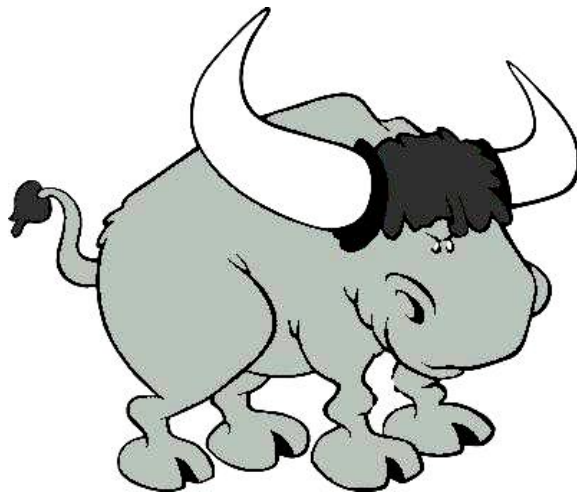


BULL RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"Taking Education by the Horns:
Connecting students' prior knowledge and
experiences with new information!"*

2011-2012



Parent Handbook

15301 Lee Highway
Centreville, VA 20121

(703) 227-1400
Fax (703) 227-1497
Attendance (703) 227-1495

www.fcps.edu/BullRunES



Parent Handbook

INTRODUCTION

This information is provided to you as a reference to be used throughout the school year. For questions concerning these or other areas, please phone the school office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Bull Run Elementary celebrated the tenth anniversary of its dedication at a special ceremony on June 10, 2010. The school

SCHOOL HISTORY

opened its doors for students on September 7, 1999. Located in the far southwestern corner of Fairfax County, it is the last public school to be built in the 20th century. On April 9, 2000, it became the first school to be dedicated in the new millennium.

Students attending the new school were formerly in areas served by Centre Ridge, London Towne, and Virginia Run Elementary Schools. Enrollment reached 865 students during the first year and has been an average of 930 students since then. A four-classroom "quad" unit was added in 2001 and due to increased building capacity additional units have been added. The art pod was enclosed providing a second art classroom for the students in 2008.

Because of the school's proximity to the site of the First & Second Battles of Bull

Run, Bull Run Creek, and within sight of the Bull Run Mountains, the name was an overwhelming favorite.

The Bull Run Elementary School PTA was formed on April 13, 1999 and the first by-laws were approved on May 13, 1999. The PTA is affiliated with the Fairfax County Council of PTAs and the state and national PTA organization.

During its inaugural year, students chose Charger the bull as the school mascot and determined the school's colors would be blue and silver. The school's motto is *Where the Past Meets the Future*, in recognition of the rich history of the area and Bull Run's mission to build the future, one child at a time.

Bull Run Elementary provides an outstanding academic program based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and the Fairfax County Program of Studies to meet the needs of all students. Students are served in the K-6 general education program, a special education program for students with autism and an advanced academic center program for identified students in grades

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SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2011-2012

3-6. Students of English Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) are serviced as well as students with special needs or resourced advanced academics in the general education classroom.



September 6	School Begins
October 10	Columbus Day Holiday
November 4	1 st Grading Period Ends
November 7 & 8	Teacher Workdays Student Holiday Parent Conferences
November 23	Two-hour Early Closing
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 - Jan. 2	Winter Vacation Students return Jan. 3
January 16	M.L. King Holiday
January 27	2 nd Grading Period Ends
Jan. 30 & 31	Teacher Workdays Student Holiday
February 20	President's Day
March 30	3 rd Grading Period Ends
April 2 - 6	Spring Vacation
April 9	Teacher Workday Student Holiday
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday
June 19	Last day for students

MAKE-UP DAYS

Virginia state law requires that students have a minimum of 180 school days each year. There are 183 student days built into the calendar. If days are missed due to inclement weather, they will be made up according to the following schedule:

<i>Days Missed</i>	<i>Makeup Days</i>
1-3	Will not be made up
4	February 20
5	April 9
6	No makeup required
7	June 20 (extended last day of school)
8	No makeup required
9	June 21 (extended last day of school)
10	No makeup required

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE UPDATES REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSINGS WATCH CABLE CHANNEL 21. IN ADDITION, E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM BY SIGNING UP FOR "KEEP IN TOUCH" AT www.fcps.edu. BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR BULL RUN'S CUSTOM "KEEP IN TOUCH" FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING ONLY TO BULL RUN.

HOURS AND ATTENDANCE

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY SCHEDULE

9:10-1:20 Grades K-6

TUESDAY-FRIDAY SCHEDULE

9:10-3:50 Grades K-6

Students should not arrive before 8:55 a.m. Adult supervision is provided in the cafeteria before the beginning of school at 8:55 a.m. for students whose buses arrive early.

Fairfax County elementary schools have "early closing" every Monday to provide for the staff to plan together, to participate in staff development activities, and to have parent conferences. The longer day (Tuesday-Friday) has been established to compensate for the loss of instructional time on Monday.

MOVING?

Please inform the school in advance if you plan to move to another school. If you are moving to another school you must go to the new school to register. Records will be transferred once a call is received requesting them from your child's new school.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Schools may be closed early by the division superintendent, due to emergency conditions. Whenever it is necessary to open schools late or close early due to adverse weather conditions, decisions will be released to the local radio stations and listed on cable channel 21. Please listen to these announcements carefully and do not telephone the school, as it is important for us to keep our lines open. You will also be notified through the FCPS "Keep in Touch" if you are registered.

Parents, please make sure your child knows where to go and what to do, should school be dismissed early.

A. All Day Closing:

All schools will be closed for the day. All evening activities in schools are cancelled.

B. One-Hour Delayed Opening:

All students report to school one hour late and leave at their regular closing time.

C. Two-Hour Delayed Opening:

All students will report two hours later than their regular schedule and leave at their regular closing time.

D. Two-Hour Early Closing:

All students will be dismissed two hours earlier than the normal Tuesday-Friday dismissal time. (approximately 1:50 p.m.)

RELEASE OF PUPILS DURING DAY

Specific procedures are followed to assure the safety of children who are released during the day:

Written permission should be sent to the teacher in the morning stating the requested time of release that day.

The parent (or other adult named in the note) should come to the office and sign out the child. Proper identification may be required.

Children will remain with the teacher until notified by the school office staff.

Children may not leave the building during the day unaccompanied by an adult. Parents are requested to write information on the Emergency Care Information form, designating another person who will take your child from school routinely, or who should be called if the child's illness should occur when you are not at home.

Parents should warn children to never ride home after school with a stranger who may claim that he was sent by the parent.

PUPIL ABSENCE AND TARDINESS

PLEASE CALL THE ATTENDANCE LINE AT 703-227-1495 (24 HOUR ANSWERING MACHINE) IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT. PLEASE SPELL THE CHILD'S NAME, GIVE TEACHER NAME, AND PROVIDE A BRIEF EXPLANATION.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to contact the school office if the child is going to be absent or tardy. Valid excuses are for illness, death in the family, a medical or dental appointment, and observances of religious holidays.

Virginia State Law Section 22.1-258 was recently amended to monitor student attendance closely. Students who have five or more unexcused absences must be referred to the school attendance officer.

We discourage parents from taking children out of school for vacations. Teachers are not able to provide make-up work unless the child misses school for one of the valid excuses listed above.

A child coming to school late must report to the office with their parent or guardian, where attendance records will be corrected from "absent" to "tardy".

IMPORTANT: A student going home with another student must have a note from his/her parents plus a note from the parent of the friend he/she is visiting, turned into the office.

KEEPING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Students are not to remain at school after dismissal time unless they are attending a supervised after-school activity in which you have enrolled them, or unless you have been notified in writing or by telephone that the teacher wishes them to stay. Please

call us if your child does not come home at the proper time. Students should always go directly home unless parents have made specific arrangements.

ENROLLMENT

A child who has reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2011 must be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year unless the parent or guardian notifies the School Board, via the principal, that he or she does not wish the child to attend. A child who will be six years old on or before September 30, 2010, must attend school.

INSURANCE

Optional accident and dental insurance is available to all Fairfax County School children (information is included in the Opening-Day Packet). The insurance covers children before, during and after school, as well as at school-related activities, such as field trips. Please mail the applications and checks directly to the company.

EMERGENCY CARE INFORMATION

We must have an emergency data sheet ("Emergency Care Information") on file for each student. Your signature at the bottom of the form authorizes a physician to provide emergency treatment for your child if you are not present. It is essential that these be returned to school as soon as possible, for your child's safety.

These forms must be kept up-to-date. Notify the school immediately if there are any changes in your address, phone number, diagnosed allergies, or with your emergency contact person.

There have been times when we needed to contact a parent or other person in an emergency but were unable to do so due to incorrect/out-of-date information on the Emergency Care form.

HEALTH INFORMATION

A child who is entering Fairfax County Public Schools for the first time is required to have had a physical examination no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of entry. A certificate of physical examination from a licensed physician must be presented. Proof of certain immunizations by the physician is also required. Minimum requirements are as follows:

- three doses of DPT vaccine (one after the fourth birthday or six before fourth birthday)
- three doses of oral polio vaccine (one after the fourth birthday or four before fourth birthday)
- one dose each of measles, mumps and rubella vaccines (or MMR combined vaccine) given after 12 months of age
- a second dose of measles (rubella) vaccine is required prior to initially entering school for the first time
- Hepatitis B Series (for students born after 1/1/94)

- one dose of Varicella (for students born after 1/1/97) or doctor confirmation of immunity or medical history of disease
- a booster dose of Tdap (tetnus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine is required for all students entering 6th grade if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of the tetnus-containing vaccine
- lead level (for certain circumstances)

Any exemption to immunization, vaccination, or physical examination requirements must be supported by a written statement from a licensed physician or, in the case of conflict with religious tenets, from the parent or guardian unless an emergency or epidemic disease has been declared by the State Board of Health.

The school, through the cooperation of the Health Department, provides various health services, including preschool conferences for health screening of incoming kindergarten children, and annual vision screening and auditory testing for all children in kindergarten, grade 3, and new students to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Our school Health Aide is in the health room during school hours Monday-Friday. The school Health Aide maintains health records and coordinates the health screening program. Parent volunteers assist the staff when the school Health Aide is absent.

ILLNESS DURING SCHOOL

In the event that a child becomes ill, the school office will contact the parent by telephone. When arriving for the child, a parent should report to the school office. If the parent cannot be reached, the office will call the emergency number listed on the child's Emergency Care Information form. **Someone who is identified on the Emergency Information form will be asked to pick him/her up at school.**

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

No medicine or treatment, other than first aid as contained in the AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID MANUAL, shall be given to pupils by school personnel. Such preparations as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, gargles, ear drops, Pepto Bismol, eye washes, ointments and the like, are classified as medicines and are not to be sent to school. Exceptions as stated in School Board Policy may be made only with written clearance which must consist of the following:

SHORT TERM: Not to exceed ten (10) school days. Must have prescription bottle or box containing pupil's name, name of medicine in lay language with no abbreviations, exact dosage to be taken, exact time dosage is to be taken and parent's written request for school to be caretakers, including release of liability signed by parent or guardian.

LONG TERM: Given for more than 10 (ten) consecutive school days and/or given on an as-needed basis. As above, plus prescription from physician on Fairfax County form which gives reason

for medication, the order in which medication should be administered, in cases where more than one medication is prescribed, the exact conditions for repeating medication when this is necessary ("repeat as necessary" is unacceptable) and approval from the school Health Aide.

OVER THE COUNTER: Same as for short term, but not to exceed 3 (three) school days.

Medication must not be left in the classroom, on teachers' desks, or in pupil's lunch box. Medication must be taken to the school by the PARENT or GUARDIAN in the original container for over the counter medication or in a container appropriately labeled and dated by the pharmacist or physician including: name of student, name of medication, exact dosage to be taken, exact time at which the dosage is to be taken in school. Please remember students may not carry any medications to and from school.



FORMS REQUIRED FOR PARENTS AND DOCTORS TO SIGN MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HEALTH ROOM OR OFFICE.

NOTE: The school health room cannot accommodate students for brushing of teeth. If a student must brush after snacks or lunch, he/she may use the classroom sink.

Medication forms are available on the Bull Run website www.fcps.edu/BullRunES in the "For Parents" section.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Security Services is on call 24 hours a day. If you observe an act of vandalism or other suspicious behavior around the school outside of normal school hours, call 703-764-2400 to make a report. A security officer will be dispatched to the school to investigate.

For the safety of our children, with the exception of one lobby door, all doors to the building will be locked and will remain locked unless adult supervision is provided.

It is a policy of Fairfax County Public Schools that all visitors report to the office, sign-in, and obtain a pass. (A visitor is anyone, including a parent, who is not employed at Bull Run.) Please honor this as it is for your child's safety. Volunteers and visitors should sign in and out using the "Welcome Computer" in the office.

Parents should prearrange visits to the teacher or classroom in order to minimize interruptions to instructional time and must sign in at the office and with the office staff prior to going to the classroom.

Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom or group alone or

unsupervised anywhere in the building or on school grounds.

Teachers stand in their doorways at the beginning and end of the school day to supervise the hallways. Teachers stress repeatedly with students the importance of not talking to strangers on the way to or from school. Students are encouraged to walk with others whenever possible. Lessons from the *Ready, Set, Go for Good Health* manual along with the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) will be taught appropriately at each grade level.

We want to be certain our students are safe. Parent cooperation and staff follow-up are imperative.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION BY CAR

We recommend transportation by car only for special or emergency situations at morning opening time and afternoon closing time because of traffic congestion around the school driveway. When students are dropped off or picked up, they should use the passenger side of the vehicle at the designated "**Kiss and Ride**" curb location. (*See maps, pages 18 & 19*)

ACCESS TO BUS LANES

No car traffic is permitted in the bus lanes during student arrival and departure time (8:30 - 9:20 a.m. / 3:00 - 4:05 p.m.). Passing a school bus while the bus is unloading in the morning and loading in the afternoon

is against Virginia State law that requires all vehicles stop while a school bus is loading and unloading.

DURING SCHOOL HOURS, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO PARK WHERE CURBS ARE PAINTED YELLOW. THESE ARE FIRE LANES. PLEASE OBSERVE THESE REGULATIONS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN.

BUS RIDERS



Children should use the nearest bus stop and should refrain from walking on neighbors' yards. Parents are requested to help children develop behavior habits

that will contribute to safety at the bus stop and a safe ride on the bus. Children should obey all safety rules enforced by the safety patrols.

Teachers will also provide instruction in this area. Children who interfere with the safety of others may be suspended from riding the bus. Children who are bused are NOT allowed to walk to or from school or ride bicycles. Fairfax County Public Schools REGULATIONS FOR PUPILS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES are sent home for all students and is included in the SR&R booklet. Parents and students are requested to review the information, then sign and return the tear-off section to the school. Each student must sign a form, as all students will occasionally ride buses on field trips. If space is available, a child is permitted to ride the bus to visit a

friend after school. However, the parents of both children must write notes giving permission for the visit so that we can provide this opportunity. WRITTEN PERMISSION IS A MUST. **Please have this note in the office by 3:00 p.m. each day.**

EMERGENCY SAFETY DRILLS

All students are taught the proper way to leave the school in case of a fire or emergency. In addition, the students participate in tornado drills in the fall and spring. During these drills, all students assemble on the first floor away from windows. In the case of a potentially dangerous intruder in the building, students and staff will follow "lock-down" procedures. All drills are practiced at intervals during the school year.

PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Students on the playground before or after school hours are NOT supervised by school personnel; therefore, **any student wishing to use the playground before or after school hours should be supervised by his/her parents or guardians.** Students should go directly home after school.

SAFETY PATROLS

The school safety patrols give much of their time to assure safe practices. Please encourage your child to give them his/her complete cooperation. The safety patrols are not allowed to discipline other students. They do report infractions of the safety rules or potentially dangerous situations to the safety patrol sponsors.

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

When animals are a related part of the program and approved by the teacher, they may be brought to school by a parent and taken home that same day after the lesson. Pets should be gentle in nature for pupil safety. If an animal strays onto school property unattended, we will call the Fairfax County Animal Control Center.

SENDING MONEY AND OBJECTS TO SCHOOL

Each pupil must be responsible for taking care of his/her own money. Please send only the amount needed for the day to avoid problems of loss and keep in an envelope or wallet. **Money for school pictures, field trip fees, activity fees, PTA, etc., should be sent in a sealed envelope with name and purpose written on it.**

Please do NOT allow your children to bring games and toys to school unless this is requested by the teacher. School staff cannot referee disputes which arise concerning these objects. Students should not bring iPods, electronic games including Nintendo DS, etc. to school.

The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen.

For safety reasons, students should not bring balls, bats, lacrosse sticks, hockey sticks, large projects instruments, or sharp objects to and from school. If a school activity requires the use of a large or unsafe object, parents may make arrangements with the teacher to bring these items to and from school.

Fairfax County Student Rights and Responsibilities regulations forbid students from bringing any object that could be accidentally or purposefully used as a weapon. This includes all sharp objects as well as objects that look like weapons. Tobacco and alcohol products as well as controlled substances and drugs are strictly forbidden at school.

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION

The PTA has provided funding so that each class can take two field trips. Permission slips are sent home prior to the trip and must be returned to the school at least a day before the scheduled trip. Children who do not return a permission slip signed by the parent and who do not have a current Emergency Care form will be unable to participate in the field trip. An alternate learning activity will be available at the school.

By regulation, written parental permission is required for any child's participation in a field trip.

COMMUNICATION

TELEPHONE CALLS

Telephone calls to and from students are discouraged because of the limited number of telephones in the school. Children may use the office phone only for emergency, illness, or upon teacher request. Classroom telephones are used for outgoing calls, but will not ring with incoming calls.



Student cell phones are to be turned off and must remain in backpacks during the school day. If you are volunteering in the classroom, we ask that phones be placed on vibrate or turned off so that instruction is not interrupted.

Each teacher has a voicemail box and will check for messages periodically throughout the day. The teacher will provide parents with phone mail numbers and e-mail addresses.

CONFERENCES

Conferences may be scheduled with teachers at the end of the first grading period and at other times during the school year, as needed. If you would like a conference with your child's teacher, please send an email or a note to the teacher or phone the school office to have your request for an appointment placed in the teacher's voicemail.

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Bull Run staff members consider communication with parents to be a top priority. Each teacher will send home regular newsletters to keep parents informed about assignments, policies, and other requirements or post them on their Blackboard site <http://fcps.blackboard.com>. Teachers will also contact parents regarding student progress.

Please understand that the daily schedules for teachers limit their ability to respond to phone calls or e-mails during school hours except in emergencies. Each teacher has an e-mail address at school for exchange of information within the school and for communication with parents.



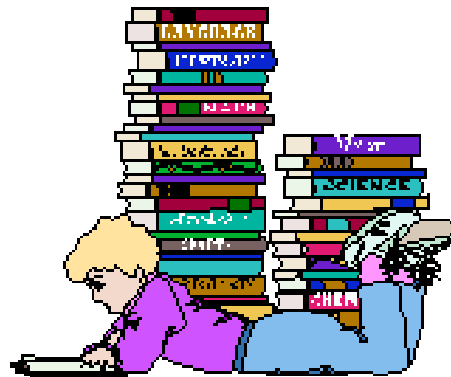
Please do not expect instant responses to e-mail messages sent to teachers. Teachers will make every effort to respond to your notes, e-mail messages, or phone calls within 24 hours.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be sent home after each 9-week grading period. Parents should keep the report, sign the envelope, and return the envelope along with any comments to the teacher on the next school day.

Interim reports are sent home in the middle of the grading period if there is a significant change in a child's progress. Please sign the tear-off sheet and return to your child's teacher.

The school is able to send additional copies of progress reports and important information to non-custodial parents if provided with self-addressed, stamped envelopes and clear directions.



FOOD SERVICES

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

The school cafeteria operates daily according to policies and procedures set by the State Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture. Breakfast is available for \$1.50. Regular and salad lunches are available for elementary school children for \$2.65. A child who brings lunch to school may purchase a half pint carton of milk for \$.60 (also for adults). An adult lunch costs \$3.65. Ice cream and certain a la carte items are available each day.



PAYMENT FOR MEALS

Parents may prepay for meals by sending in checks (made payable to Bull Run Cafeteria) via their children. An on-line option is also available at myLunchMoney.com. Parents should specify how the payment is to be allocated (for example, is the money for lunches for more than one child? Is it for lunches only or do you want to allow your child to purchase snacks?) We use the SNAP computerized cash register system and each student has a personalized account card.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL PARENTS PREPAY FOR AT LEAST FIVE LUNCHESES (\$14.00). These pre-purchased lunches could be used any time and would be available in the event that a student forgets lunch or money.

HAVE LUNCH WITH US!

Please come and have lunch with your child at any time, *but make sure to sign in at the office first.* Adult lunches are \$3.65 with a la carte items also available.

MENU & FOOD CHOICES

A school lunch menu is sent home to each family at the beginning of the month. Please check the menu carefully and plan to pack a lunch on the days that your children have an allergy to the food being served or if they do not like what is being served in the cafeteria. Encourage your child to eat (and drink) healthy foods at lunchtime - do not send in sodas or large quantities of sugared foods. Trading of food or playing with food is not allowed. For safety reasons, **STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BRING GLASS BOTTLES TO THE CAFETERIA.**

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PRICES

The Office of Food Services mails applications for free and reduced-price meals to every family in August. An application is given to every family in Bull Run when registering. Please read this form, fill it out and send it directly to the address listed on it (not to the school) if you feel that you qualify for either program.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

For qualified families, breakfast is either free or reduced to \$.30, and lunch is either free or reduced to \$.40.

FORGOTTEN LUNCHES

If parents have pre-purchased lunch meals, the student who on rare occasions forgets lunch money or a lunch, may use one of the pre-purchased meals. Otherwise, the child will need to inform the cafeteria manager (or cashier) that he/she has forgotten a lunch. Students who have not brought in lunch money will be provided an alternative lunch such as a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or cereal. If there is a peanut allergy, cereal will be provided. A note will be sent home to notify parents that payment is due. ***Please return payment to the cafeteria manager the next day.***

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

Please discuss appropriate mealtime behavior with your child and encourage him/her to use appropriate table manners. A cafeteria hostess supervises the students during lunch times and is responsible for reminding them about good cafeteria behavior.



Grade-level teams have incentives for good behavior.

SCHOOLWIDE GOALS

Each year we establish educational goals for the school that are incorporated into the School Improvement Plan. The School Improvement Plan goals are updated annually and can be viewed on our school website.

Teachers send home goals for their individual classes at the beginning of school, and the beginning of each grading period. It is important that you read and retain this information.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The Fairfax County Department of Instruction has issued the Program of Studies (POS) for K-6. This document is the curriculum for these grades. Revisions are made each year and are consistent with the Standards of Learning (SOLs) for the state of Virginia. Information about the POS and the SOLs is available at www.fcps.edu or www.doe.virginia.gov

Parents should understand that children progress at different rates and that teachers enrich the curriculum and make accommodations and adaptations for the needs of all children.

BOOKS

There is no textbook rental fee in the elementary schools. The distribution of textbooks is in keeping with our beliefs about good procedures of instruction. Some books are issued to the classes by sets. There will be many books and materials that will not be taken home by students. Parents may see and discuss these with teachers in conferences.

The library has a good selection from which the child will select books for reading enjoyment. The teacher selects books for supplementary reading when needed. A child is



permitted to take any library book he chooses, even though it may be above his instructional reading level. Even though the child cannot read the entire book, it may be on a subject which he would like to have someone read to him. Frequently children will read difficult material with good comprehension when the interest is very high. An effort will be made to encourage each child to select some library books that he can read. In general, the independent reading material should be easier to read than the instructional level material.

Parents have the right to request an alternative book if they object to a particular book being used in the class or in the library. Generally speaking, there are always choices and options

for novels assigned in class. Contact the teacher to discuss these options. The school system also has a formal process for considering parental objections to particular books or other materials.

Parents or guardians are responsible for lost or stolen books.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MUSIC & ART

Our P.E. program promotes physical, mental, and social growth through a wide variety of activities for our students. If necessary to be excused from participating in P.E. due to injury or health issues, the child should have a note from the parent or guardian stating the reason and length of time. Throughout the year, students will also have the opportunity to sign up for various PE "clubs" such as Jump Rope, Running and Gymnastics. The clubs take place in the mornings before school starts.

All students (K-6) attend general music classes. Instruction in band is available



to students in grades 5 and 6, and strings for those in grades 4,5, and 6. The classes are held during

the school day. There are a limited number of school instruments available for rental.

Art instruction is provided for all students by the art teachers. Art lessons and projects are integrated with the grade-level curriculum by the

art teachers as well as the classroom teachers. At Bull Run, the PTA also sponsors the *Grace Art* program in which volunteers conduct monthly supplementary art lessons.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Specially trained teachers work with students who have identified disabilities that interfere with their learning. Students with learning difficulties are discussed by the Local Screening Committee. Parents are involved in the screening process and help to determine if further evaluation is needed. If a child is found eligible for special education services, parents are part of a team that develops an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to set goals and plans for assisting the student both in the regular classroom and through small group support in a resource classroom.

HOMEWORK

For each grade level, homework information is provided by the classroom teachers in regards to what students are expected to do, how parents can help, and the appropriate amount of time that is expected. Parents are encouraged to discuss any homework difficulties directly with the classroom teacher to determine if adjustments need to be considered.

Homework is assigned in reasonable amounts as deemed necessary by the teacher. It is usually given as an application or follow-up of previous

learning. This should be work the child is able to do independently or with minimal help from parents. Homework assignments are increased as the child progresses through the elementary years.

Your child's teacher will give you detailed information about responsibilities for keeping track of assignments and homework. Beginning in third grade, students may be required to use an assignment agenda. In addition, each teacher will provide accurate information about assignments on *Blackboard* the FCPS "24-7" online link from our school web site.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

Bull Run has a part-time Advanced Academic Resource Specialist to serve students and consult with staff. Supplemental services are provided for students who need instructional opportunities that are beyond the regular curriculum. Throughout the year, a committee of teachers, specialists, and administrators screens students to determine the need for additional differentiated materials or instruction. Services may include the use of different materials or teaching strategies in the classroom. They may include occasional or regular "pull-out" for enrichment activities related to the curriculum.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC CENTER PROGRAM

Bull Run Elementary also houses an Advanced Academic Center program, formerly known as Gifted & Talented, for students in grades 3-6 who have been identified as needing a significantly different instructional program. Using standardized ability tests and a gifted/talented behavior rating scale, each elementary school annually identifies students who are presented to a central screening committee to determine eligibility for the program. Other schools who send students to the Bull Run Advanced Academic Center are Centre Ridge, Cub Run, Deer Park, Virginia Run, and London Towne. The center program is a full-time program in which teachers use differentiated materials and strategies to meet the academic and social needs of the students.

TESTING PROGRAM

Standardized tests are administered on a countywide basis at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. A letter will be sent home in the Tuesday folder to parents of testing dates. Parents can best help their children by ensuring that they come to school on testing days well-rested and well-fed. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments that might take students out on testing days. Test results will be provided to parents as soon as available.

Tests are as follows:

- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), Grades K-6
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Grade 2
- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), Grades 1 & 2
- Standards of Learning (SOL) tests:
 - * Grades 3 - Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies
 - * Grade 4 - Reading, Math, VA History
 - * Grades 5 - Writing, Reading, Math, Science
 - * Grade 6 - - Reading, Math, US History to 1877

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (SR&R)

To achieve the goal of providing education of the highest quality, the Fairfax County School Board has defined the responsibilities and rights of students in the elementary school. Each student will receive a SR&R handbook in their Opening-Day packet. Please remember to read the handbook and sign the signature page with your child. (A copy of this regulation is also available upon request from the office.)

Students at Bull Run are expected to follow our school and class rules to provide a positive and safe environment for all children and to prevent bullying. Parental support in enforcing good behavior is critical to the successful education of all students.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

All Bull Run students are expected to adhere to a consistent set of rules which are described in our booklet. There are three basic rules for everyone at our school:



Bull Run students ...

1. Respect themselves, other students, adults in the school, and all property, no matter who it belongs to.
2. Take responsibility for their own actions at all times and in all places
3. Restrain themselves from harming others and self while practicing safety at all times.

The school-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS) strategies also identify consequences for misbehavior at each grade level.

In addition to the rules and consequences, the PBS identifies specific manners that will be taught. Parents are invited to support this effort to teach students how to behave appropriately at school and at home.

STUDENT DRESS

The Fairfax County School Board states that parents have the basic responsibility for the appropriate dress and grooming of their children. Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. For example, sagging or low-cut pants, studded or chain belts, cut-off shirts, low cut necklines, tube tops, halters, loose-fitting or spaghetti-strap tops, extremely short shorts, and shirts with questionable pictures (or words) are inappropriate. For safety reasons, "flip-flop" sandals or clogs are not to be worn. Hats should not be worn inside the school building.

The school reserves the right to contact parents to request a change in any student clothing that is deemed inappropriate or that is a possible distraction from the overall environment for learning.

PTA



The Bull Run Parent Teacher Association (PTA) strives to improve the quality of our children's education by encouraging parent participation in the educational process. Parents are urged to attend PTA meetings, participate in activities, and become part of our highly active and supportive PTA. PTA meetings are generally held in the library on the *second Tuesday* of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

No student or employee in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, marital status, or handicapping condition, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational activity. Please contact the school if you need accommodations for any type of disability or handicapping condition

2011-2012 PTA OFFICERS

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Vice President - Programming

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Vice President - Ways & Means

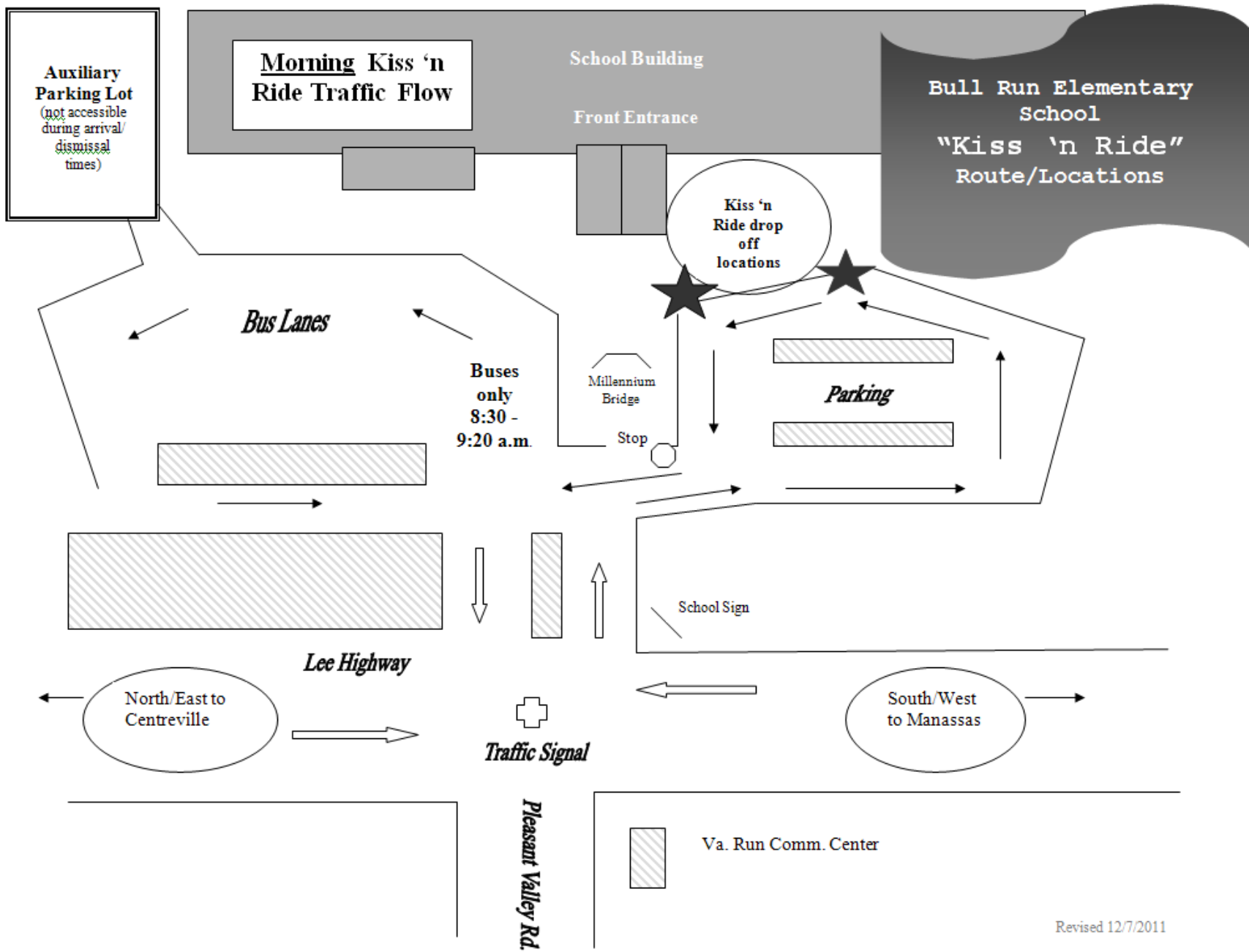
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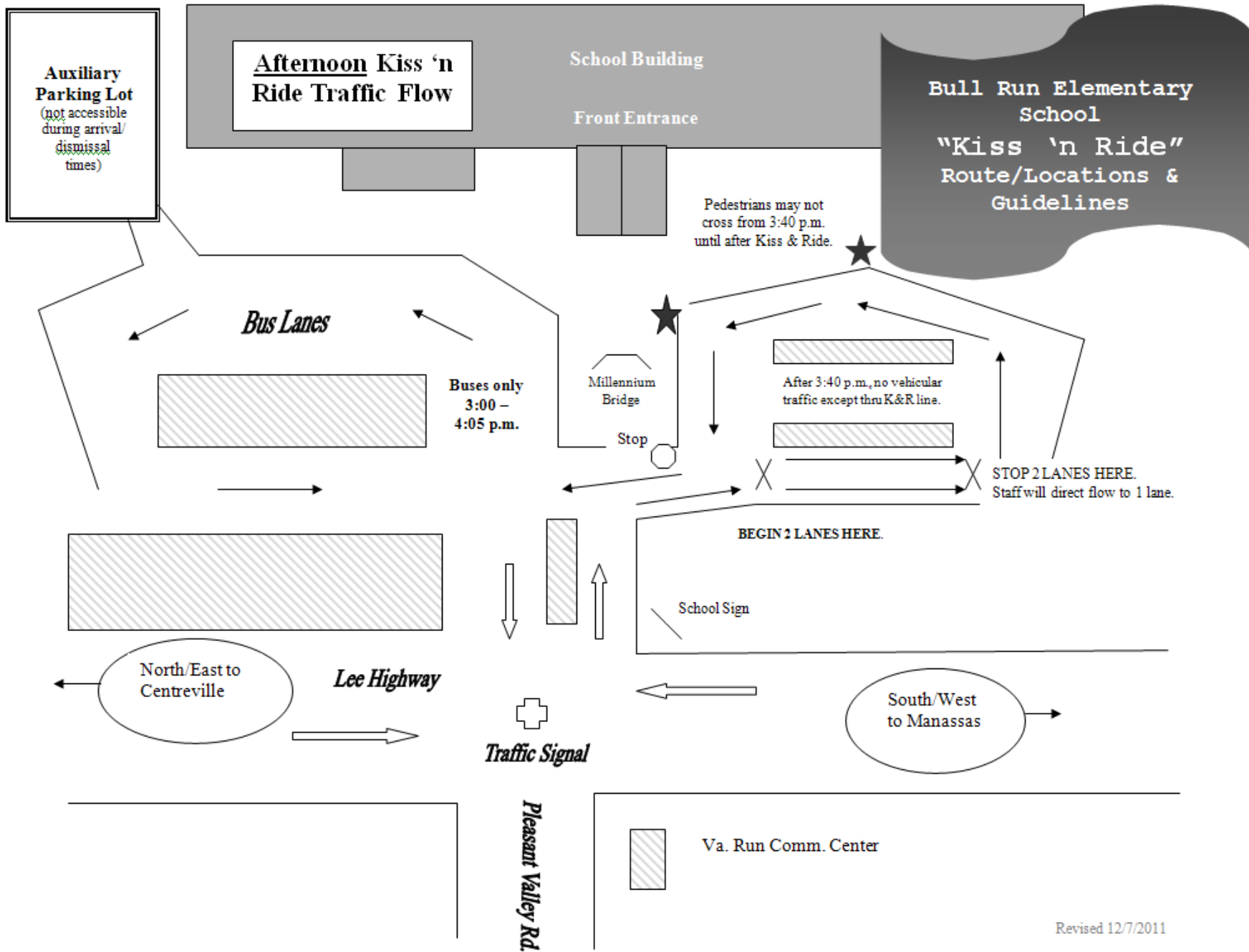
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