

Dear Bulldog Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I hope that your family had a safe & enjoyable summer and are looking forward to a great school year. Our hope is for a return to many procedures and activities here at SMS that were not possible last year due to the pandemic. And while we continue to process many decisions related to COVID-19, we have been working hard to prepare the building at SMS for a return to in-person learning with all of our students starting on the **first day of school on Thursday, August 12.**

After the challenging experiences of this past year, the focus for our staff will continue to be on supporting each child in a rewarding school experience. Our academic goal is to provide an enriching learning program in all areas that will prepare our students to excel in their endeavors. However, please know that the ultimate goal at SMS will always be to provide every student with a positive & well-rounded experience that goes beyond academics. I look forward to the many achievements of our students in the classroom and beyond during the upcoming school year.

We have some new teachers to welcome to the Bulldog family for the upcoming year –

Alli Beck, English teacher	Crissy Hokenson, Special Education teacher
Adam Berry, Math teacher	Colleen Lilly, Special Education teacher
Lauren Bertermann, Math teacher	Dru Perdue, Math teacher
Hannah Bozarth, English teacher	Crystal Rayle, Social Studies teacher
Lisa Bruer, Computer Concepts teacher	Amanda Smith, English teacher
Sarah Dornan, Librarian	Garrett Smith, Autism Resource teacher
Bishop Guempel, Health & PE teacher	Justin Ward, Social Studies teacher

Open communication is a key aspect of the positive and successful experience that we strive for at Spotsylvania Middle School. To help increase communication between home and school, our PTO is once again providing each student with a student agenda/planner. Please take time to review the agenda regularly in order to stay informed of your child's classroom assignments. I would also encourage all parents to use ParentVUE to regularly check on your student's academic standing and progress. Using ParentVUE, you have access to information including class schedules, current grades, course history, and more. Should you need help with setting up a ParentVUE account, please contact the SMS registrar, Mrs. Lober, in the SMS counseling office. **SMS Business Day/Parent Connection sessions will take place on Tuesday, August 10, from 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m., and 5-7 p.m.** We hope to see many students & families on August 10 during one of the open-house sessions.

Finally, please know that we encourage involvement by all of our students and our parents so that we can continue to make great things happen here at SMS. I am confident that this year's Bulldogs are up to the challenges as we all seek to fulfill our school mission – *Together we prepare our students for their future.* We really do believe that what starts here can change the world! So now we begin anew ...

We look forward to seeing you soon. **GO BULLDOGS!!!**

Lane Byrd
Principal