

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to school year 2022-2023! This is a unique start to our school year and though there will be some challenging times, we are ready to take the adventure with you! We are so happy to have your children in the school building and focus on their academic success, and their social emotional learning!

Our first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6th. We introduce our new board members, approve the budget, and discuss upcoming events. We want to thank our generous PTA for the delicious welcome back staff luncheon that was served on August 24th!

We are in the process of forming our NAACP Committee and we have had a great response to our parents offering to be representatives. When the committee team members are confirmed, we will send out that information. At this time, I don't believe we need more volunteers.

We begin Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15th! The theme for 2022 is Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation. We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. As we plan activities, we will keep you posted.

We love our parent volunteers! In the coming weeks, we will share out information regarding volunteering requirements and opportunities. Stay tuned!

We have a few reminders regarding toys and personal devices. Toys should remain at home. This includes gadgets and trading cards. Toys can be a great distraction to the classroom and can create conflict among students. Thank you!

On May 2, 2022, the Board of Education signed into regulation COG-RA, which is the personal devices policy. Elementary students who bring phones to school must have them turned off and in backpacks, in lockers, throughout the student day. Our lockers do not have locks, so we really prefer that personal cell phones stay at home, unless there is an imminent safety reason why a student would need one when in school. We follow the MCPS Code of Conduct. Students at Gibbs do not need cell phones for instructional reasons. If a cell phone is visible, the student will be asked to put it in their backpack. If it is visible a second time, we will hold on to the phone until the end of the day, contact the parents, and send it home with the student. If it is visible a third time, the parent will be asked to come to school to pick up the phone. If it is visible a fourth time, the student's privilege to have the phone in school may be revoked for a period of time. There are also watches/wristbands that receive and send calls, and some provide alarms, track steps, and buzz, etc. These

can be disruptive and interrupt the teaching and learning during the school day. If these items are disruptive, parents will be contacted and we ask that you leave such items at home.

Please see the important dates below! Thank you so much for all of your support and have a super September!

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal

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Patricia Grande, Assistant

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Important September Dates!

1st: Grade 5 Instrumental Music Demonstration by Mr. Kirchhoff during the school day

5th: Holiday! No School for Students and Staff!

6th: First Day for PEP (Preschool Education Program) and Staggered Opening for Prekindergarten; PTA Meeting In-Person at 6pm in the Media Center (free childcare for school-age children provided by Global Children's Center)

14th: Early Dismissal Day! No PEP Classes! No Afternoon Prekindergarten Class! Morning PreK Class dismisses at 10:50 a.m.; Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Dismissal at 1:20 p.m.!

15th: Hispanic Heritage Month begins this day and ends on October 15th!

20th: Back To School Night for Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grade Parents, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (no childcare provided; please make arrangements); we begin BTSN in the gym.

22nd: Back To School Night for Fourth and Fifth Grade Parents, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (no childcare provided; please make arrangements); we begin BTSN in the gym.

26th: No School for Students and Staff!

30th: Early Dismissal Day! No PEP Classes! No Afternoon Prekindergarten Class! Morning PreK Class dismisses at 10:50 a.m.; Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Dismissal at 1:20 p.m.!

