



# Chatham Middle School

11650 US Highway 29 North  
Chatham, Virginia 24531  
Phone: (434) 432-2169 / Fax: (434) 432-2842



July 5, 2016

Dear Students and Parents of Chatham Middle School,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Principal of Chatham Middle School for the 2016-17 school year. I'm very passionate about education and I look forward to partnering with you to provide our students with a rigorous, engaging, and high quality middle school experience. As a parent of a current middle school student, I recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. Parents are every child's first teacher and I truly believe that by working together, we can ensure that your child's social, emotional, and academic needs are met.

Before joining the staff of CMS, I served in a variety of teaching and educational leadership roles over the past 15 years, primarily within Pittsylvania County Schools. After graduating from Chatham High School, my academic background grew to include a Bachelor of Arts in History, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Arts in Education specializing in Social Studies 6-12, all from Virginia Tech, as well as an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Liberty University. I have six years of middle school teaching experience, three years of high school teaching experience, and served nine years as a high school assistant principal/athletic director at Dan River High School.

I believe that great schools are the results of great teachers, so my primary objective will be to ensure that every student is receiving high-quality instruction from every teacher at CMS. In order to do this, I will be working closely with Mrs. Debra Bray, our assistant principal, to provide teachers with feedback on their instruction, access to professional development, and to reach out to parents for support with academic and behavioral concerns to prepare of students for the rigors of high school, college, and 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.

The new school year will bring many new faces and a few procedural changes to Chatham Middle School. Many teaching positions have been altered or staffed with teachers new to the building as well as changes to the office and guidance staff. All of the faculty and staff at CMS are exceptional, hardworking, and looking forward to working with your students this year!

As an evaluation of parent perceptions, values, and goals for Chatham Middle School's future, I invite you to participate in our parent survey. It will take 5-10 minutes of your time. The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F9WC83J> or through a link on our school website ([www.pcs.k12.va.us/cms](http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/cms)). Surveys are also available in the main office if internet access is limited. The results of the survey will be carefully reviewed by the school leadership team and used to develop goals and policies for the new school year.



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At Chatham Middle School, we also value the opinions of our students. Please encourage your Cavalier to participate in our student survey. The survey can be reached at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCDJGCD> or through a link on our school website ([www.pcs.k12.va.us/cms](http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/cms)). Surveys are also available in the main office if internet access is limited. These should take 5-10 minutes to complete and will be used to develop goals and policies for the school.

Students that would like to take a more active role in the leadership of the school are invited to apply for the Student Advisory and Leadership Training (SALT) team. These students will meet regularly with the school administration in order to provide input and leadership when setting school goals, planning school events, developing leadership skills, and supporting the entire CMS family. Applications can be found online at <http://goo.gl/forms/90rWgTyjZglkyzc32> or students may come by the main office during summer working hours (Mon – Thurs, 7a-5p) to pick up or drop off a paper application. All applications are due by **July 27, 2016**.

In terms of procedural changes, there have been alterations made to the dress code policy for students. These changes align our dress code with other middle and high schools in Pittsylvania County for the most part, however, each school has the autonomy to develop individual policies. Please refer to the attached memo when shopping for your child's back to school clothing over the summer months.

All of us at Chatham Middle School are eager and enthusiastic to begin what promises to be a great year for our Cavaliers! This year the Cavaliers are going to “rock and roll” through the school with academic experiences that are rigorous, relevant, and will build positive relationships in our school community. It is very important to me that everyone who steps through the doors of Chatham Middle – teachers, students, and parents – are excited to be here and on board with helping our school to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a safe, positive, fun, and nurturing environment.

I feel truly blessed to be in my new role and look forward to working with you and our Cavaliers!

Respectfully,

Julia Woodward, Principal  
Chatham Middle School



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## **REVISED DRESS CODE POLICY (effective August 2016)**

Appropriate dress is expected of all students. The following guidelines apply to all students, male and female.

- Hats, caps, bandannas, other headgear or sunglasses must be placed in lockers upon arriving at school. They may not be brought into any classroom.
- No spike jewelry, dog collars, wallet chains, or long chains with large charms.
- **All shirts should have sleeves that cover the shoulder.**
- No halter tops, tank tops, tube tops, off the shoulder tops, spaghetti straps, backless dresses or tops, see-through shirts, fish-net jerseys, or bare midriffs.
- No low cut revealing tops.
- No mesh or tight fitting clothing.
- No clothing that advertises tobacco, drugs, alcohol, obscene language, gestures, or other suggestive literature. No clothing with a message or logo that is offensive to others.
- **Pants must be worn at the waistline and pocket areas must be visible. Only one waistband should be visible.**
- All clothing should be intact and not have holes in garments.
- Shorts and skirts may be worn at any time, if they have appropriate fit and length **within four inches of the student's knee.** Biker shorts, cut-offs, or yoga pants may NOT be worn at any time.
- **Leggings/Jeggings may NOT be worn as pants.** They may be worn underneath skirts, shorts, or dresses that fall within four inches of the knee.
- No bare feet, pajamas, slippers, or bedroom shoes.
- Bulky jackets, long coats, book bags, and drawstring bags must be placed in lockers upon arriving at school. They may not be brought into any classroom.
- Closed toe tennis shoes must be worn in gym and specified exploratory classes.

\*\*Administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness of dress. \*\*

Students are advised to adhere to the dress code policy daily. **Violations of the dress code will result in immediate assignment to Behavior Management Center in addition to the following progressive discipline consequences:**

**First offense:** The parent will be contacted and the student will be issued a warning.

**Second offense:** The parent will be contacted and the student will be issued a second warning.

**Third offense:** The student will be assigned ASD.

**Fourth offense:** The student will be assigned ISS.

**Subsequent offenses:** Progressive discipline consequences will continue up to and including in-school and out of school suspension.