

# Colonial Beach Elementary School

## 102 First Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443

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Mr. Dashan Turner, Superintendent  
Mrs. Michele Coates Principal  
Mrs. Rebecca Tabler, School Counselor  
Office 804-224-9897 Fax 804-224-0563

[www.cbschools.net](http://www.cbschools.net)

September 4, 2019

Dear CBES Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I have some exciting news to share. Colonial Beach Elementary School was selected to receive the 2019 Board of Education's Continuous Improvement Award through the VDOE Exemplar School Recognition Program. We are one of the first schools to receive this distinction. Congratulations to students, faculty and staff for all your hard work and dedication to learning.

This is a very exciting time for me personally as I completed my 25<sup>th</sup> year as a public school educator and enter my sixth year as the proud principal of Colonial Beach Elementary School. Prior to becoming principal, I was an assistant principal, a school counselor, a reading coordinator and a classroom teacher. My undergraduate degree in teaching is from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. I earned my Master Degree in Education and Post Master's Certificate in Educational Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University. Go Rams! Being an educator is a blessing that I treasure. Below you will find my purpose as an educator.

*Education is a gift, one that all children deserve to unwrap. My purpose is to inspire students to become life-long learners by empowering them to be themselves and to OWN their education, in an environment that is student-centered, highly engaging, rich with learning experiences, warm, caring and safe. It is my responsibility to encourage and support teachers, build capacity and make decisions that are in the best interest of students. Every Student. Every Minute. Every Day.*

CBES is committed to partnering with parents to provide students with a quality education in a safe and welcoming school environment. Our close-knit community allows us to know all of our students and focus on meeting individual student needs academically, socially and emotionally. Our school-wide expectations are for students to demonstrate "Drifter Pride" daily by being productive, responsible and respectful in everything they do. Faculty, staff and administrators are also held to these expectations. We will continue to implement "Drifter Pride" incentives for students such as Positive Office Referrals, monthly class incentives and individual incentives.

We need you! Your partnership in your child's education is important and valued! We will stay in contact with you throughout the school year using a variety of resources. You will receive monthly calendars outlining all school events as well as e-mails/autodialer messages. Teachers will send home weekly newsletters. Throughout the year we have three scheduled dates for parent-teacher conference nights. One way to keep in close contact with your child's teacher is to join ClassDojo. This is a wonderful resource for you to track your child's behavior and message teachers. We keep our division Facebook page up-to-date with news and upcoming events. Please like us at Colonial Beach School Communities. Also, please inform Mrs. Groves, school secretary, if your phone numbers, address or e-mail change. We want to partner with you to ensure your child reaches his/her fullest potential and need your current contact information. I encourage you to stay in close contact with your child's teacher and school counselor, Mrs. Tabler, throughout the year.

As always, I am available and can be reached at 804-224-9897 or [mcoates@cbschools.net](mailto:mcoates@cbschools.net). I look forward to a wonderful and productive school year.

With Drifter Pride,

Michele K. Coates  
Principal