September 13, 2020

Happy Sunday Murray Parents:

We hope you and your families are safe and well.

Our first day-of-school attendance rate was 91.89%. Our school goal is to have a daily attendance rate of 97%. In a recent article, Professor Pedro Noguera explains how school attendance correlates with academic performance. Mr. Noguera notes, “On average, when children miss school, that has a negative impact on their performance. It’s most noticeable in the early grades, with respect to reading, and in the older grades in math.”

According to ACS International Schools, “children and young people take cues from adult behavior and attitudes, so it is important to communicate calm, confidence and optimism that we will pull through the crisis together.” The group also published 7 remote learning tip for parents:

1. Establish routines and expectations
2. Choose a good place to learn
3. Stay in touch
4. Help students ‘own’ their learning
5. Begin and end the day by checking-in
6. Establish times for quiet and reflection
7. Encourage physical activity and exercise

Protocol for Reporting Student Absence
When a student is absent from school, please call the main office and select option #2. Please leave the student’s name, date of absence, reason, parent name, and contact number.

Family Income Information Form (Family Information Form)
It's that time of year again when Chicago Public Schools requires every student to submit a Family Income Information Form (FIIF). The form is due by September 30, 2020. The information from the FIIF is used to determine our school's allocation of state funds for next school year. The information is also used to screen eligible recipients for healthcare (Medicaid) and food assistance (SNAP).

Parents have several options for submitting forms: email (murrayschoolforms5335@gmail.com), fax (773-553-0590), drop off at Murray (M-Th, 9AM-6PM). There are also hardcopies of all forms available for pick-up at the school.
Additionally, CPS requires that all parents submit health and safety forms for each student. Here is the e-booklet Student Health & School Forms Booklet.

Curriculum Nights
Our annual curriculum night is September 15th at 5:30PM. The Google Meet for each homeroom is posted on our website (https://murray.cps.edu/)

The Essential curriculum (World Language, Art, Library, and Gym) night is September 17th at 5:30PM. The flyer will be sent via email on Monday and posted on the website.

PTO News
We hope your school year is off to a good start! We would love to start the school year off with a socially distanced parent meet and greet! We are excited to see all of you. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Also please remember to use the Amazon Smile link. Murray will receive a percentage and this will go towards school activities. Just use this link when you purchase on Amazon. https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1508123

Spirit wear –Please support the Murray Spirit Wear campaign. This sale is available for 3 more days. Orders will start shipping September 24th.

Planning for High School
The high school application period opens October 12, 2020. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2020. Additionally, CPS has updated its criteria for admission to high schools:

NWEA Scores
To determine eligibility for students applying for high school admission for the fall of 2021, CPS will consider students’ highest scores from NWEA MAP exams administered by CPS during any of the following prior administrations:
- Spring 2019 (2018-2019 school year)—6th Grade
- Fall 2019 (2019-2020 school year)—7th Grade
- Winter 2019 (2019-2020 school year)—7th Grade

If students do not have any valid NWEA MAP scores from these administration windows, or have not taken the NWEA MAP with CPS, the district will be administering the exam in October, on select weekends, for interested families. More information on signing up for the Fall NWEA is available at go.cps.edu/nweamap.

Grades
For the 2021–22 high school admission process, the district will use the highest scores of either their final grades or the average of their first and second quarter grades.
Selective Enrollment Exam
The selective enrollment exam is administered during the winter of eighth grade as a component of the selection process for selective enrollment high schools. CPS plans to administer this exam in person as scheduled during the winter of SY2020–21 with proper health and safety protocols in place. The dates of the selective enrollment exam will be announced in the fall.

Parents should also visit GoCPS for additional information

CPS Meal Distribution
Parents, guardians and students can pick up meal kits with three days worth of meals (breakfast and lunch) per student at more than 450 schools Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To find the meal distribution site nearest you, use the meals site finder. Murray is a pick-up site.

Two Quick Notes
- Parents have the option to request a chromebook. Please click on this link to make a request;
- The CPS Parent Tech Support Hotline is 773-417-1060;

Upcoming dates

- **September 15**  
  Curriculum Night
- **September 15**  
  LSC Meeting @ 6:30PM
- **September 15**  
  Last Day for Spirit Wear
- **September 17**  
  Essential Curriculum Night
- **September 19**  
  Parent Meet and Greet! Starbucks 55th & Woodlawn
- **September 24**  
  PTO Home Run Inn FUNDRAISER

We are Murray, We are one!  
https://murray.cps.edu/