# The Principal's Newsletter-January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Winter Break! We are back to work with energy and enthusiasm to conclude the first semester of school on January 26, 2023, and then begin our second semester.  Quarterly conferences are held typically just for the first quarter; subsequent quarterly progress reports are available to view on Parent Vue Synergy each quarter thereafter. Of course, if you would like a conference at any time with your child's teacher(s), please contact the teacher(s) to schedule one.

We have some exciting events to start the new year! Our 4th and 5th grade chorus will present a concert on January 16th, at 7:00 p.m.  The concert will be in the Gibbs Cafeteria. On Friday, January 19th, our Gibbs PTA Around the World Night will start at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to celebrating our students' cultures and the diversity at Gibbs!

January is a big testing month in MCPS! We begin our Winter MAP Testing (Measures of Academic Progress) in January. These are individually-administered math and reading tests on the chromebook devices in class. Classroom teachers will share out with parents the dates and times that each class will be taking the test. These tests are administered in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, with the exception of the reading MAP test in grades kindergarten through second. The younger grades will experience a reading test called "Dibels."  This test is also individually administered by the teachers. Our ELD teachers (English Language Learners) will also administer WIDA testing (World Class Instructional Design and Assessment) to our multi-lingual students during the month of January.  If possible, please schedule routine appointments for outside of the school day.

To provide clarity around student absences, both excused and unexcused, please read the following information. According to MCPS policy, when students are absent for vacations, family celebrations, etc., these are considered unexcused absences. Excused absences for students are usually related to medical issues, bereavement for immediate family members, etc. In regard to unexcused absences, students are not provided classwork or homework ahead of time, prior to their departure. Students are given ample time upon their return to the class to complete any missed work. Also, when students have unexcused absences for 10 consecutive school days, they are automatically withdrawn from school, and need to be re-enrolled upon return.

Students are not guaranteed the same homeroom assignment upon their return if they have been withdrawn from school.  Please keep this in mind as you plan family trips.

Also, please send any doctor's notes or illness notes from parents to our school secretary, Ms. Prisaznick, at Debora_E_Prisaznick@mcpsmd.org so that we can mark your child's absence as excused.

If you have any questions, please contact us.  Please note the important dates below. Have a joyous January!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal                              Patricia Grande, Asst. Principal

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## *January Important Dates!*

**1/1/24:  New Year's Day Holiday! No School for Students and Staff**

**1/2/24:  No School for Students and Staff**

**1/3/24:  School Resumes**

**1/8/24:  Grade 5 MAP-R testing, 2:00-3:30pm**

**1/9/24:  Grade 3 MAP-M testing, 9:45-11:20am**

**1/11/24:  Grade 3 MAP-R testing, 9:45-11:20; Grade 1 MAP-P testing, 1:00-3:00pm; Grade 5 MAP-M testing, 9:30-11:30am**

**1/15/24:  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday! No School for Students and Staff**

**1/16/24:  Grade 4 MAP-M, 2:00-3:15pm; Gibbs Winter Chorus Concert, 7:00pm**

**1/18/24:  Flyer Distribution Date; Kindergarten MAP-P, 9:30-11:30am; Grade 4 MAP-R, 10:30am-12:30pm**

**1/19/24:  Kindergarten MAP-P, 9:30-11:30am; PTA Around the World Night, 6:00-8:00pm**

**1/22/24:  Classic Photography Yearbook Group Pictures and Candid Pictures**

**1/26/24-1/31/24:  Hearing and Vision Screening**

**1/26/24:  End of Marking Period 21/29/24:  Staff Professional Day; No School for Students**

**1/29/24:  Professional Day for Staff; No School for Students**