

August, 2019

Dear Families,

Believe it or not, I am writing you about the beginning of another school year. August has arrived, and, before we know it, the bells at Cold Spring will be ringing again. The summer is such a fantastic part of the year. Schedules are usually more flexible, the children are busy doing a variety of activities, perhaps there is more time for visiting with family and friends, and, the best part of course, no homework! So, if you are reading this with a wee bit of sadness, it means that your summer has been a good one.

Summer is a very busy time for us. Our building service team gives every space a thorough cleaning, so classroom furniture is stacked in the hallways everywhere. Supplies for the new school year are arriving, so we are busy unpacking and delivering things to classrooms.

I encourage you to visit our school website and review all the parent information about the opening of school. You'll find updates on enrollment projections, staffing changes, arrival and dismissal procedures, school lunches, supply lists, bus routes (when they are available), in addition to many other items of interest. We did discover an error in the supply lists that are published on our website. Fourth grade students are asked to purchase 13 composition books. I am not sure how we missed that, but please reduce that to 5. It makes no difference, really, if they are soft or hard covered. I apologize for that mistake and want to thank Ms. Zweig for bringing it to our attention. School start and stop times will remain the same as last year, 9:00 - 3:25, and the first day of school will be Tuesday, September 3rd. Should you have any questions, please contact the office at (301) 279-8480.

Children will receive postcards from their new teachers the week before school starts (August 26-August 30). On Wednesday evening of that week (August 28, 7:00 p.m.), Kindergarten parents will meet with the Kindergarten teachers for their Back to School Night. At the same time, we invite all parents of fourth grade Enriched Studies Program students to an informational meeting geared to answer any questions about your children's transition to Cold Spring. Please double check this date because these meetings were originally scheduled for Thursday evening. Both of these meetings are designed for parents only. Students and families have the opportunity to visit the school and meet their new teachers at Sneak Peek on Thursday afternoon, August 29 between 2:00-3:00, with popsicles on the blacktop at 3:00 (weather permitting). School will begin on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019. This will be a regular, full-day session, and buses will follow their scheduled routes.

There are two dates in September that you will want to put on your calendar now. Our PTA Back to School Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This is a great time to meet new families and have some fun celebrating the beginning of school. You can make this a cook-free dinner night because food will be available for purchase during the picnic. Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. The

evening will begin with a general parent meeting followed by classroom presentations. Your teachers will be providing more details after school begins.

Our theme for the school year will continue to be *All About Heroes*. This theme coordinates with our school vision – *Inspiring Learning for a Lifetime*, and we will be heroes in training. We are focusing on each student showing growth as a learner across all measures. We want students to receive “good” grades, but we also want them to demonstrate growth on MCPS district measures and external measures (state testing). Throughout the year, we will be using different assessment results to evaluate progress and inform next steps in instruction. We also will continue work to encourage kindness, inclusiveness, and moral courage, while cultivating positive social/emotional well-being.

MCPS continues to provide elementary school parents access to attendance, mid and end of quarter grades, and test results through myMCPS Parent Portal. Cold Spring staff will be using this portal to share important information with families including classroom events, field trips, and special programs. Please contact the school if you have trouble with your ID and Password so we can help get the issue resolved.

I encourage all of you to take an active role in the school and to communicate regularly with the staff at Cold Spring. One major way to stay informed and actively participate is through your membership in the PTA. Our PTA is a major positive force in our school and we want everyone to be a part of the great things that happen at Cold Spring. Information about PTA membership is enclosed. Let’s work together because a strong home/school partnership is a key ingredient to student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Reece". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sandra S. Reece  
Principal