

# Principal's Update

**October 5, 2020**

Dear MVMPCS Students & Families,

Greetings to all Meerkats, families, and caregivers! I hope this message finds everyone healthy and in good spirits. As we step into October we should begin to see some of the back-to-school fine-tuning take hold. Students are becoming more familiar with Schoology and how to access their learning virtually, and teachers are finding what works for them planning and instruction-wise. They have been so creative and diligent, and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting most of the classrooms the past two weeks. I love seeing how teachers are adapting the Montessori materials and lessons to engage students, challenging them to stretch and grow in their learning, and working with care, humor, and understanding. I also love seeing students interact with teachers and classmates, and participating in the lessons. It's a pleasure to observe.

This week we acknowledge the fond farewell of a beloved community member, Dena Ford. She retired -- quietly and avoiding well-deserved fanfare -- effective October 1. She was devoted to her students and worked alongside Amy Kravetzker for 17-years(!) to co-create a nurturing and caring learning environment. While her retirement most definitely leaves a very large void to fill, we are thrilled that she is able to joyfully embrace the plans she has been looking forward to. We are blessed to have had Dena for as long as we did, and we wish her health and happiness in her future adventures.

We hope you will be able to join us this Wednesday evening as we hold our virtual Back to School Night. In keeping with all things "unprecedented," we have done our best to create an informative and welcoming community event, and we will keep our fingers-crossed that internet gremlins shy away from us! The schedule will be shared first, with links to follow in a separate email. Joining the sessions through your child's school gmail account will most likely provide for smoother participation and less glitches. Alternatively, you may use your own gmail account as well.

Parent/teacher conferences are just around the corner. Please keep an eye out for sign-up information from your child's teacher. You will have the option of joining a Google meet or speaking with your child's teacher by phone. You will note your preference when you sign up. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to touch base with your child's teacher(s). As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please feel free to contact teachers prior to set conference times/days.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing everyone this week!

Sincerely,  
Amy Dorman, Principal