

March 26, 2021

Dear Tilden Family,

We made it to Spring Break! I hope that all of you will find some time to go outside, disconnect from electronics, and recharge your batteries. Our first two partial in-person weeks went very well and now we are eagerly awaiting a bigger group of students to return after Spring Break. We have been able to transition 100% of the students who were on the waiting list and we have shared and uploaded the virtual orientation video to our website. We completely understand and respect that every family had to make the best decision for their child. For some, that means staying virtual, and for others, that means coming back for in-person instruction. Neither choice is ideal and I am certain that we are all looking forward to the traditional school day where all the Timberwolves can be in school together, every day of the week.

### **Shout Outs:**

A special shout to our 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Alice Bradley, whose National History Day project has earned her Second Place at the Montgomery County competition. She will be advancing to the state competition. Here is a link to her project: <https://youtu.be/ixGtsafnA6c>. Thank you to Ms. Julie Conrad for supporting Alice along the way.

A very special shout out to Garvey Mortley, also a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, who spent this past year advocating against racism and has been recognized by the New York Times and other media outlets for her work. This past Sunday, Garvey participated in *Peace One Day*, in association with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### **Calendar**

- Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Holiday
- Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: Virtual Learning Days
- Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> graders and students in our signature programs return for in-person instruction
- Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>: The end of Marking Period 3
- Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>: First day for BOTH 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders

### **MCSP Community Update:**

- If you have not had the time to do so yet, please take a few minutes look over the MCPS Community Update regarding the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting, MCPS' reopening plan, and what's ahead:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2020-2021/Community-Update-20210324.html>

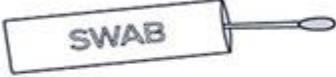
- Critical information from the meeting:
  - Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will return on April 19<sup>th</sup> (we are still following the Blue and Gold week rotations).

- Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> is now a virtual learning day for ALL students. Wednesday, April 7 will remain a virtual day as scheduled.
- COVID-19 pool testing for students and staff participating in in-person learning will begin after spring break.
  - Some of the details were shared in a [recent MCPS community update](#). We must all do our part to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our schools. This includes participating in school-provided COVID-19 testing to identify cases where the student or staff member may not be showing symptoms.
  - Tests will be provided for all students and staff on a weekly basis.
  - Please see simple instructions below and make sure you have opted in by completing and returning the consent form for each of your students.

## Nasal Swab Self-Collection Instructions for Pooling

- 1 Clean Hands**  
First, make sure that your hands are clean (by using soap or hand sanitizer).


- 2 Open Swab**  
Remove the swab from its packaging. Be careful not to touch the tip with your hands.


- 3 Swab Nose**  
Gently insert the entire soft tip of the swab into one nostril until you feel a bit of resistance. Using a circular motion, rub the swab around the inside of your nostril **4 times**. You should use medium pressure to push the swab against the inside of your nostril. The swab tip should be touching the inside of your nose throughout. Repeat the process with your other nostril using the same end of the swab as before.



**x4**

The swab should push against the inside and outside wall of the nostril.



**x4**

Swab **BOTH** nostrils.
- 4 Put Swab in Tube**  
Put the swab into the collection tube indicated by the supervisor. Finally, sanitize your hands thoroughly.



○ Warmest Regards,

Irina LaGrange  
Principal