

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Verletta White ♦ Interim Superintendent ♦ 6901 North Charles Street ♦ Towson, MD ♦ 21204

September 4, 2018

Dear [INSERT SCHOOL NAME] Families:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an overview of the upcoming boundary process scheduled to begin this fall. In 2017, the former Chestnut Ridge Golf Course was approved to become a residential development, known as Castanea Estates. This development is split across two elementary, two middle, and two high school attendance areas. To align these school attendance areas, Baltimore County Public Schools has initiated a boundary change process. The scope of the boundary study will be to address the alignment of the attendance areas for the Castanea Estates development.

Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Baltimore han comenzado el proceso para cambiar las áreas de asistencia de estudiantes para tomar en cuenta un nuevo desarrollo llamado Castanea Estates que se divide en dos áreas de asistencia primaria, dos intermedias y dos secundarias. Si desea una traducción de esta información, póngase en contacto con su escuela para obtener una copia traducida de este documento.

Which schools will be represented in the boundary study process?

- Mays Chapel and Fort Garrison elementary schools, Ridgley and Pikesville middle school, and Dulaney and Pikesville high schools will be included in the boundary study process.

How can I get involved in the boundary study process?

- Visit the BCPS Web site regularly: <http://www.bcps.org/construction/Castanea/> This link will be updated throughout the boundary change process with new information
 - Let your principal know that you are interested in serving on the boundary study committee (see more below).
 - Participation is limited; schools may not be able to accommodate all requests.
 - Committee members are asked to commit to serving the interests of *all* students and schools involved.
 - Starting in October, watch boundary study committee meetings online (live and recorded).
 - Attend and observe boundary study committee meetings (meetings are open to the public; but participating in committee activities is limited to committee members).
 - Attend the public information session in October to review the committee's draft recommendations and talk with staff and committee members about boundary change considerations.
 - Participate in the online survey between October 29 and November 12 to provide input on the committee's draft recommendations.
 - Attend Board meetings and participate in general public comment.
 - Email the Board and the boundary study committee to offer input.
 - Attend the Board's public hearing specific to the boundary change decision (typically in February).
- **Who serves on the boundary study committee and what is their role?**
 - The boundary study committee is appointed by the superintendent with input and recommendations from the community superintendent, executive director, and school principals. The committee has equal representation from all involved schools and is limited in size to one

- teacher and two representatives (parents and/or others from the school community) from each school. Principals serve as nonvoting members and provide information to support the process.
- Committee members are asked to focus on the interests of all children that will be affected by the boundary process and to resist representing their personal interests.
 - Members are not compensated and commit to attending four to six meetings. They spend time in and outside of meetings carefully considering information and providing relevant insight about the community.
 - Members attend the community public information session to help explain the committee's work and engage in conversations about boundary change considerations.
- **Parents or teachers interested in participating on the committee should:**
 - Have interest in reviewing highly-detailed information.
 - Be certain of their ability to commit to all meetings
 - Demonstrate their care for our students across the region – and not simply advocate for their own community or family.

Additional information can be found at www.bcps.org via a link under “What’s Happening” on the left of the main page. Information will be updated throughout the boundary change process with new information, so please refer to it often.

To learn more about the boundary study committee or express your interest in participating on the committee, please contact your principal no later than September 14, 2018. And please remember, BCPS provides many ways to stay informed and to advocate for specific concerns as part of the overall process.

Thank you so much for sharing the school year with us. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christina Byers
Community Superintendent
Central Zone

Copies to:
Ms. Verletta White, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Steve Coco, Principal, Mays Chapel Elementary School
Dr. Hope Baier, Principal, Fort Garrison Elementary School
Mr. Seth Barish, Principal, Ridgley Middle School
Ms. Kalisha Miller, Principal, Pikesville Middle School
Mr. Samuel Wynkoop, Principal, Dulaney High School
Ms. Sandra Reid, Principal, Pikesville High School