

Bulldog Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! We are already looking forward to another great year at SMS, and our staff is making final preparations for the **first day of school on Monday, August 12**. I'd like to invite all of our Bulldog students & families to come see us for our **Business Day/Orientation Session on Thursday, August 8 from 3-7 pm** (more info on next page).

Our primary goal at SMS is to provide a learning program in all areas that will enrich our students and prepare them to excel in their endeavors. We are very proud of our students and their demonstration of the learning here. Preliminary reports indicate that SMS will again receive Full Accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education after completing the 2018-19 SOL assessments. But please know that the ultimate goal is always to provide every student with a positive & well-rounded experience at SMS that goes beyond academics. So I begin each school year by highlighting our core values and expectations of **respect, responsibility, and productivity**. Our commitment to each other in the SMS school community is to **be respectful, be responsible, and be productive**. With these priorities, **Bulldog PRIDE** continues to be alive and well - and this year's students will rise to the challenges of the coming school year.

We do have some new staff members to welcome to the Bulldog family for the upcoming year –

Mrs. Patricia Bielec, Algebra Readiness Teacher

Mrs. Calli Fox, Special Education Teacher

Ms. Lindsay Grohowski, Counselor

Mrs. Jean Kohler, Math Teacher

Mrs. Annette Laxton, Math Teacher

Mr. Levi Manuel, Orchestra Teacher

Ms. Brittney Morris, English Teacher

Mr. Austin Noel, Health & PE Teacher

Ms. Taylor O'Dell, Social Studies Teacher

Mr. Alan Phelps, Latin Teacher

Ms. Miranda Schnakenberg, English Teacher

Mr. Josiah Stinson, Tech Ed Teacher

Our PTO is once again providing each student with a student agenda/planner to help with organization and communication. Please take time to review the agenda regularly in order to stay informed of your child's classroom assignments. Using online access to ParentVUE, you can view information on class schedules, attendance, grades, and more. Additionally, I would encourage all parents with email access to contact our counseling office to subscribe to our weekly eNews (electronic newsletter). We also send general notifications from the school office throughout the school year. So please be sure that phone numbers and email addresses on file are correct.

Please know that we encourage involvement by all of our students and our parents so that we can continue to make great things happen 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.*

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

Lane Byrd
Principal