

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome and welcome back to Meadowthorpe Elementary! It continues to be my honor to serve as the principal of this amazing school community by welcoming new families and returning families back to MES for the 2020-2021 school year. At MES we want to take this opportunity to personally invite you to be a part of our school's tradition of excellence and especially your child's education this year. We know that our start to the school year is going to look a little different this year as we begin with Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) - 2DL: Differentiated Distance Learning. However, our goal is to make NTI-2DL as much like in person instruction as possible. Students excel because of the great teamwork between home and school and we are even more aware of how crucial that will be this year.

This year all grade level teams will be working as a cohesive unit to plan and deliver instruction to students. There will be daily live and videoed instructional lessons for your student to view along with small group meetings that will be scheduled daily. The small group instruction will be differentiated to meet your child's present levels of achievement and to accelerate learning. Students will be expected to complete daily assignments, projects and assessments as instructional units are concluded. Each day during virtual learning, students will have a mix of live classes with teachers and self-paced learning activities.

You will be receiving your child's class placement tomorrow by email. The email will have a welcome letter from the teacher and will also contain an adjusted supply list for home use during distance learning. When we return to in-person learning we ask that you will then send these supplies and any additional supplies for in school use in a ziploc back with your child's name on it. This will help in keeping materials individualized for safety and health purposes. If you have a need for help with school supplies please contact our Families Resource Center Director, Mary Jo Dendy at (859) 381-3526 or maryjo.deny@fayette.kyschools.us

Beginning this fall all FCPS elementary schools will be utilizing the Google Classroom platform to assign and collect work online. Most all MES teachers and families are very familiar with this platform from the spring. We realize that there will be a learning curve to implementing this platform and other online programs school-wide as we adjust to Differentiated Distance Learning (2DL). However, we feel strongly that we will be able to support everyone to adjust to this new way of learning and working. MES was 1:1 with Chromebooks at the end of last school year for grades 2-5 and we have received word that the district will support 1:1 for our entire building Kindergarten through 5th this year. We are awaiting word from the district on when they will arrive.

In the next week teachers will be contacting each family by phone as a way of introducing themselves and to begin to get to know a little about you and your student

before school starts. We will also be conducting “Drive Through Supply Pick Up” for families to pick up school issued supplies such as text books, workbooks and other school items to be checked out. **Pickups will be available on Tuesday, August 18 from 9:00am – 11:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm for 4th and 5th on Wednesday, August 19 from 9:00am-11:00am & 4:00pm-6:00pm for 2nd and 3rd graders and Thursday, August 20 from 9:00am-11:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm for K and 1.** Please pull into the bus loop if you are in grades 1, 3 and 5 and the car pool line for grades K, 2, and 4. Stay in your vehicles and a MES staff member will assist you. We will be sure to mark the lanes for new families.

As teachers we are aware of the crucial partnership we must have with families as we all work together to make this distance learning opportunity as much like in class learning as possible for students. This school year will present unique challenges to students, parents, and teachers. We do not expect parents to become educators and we know that for most of our students and parents, virtual learning is still a very new experience. Our teachers will host an online back to school night on **Monday, August 24 at 6:00pm** to help students and families better prepare and understand what school will look like in the virtual environment. Please look for communication from your child’s teacher on how to login and participate in this event.

The first day of school is **Wednesday, August 26th!** We are excited to start the school year partnering with your family. Teachers are available to answer questions or for conferences via email or telephone. Feel free to contact your child’s teacher or me at any time. We are so glad to have your family returning or beginning to be a part of our school! Together we are going to have an outstanding year at Meadowthorpe Elementary!

Imagine, Believe, Achieve!

Stephanie Urbanek

Principal

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