

Greetings to all Meerkats & families!

Happy Spring! I hope everyone was able to find some time over spring break to relax and rejuvenate and enjoy one another's company. I spent lots of quality time with my new granddaughter, worked on a home improvement project, and of course, dug into some work when time permitted. Having been vaccinated, I was finally able to see my mother and my grandmother for the first time in over 16 months. All things considered, spring break was exactly what I needed. Now, about school...

I am thrilled to report that today we were able to welcome back 100% of the students who requested to switch from virtual-only learning for the fourth term. That means 26 more students will join us in-person for a total of 156 students. This number represents just over half of our student population accessing the hybrid option. To keep things in perspective, however, consider that 100% of MVMPCS students still access virtual learning. Hybrid students are in-person 40% of the time, but continue to access 60% of their learning online. Although "returning" to school is not a return to what students know, it is wonderful to see them attending and making the best of the situation.

About making the best of the situation. Did you know that MVMPCS received grant funds to address the effects of the pandemic on learning for our students? Our earliest grants focused on the physical space of the building, providing PPE, room filtration units, electro-static sprayers, etc., to ensure a safe facility. We also ordered hands-on materials for students to use for OG and math intervention, and we purchased chromebooks to increase the student-device ratio (we are still not a one-to-one school). Another one of the interventions we funded was to provide tutoring after school hours; this was very well received by our community, and families were eager to have more.

Our more recent grants will provide for "high-dose" tutoring beginning in the fall (SY2021-22). 45-hours of tutoring will be offered to students who would benefit most (based on assessments and other data) during the first semester of the new school year. In addition, our youngest students will be invited to participate in early entry which will serve the purpose of orienting them back into the classroom, assessing their needs, and establishing routine. This plan has been intentionally developed to accelerate learning and bridge any gaps that opened up during the past school year. We will continue to provide updates as timing is appropriate.

Finally, although FCPS is offering summer school, MVMPCS will not. Students may apply to the ELEVATE program, and as space permits, may be offered a seat.

I think that's about it for now. As we begin our final term of the school year, I am hopeful that things will continue to improve. I know the steps are incremental, but with the support of the community, we will keep making progress!

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"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

~Booker T. Washington



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