

John L. Gildner

Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents-RICA

15000 Broschart Road * Rockville, Maryland 20850-3392 * 301-252-6900 * Fax: 301-251-6906



Office of the Principal

August 1, 2016

Dear JLG-RICA Families,

Welcome to the 2016 - 2017 school year at JLG-RICA! I am delighted to welcome you or welcome you back to our wonderful school. The school staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your child this year as we live out our school motto to “**Work Hard, Be Kind, Be Safe and Dream Big**”! We work very hard to provide an engaging and challenging educational program for each and every student. This school year promises to be a great one as we continue to make strides in helping each child reach their full potential. Parents and guardians are our partners in preparing children for the demands of the 21st century, and when we work together, success is sure to follow. This school year high school students will continue to have the opportunity during each lunch period to meet with teachers for academic support, homework help, college and career exploration or ACT/SAT/Accuplacer Prep! We believe this exciting lunch-time program will help students achieve success. This school year, in addition to offering Advanced Placement Environmental Science, we are, for the first time offering Advanced Placement Art History, and instead of Spanish as a high school program completer, we are now offering French. **Students who took Spanish I last year will be enrolled in French I.**

As a school this year we are focusing on helping students build their **Academic Language** skills. Academic Language consists of academic vocabulary and is used in academic discourse. We believe that strengthening these skills will enable our students to participate more successfully in their academic program of studies by allowing them to put ideas together in a wide range of ways. **We want academic language to be a vehicle, rather than a barrier, to learning!**

We are very excited to welcome several new school staff members this year:

- Cathy Burrow.....Speech & Language therapist
- Amy England.....4/5th grade teacher
- Thomas McAuliffe.....HS Social Studies teacher
- Bernard Jankowski.....HS English teacher
- Sean Glynn.....Media Specialist
- Liz Tuttle.....French teacher
- Jackson McCaffrey.....SpEd paraeducator
- Rikki Gritz.....SpEd paraeducator
- Mayya Klich.....SpEd paraeducator
- Blake Godsey.....SpEd paraeducator



Communication is a central component of the home-school partnership, so please look for monthly updates from me at beginning of each month which your child will bring home and is posted on our website on the “**Principal’s Page**”. You can follow me on Twitter [MichelleSchultzeRICA @schultze_e](#) and also see my latest tweets about the school on our homepage. **Edline** is a helpful tool which allows parents and students to monitor grades and keep up-to-date with courses all year long. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a big difference in your child’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We ask that you guide and support your child’s learning by ensuring that your child:

- Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day’s learning experience.
- Completes all homework assigned by teachers.
- Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills.
- Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life.
- Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject.
- Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school to be prepared for college or career.



Students will receive a **Student Planner** on the first day of school, **August 29**, to keep in their binders. They should use their assignment pages daily as an organizational tool to record assignments and plan ahead; hall passes are also included in the Planner. Students will also receive the **RICA Student/Parent Handbook** on August 29, and it is located on our webpage. Please review this with your child so you are familiar with our school policies and procedures. If you have any questions about the school rules and expectations, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

Please plan to join us at **Back-To-School Night on Thursday, September 8, 2016, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** to learn more about our program and meet your child’s teachers. Parents of students in the 5th - 8th grades and students enrolled in Health Education in High School have the opportunity from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. to review and examine materials from the **Family Life and Human Development Program** component of the MCPS Health curriculum, and speak with our Health Instructor about the courses.

In an effort to conserve resources; all the usual “beginning of the year” materials and information can be found on our website at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rica/> Simply click on the links on the homepage under “**Summer Mailing Here!**” or if you prefer, call or come by the school office to receive hard copies of the materials.

Please review the following important dates, activities, and several school policies and procedures with your child:

- School begins – Aug. 29
- Labor Day Holiday - No School – Sept. 5
- Back-To-School Night 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. – Sept. 8
- No School, Professional Day, Teachers Report – Sept. – 12
- No School – Oct. 3
- Early Release All - 1:20 - Sept. 30
- Open House – Oct. 10
- School Pictures – Oct. 13 , Make-ups – Dec. 2; Senior Portraits Nov. 14
- PSAT (10th graders) – Oct. 19
- No School – Oct. 12
- Marking Period 1 ends – Nov. 4



- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – All electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, iPods, MP3 Players, video games, etc.) must be turned off and out of sight during school hours, with the exception of during lunch for high school students. **RICA assumes no responsibility or liability for lost, stolen, or confiscated devices or for the unauthorized use of any such device.**
- **EMERGENCY CARD UPDATE** - It is essential that parents/guardians keep their child’s emergency card updated at all times. **The school must have a home or work number where the parent/guardian can be contacted in the event of an emergency.** Important minutes can be lost calling disconnected or changed numbers. When you change jobs, residence, or your phone number, please call the office or send a note with the new information. Please list *local* friends or relatives for emergency contacts who are usually available if you should not be. For your child’s safety and protection, *only those people listed on the emergency card will be able to pick up your child during school hours* unless the office receives written permission. Please make sure your friend, relative, or neighbor has agreed to this responsibility.
- **IMMUNIZATIONS** - All incoming seventh grade students must receive vaccination against tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal meningitis (MCV4) prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. **Students not in compliance with Maryland vaccination requirements will be excluded from attending school until they provide documentation of the required Tdap and MCV immunizations.** The requirements are in place throughout the state of Maryland. Parents should contact their doctor to make sure their child is properly immunized and submit a copy of the documentation to the child’s school health nurse as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, Aug. 29**, the first day of the 2016-2017 school year.

I look forward to a successful and exciting year and to meeting all our new children and their families. We are looking forward to working with you and to seeing our students on **August 29** and all of our parents and guardians at **Back-to-School Night** on **September 8!**

Best Regards,

Michelle

Michelle Schultze
Principal