

Principal newsletter April 23, 2021

Dear Brooke Grove Families,

What a wild weather week! This time of year is always tricky with day-to-day temperature variations. At this time, there will not be any more heat in the building as MCPS transfers systems over from heating to cooling, so please watch the weather and dress your child in layers for in-person school.

Our planning for next year has begun. We appreciate your assistance by letting us know what your plans are for next year. Please complete the [enrollment survey](#) to let us know if you are returning, transferring, or moving out of the area.

We are also planning for a Local Summer School program at Brooke Grove for July 6-July 30. The tentative hours are 8:45-1:15. Students will have 90 minutes of math instruction, 90 minutes of reading instruction and 60 minute of electives. Students will be served lunch at school. Please complete this [survey](#) only if you would be interested in your child attending the summer program. Thank you!

Our wonderful BGES Reading Specialist, Mrs. Monica McPherson will be on maternity leave starting Monday 4/26. We wish her all the best with her new baby! We have hired Mrs. Diana Hamilton, a retired reading specialist, to take over working with Mrs. McPherson's student groups. If your child works with Mrs. McPherson, please know that Mrs. Hamilton will take over on Monday. Please reach out to me with any compliments, questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support and collaboration with our COVID-19 Pool Testing. So far, all of our tests have been negative. If we do get a positive test, I will be sure to reach out immediately. We will continue with our pool testing each week on Tuesday. Last week we skipped some classes because there were not enough students from the class with consent. The power of pool testing is in the numbers! Each week we have had more parents consent, so thank you! If you would like to provide consent for your student to be tested, please complete this [online](#) form. You do not need to complete the form more than once. Also, a huge thank you to all families for your continued support for our safety in-person by helping your child to have a mask each day and reiterating the importance of masking and social distancing. If your child forgets a mask, we have extra youth masks available at each entrance. Also, let us know if you need an extra mask and we are glad to provide one for your child!

Picture Day! Our school picture vendor, Classic Photography, has instituted safety measures in order to have school pictures for this year. We are excited to be able to provide this, as last year we had our picture day before school shut down for the year. Now we will be able to capture our students' photos for this year, too! Classic Photography will be in person to take photos on May 11 and 18. Teachers will sign-up for a timeslot for students to have their photos taken during the school day. Your teacher will communicate the date/time for pictures for your class. Virtual school students - we also have an option for you! Parents sign up for "Picture day May 19 11:45am-4:00pm." Please click on [this link](#) to view the online sign up sheet. Please enter at the side gym entrance. Everyone should wear a mask and social distance. Please be on time for your appointment. Thank you. For all parents, please see the Classic Photography flyer explaining their safety precautions attached to this email.

Please see below the Board of Education statement on the conviction of Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. If you or your child needs resources or support discussing and processing the events, our

staff stands ready to help. Please feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher, or email me directly ([jolynn\\_e\\_tarwater@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jolynn_e_tarwater@mcpsmd.org)) if there is anything you need from us.

**BOE STATEMENT:**

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of George Floyd. This has been a difficult and painful year. The pain from fighting a deadly virus has been exacerbated and heightened by the all too frequent public killings of African Americans by law enforcement officers. This pain has focused our nation on the longstanding historical injustices that have plagued our nation since its founding. We have struggled to come together as one united community. While the verdict brings this trial to a close, the conversation about structural racism and inequity must continue in our homes, communities and schools. MCPS has provided staff with resources to support our students with this conversation. It is with hope that we can now begin to heal. We will take the lessons from this experience and work together to build a better and more equitable world.

Thank you all for making in-person and virtual school a success. Our students are working hard and thriving in their various school settings. It takes a community effort as we work to engage, achieve, and thrive. I hope you have a peaceful and relaxing weekend!

Be well,

Jolynn Tarwater, Principal

Brooke Grove Elementary

**Attachments:**

 [messages/attachments/daf527e3fc6ca4851741afbf2cc1737b/2021\\_Picture\\_Day\\_Process.pdf](messages/attachments/daf527e3fc6ca4851741afbf2cc1737b/2021_Picture_Day_Process.pdf) (994.6 KB)