Swansfield Summer Newsletter (1st Edition - July 20, 2020)

Meet the Swans in the Pond

Hello Swansfield Community,

Throughout the summer, we will share emails introducing you to our staff so you can get to know us better before school begins. We hope your family enjoys these short introductions.

**Administration**

**Laurel Porter, Principal**

I am so excited to enter my fourth year at Swansfield Elementary School! Swansfield has a very special place in my heart. I was an intern at Swansfield when working on my Master of Arts in Teaching at JHU, I returned several years later as the Math Support Teacher and then returned home again three years ago as principal. Swansfield Elementary is an amazing school filled with talented young people, engaged families, exceptional staff and a supportive and caring community. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and you have been able to attend some of our Virtual Read Alouds, grade level Virtual Gatherings and/or participate in our Summer Pen Pal program. The staff at Swansfield is dedicated to providing opportunities for both our current and new students to build community and we hope you will join us for as many activities as you can. Personally, I have spent many of my summer evenings on our boat as a way to relax and get out of the house. Additionally, I LOVE to grill during the summer (charcoal only :-). I hope you have also been able to find time to relax and enjoy time with your family. If your family or child would like to share what you do to relax during the summer, please feel free to share it on our Twitter Page @hcpss\_ses #WhatAreOurSwansUpTo or #SwanSummer. Don't have a Twitter account but want to share? No problem! Send an email to me at [laurel\_porter@hcpss.org](mailto:laurel_porter@hcpss.org), give permission to share on Twitter and we can share it for you!

**Lauren Beaman, Assistant Principal**

My name is Lauren Beaman and I am one of the assistant principals. This will be my fifth year at Swansfield. My favorite things about SES are our awesome students and staff. I look forward to seeing everyone when we start again in September!

**Howard Carter, Assistant Principal**

HELLO SWANSFIELD FAMILY! My name is Mr. Carter and I am one of the two assistant principals at Swansfield. I am very excited to begin the new school year! This summer I have been preparing for the upcoming school year and spending quality time with my daughters. I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces in September and welcoming students with virtual high fives!

**Front Office**

**Patricia Bratchie, Teachers’ Secretary**

Welcome! I'm Pat Bratchie and this is my sixth year working at Swansfield as a teachers' secretary in the front office. Even though this school year will start a little different from past years, I am looking forward to September when everyone will be back in school. Outside of school, I love spending time with my family and friends. The beach is one of my favorite places and I enjoy watching my daughter play on her college lacrosse team.

**Marcia Tallman, Registrar**

I am starting my 24th school year as registrar at Swansfield. I'm looking forward to hopefully seeing everyone in person at some point this fall. My husband and I are expecting our first grandchild this December, which is very exciting.

**Carolyn Toland, Principal’s Secretary**

Hello! This marks my 11th year at Swansfield Elementary as principal's secretary. I enjoy being a part of this vibrant community and working with such dedicated staff. Mostly, I love being around children and often wonder how time passes so quickly and they grow so fast. I became a grandmother this past April for the first time and now spend a lot of my free time visiting my grandson.

**Student Support**

**Sarah Clay, Psychologist**

My name is Sarah Clay and I am the school psychologist at Swansfield. This will be my second year at Swansfield and my 16th year as a school psychologist. I have two boys ages 7 and 9 who have been keeping me busy this summer. When I'm not at school I'm usually on a baseball or soccer field watching my kids play. I also love reading, cooking, and lately puzzling. I am really looking forward to hopefully seeing everyone in person again soon!

**Sarah Croushler, Social/Emotional Learning**

Hi! I'm Sarah Croushler, the social emotional learning teacher for Swansfield Elementary. This is my third year at Swansfield, and I'm excited to welcome so many new faces to our school. My husband and I live in Columbia with our daughter and have been here for 20 years. I love working and living in the same community.

**Alexa Narron, Alternative Education**

Hi Swans! My name is Ms. Narron and I am the alternative education teacher at Swansfield. This will be my seventh year teaching at the best school ever! I love supporting students in different grades and working with our amazing, dedicated teachers. A fun fact about me is I played soccer in college, so I love being active and watching sports. Even though we are living in difficult times right now, remember that the Swansfield staff is always here to support you. I am so excited to see our returning and new Swans!

**Kristina Rainier, Counselor**

Hi! I am Mrs. Rainier, school counselor, and I work mostly with students in kindergarten through second grade. I enjoy many parts of my job, including helping students make friends, helping them talk about their feelings and helping them learn coping and problem-solving skills. I have two children of my own. Samantha is 16 and Ben is 13. “Being Kind is Never Wasted.”

**Alesia Richter, Counselor**

Welcome to Swansfield! My name is Alesia Richter. I am the school counselor for grades 3-5. This will be my 10th year at Swansfield Elementary School. Swansfield is a very special place and I am so privileged to be a part of such a great team of people. Please remember I am not only here for students, but for families and staff, too. Please stop by if you ever need a place to sit, someone to listen, resources, or just a piece of chocolate! Wishing you a great school year!

**Deborah Slater, Family and Community Liaison**

Hello! My name is Deborah Slater and I am the family and community liaison at Swansfield. I enjoy getting to know families and students, connecting families with helpful resources, and building home-school connections. If you have questions about anything, please feel free to get in touch with me!

**Tamekah Wilkins, BSAP Liaison**

Hi Swansfield Family! My name is Tamekah Wilkins. I am the Black Student Achievement Program Liaison and I help black students excel academically and as leaders while helping them conquer challenges of the 21st century. I love the Baltimore Ravens and my favorite color is purple. My favorite quote is from Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

**SAVE THE DATES**

* **Live Read Aloud**: Monday, July 20, 7pm. Code: ses-storytime
* **Grade 2 Virtual Gathering:** Tuesday, July 21, 5:30pm. Code ses-gr2-july21
* **Live Read Aloud:** Wednesday, July 22, 7pm. Code: ses-storytime
* **New Kindergarten Student Meet & Greet:** Thursday, July 23, 7pm. Code ses-welcome-kinders
* **Live Read Aloud**: Friday, July 24, 2pm. Code ses-storytime
* **Live Read Aloud:** Monday, July 27, 7pm. Code ses-storytime
* **Grade 1 Virtual Gathering**: Tuesday, July 28, 5pm. Code: ses-gr1-july28