

# CEMCS Administrative Team

## Week of May 23, 2022

### SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

*Ms. Stephanie, Director, [stephanie.babcock-wright@cemco.org](mailto:stephanie.babcock-wright@cemco.org)*

*Ms. Katherine, Head of Curriculum & Instruction, [katherine.davis@cemco.org](mailto:katherine.davis@cemco.org)*

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*Ms. Jenn, Student Health & Information Specialist, [jenn.williams@cemco.org](mailto:jenn.williams@cemco.org)*

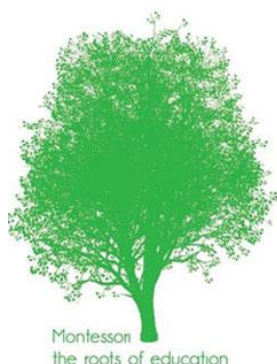
*Ms. Twilia, Office Manager, [twilia.melvin@cemco.org](mailto:twilia.melvin@cemco.org)*

912-395-4070



### Important Dates to Note

**Monday, May 23 -  
Friday, May 27**  
Post-Planning  
Office hours:  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



**This newsletter will be updated for the 2022-23 School Year in early-to-mid July. Please check back then for the answers to many commonly-asked questions!**

**Have an amazing summer, CEMCS!**

### Office Hours / Availability

For the remainder of the year, please make an appointment or call in advance before coming to campus to volunteer or visit. We are excited to have reopened the school more but need to remain cautious in order to protect the health of the school community. Alternatively, please know that we are here for you via phone or email if you have business to conduct or just need assistance.

*Visitors to campus are able to choose whether to wear a face mask; we do encourage it in all indoor spaces.*

**Call 912-395-4070 in advance; office hours are 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.** Whenever the office is closed, email us @ [cemcssav@gmail.com](mailto:cemcssav@gmail.com) and we will get back to you.

### Communication

This newsletter will be updated weekly during 2021-22. In addition, Ms. Stephanie's weekly Thursday email is always full of important information, and the CEMCS website/calendar is always current: [www.cemco.org](http://www.cemco.org).



*We will also continue to use email, the school's Facebook pages and phone call-out as additional ways to communicate.*

***\*\* Please alert us if your contact information changes.***

### ***Notes from the Clinic***

*CEMCS continues to "follow the science" and allows a mask-optional policy for staff & students, regardless of a person's vaccination status. Along with this, however, our distancing and symptom- monitoring practices, including taking temperatures, and other mitigation strategies such as handwashing/respiratory etiquette and enhanced ventilation, remain critical. Please do not lapse in checking your students for signs of illness and do not send them to school sick; please also continue to inform the school of symptoms and COVID-19 exposures.*

*The key variable in our decision-making process on COVID policy is this CDC guidance:*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>*

*Chatham County's COVID-19 Community Level is LOW, and the mitigation strategies outlined are: 1) stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines and 2) get tested if you have symptoms. Mask usage is not called for at this level, not even in schools.*

### ***Notes from the Business Office***

*We are able to loan out wi-fi hotspots if any of our families need internet service, especially in order for their students to complete school work at home. Please email [cemcssav@gmail.com](mailto:cemcssav@gmail.com) if you have a need or to find out more.*

*Our gas card program is ongoing, with gas cards available for families from the Main Office under the guidelines previously published in email. Call the Main Office with any questions.*

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### ***Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs)***

***Last updated: May 16, 2022***

***What do I need to do to continue enrollment for my child into 2022-23?***  
*Inform the Main Office immediately if you have any changes in the response(s) you gave on your Intent-to-Return Forms. We are allocating seats and planning rosters for next year based on those replies.*

*The admissions lottery has been held for new students, including siblings of current students. Email notifications went out on April 18, including a seat acceptance/declination form. We are thrilled to welcome siblings to the CEMCS family!*

***What instructional program is the school offering next year?***

*We will begin school in August 2022 with our full, in-person, elementary Montessori program. The local health conditions at the time will dictate the mitigation strategies required, but our students will be in school!*

*CEMCS will offer no e-learning for 2022-23, however schoolwork will of course be provided to all students who must remain home due to illness.*

***Will there be bus service available for 2022-23?***

*CEMCS remains ready to enter into a transportation agreement with the District for busing for our students, but the SCCPSS has not agreed. We will continue to keep working to re-secure this service.*

*The following options to assist families have been put in place:*

- *CEMCS family gas card program (call Main Office for info)*
- *CEMCS Carpooling Group on Facebook:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/781108269781467>
- *YMCA Y-BASE Before- & After-school Care:*  
<https://ymcaofcoastalga.org/main/chatham-county-y-base-program/>
- *HopSkipDrive Safe Youth Transportation*  
<https://www.hopskipdrive.com/>

***When should my child stay home from school?***

*You must carefully screen your child for signs of illness each and every morning and keep her/him home if:*

*ANY* of these symptoms are present:

- 1) fever (99.4 or higher),*
- 2) cough,*
- 3) shortness of breath, or*
- 4) loss of taste or smell,*

*OR if two or more* of the following are present:

- 1) feeling feverish (chills or sweats),*
- 2) fatigue,*
- 3) muscle or body aches,*
- 4) sore throat,*
- 5) vomiting, diarrhea or nausea,*
- 6) congestion or runny nose, and/or*
- 7) headache.*

*In addition, you must keep your child home from school if s/he has had contact with any of the following:*

- 1) Someone who is COVID-positive,*
- 2) Someone who is sick with COVID-like symptoms, and/or*
- 3) Someone who is awaiting COVID test results.*

*Finally, you should also do the following:*

- 1) Notify the School Clinic about your child's illness or possible exposure to COVID and receive return-to-school instructions,*
- 2) Follow the School Clinic's recommendations on medical care and/or COVID testing,*
- 3) Reach out to your child's teacher for his/her work packet, and*
- 4) Complete the Absence Documentation Form at*  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmCXy6yaBzw2UjiSL8HS-3zzKjyo-kUQc3TT\\_jh36AShofSw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmCXy6yaBzw2UjiSL8HS-3zzKjyo-kUQc3TT_jh36AShofSw/viewform)

### ***What pandemic-related safety features are in place at school?***

*We know that CEMCS can be a safe place if we follow our safety practices and mitigation strategies. “Mitigation” refers to all of the precautions that society can and should take in order to stay well and keep the Coronavirus in check, and we carry out these strategies in layers.*

*For 2021-22, CEMCS is using the following mitigation strategies:*

- Staying home when sick/appropriate - staff and students*
- Correct and consistent use of masks in indoor spaces \**  
*\* Effective 2/28/22, CEMCS has moved to a mask-optional policy for all students, staff & visitors.*
- Physical distancing at 3+ feet / to the extent possible*
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette*
- Cleaning and disinfection, maintaining healthy facilities*
- Contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation*
- Cohorting (keeping groups together)*
- Having plentiful supplies like soap and hand sanitizer*
- Some staggered scheduling*
- No sharing of items, limiting shared space*
- Limitations on visitors*
- Ensuring proper ventilation & fresh air*
- Controlled water systems & food service*

### ***Do students have to wear masks this year?***

*Beginning 2/28/22, mask-wearing is optional for students, staff & visitors. It is recommended in indoor spaces, and N/KN95 masks or 3-ply surgical masks are highly-preferable to fabric masks.*

*The student uniform policy for 2021-22 can be found here, including mask information (although that is now optional):*

*<https://cemco.org/CEMCS-Families.html>*

*\* Please also note that, in general, the uniform policy remains relaxed, but it will be enforced.*

### ***What data do you look at to inform decision-making?***

*As we “follow the science” in order to make the best decisions for our school community, we look to the Community Level Tool from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>*

*Additionally, what we’re seeing in our CEMCS community is critical. School data can be reviewed here: <https://cemco.org/Health-reports.html>*

### ***How does anything I hear/read about SCCPSS’s decisions affect CEMCS?***

*In general, it does not. CEMCS is an independent entity and makes its own decisions about its policies and practices.*

*That said, some SCCPSS decisions affect CEMCS because of the relationship between the school and the district. CEMCS will communicate proactively about things that come up, but you should always check with the school if there are any questions.*

***How do I register for Y-BASE (formerly known as Pryme Tyme)?***

*Y-BASE is running our before- and after-school care this year. Registration is still open and is handled by the YMCA directly.*

*The Y-BASE website is*

*<https://ymcaofcoastalga.org/main/member-link/#/programs/133/2021-2022-ybase-at-school-site/>*

*and the phone # for Y-BASE registration is 912-351-3622.*

*We can serve more families if we can increase staffing capacity. If you know anyone who is interested in working with students before and after school here on our campus, please have them give Y-BASE a call and speak to Joquana!*

***What supplies does my student need?***

*Supply lists for 2021-22 are located on the school website and at these links:*

*Kindergarten -*

*<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dTW1FMW-7A0RBQy02bRM9wz06eez0871/view>*

*Lower Elementary -*

*<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1igQ07WczailYmk9htf3RJSjdX8C7b0d/view>*

*Upper Elementary -*

*<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1000sr2MwOWjh813OjfTbRNTw8Y-662W/view>*

***Is school breakfast & lunch available this year?***

*Yes, and both will remain free of charge for all students for the entire school year!*

*Students may bring lunch (and snack) from home, but please ensure they are in line with CEMCS's Nutrition Policy, which is found in the CEMCS Family Handbook.*

***Where can I find the school policies & procedures?***

*The 2021-22 CEMCS Family Handbook is located here:*

*[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11T5du5sq2GFct6b\\_Qwo5qvUloqHORieGM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11T5du5sq2GFct6b_Qwo5qvUloqHORieGM/view)*

***What should I do if I have more questions that aren't answered here?***

*Please call Ms. Twilia in the Main Office at 912-395-4070. You may also email Ms. Stephanie at [stephanie.babcock-wright@cemco.org](mailto:stephanie.babcock-wright@cemco.org).*