1-2-3 Magic at Ilchester Elementary School

**PERSISTENT, RESPECTFUL, READY, RESPONSIBLE (PRRR)**

 September 8, 2017

Dear Parents and Families.

 Welcome back to school! We hope you enjoyed your summer! This letter is to inform you about a behavior management program, **1-2-3 Magic** that will be used schoolwide this year.

Our **Positive Behavioral and Support Team (PBIS)** reviewed the program last year and gave positive feedback about the program. We also received guidance and support from other schools using the program and it comes highly recommended in the Howard County Public School System.

 The program, **1-2-3 Magic** was created by Thomas Phelan Ph.D. and experienced teacher Sarah Jane Schonou. The program revolves around two types of behaviors, “start” behaviors and “stop” behaviors. The “start” behaviors describe behaviors teachers/staff would like a student to “start”, such as cleaning up their area, completing work, remaining on task and behaviors that follow our “PRRR” (Persistent, Respectful, Ready and Responsible) behaviors. The “stop” behaviors include actions we want the child to discontinue. Some of these behaviors may include arguing, whining, talking excessively or being disrespectful during class instruction time.

 To address “start” behaviors, we will continue to use other positive rewards and strategies that have been implemented in the past. For example, verbal praise, positive reinforcement, table points, compliment jar, positive behavioral celebrations, etc.

 A new component this year to reinforce “start” behaviors is the addition of “**Cheetah Bucks**”. Students can earn Cheetah Bucks when they are seen demonstrating appropriate behavior. They can earn a Cheetah Buck from any staff member throughout the building at anytime! Students may trade in their bucks for a reward from a class/team menu or students can put bucks into a container for monthly drawings for a bigger prize from the Cheetah Prize Cart.

 To address “stop” behaviors, teachers will use the “counting” method 1-2-3 Magic. The key to this method is the “no-talking, no-emotion” rule. If a child displays a “stop” behavior, the teacher will begin to count starting at 1, pausing and giving the child time to adjust his or her behavior, before the teacher says the next number. If the teacher counts to 3, the child then takes a brief “Take 5” in a designated area in the classroom. During the countdown, there is no discussion or conversation between the student and teacher. This eliminates power struggles and disruption to the instructional time and learning.

 While the student is “Taking 5” he or she is completing a Stop and Think Reflection. The referring teacher will complete the Stop section and your child will complete the Think section. The reflection form will be sent home for signature and should be returned to school. The form will be kept by the teacher and a copy will be give to the guidance counselor. If your child has to be sent to “Take 5” two or more times by the same teacher on a given day, a Minor Incident Report will be completed and sent home for you to sign and return to school. This form will be submitted to administration. If your child requires more intense redirection or support an Office Referral will be completed, sent home for signature and administration will contact the parent.

 For more information, there are many websites that explain 1-2-3 Magic as well as

books if you are looking. Also, there is a parent version that you may want to try at home

with your child.

 Please take time to talk about positive behaviors with your child daily. Conversation and/or question starters:

* Tell me something good that happened at school today.
* Tell me something that you wished had been different.
* Did you earn a Cheetah Buck today? What was it for?

 It is important that your child feels comfortable talking to you about situations that may occur during the school day. We encourage parents to tie home-based rewards and/ or privileges to school behavior, if appropriate.

 Thank you for your support at home with this new school-wide initiative. We are looking forward to a successful year! Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions.



Sincerely,

PBIS Team