



## *Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science*

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May 18, 2021

Dear CBGS Students and Families,

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to communicate our plans for the 2021-2022 school year. As you are likely aware, the General Assembly passed S.B. 1303, which requires that all schools provide in-person instruction to all students for at least the minimum number of hours required by the Virginia Department of Education.

For CBGS, this means we will plan to return to our normal, five day a week instructional model that was in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and current State of Emergency issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. While there are some provisions in the law that allow for flexibility in the event of a resurgence of COVID-19, it is our intention to re-open full time on August 16th for new students and August 18th for returning students, with total participation in all programs and field experiences. We will be working with our host facilities (RCC and CCPS) to continue implementing mitigation strategies with fidelity.

An integral aspect of the CBGS experience is the hands-on nature of our curriculum in mathematics and science. In addition to traditional classroom instruction, CBGS students participate in immersive field experiences. Because of our instructional design, limited resources, and unique courses and programs, we are unable to offer an online option as a choice for our students.

Students with a documented medical situation that can be verified by a current physician's note specifically ordering the student not to return to in-person instruction at school will be handled on a *limited*, case-by-case basis. Decisions as to the academic programming and support for these students will be made in collaboration with the student, their family, the Director, home school administration, and CBGS advisor of the student's home district.

**It is an expectation that students selected for CBGS will attend all three years, once admitted as sophomores (or two years if admitted as juniors).** Occasionally, however, circumstances arise that lead a CBGS student to not return for the following school year – a family move from the area, for instance. It is necessary for us and your high school to know this, as school districts may wish to then select another student.

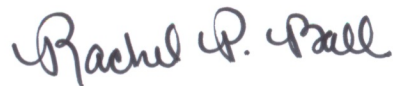
If you have any reason to think you may not be returning to CBGS next year, please speak with one of the following people on or before May 28th:

- Dr. Rachel Ball, CBGS Director
- The Site Lead Teacher(s) at your campus:
  - Bowling Green: Dr. Kevin Goff
  - Glens: Mrs. Sara Beam
  - Warsaw: Mrs. Kim Olsen or Mr. Jim Beam
- Your high school counselor

Such communication is appreciated to allow us to have accurate enrollment numbers for next year. Again, if you are planning to return to CBGS in 2021-22, no action is needed.

Thank you for your continued diligence, support, and patience. We are optimistic about the upcoming school year, and we all look forward to returning to a sense of normalcy with our community learners. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel P. Ball".

Rachel P. Ball, Ed.D.  
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School Director