

Hello,

Our summer program has ended and Mrs. Hambrecht and I have received a great deal of positive feedback and our teachers are very appreciative of the notes, cards, and emails. Our students benefited from extended learning opportunities and our teachers were able to increase and explore additional tech tools to prepare for the fall. I know we would have all liked to have in person experience but we are all managing to make adjustments.

As we look forward ahead to the fall we are making upgrades and adding new content to our website. We will be posting a save the date for a virtual kindergarten welcome, open house for our grades 1-5, as well as additional content to help parents learn more about Benchmark our new literacy curriculum, Synergy our new student information management system, Social and emotional resources, and tech tips. I recognize the information can be overwhelming and our hope is that with everything located in a clear place on the website this will help ease some frustration.

I have received many emails regarding the upcoming daily schedule and it is in development. MCPS Board of Education will be meeting on August 6th to finalize details that will allow us to move forward as well. There are many factors involved and some of the work is not in our schools direct control but please be assured that we will share it as soon as we can. In addition to the schedule, the teacher assignments will be released at the same time.

As we talk about classes, I do want to clarify that the request for information related to any families partnering to support student learning is not a change from the homerooms moving together. This summer as a community we have been dealing with questions of equity and institutional and systemic structures that negatively impact communities of color. Now faced with virtual learning continuing into the fall many are faced with decisions that can further exacerbate educational divide or build community. The majority of the feedback I have received is in support of the homerooms moving forward. I understand partnering with classmates to provide some socialization and support. As we plan for the fall we have heard clearly the need for our class information to be consistent across a grade. I know our kindergarten families do not have that benefit of the established class groups but we will address this and facilitate collaborative communication within the classes. Kensington Parkwood is a community school within the larger system of MCPS. Our schedule for the fall will be more detailed and include longer live sessions than in the spring and this is to meet the needs of the currently enrolled 670 students and 70 staff members, some who work between multiple schools.

As a community our schools need your continued support. With community support we have been able to provide technology to all families who need resources. Chromebook distribution is ongoing everyday from 10-12 at 45 West Gude Drive in Rockville Md. We have been able to feed families even into the summer and summer school for the first time ever was free and open to all. Specific literacy and math content was provided in addition to enrichment classes. When families were in need we worked with neighbors and support at NBMS and WJ to access

resources. These efforts will align with our commitment to ensuring there is continued focus on equity and rigor. I again appreciate your patience.

Sincerely,

KPES Principal Ross