

Good Afternoon Kensington Parkwood Families,

This is definitely a summer to remember. I know the updates and changes have presented our families with a number of challenges. We must remember that our community includes the families of our staff as well as the families of our students. We are all experiencing a range of emotions from loss of various kinds from traditional summer experiences, family trips, jobs or even good health and fatigue as well as frustration. However you might feel about the decision of the school system, Kensington Parkwood is committed to ensuring that our children receive a quality, robust and engaging learning experience. Our teachers were on board in the spring with no preparation and are incredibly fast learners and some have worked in the summer to add to their repertoire. Our core team has met weekly to discuss and develop professional development supports and our full leadership team has been meeting twice a month as well to be sure all staff is included in the development of schedules and other pertinent content. A virtual master schedule is in development and will be shared soon. We recognize that a full day of online learning is not realistic, healthy or age appropriate but it will include more content than in the spring. I ask for your continued patience as we develop this content.

As you prepare for the new year and continue virtual learning I know that some families are looking at alternative and creative solutions to ensure they are able to balance working from home and live zoom classes. I have included a Google form in order to gather as much information as possible. We are a school of over 650 students but we want to be responsive to needs during this challenging time. Please know that we are all trying to do our best for our most vulnerable children. There is a deadline so your prompt attention is appreciated. This form is not required for everyone but an optional way for us to gather information.

<https://forms.gle/hAsyFgopukJJEv9X6>

Finally, homeroom classes from last year will remain intact for the upcoming year except in some cases when parents, teachers or other data have communicated a need for a change. Our concern is ensuring that

students have a strong social network and by keeping homerooms together this allows students to come together in the fall with “old friends.” The social emotional impact of this experience is something that we recognize has to be addressed and this is one effort. This allows for easier teacher to teacher articulation which is important as well. There will be additional experiences for students to ensure they are adjusting throughout the daily schedule.

As you have questions, many have reached out through email to myself and Mrs. Hambrecht and that is encouraged. We typically respond promptly with whatever information we have at the time. Some parents have asked about the plan for BAR-T and I have spoken to Joe Richardson the CEO of Bar-T. He will be communicating their plans separately. Bar-T is a great partner in our building but they are a completely separate entity that must follow a different set of guidelines as provided by MCPS.

This message is being sent through Connect-Ed but also it will be posted in a new section on our webpage.

Stay Safe and Be Well,

Principal Ross and Principal Intern Mrs. Hambrecht