



August 24, 2020

Dear Wootton Families,

I certainly hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and enjoying the remaining days of summer. As you can probably imagine, this summer has offered a great deal of challenge and opportunity as we prepare for Wootton's virtual learning plan. The school's leadership team has worked collaboratively this summer to reflect on lessons learned from the spring and summer and to plan for our students' virtual return to school. We have analyzed our data from last year, reflected on what worked well, and identified the areas of growth for our school community. Our commitment to provide our students an engaging and robust experience has us excited to start the school year. On behalf of the staff and faculty, I am excited to welcome all of our students and families back for the 2020-2021 school year!

Wootton's administrative team is one of the best and works collaboratively with staff, students and families. As many of you are aware, we have had quite a change this summer in our administrative team. While it has been difficult to say goodbye to Ms. Lightsey and Dr. Awkard, I am so fortunate to welcome our new administrative team: Mr. Brad Rohner will serve as the 9th grade administrator; Mr. Nick Hitchens will serve as the 10th grade administrator; Mr. Joe Mamana will serve as the 11th grade administrator; and Ms. Christy Rice will serve as the 12th grade administrator while Ms. Cocker is on medical leave (she is set to return in late September). I am appreciative of their leadership and the excellent work they do on behalf of our entire school community.

Part of what makes Wootton such a great place for our students is the active, engaged parents who provide support to our school. I am so pleased to work in partnership with our PTSA and am very excited that Mr. Brian Rabin will continue to serve as Wootton's PTSA president for the school year. We rely on your talents, your time, and your financial support, as part of the fabric that makes Wootton successful. We have a very active PTSA, Boosters Club, and Patrons of the Arts. And once again this year I am making a special appeal for all of our parents to **JOIN** the PTSA and volunteer your time and talents at Wootton. Please follow this link to join the PTSA for the 2020-2021 school year:

<https://www.woottonptsa.org/membership>

The first day of school for students is **Monday, August 31, 2020**. As many of you know, all schools in MCPS will follow a virtual bell schedule approved by the Board of Education. This schedule will be shared with families after the Board of Education meeting on August

25, 2020. Please know that Wootton's distance learning schedule will be communicated out to families after the board has approved the schedule.

Earlier this summer, Wootton mailed draft schedules to ensure that the course selections that were made last year are accurate for the start of this school year. Counselors have been working diligently to finalize schedules for the first day of school. MCPS will send all parents/guardians a myMCPS Parent Portal activation letter in the mail. Families of students who enroll in MCPS after this initial mailing will receive an activation letter within one week of the student's enrollment date. **MCPS has shared that students will be able to see their final course schedules on Synergy (student information management system) by August 26, 2020.**

Here is what's happening at Wootton:

**Chromebook Distribution and Materials Collection:** Wootton will be distributing Chromebooks and collecting instructional materials from last school year starting tomorrow, **Monday, August 24th through Friday, August 28th.**

***An important clarification regarding Chromebooks: If you can provide your student with their own device (laptop, etc.), you are not required to pick up a chromebook this week!***

Chromebooks are available for every student who will need them; however, you are not required to pick one up if your child has a designated personal device that can be used.

If your child will be a rising 10th-12th grader and they borrowed instructional materials last year, please return all materials to Wootton during this week. You are asked to return materials to the lower parking lot. Please see Wootton's website for more information regarding the schedule and protocol for Chromebook distribution and materials collection.

We will be distributing materials for the 2020-21 school year during the week of **September 14th!** More information to follow soon!

**9th Grade & New Student Orientation:** We are very excited to welcome Wootton's Class of 2024 and all of our new students to Wootton! We will have our annual 9th grade orientation and new student orientation on **Thursday, August 27th from 9:00am - 11:00am.** Please note that the orientation will be held virtually, and all 9th graders and new 10th-12th graders are encouraged to attend! You will find all of the information you need on our website. The event will be live and will also be recorded for those families who are unable to make the live orientation.

**Virtual Back-to-School-Night:** We have a very talented, dynamic group of educators and support personnel returning and/or joining the Wootton team this year! Please look forward to meeting our fabulous staff at our **virtual Back-To-School Night on Thursday,**

**September 3rd!** This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and to learn about our instructional program. More information will be forthcoming regarding our BTSN!

**Senior Portraits:** Please note that all seniors will have an opportunity to take their senior portraits in late September/early October! We will provide more information regarding scheduling senior portraits in the coming weeks.

As we set to launch the school year, we know how important it is to remain connected. We will begin more frequent communications home using connect-ed, through the PTSA, on our website, and other available outlets. Please click on the [2020-2021 Parent Communication Guide](#) to view all the ways to keep in touch!

I thank you in advance for your continued support of Wootton High School. We look forward to welcoming our families back to school and we look forward to partnering with you for a very successful 2020-21 school year.

All the best,

Kimberly M. Boldon

Principal

Thomas S. Wootton High School