

January 29, 2021

Dear MVMPCS Students & Families,

Greetings to all Meerkats & families! I hope all is well with you and you are gearing up for some (possible) snow-related activities this weekend. I have a great deal of information to share with you, so I'll use a dot-list format to help me be more concise.

- School Update: Staff returned to the building full time this week. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m. Schools remain closed to the public at this time.

- Art Update: Our new art teacher, Ms. Annika Marthinuss, will start Monday, February 1. She has a bachelor's degree in Art Education and a well-rounded skill set that includes painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, sewing, weaving, knitting/crocheting, welding, and woodworking. During her first week, Instructional Assistants will host art class while Annika joins in and has the opportunity to introduce herself to students and get to know them. Students will find her to be a warm and caring teacher, and we are excited to welcome her!

- SLP: We welcome Andrea Howard as our new speech/language pathologist. She is stepping in for Molly Smith who has taken leave. Andrea was able to shadow Molly and meet with students, and she has picked up without any disruption. We are fortunate and thrilled to have her on our team!

- Hybrid Update: As of now hybrid learning is scheduled to begin Tuesday, February 16th. To provide teachers time for getting ready for this shift, Wednesday, February 3 and February 10 will be asynchronous learning days for all students. Any changes to this timeline will be communicated as soon as possible. All students, regardless of whether they come into the building or remain virtual, will receive a new schedule.

- In the meantime, students who are returning to the school can:
 - Practice wearing their facial coverings for extended periods.
 - There are no exceptions to wearing masks (with nose and mouth covered). Gators, if worn, must be double-layered in accordance with [CDC mask guidelines](#).

- Look for and follow the signage in public buildings/spaces. Our school will have signage for physical distancing and directional movement.
 - Expect a message from their teacher(s) letting them know what to bring to school each day (e.g. personal materials kit, pre-filled water bottle, etc.) and how to plan for being in the classroom (6-ft separation, no sharing, use of sanitizer/washing hands).
- Parents/caregivers can expect:
 - Orientation, which will be offered Wednesday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This presentation will also be shared with families.
 - MVMPCS Reopening plan to be shared. We have been asked to aim for a 2-week window, so that puts us sometime into next week for sending this out. This plan covers all aspects of return and should be the first source of information when questions arise. This is also when Cohort information and schedules will be shared.
 - Information about before and after-care options from Club House Kids to be communicated

- February is Black History Month. We look forward to highlighting many considerable contributions and exploring the rich, but complicated history of black Americans in the United States as we celebrate Black/African American History this month.

Take care, and have a great week!

Sincerely,

Amy Dorman, principal



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