



**From the Principal....**

**April 29, 2020**

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Since we started Remote Learning on April 13<sup>th</sup>, I am sure you have experienced a range of emotions in trying to juggle a million things.... work, your children's learning, and all things related to the Stay-at-Home orders. I want to extend my sincerest thank you for your help in facilitating your child's learning during this time. I have no doubt you are doing an amazing job. Having said that, the expectation is simply to do the best you can, and that will look different from one day to another. Somedays you may not get to everything or even half it, and that is okay. We are all operating under maximum flexibility and grace. Please know my "virtual door" is always open to you. If you have questions, concerns, or clarifications, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

**Teacher Workday, Friday, May 1, 2020**

Please know that Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is a Teacher Workday, so there is no Remote Learning for students on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. You can find the Traditional Remote Learning Calendar [here](#).

**All Schools Closed for the Remainder of the School Year**

Governor Cooper announced on Friday, April 24, 2020 that all NC public schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year. Though we anticipated this announcement, it still hits hard. In keeping with this order, all WCPSS school buildings will remain closed for the remainder of this school year for in-person instruction. Students and staff will continue with remote learning and teleworking for the remainder of the school year.

We will work on the implications of this decision and continue to update families as we work out end-of-year processes, which include cleaning out classrooms and picking up personal items.

**Not Returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2020-2021 School Year**

This is the time of the year when we begin planning for the next school year. Teacher allotments as well as other staff allotments are based on the total number of students enrolled at Mills Park. To this end, it is critically important for us to know if your child(ren) will **NOT** be returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. If your child is a current K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, please click on the link below and complete the short form for each of your students who will **NOT** be returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. You do not need to complete this form if your child is a current 5<sup>th</sup> grade student.

[NOT RETURNING to MPE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR](#)



### **Helping 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Transition to Middle School**

Even under normal circumstances, the transition from elementary to middle school is often an exciting, yet nerve-racking time for students. We want rising 6th graders to feel prepared for middle school. Parents can help enhance students' comfort level with this change by exposing them to common concerns that arise in middle school and equipping them with skills necessary to be successful. We encourage you to read and review this transition guide with your rising 6th grader.

### **[Packin' Up: The Middle School Transition Guide](#)**

### **Updated Grading Policy**

The State Board of Education approved an updated [Statewide Grading Policy](#) for K-11 students due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Elementary (K-5):** Students will not receive a final grade in K-5. Instead of a final grade, teachers will provide year-end feedback for students regarding learning from the school year. Middle school courses taken in elementary school will follow the middle school guidance below.
- **Middle (6-8):** Students will receive a Pass ("PC-19") or a Withdrawal ("WC-19") for the final course grades for all middle school courses. High school courses taken in middle school will follow the high school guidance below.
- **High (9-11):** Students will be given a choice between (1) a numerical average and (2) a Pass / Withdrawal for the final grade. For yearlong courses, the fall semester grade will be counted in the GPA, but the choice remains for the spring semester work.
- Across all grade levels, students will not be penalized for work that they are unable to complete during the period of remote learning.

### **Promotion & Retention**

Under the updated grading policy student promotion & retention will remain the decision of the principal. Parents of students who were being considered for retention prior to the school closure were sent a mid-year retention notification letter. If you did not receive a mid-year retention letter for your child, then he/she will not be considered for retention and will be promoted as usual. Parents of students who are still being considered for retention will be contacted in the second half of May so that further conversations can be held.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and grace as our amazing teachers have worked tirelessly to launch Remote Learning over the last couple of weeks. Our teachers are working diligently with the resources they have been provided to design rigorous, meaningful instruction that is fun and engaging for our students. We are blessed to have such a supportive community! Take care of yourself and your family in the coming days and weeks. And again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan  
Principal