearest the driveway entrances. Students should then use the sidewalks to walk to the front entrance of the school. Students should arrive to school between 9:10 a.m. and 9:23 a.m. Breakfast/homeroom begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. and all students should be in their classes by that time. Questions concerning first day pick-up stops and times may be addressed by calling the school at 443-809-2275 after August 28, 2017.

### **LOCKERS**

Each student will be assigned a locker when he/she reports to school. Our lockers are equipped with a combination lock. **Students must keep all coats and outer clothing in their locker. Students are reminded not to share lockers or their combinations with others.** Lockers are the property of the school and are on loan to the students. They may, therefore, be searched if school personnel find it necessary. Students are responsible to maintain combination locks and will be assessed a $9.00 charge for lost locks.

### **STUDENT HANDBOOK - CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each BCPS student will receive a copy of the [2018-2019 Student Handbook](http://www.bcps.org/system/handbooks/Student-Handbook.pdf). An administrator will meet with each class to present and explain, in detail, the content. Parents/guardians are requested to review and sign the acknowledgement form provided in the back of the handbook. The expectations, rules and consequences are always in effect both on and off school grounds. Crossroads has a code of conduct with clear expectations that will recognize students for making good choices and decisions. Our focus will be on behavior that is respectful, responsible, and safe.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Maryland Department of Education states that a student must miss *no more than 10 days* a year to be rated satisfactory. Daily attendance and punctuality are the expectation. Students should remain out of school only when it is absolutely necessary.

Under state law a note explaining the reason must cover any absences. Illness extending beyond 3 days should be explained by a doctor’s certificate. Parents or guardians are requested to telephone and discuss issues with the school nurse at 443-809-2388.

Absence for family vacation is unexcused. If extenuating circumstances arise, please notify the appropriate assistant principal by letter at least two weeks prior to the anticipated absence.

Please make every effort to plan doctor appointments after school hours.

**BCPS MAGNET PROGRAMS**

Applications for the 2019-2020 school year

will be available at:

[Office of Magnet Programs](http://dci.bcps.org/department/innovative_learning/educational_options/magnet_programs/)

Monday, September 17, 2018.

**Applications may be mailed or submitted using the online application system**

**by 1 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2018**

### **PBIS**

The Crossroads Center utilizes the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) program in order to encourage positive, respectful behavior to help your child achieve in school. The mission of this program is to build self-discipline, coping mechanisms, and academic skills to help your child maximize his or her potential. We pride ourselves on our many incentives to recognize individual students through positive reinforcements. We are in search of prizes for our students who demonstrate those traits that will make them successful students and responsible members of our community. Due to our unique situation, we are unable to form a PTSA in order to raise funds for all these incentives for your child. Please consider supporting this initiative through donations of gift certificates, coupons, or small prizes. Your generosity will be acknowledged on our school website and through school-wide announcements and newsletters. Please send your donation to the Crossroads Center PBIS Committee, c/o Andrew Levin, 11640 Crossroads Circle, Baltimore, MD 21220. Again, your help is greatly appreciated.

### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Each year, Crossroads Center continues to build relevant and meaningful educational opportunities for students. This will be our eighth year for the Experiential Learning program. This program allows students to connect the academic focus of the classroom with real life experiences in the community and county. Each experience includes a variety of activities that will reinforce teamwork, problem-solving skills, and effective communication, while building civility between students, staff, and the community. Please look for permission slips for Experiential Learning coming home with your child soon! Students who provide parent signed permission slips will be allowed to participate in Experiential Learning trips.

### **IMPORTANT SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION**

Social media and sites like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are a reality of modern life. While these tools are sometimes useful in academics and business, they often present young people with social challenges and interpersonal difficulties. At Crossroads Center, we care about the emotional and physical well-being of all of our students. Crossroads does not permit students to use social networking sites for purposes that are not related to school. It is primarily a parental responsibility to monitor student’s activities in social media. Parents should be aware of time spent on social networking sites, and prohibit students from using them, if they become distracting, threatening, or present obstacles to progress. Additionally, parents may contact the school at any time concerning online usage by students. Our school counselors and resource officer will investigate and work to resolve problems that develop online or in person. Please be mindful however, that keeping an eye on how much time your child spends on social media sites, and monitoring texts will prevent problems.

### **COMMUNICATING**

Parents and guardians have access to BCPSOne to stay informed and engaged in your child’s education, <https://bcpsone.bcps.org> gives access to student’s classes, assignments and grades. When parents have questions or concerns about student progress, we encourage parents to call the specific teacher first or the community leader if the concern is about more than one class. You may call 443-809-2275 to leave a message for our teachers.

If you have a question or concern about student service learning, career exploration, or any overall academics, or social-emotional concerns for your student, please contact our Student Support Services office at 443-809-2275. The Student Support Service secretary, Mrs. Sheila Harrison, will direct you to the appropriate person or resource.

After speaking with teachers, community/grade managers, or counselors should you need an administrator contact the grade level administrator or Mr. Ward, the principal.

### **FOOD SERVICES**

Each student will receive **both breakfast and lunch at no charge**. There will be a special menu developed specifically for students at Crossroads. The menu will be distributed and posted so students will know what is being served each day. Students may always bring lunch from home. There will be no “a la carte” food sold so checking the upcoming menu and planning ahead is essential.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Nurse Lisa “Shelley” Hicks is a full time member of our support staff. Academic success for each student is her goal and this is accomplished through student wellness. Our nurse will work closely with families to be sure each student is healthy and able to learn. Time out of class is missed academic opportunity. By working with the nurse, each student will have a healthy school year.

**MEDICATION IN SCHOOL**

If your child needs to take medication in school, you must provide an order written by a doctor. The medication must be in a labeled prescription bottle or original container. This would include Tylenol, cold medication, cough syrup, antibiotics, eye drops, etc. Never send medication in an envelope, baggie or bottle with a note from home. This medication will not be given to your student. The medication cannot be sent home by the student; parents must pick it up. Please complete and return a BCPS “Discretionary Medication” form if you wish the nurse to dispense Tylenol, cough drops, etc.

**PEANUT/TREE NUT ALLERGIES**

In compliance with Maryland law, our school will designate a peanut and tree-nut free table wherever food is served for students with medically documented allergies. If your child has such an allergy and you would like to request this accommodation, please notify the school nurse, Ms. Hicks, at 443-809‑2388.

**SCHOOL MESSENGER**

Baltimore County Public Schools and Crossroads Center utilize a phone call out system called School Messenger. This system is used to keep parents informed of school and district events, student attendance, functions, etc. **It is essential that we have updated telephone numbers. Your email address is also very useful. Please verify and return the student contact information form that will be sent home with your student on the first day of school.**

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Crossroads Center is pleased to be a part of the school resource officer program. The placement of a Baltimore County law enforcement officer within our school continues to promote a safe and orderly environment. Officer Douglas acts as a liaison between the community and our school. He is an active law enforcement officer on our campus for immediate response, a resource for law related education, and a law related counselor. Officer Douglas works cooperatively and collaboratively with administrators, staff, students and parents.

 **BAD CHECKS**

Issuers of dishonored checks presented to Baltimore County Public Schools will be given 10 days to submit full payment of the amount of the check plus actual bank charges incurred by BCPS by means of a money order, cashier’s check or cash. If this payment is not received by the end of 10 days, the issuer will need to submit full payment of the amount of the check plus $35.00. If payment is not received at the end of the 20-day period, BCPS will turn over the dishonored check, and all other available information related to this check, to the Baltimore County State’s Attorney Office Bad Check Restitution Program for criminal prosecution. If the dishonored check is turned over to the State’s Attorney for collection, schools will not accept restitution from the check issuer. The check issuer will make restitution to the State’s Attorney’s Office. The funds will then be remitted to the school by the State’s Attorney’s Office.

**CROSSROADS CENTER’S VISION**

*Crossroads Center will inspire students to overcome academic and personal obstacles to be prepared to succeed in college or a career through innovative teaching and learning practices.*