

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents,

We are now halfway through the first quarter of the school year, and we have settled into our routines and procedures for our virtual school. There is a lot of teaching and learning going on! When we (Mr. Kieffer and Mrs. Bosnic) visit classrooms via Zoom, we see children very engaged in their learning, through small group break out rooms, and whole group instruction. Our teachers also use a variety of equitable practices to ensure that each child has multiple opportunities to participate. Our co-hosts do their best to call on students equitably and many use “calling sticks” to call on students to fully engage as many students as possible during our live sessions. The expectation continues to be for students to have their cameras turned on in order to fully participate.

As we implement our new curriculum in math and reading, with Eureka Math and Benchmark Advance, respectively, we also are providing quality instruction through our Art, Music, and Physical Education Classes. Each student receives instruction in these three areas weekly. Additionally, Mr. McCord, our School Counselor, is visiting each class every few weeks to provide guidance lessons, and promote social emotional learning. Our Media Specialist, Ms. Su, is providing Media Read-Alouds and informative lessons to each class every two weeks. Mr. Kirchhoff, our Instrumental Music Teacher, is providing virtual instrumental music lessons to our fourth and fifth grade students that have signed up. Our ESOL and Special Education Teachers are providing ongoing instruction and support to our students on a daily basis.

We have almost completed our MAP testing at grade levels Kindergarten through Fifth. The MAP testing is MCPS district testing that assesses students in reading and math, three times per year. Please see the various MAP tests below:

MAP-P: Assesses math performance in grades Kindergarten-Second

MAP-RF: Assesses reading performance in grades Kindergarten-Second

MAP-M: Assesses math performance in grades Three-Five

MAP-R: Assesses reading performance in grades Three-Five

Parents will receive their child's assessment performance information, with explanation, hopefully by the end of October 2020. We are awaiting MCPS guidance on best to get this information to you. Thank you for your patience.

If your child needs a chromebook or Wifi hotspot, the most recent information is that families must go to 45 W. Gude Drive in Rockville to do so. We don't have these devices at the school. We only have a small supply of chromebooks for students that are newly registering at Gibbs ES.

Please note the important dates below.

Thank you so much for all of your support and have a great month!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal
Principal

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Jonathan Kieffer, Asst.

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Important October Dates!

2nd: Early Dismissal at 1pm. PEP students do not have school.

PreKindergarten students have morning session from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and the afternoon session from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

22nd: No School for PEP and PreKindergarten Students due to teacher training

