

# **Chester School District Communication FAQs**

1. How may I make certain that I am receiving all emergency communications from the district?
  - A parent is automatically registered for emergency communications through Power School and our Blackboard Communications System by the district. However, should any information change, a parent can ensure that they are receiving ALL emergency communications from the district by editing their information and setting their preferences in the Power School and/or Blackboard Communications Systems. They can choose to receive information via a phone call, text, email, Twitter and Facebook by signing up for each accordingly.
2. How may I make certain that I am receiving all non-emergency communications from the schools and the district?

Please see the answers below arranged from classroom - to school - to district.

3. How may I receive information from my child's classroom teacher?

Teachers can communicate with parents in a number of effective ways. In general, teachers may send home parent notes or student papers with assessment information. They can utilize email to contact their parents and post important information on their teacher websites. All teachers in the district also utilize Google Classroom to organize and conduct their classes. They can also ask that information be posted in the district's electronic backpack via the web site and the Chester School District App. Many teachers also reach out to their parents via social media by using Twitter, Facebook and teacher blogs.
4. How may I receive information from my child's school?

Each school communicates via school and principal newsletters, district emails, and school websites. Each school will also post school-wide information and flyers in the electronic backpack via the web site and the Chester School District App. In addition, all schools communicate using the social media platforms Twitter and Facebook. Parents may also choose to receive the daily announcements from Bragg and Black River Middle Schools via text and/or email. In addition, on a monthly basis, our Chester Chat video program will focus on different schools and departments.

5. How may I receive information from the district office?

From the district office, information is shared in a number of formats. The Superintendent posts a monthly newsletter for parents and the district's Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation disseminates a quarterly newsletter with assessment information. The district web site is full of a variety of information on all departments across the district including student services, curricula, and our lunch programs just to name a few. Emails are often issued with important school and district information that are sent directly through our Blackboard Communications System. Monthly videos are shared through our Chester Chat Program on the web site and through social media on a variety of topics. School, district and community programs information and advertisements can be found in our electronic backpack on the website. Each Friday, parents may choose to be texted or emailed a link to remind them to view this information.

6. Do opportunities exist to meet with Chester School District faculty members in person throughout the year?

There are numerous opportunities to meet with Chester School District faculty members in person throughout the school year. A few include our Back to School Nights and Parent/Teacher Conferences; student programs hosted in classrooms and at the various schools, i.e. Our Kindergarten Patriotic Program, Fifth Grade Living History Museum, or BRMS Career Day. In addition, each of our principals holds regular Principal Roundtable Meetings. Our Directors hold regular parent meetings such as the CANDO meetings in our student services department. The Board of Education meets monthly in open public meetings that are posted on the district web site. We also have a number of important opportunities throughout the year for parents to come and share their feedback and to learn more about what is going on district-wide such as our Strategic Planning meetings, Security meetings, Curriculum Parent Evenings and PARCC Presentations. All meeting dates, times and locations can be found on the district calendar posted on our website.

## **What's NEW this year in CHESTER Communications?**

- CHESTER CHAT – An ongoing video series that will take place twice monthly with updates from the Board of Education and from various departments and schools. Video segments will be posted and archived on the district website and disseminated through social media.
- CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT APP – Increased presence and information available via the app with widespread promotion of its ease of use and portable access to important information.
- SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS – Daily texts/emails may be disseminated to parents with a link to the Bragg School and Black River Middle School daily announcements.
- ELECTRONIC BACKPACK – Each Friday, parents may be texted and/or emailed a link and a reminder to look at the information available in the district's electronic backpack.
- SOCIAL MEDIA – An increased presence and use of social media, including Twitter and Facebook by all Chester School District personnel.
- COMMUNICATION CONFIRMATION – All district families have been contacted via phone if they have not supplied the district with an email address for communication to help ensure that everyone is receiving all of our electronic communications.