

**William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School**

**12615 Royal Crown Drive**

**Germantown, MD 20876**

**240-740-0740**

**August 2020**

Dear Parents,

**Welcome!**

Welcome to school year 2020-2021! We are pleased to have you join us, beginning our Virtual School Year! Our plan is to provide each of our students with a quality virtual education, and our staff is working diligently to plan and prepare for our online school days! We are awaiting the decision of the Montgomery County Board of Education on August 25, 2020, to approve the MCPS Virtual Learning Plan. If it is approved, we will be able to share more of our plan with you!

I am Kim Bosnic, the Principal, and I have served our Gibbs community now the past 11 years, since the school first opened. We have a wonderful school community here, and we are proud of the educational program we have built and continue to maintain. Our staff is phenomenal! In my 25+ years of education, I have not worked with a more dedicated, skilled, and passionate staff as the Gibbs staff. We are here to serve our students, and what is best for students is our top priority!

I have communicated out to you via MCPS Connect messages that our technology and materials of instruction distribution dates are August 20<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup>. Each student will receive a Lenovo 300e device, and math and reading materials to use at home. This distribution will be for Kindergarten through Fifth Grades. Our preschool-age and prekindergarten students will receive their devices and instructional materials at a later date. The Lenovo 300e device will be assigned to your child and he or she will be responsible for the device when instruction resumes in the school building as well, bringing the device to school and back home daily, as needed. We know you will take good care of the device so it lasts a long time.

**Daily Schedules!**

After the Board of Education decides on the MCPS Virtual Learning Plan, our classroom teachers will be able to contact you and provide you with the daily/weekly schedule for your child. We will have live virtual math, reading, science, and social studies instruction. Each child will have a live virtual art, music, and physical education class weekly. Students will also receive guidance lessons from our school counselor, Mr. McCord, and media lessons and story read alouds from our media specialist, Ms. Su. Students in fourth and fifth grades will be able to have virtual instrumental music lessons with our instrumental music teacher, Mr. Kirchhoff. You will receive your child's schedule from the teacher before the first day of school, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Who Is My Child's Teacher?

Our homeroom class lists will be finalized the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, and I will send out an email message to parents, sharing out the homeroom teacher assignment that week. Students in grades Preschool through Third remain with the homeroom teacher for all academic content area. Students in grades Four and Five may have a different teacher for the math content. In those two grades, you will receive a separate email with Zoom link information for the math class. All teachers will send a message to you before Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, with information regarding a Meet and Greet Zoom Link and time for that day. We hope that all of our students are able to virtually meet their homeroom teachers on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be a good time to check in, meet the teacher, and ensure that you have strong connectivity to start school on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Preschool and prekindergarten age students begin school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, so stay tuned to receive messages from the teachers of our youngest learners.

### School Supplies!

At this time, we are awaiting final approval on our official virtual school supply list. As soon as it is approved, we will send it to you via email and post it to our school website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/gibbses/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/gibbses/)

What I can share with you is a suggested list (not required) of additional items to support art classes and music. Please see below:

Art Suggested Items	Music Suggested Items
Pencil/eraser/sharpener	Small white dry erase board with Expo Marker
Heavy-weight white sketch pad (for painting on as well, so thicker is good)	Scratch paper
Assorted color construction paper	Staff paper for grades 3-5 (many online free resources)
Unlined sketch paper or sketchbook	headphones
Black Sharpie or permanent marker	
Scissors	
Glue in bottle or stick	
Watercolors and brush set	
Colored pencils	
Crayons	
Markers	
Oil Pastels (can substitute crayons)	

### Volunteering?

At this time, MCPS thinks it best to wait on utilizing our volunteer program during the online learning. We LOVE our volunteers and we miss you! Hopefully, at some point this school year, we can welcome our parent volunteers back with open arms!

### ***Back To School Nights!***

Our Back To School Night for Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades is currently scheduled for Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Back To School Night for Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades is currently scheduled for Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The preschool and prekindergarten Back To School Nights have not yet been determined. Each of these events will most likely be a video welcome from me and Mr. Jonathan Kieffer, our Assistant Principal. There may also be a brief welcome from our wonderful PTA Board; our PTA President is Pushpa Gangi. Then, there will be a live session with your child's homeroom teacher. Our Back To School Nights are still in the planning stages, and I want to make sure you mark the dates on your calendars. More information will be shared as we finalize our plans.

### **Welcome to our New Staff to Gibbs!**

We want to take this opportunity to welcome our staff that are new to Gibbs this school year! We welcome.....

Patricia Kennedy, Part-Time Art Teacher

Julia Donato, Part-Time Music Teacher

Patrick Dudash, Part-Time PE Teacher

Melissa Scotto-Chang, PEP Classic Teacher

Kayla Dunn, PEP Speech Language Therapist

Elizabeth Dix, Health Room Technician

Ling Zhang, Building Service Assistant Manager

### **Communication!**

We will do our very best to communicate with you throughout the school year. Our school policy is that your email or phone call will be returned within 24 hours of you reaching out to us. You will receive an email from your child's homeroom teacher with an update on events in the classroom and the skills being taught every two weeks, usually in the beginning of the month and then again mid-month. You will receive a monthly newsletter from me at the beginning of each month. I also will send you an MCPS Connect email and phone call each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. with weekly updates. You will receive messages from our Assistant Principal, Mr. Kieffer as well, as needed. Should you have a question or concern, don't hesitate to reach out to our staff members. We are here to answer your questions.

### **And Finally.....**

This has been an unprecedented year, historically, in so many ways. Our priority is to maintain the safety and health of our school community members. We know that your priority is the same for your family. We know that there will be challenges living in a virtual school world, and we are here to help. This is a new learning for our students, parents, and staff. It is important that we extend grace to one another as we begin this school year together, and there will be many updates along the way. Stay tuned in to emails and phone calls, and contact me ([Kimberly\\_b\\_bosnic@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_b_bosnic@mcpsmd.org)) and Mr. Kieffer ([jonathan\\_kieffer@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jonathan_kieffer@mcpsmd.org)) with any questions you may have. **Go Gators!**

Sincerely,

*Kim Bosnic, Principal*

