

The Principal's Newsletter-January 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Winter Break! We are back to work with energy and enthusiasm to conclude the first semester of school on January 6, 2023, and then begin our second semester. Quarterly conferences are held typically just for the first quarter; subsequent quarterly progress reports are available to view on Parent Vue Synergy each quarter thereafter. Of course, if you would like a conference at any time with your child's teacher(s), please contact the teacher(s) to schedule one.

We have some exciting events to start the new year! Our 4th and 5th grade chorus will present a concert on January 17th, at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be in the Gibbs Cafeteria. On Friday, January 20th, our Gibbs PTA Around the World Night will start at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to celebrating our students' cultures and the diversity at Gibbs!

January is a big testing month in MCPS! We begin our Winter MAP Testing (Measures of Academic Progress) in January. These are individually-administered math and reading tests on the chromebook devices in class. Classroom teachers will share out with parents the dates and times that each class will be taking the test. These tests are administered in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, with the exception of the reading MAP test in grades kindergarten through second. The younger grades will experience a reading test called "Dibels." This test is also individually administered by the teachers. Our ELL teachers (English Language Learners) will also administer WIDA testing (World Class Instructional Design and Assessment) to our English Language Learner students during the month of January. If possible, please schedule routine appointments for outside of the school day.

To provide clarity around student absences, both excused and unexcused, please read the following information. According to MCPS policy, when students are absent for vacations, family celebrations, etc., these are considered unexcused absences. Excused absences for students are usually related to medical issues, bereavement for immediate family members, etc. In regard to unexcused absences, students are not provided classwork or homework ahead of time, prior to their departure. Students are given ample time upon their return to the class to complete any missed work. Also, when students are absent for 15 consecutive school days, they are automatically withdrawn from school, and need to be re-enrolled upon return. Students are not guaranteed the same homeroom assignment upon their return if they have been withdrawn from school. Please keep this in mind as you plan family trips.

Also, please send any doctor's notes or illness notes from parents to our school secretary, Ms. Prisaznick, at Debra_E_Prisaznick@mcpsmd.org so that we can mark your child's absence as excused.

If you have any questions, please contact us. Please note the important dates below. Have a joyous January!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal

Patricia Grande, Asst. Principal

Kimberly_B_Bosnic@mcpsmd.org

Patricia_F_Grande@mcpsmd.org

January Important Dates!

1st: New Year's Day

2nd: Holiday! No school for students and staff!

6th: New Year, New You Fancy Gibbs Spirit Day (ties, tiaras, top hats, and party clothes)

16th: Martin Luther King Day, Jr. Holiday! No school for students and staff!

17th: Fourth and Fifth Grade Winter Choral Concert, 7:00 p.m.

20th: Gibbs Special Spirit Day "Around the World" (dress in traditional clothing from your country or a country you would like to visit); Gibbs PTA Around the World Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

24th: Ident-A-Kid Program during lunchtimes, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (more information to follow)

26th: End of Marking Period 2

27th: Professional Day for Staff; No school for students!

