Good Evening Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School Families,

We had a great first week of school.  We hope your child shared with you all about their new teachers, new friends, and what they look forward to doing the most this school year. Information in our message this week includes – King’s Upcoming Events, First Week Update, Student Dismissal, Individual and Class Quarantine, Student Attendance, Fall Sports, and Falcon Vision Tutoring. Have a good evening and weekend.

Respectfully,

Mr. Wynne

**King’s Upcoming Events**:

* Monday, September 6 (Labor Day) -No school for students and teachers.
* Tuesday, September 7th -No school day for students and teachers.
* Tuesday, September 14 – Virtual Back to School Night at 7:00 p.m.
* Thursday, September 16 – No School for students and teachers

**First Week Update-**Students have done an amazing job wearing face coverings while in the school and on school buses. When masks have snapped or broken, replacements have been provided to students in the main office. We have been maximizing available spaces inside and outside of our building during lunch that has reduced the number of students in the cafeteria. We have tables outside of our cafeteria and students have enjoyed having lunch outside in our courtyard as well as in our front grass areas with adult supervision.

**Student Dismissal**- Thank you for your patience during the dismissal of our students.  Please pay attention to our students who are using the crosswalk on Wisteria at the end of the day as it is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety of our students.

**Individual and Class Quarantine-** As we return to school, we continue to rely on our families and each individual to screen themselves daily for symptoms.  To help us avoid quarantine, we are asking that you please continue to screen your children at home and if they have even one symptom of COVID-19, or are awaiting COVID test results, please do not send them to school.

This is particularly important as if your child has any of the following single symptoms they will be sent home and not be able to return to school until they have a negative test, alternate diagnosis, or complete a full 10-day quarantine. During that period of time, all other students who have been in close contact will have to be in a temporary quarantine while the other families wait on the outcome of that testing for your child.  This could be potentially disruptive to your children and families moving in and out of quarantine and to avoid it takes all of us working together.  It is a collective responsibility that we exercise extreme caution and be conservative in our approach.

The single symptoms that the health room staff screen for and will result in quarantine are cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fever ≥100.4°, sore throat, severe headache, diarrhea, or vomiting.  Please do not send your children to school with any of these symptoms.  This is essential for us to continue to remain in school without quarantine.

**Student Attendance-**The school day begins at 8:15 a.m. This is the time that students are marked tardy by their homeroom teachers. Please be sure that students are arriving on time each morning. If your child needs to be picked up early from school, please send a note that morning requesting an early dismissal.  Your child will receive a pass and will be waiting for you in the office at the time requested.  Parents coming to pick up their child after 2:45 will be required to wait for the 3:00 dismissal bell.

**Fall Sports-**If you are in the 7th or 8th grade and are interested in participating in Panther Athletics, in the fall we are offering girls or boys softball and girls or boys cross country. It is not too late to sign up. Registration packets are available in the main office, outside Mr. Haren’s classroom (Room A208), on the [athletics page of the schools’ website](https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/mlkms/activities/athletics/), and with the coaches of each sport:

            Girls Softball – Ms. Chahalis

            Boys Softball – Mr. Sevilla

            Girls and Boys Cross Country – Ms. Giel

First practices are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 21st right after school.

Go Panthers!!

**FalconVision Tutoring-**A student-run tutoring organization sponsored by Poolesville High School, is in the processing of looking for students that need academic support. As a club, and an international organization, dedicated to helping students succeed academically through direct sessions with our well-qualified tutors through the school year and/or summer. Tutors are always paired with students based on subject preference and unique learning style, so everyone can have the best experience. FalconVision hopes to create a community of learners who can help one another overcome school-based challenges. More information can be found at <http://www.fvtutoring.com/> and their flyer is attached.