

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD • 21204-3711

October 4, 2016

Dear Vincent Farm Elementary School Families:

With the support of the Board of Education, Baltimore County Government and the State Delegation, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is in the midst of a 1.3 billion dollar capital plan, *Schools for Our Future*. This initiative will add seats to address our increasing enrollment and will improve our existing facilities, including accelerating the process of air-conditioning all schools.

It is with great excitement that BCPS will open a new Victory Villa Elementary School (ES) building and a new Northeast area elementary school located near the intersection of Joppa Road and Honeygo Boulevard in August 2018. BCPS will begin the process of changing school boundaries to help relieve overcrowding starting this school year.

The boundary process for Victory Villa ES will start in January 2017 and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education for a decision in May 2017. The boundary process for the new Northeast area elementary school will start in September 2017 and a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education for a decision in March 2018.

Vincent Farm ES shares a boundary with both Victory Villa ES and the schools that will be impacted by the boundary change for the new northeast elementary school; therefore, Vincent Farm ES will be included in both boundary change processes.

The purpose of this letter is to provide an overview of the upcoming boundary process for the Victory Villa ES community. In May 2017, families will receive details about the new Northeast elementary community boundary change.

Schools participating in the Victory Villa ES Community Boundary Study include: Victory Villa ES, Glenmar ES, Hawthorne ES, Martin Boulevard ES, Middlesex ES, Orems ES, Shady Spring ES, and Vincent Farm ES.

The community committee will be identified this December and will convene in January 2017. Between January and April, the group will meet about six times, including hosting a public information meeting in March to share the group's work, talk with community members, and gather information. In May and June 2017 the Board of Education will consider and take action on the committee's recommendation, including holding a public hearing.

The new Victory Villa ES will open in August 2018.

- **How can I get involved in the boundary study process?**
 - 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.
 - A significant time commitment is required of all committee members.
 - 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 to review the committee's draft recommendations and talk with staff and committee members about boundary change considerations.
 - Participate in the online survey 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.

- **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 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.

This information, along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), is posted on the BCPS Web site under the "What's Happening" section (<http://www.bcps.org/construction/VictoryVilla/>). This site will be updated throughout the boundary change process with new information, so please refer to it often.

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To learn more about the boundary study committee, please contact your principal no later than November 4, 2016. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being more prominent than the last name "Roberts".

Mr. George Roberts
Community Superintendent
Zone 2

af/kc

Copies to:

Ms. Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff

Ms. Verletta White, Chief Academic Officer

Ms. Charlene Behnke, Principal, Vincent Farm ES