

Principal Updates

GPES PTA 11/1/2022

Celebrations and Shout Outs

- Celebrating our wonderful Fall Festival parade and parties! Thank you to staff and volunteers for helping it all be safe and fun!
- Celebrating the brilliant Book Fair! Staff, students, and families enjoyed getting back to this fun fall tradition. Shout out to Heather Down for coordinating the PJ Read-Aloud night, and to all the staff for the in-person and virtual options.

Covid Updates

- Covid positives are up across MCPS, as are reports of other upper respiratory illnesses such as RSV, flu, and influenza-like illnesses.
- 17 positive cases for GPES (staff and students) for October (we had zero reports from 9/27-10/12).
- Central Office is notified when we have 3 or more related cases (within the same classroom) within 10 days to provide additional guidance.
- Steps to take if your child tests positive:
 - Complete the MCPS Google Form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs2RqaGzagPTfOg-HJEUXEblcH-zyADhFZRS7ifjAf21wPBw/viewform>
 - Email Mr. Tucci (Daniel_K_Tucci@mcpsmd.org), Mrs. Bachrach (Melanie_S_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org), and the homeroom teacher.
 - The school will provide a return date for Day 6 (Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms or a positive test) and a date through which they need to wear a mask at school (Day 10).

Safety and Security Updates

- [Department of Systemwide Safety and Security](#)
 - Cluster Security Coordinator: Mr. Neal Owens
 - Security Assistant: Mr. Christian Hernandez
- Fall 2022
 - August/September: Staff update their Emergency Binders
 - September: On-Site Emergency Team (OSET) training with Mr. Owens and Mr. Hernandez
 - September: Fire Drill #1 (of 5), Shelter Drill, Lockdown with Options Drill
 - October: Earthquake/Drop-Cover-Hold Drill
 - November: Staff Meeting Emergency Preparedness Fall Refresher
 - November/December: Fire Drill #2

Free Tutoring Options for Students

- [Tutoring and Interventions](#)
- FEV
 - Recommended for students in Grades 3-12
 - No camera needed
 - Support is provided through a chat function
- TutorMe
 - Recommended Grades K-12
 - Two-way video and audio, chat available
- Some tutoring (formerly known as CARES, now MCPS Tutoring) available from MCPS/GPES staff based on academic need (currently being assessed)

November is Remembrance and Reconciliation Month

November 1 is Emancipation Day in Maryland

The Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation was established by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights in 2019 to promote a better understanding of its history and legacy of African Americans in the county. In response, Montgomery County Public Schools will observe Remembrance and Reconciliation Month by supporting local Emancipation Day celebrations, providing schools with age appropriate lessons on local historic African American communities, and virtual changemaker workshops for students and their families in English and Spanish on November 15 - 17, 2022. Register here to attend a changemaker workshop.

GPES will be delivering the lessons (five 15-minutes lessons) during the month of November.

Resources for Talking about Race and Racism:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QaK87iGy4iDZ8VLSy2vziBWAE1w31m7XVUvEcdfeK6k/edit?usp=sharing>

Together We're Better Art Contest with The Arc Maryland

This year we are collaborating again with The Arc Maryland to celebrate Inclusive Schools week in December (December 5-9). We will be bringing advocates to our school for grade level in-person assemblies that week. We also encourage students to participate in the Together We're Better art contest: [Together We're Better Elementary and Middle School Artwork Contest \(thearcmd.org\)](https://thearcmd.org). We have had a number of winners the past few years, including winner whose art now appears as part of a mural at Wheaton Regional Park. The deadline is January 6, 2023 to submit artwork.

Lost and Found Volunteers and Lunch/Recess Volunteers

We need some hearty souls (and some donated hangers) to help us sort through current lost and found items. Please contact Mrs. Bachrach (Melanie_S_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org) to arrange a time to help.

If you are interested in volunteering during lunch/recess, please complete the required training (if not completed within the past 3 years) and a vaccination attestation here: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer.aspx>.

View the lunch/recess volunteer training:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G_3sp74rXDdS-ViYO3cAgY09ee055jqV/view?usp=share_link

Once that is complete, please consider signing up using this Google Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-63pWkXnpkMJ_HY8973FcmPT95G4BcA6Dnu-HH8l4h4/edit?usp=share_link