

This is the first official connect- ed message of the 2020-2021 school year!

We can all agree that this will be a year to remember. It will challenge parents and teachers and most importantly our students. They need our positivity and patience and are looking to us as models as we start this school year.

This week teachers return to work to prepare their new virtual classrooms and engage in learning and training for the fall. This past spring our school system responded to the emergency and it was not ideal but there were valuable lessons that we are using to develop a more robust and quality experience for the fall.

While it is definitely bittersweet to not have the opportunity to post class lists on the doors or take a peek in the creative classroom themes; teachers are planning special and new ways to connect with students. We will be holding a virtual open house on Friday at 2:30. These will be hosted by the grade level teams and our specialists. I will share all of the zoom links in a communication later this week. This is being done by grade levels because we want to reinforce clear, consistent messages across the grades to better assist families as they work to support their children. Also our Back to School Night is very soon this year. It is on September 9th and this will allow for teachers to hold individual class meetings. You can visit multiple grades during the open house and all of the information shared will be placed online for future reference.

You will need to use your child's account to log into the zoom meeting. MCPS has a separate site licence and all non MCPS emails are blocked from joining MCPS zoom meetings. This will be a practice for those who are new and will help prepare for the first day of school on August 31st. In the event that you have some difficulties we will host a Google meet link. Google is unrestricted and it is not used by students for classes but we know some might find it easier to log in and get help. Our plan is that help is provided and then you are able to join the zoom class.

This week we will also be distributing instructional materials on Thursday 9-12 and then again 2-4 and on Friday 9-12. It is likely we will hold an additional pick up day but you can have a friend or neighbor also pick up your child's material. Class information and specific school schedule will be released after the board meeting on August 25th.

Finally please be sure to attend the presentation, Managing Distance Learning, with our counselor, Mrs. Wert and Dr. Bienstock on Monday at 4. Full details were included in the previous message and it is posted online under connect-ed messages.

Please join via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/uzx-puaz-mgb>
Join by phone
(US) +1 669-220-6124 PIN: 464 691 554#

Please be patient with us and yourself. We are all stronger together.

Principal Ross and Principal Intern Mrs. Hambrecht

