We can’t hide that Bulldog P.R.I.D.E
Prepared Respectful Integrity Determined Engaged
“Treat others, the way you would like to be treated.”

Beth Linn – Principal
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The ABC’s and 123’s of Apple Grove Elementary School

**A is for Attendance and Achievement:** Daily, on time attendance is expected. **School hours are from 8:30am-3:00pm!** Students should arrive to school between 8:30 - 8:45. Students need to be in their seats and available for learning at 8:50. Students are marked tardy after 8:45am. You can assist them by insuring their daily on time arrival. Students may enter the building at 8:30. We will be utilizing the PGCPS School Communication system to notify parents/guardians of their child’s absence from school or late arrival. Students are expected to maintain a 94% or better attendance percentage. All absences must be explained in writing. Please send a note to the school after an absence. The Promise of Prince George’s County is outstanding academic achievement for ALL. Our school’s vision is One Team, One Vision One Goal … Success for All.

**B is for the Bus, Breakfast & Before and After Care:** Breakfast is available for students from 8:30-8:45am. Sign up for the Here Comes the Bus app if your child is riding a PGCPS school bus. This app will update for late buses, bus location etc. You can sign up at the PGCPS home page. The school has a school wide, FREE breakfast program available to all students. Apple Grove has a wonderful Before and After Care program available for all in boundary students. It is a tuition based program and operates from 7:00am-6:00pm. It is called AlphaBest. Please call 301-449-4773 for more information.

**C is for Car Riders & Committed Staff, Cell Phones Common Core Standards – Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards:** Parents/guardians who are dropping off or picking up students are asked to abide by the directions of the staff members on duty. These staff members are there to assist and insure the safety of all our students. Car riders may be dropped off as early as 8:30 but no later than 8:45 as students need to be in their seats and ready for instruction by 8:50am. Please do not enter the school’s driveway when buses are dropping off or picking up students. The staff of Apple Grove is committed to our students’ success. We strive to create a caring, consistent environment that allows teaching and learning to occur. Please know that cell phone usage is clearly defined by Prince George’s County Public Schools. All cell phones are to be turned off and inaccessible to students during the school day and on the bus. The school system has transitioned to the Common Core State Standards or as they are now known, Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS) with full implementation. Get more information about this rigorous curriculum at [www.mdk12.org](http://www.mdk12.org) or at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org).

**D is for Dismissal & Discipline:** Our car and van riders and walkers will be dismissed first beginning at 2:40. If at any time your child gets into a car for dismissal pick up they MUST come out with car and van riders. Bus dismissal will begin at approximately 2:45pm. Please note: Dismissal times for bus riders is approximate depending upon the arrival and departure of the buses. **Early departure begins at 2:15pm and ends at 2:30pm.** No student will be dismissed after 2:30pm for early departure. The office staff will call your child to the office for dismissal. Our students have a right to learn and teachers have a right to teach. This can only occur in a safe and orderly environment. We will be utilizing, PBIS – Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions, this involves school expectations, rewards and consequences and adherence to the PGCPS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

**E is for Engaged, Energetic Learners, A Positive Environment, Early Dismissal, ESOL and ESSA:** Our students will be ready for each day if they have had a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast. We want our students to have a positive attitude towards learning. In order to accomplish this goal we need to be respectful of one another even when we face challenges. Apple Grove is fortunate to be a designated ESOL center.( English Speakers of Other Languages) If you or your child
needs assistance with developing proficiency with English please contact the school, 301-449-4966.

If the school system enacts an early dismissal the following times will be instituted; half day dismissal is at 11:30, one hour early release is 1:30 and two hour early release is 12:30. ESSA stands for Every Student Succeeds Act signed into law in 2015. As a result schools are rated in Maryland in 4 key areas; Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency and School Quality and Student Success. In 2018-2019 Apple Grove earned 4 out of 5 stars.

**F is for Future Leaders, Field Trips, Fundraisers and the Family Portal (SchoolMax):** We have initiated a program called PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. We believe we are developing future leaders, one student at a time. We have school wide expectations, discipline plans, a school pledge and recognition of student achievement. Our students will be STAR students. Students will exhibit P.R.I.D.E. Throughout the school year our students will be going on field trips. Please be reminded that in order to participate as a chaperone you MUST complete a background check and/or fingerprinting to be completed at the Sasscer Board of Education (PGCPS) Building in Upper Marlboro, MD. You may not participate unless proof is provided to the school that this action has been completed prior to attending the field trip. Please check the School Max Family Portal to check you child’s grades and attendance. You can now set your own username and password, if you need assistance call the school and speak with Ms. Peterson. We do two major fundraising events in the spring and fall. Did you know that if each family sold/purchased one item we could earn $2000 for our school?? Please assist as you can with our fundraising efforts.

**G is for Grading Factors, Google and Gum** All assignments, homework, tests, quizzes, and projects are counted in determining the grade your child earns. The students overall grades are calculated from scores from homework, classwork and assessments. Each category is weighted differently. All weekly homework will be available electronically via Google Drive. Students are not allowed to chew gum during the school day.

**H is for Homework and Habits:** Homework is a graded extension of the school day. All students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Your assistance in ensuring that homework is completed and returned to school each day is greatly appreciated. Homework is a part of your child’s grade. All students in grades K-6 are expected to have a notebook in which homework assignments, parent communication and daily behavior grades are to be placed. All grade levels will distribute a weekly homework calendar. In addition, all homework will be available in Google Drive. We will be focusing on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective (and Happy) Students. Through our Guidance lessons we will focus on the 7 habits that can assist our students to be more successful. These correlate with our focus on Mindset. Want more information about the 7 Habits (BTW they are the same for adults®) go to [www.theleaderinme.org/what-is-the-leader-in-me/](http://www.theleaderinme.org/what-is-the-leader-in-me/)

**I is for Immunizations:** It is vital for the health and safety of our students that ALL children have the proper, up to date immunizations. Please understand that children may be excluded from school if they have not received their immunizations by the due dates. Please see our school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

**J is for Joining:** Consider joining us for our school wide events like parent engagement workshops and training, family events, quarterly honor roll, instrumental band and choral assemblies.

**K is for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten & Knowledge:** Please check with the office about Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten eligibility. Pre-Kindergarten is now whole day!! Our children live in an increasingly complex world. They must have more than just rote knowledge of subjects. Please assist our students by providing them with opportunities to problem solve, complete multi-step problems, opportunities to engage in conversation, reading to and with them and finding out what they are working on in school.
L is for Learning & Lunch: All students have a right to learn and teachers have a right to teach. Nothing will interfere with the process of teaching and learning. Students may choose to bring their lunch from home or purchase a lunch in the school cafeteria. You may be eligible for a free or reduced priced meal program for your child. Please fill out a lunch application form online or if you need assistance you can complete the form and return it to the school. Forms and menus can be found at http://www.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/. The school system will notify you of your eligibility status. Did you know you can add money to your child’s cafeteria account through My School Bucks? Quick and easy, check it out via the PGCPS website, www.pgcps.org under the Parents tab and Pay for Lunch link.

M is for Mastery, Mathematics, Money (My School Bucks) and Mindset: Our students progress is assessed through a number of assessments throughout the year. PGCPS provides a rigorous, accelerated program to prepare our students. It is vital that our students have every opportunity to succeed. This can only happen when our students have the opportunity to master complex skills through daily instruction, homework completion, study, assistance from home and developing skills in persistence and perseverance. You may find it necessary on occasion to send money to school with your child. Please place it in an envelope with his/her name on it and the purpose for the remittance of the money. The school system will be increasing the use of My School Bucks this year, look for more information soon! In order for our students to truly be successful in mathematics they need to be able to recall basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts automatically. Please practice these basic skills with your child as part of their weekly routine. In this increasingly complex world our students are asked to find the answers to problems with multiple steps. Problem solving and the ability to use mathematical tools like calculators, rulers and protractors are necessary skills. Through our Guidance lessons we will continue our focus around Mindset. Ask your child about the power of “yet” and having a growth Mindset. Want more information about how to help your child grow their potential go to https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/teach-growth-mindset-kids-activities

N is for Necessary: At various times it is necessary for materials to be signed and returned to school. Please assist us by sending all materials back to school in a timely fashion and providing up to date contact information. Also as students use school supplies, it may be necessary to replace crayons, glue, tissues etc. It is necessary that students are at school on time and are picked up on time. The student’s day begins at 8:30 and concludes by 3:00pm. Dismissal begins at 2:40.

O is for Opportunity (to ride a bus), Delayed Openings and One Way: Please be reminded that riding a bus is an opportunity for our students to be transported to and from school safely and securely. Students must abide by the school bus driver’s rules and procedures, for their safety and that of all the students on the bus. A student who refuses to comply with the established rules and procedures may be removed from the bus. As we move into the winter months, we may experience a Delayed Opening. If school is delayed one (1) hour, students should report to school at 9:30am. If school is delayed two (2) hours, students should report at 10:30am. We encourage you to listen to the local news stations or radio stations for current conditions. Most stations begin reporting at 5:00am. Additionally, the information is posted on the home page of PGCPS at www.pgcps.org. You may also sign up for text alerts. By checking these venues we can insure that the school phone lines are kept open. You are reminded that Bellefield Avenue is one way during the opening and closing of the school day, 8:15-9:15am and 2:15-3:15pm. You are subject to ticketing and a fine if you do not observe the posted signage.

P is for Partnership, PTO, PARCC (MCAPP), Pre-Kindergarten, PBIS and P.R.I.D.E: We must work as partners, home and school, in order to assist our students be truly successful. This must be a mutual and respectful partnership between and among all parties. Consider joining and / or volunteering to assist with PTO events. PARCC / MCAPP is the assessment that will be given in the spring of 2020 that
will assess our students understanding of the Common Core State Standards in grades 3-6. Find out more about this rigorous and challenging assessment at http://parcconline.org. Want to take a practice test to see if you are smarter than your third through sixth grade student, go to http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/. Early education is so important for our students we need to mention it twice. Pre-K is an income based, full day program. Call the school 301-449-4966 for additional registration information. This school year we are a PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports school. Our school wide expectations [rules] will be based on P.R.I.D.E, our students and staff will be expected to be Prepared, Respectful, show Integrity, Determined and Engaged. For more information on PBIS go to www.pbis.org

Q is for Quite Simply the BEST and a quiet space !!: Apple Grove Students, Families and Staff are quite simply the best! Please provide a quiet space in which your child can read quietly and complete homework.

R is for Reading and Retention: In order to have a truly successful school experience our students must be reading on or above grade level. A student who is reading below grade level is at a distinct disadvantage. PGCPS uses a number of assessments to determine a student’s reading level. The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), NWEA MAP-R, Reading & Math unit assessments are used to assess a student’s proficiency with not only recognizing known and unknown words but comprehension as well. Students not only must read effectively but have effective writing skills as well. Apple Grove teachers combine high levels of thinking and questioning while strengthening their comprehension and writing skills. Students that are struggling and/or who are at risk may benefit from retention in the current grade level. Through ongoing communication with your child’s teacher, he/she, you and the administrators will make an informed decision in the best interest of our children. You will be notified by January if retention is a possibility.

S is for Science, STEM: Science Technology Engineering Math, Success for ALL: Science instruction has been taken to a much higher level in our schools. It is a tested subject on the MISA for our fifth grade students. Our fourth through sixth grade students will participate in completing a mandatory STEM project during the school year. This project is a wonderful opportunity to extend our student’s understanding of the world around them. It will be a graded project and as such must be completed by all students. Please look for information regarding a Family Science Night to familiarize both you and our child with the processes and procedures for completion. Many factors contribute to your students’ success, the single biggest factor is the positive relationship between home and school. Please check School Max Family Portal on a regular basis, maintain communication with the teacher and do request assistance when needed! One Team, One Vision, One Goal … Success for All!

T is for Time on Task, Text Alerts & Technology: PGCPS determines the allotted time for each subject in our instructional day. The pace is rigorous and the standards are high. In order for our students to maximize this time, we must have a high degree of time on task. The instructional day begins promptly at 8:50am and ends at 2:30pm. The day is structured to provide our students with both whole and small group instruction that will assist us in meeting our students’ instructional needs. This, combined with regular, on time attendance, daily completion of homework and adherence to the school’s PBIS plan by all students will insure our children’s success. We are very lucky to have a Tech Lab once again at Apple Grove in addition to Chromebooks and iPads. One of our goals during this school year is to increase our overall usage of technology and to enhance our instruction with technology. Students will be using Google, google docs and forms and Google Classroom. Sign up for text alerts from PGCPS.
U is for Uniform & Updated Information: We are a mandatory uniform school. Both boys and girls must wear white or light blue shirts and navy blue bottoms. Dark brown, black or navy shoes are expected. Shoes should be without ornamentation or designs. Plain black or brown belts, no embellishments. Jewelry should be age appropriated, no dangly, large, cumbersome jewelry will be permitted inclusive of earrings, bracelets, rings or necklaces. Students may wear a navy blue sweater or crew neck style solid navy blue sweatshirt during cooler weather. Students may not wear "hoodies" or other jackets with pockets. Please refer to the Mandatory Uniform Policy. As your children outgrow their uniforms please consider donating them to the school. Any change in your contact information (ie, phone number, address, emergency contacts) MUST be communicated to the school in order to insure your child’s safety.

V is for Volunteer: You are welcome to come be a volunteer at Apple Grove. Please be reminded that all volunteers need to complete the background check available at the Board of Education at the Sasscer Administration building in Upper Marlboro, MD.

W is for Weather: Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and in accordance with our uniform policy. We will continue to make use of the playground as long as weather permits. Students may wear a navy blue sweater or pull over style sweatshirt in school as we transition into cooler weather but “hoodies”/ hood style sweatshirts or the wearing of a coat are not permitted. During periods of inclement weather please stay tuned to local television and radio stations to find out about delayed openings or closings.

X is for X-tra Special: Students, parents and staff!

Y is for Youth: The staff of Apple Grove is committed to the education of our youth, our students are our future.

Z is for Zebra: No the zebra is not our school mascot!! 😊 Do you know what animal is? The bulldog is our school mascot. Our school colors are red and white. Our school affirmation is “Treat others the way you want to be treated.” We wish you and your child a successful school year!