



## **From the Principal....**

**August 7, 2020**

Dear Parents,

I hope you are doing well. It is so hard to believe that we are only ten days from beginning the 2020-2021 school year. We are so excited to get started! Although we are not beginning the year as we had hoped, I want to assure you that we are committed to making your child's 2020-2021 school year memorable, engaging, and highly successful.

In this newsletter, I address a few immediate items. Next week, your child's teacher and I will provide additional and more specific information.

### **Class Assignments/Meet the Teacher**

Below is the breakdown of VA and Plan B students for Mills Park Elementary. Given the large number of Fall-only VA students, it is likely that changes will need to be made to class assignments for the second semester. Naturally, I will do everything in my power to minimize the number of changes.

- 555 total students enrolled in VA
- Fall Semester VA - 358 Students
- Full Year VA – 197 students
- 235 Plan B students

By noon on Wednesday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, parents/students will receive an email from your child's assigned teacher. In the email, you and your child will be invited to our virtual Meet-the-Teacher on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Your child's teacher will provide the Google Meet link in the Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> email.

Meet the Teacher – August 13, 2020

- K & 1: 4:00 - 4:30 pm
- 2 & 3: 4:30 – 5:00 pm
- 4 & 5: 5:00 – 5:30 pm

### **Orientation – First Two Weeks of School**

The WCPSS calendar includes two weeks of orientation for students at the beginning of the year (Aug. 17 – Aug. 28). During these two weeks, teachers will meet with students a few times each week to accomplish typical beginning of the year tasks such as building relationships, setting classroom norms and expectations, reviewing strategies for use of digital tools and learning management system (Google Classroom), discussing effective communication, and how to navigate the online environment safely. Your child's teacher will communicate the schedule for Live Meetings for the weeks of Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition, teachers and staff will assist with distribution of instructional materials and Edukits the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Full core instruction and the full instructional schedule will begin the week of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>



### **Edukit and Instructional Materials Distribution and Supply Lists**

Edukits and instructional materials distribution will take place the week of August 17th. A schedule will be shared with parents next week indicating your day and time to pick up materials.

If you have not purchased an Edukit or purchased school supplies yet, please hold off on purchasing school supplies. Your child's teacher will provide a list of school supplies during the first week of school.

### **Technology - Device and/or Hotspot Requests**

If you indicated you needed a device and/or Hotspot in the parent survey from a few weeks ago, you will be contacted directly by WCPSS Tech Services within the week as to when and where your device/hotspot can be picked up. Distribution will take place of the week of Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Single Subject Acceleration (SSA)**

Each Spring, parents have an opportunity to nominate students (grades 1-5 only) for Single Subject Acceleration. Students are then tested in the Spring of the previous school year for an accelerated placement for the upcoming school year. None of this happened because of school closure. As a result, WCPSS has created nomination and testing plans that will take place during the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

#### **SSA Nomination Window**

Mills Park's nomination window is officially open as of today and will close on August 28, 2020 (the 10th day of school). Nominations will not be accepted after Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. Even if you sent an email or wrote a letter nominating your child in the Spring of 2020, you must still follow the steps below to nominate your child. Students already receiving SSA do not need to apply again.

To nominate your 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade student:

1. Send in email to Dyane Barnett ([dbarnett@wcpss.net](mailto:dbarnett@wcpss.net)). Please put "2020-2021 SSA Nomination Request" in the subject line.
2. In the body of the email, be sure to indicate your child's name (first/last) and grade.
3. Also, indicate the subject (Math or ELA) for single subject acceleration. Only one subject may be selected.

#### **Assessing Students for Participation**

All students whose parents requested Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) will be assessed within the first 30 days of remote learning. Testing will occur online between the 11<sup>th</sup> & the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school (Aug. 31-Sept. 28). Students meeting the scoring qualification will be placed in the accelerated course no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> week of school.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan  
Principal