Dear William Hall Academy Families,

I want to officially welcome all of you to the 2020-21 school year! Summer has come and gone and we must now move forward with the promise of an exciting school year ahead. This school year has a special significance as we transition to virtual learning for the first two quarters of school. Please be sure to carefully read all of the information in this letter. It may be helpful to print out this letter and place it in a location that may be accessed for future references. Please read on:

- **Communications** - During these unpredictable times we will be using Class Dojo, google classroom, ROBO calls, and our school’s website to communicate with families and students. It is very important that you make sure that your phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing address are up-to-date. We want to make sure that you have the latest information and are informed of expectations for the next school year.

- **Students Materials for Learning** - Distribution dates: August 24-27; 9 a.m-4 p.m. Every grade will be given materials to use at home that will assist students in completing their assignments. We will be sending out a ROBO call and placing the collection of material dates on our website. We are currently waiting for the delivery of these items and will send out additional information once the materials are sorted, organized and ready for you to pick it up. We ask that you bring your grade level student and one adult that will walk down the halls retrieving items. **On this date you and your child must wear a mask and observe our social-distancing requirements.** More information will be coming soon.

- **Technology** - Across the nation there has been a high demand for electronic devices, which has resulted in a delay of our receiving. If in fact you currently have a device that could be used, I would appreciate you picking up additional devices around September 21, 2020. We anticipate that additional devices will be received at or before that time. Your understanding is greatly appreciated. **In PGCP, There are currently 32,000 chromebooks on back order, Dell (15,000) and HP (17,000).**

- **Mock Day** - On Friday, August 28, 2020 from 9 a.m -12 noon, you will receive information on the expectations for the new year via a virtual Mock Day. There will be a link to join the meeting on our website and we will send out a ROBO call that will allow you to join as well. This day, students will be able to work with their classroom teachers on the expectations for the start of school. Such activities will include; logging in to class, attendance, expectations for assignments, communications and other important information for the start of school. This is a very important day. Please do your very best to join your child so that we are all aware of the expectations to start school.

- **Virtual Back-to-School Night** - Tuesday-September 15, 2020 @ 6 p.m Back-to-School will be held on the 15th. of September. On this day, teachers will present information on how the virtual learning environment is going so far. Parents will be able to ask questions and get up-dates on how to access grades and assignments. Please plan to attend.

- **School Attire** - During distant learning we ask that students are prepared to start school at 7:45 a.m. When students log into their classroom for the day, we are requesting that they wear their uniform shirt if possible. This will help all of us maintain a “school-like” atmosphere. While this request is optional, we certainly hope that you can help assist us in making sure that your child is dressed and ready for a successful learning day.

- **Attendance** - During virtual learning, students are expected to be logged into their classes by 7:45 a.m. each school day. They will be marked tardy, after the grace period of 7:50 a.m. Students will be charged a half
day absence if they are not logged in after lunch. This expectation is outlined in our reopening document and can be found on page 73.

Though this time of year is full of beginnings, it does mark the end of an era. Mr. Agnew, Middle School Assistant Principal and Kevin Smith, Counselor have moved on to work at other schools. Dr. Hollis was selected as the new Principal of Suitland High School. While we will miss these extraordinary old members of our staff, we are excited about the work they will be doing in their new homes. They will always remain part of our family.

We are excited to be welcoming a host of new members to our school. You will have an opportunity to meet them soon.

Throughout the course of our school’s history, the one constant has been it’s vision/mission statement goal- “Here to serve, not to be served.” I am so glad to be back home and look forward to a wonderful school year. Take care.

Sincerely,

Darryl Evans, Principal