March 7, 2021

Happy Sunday Murray Parents!

We hope you and your families are safe and well.

We had a very good start to in-person learning! Our parents are completing the health screener for their students, thereby making the entry run smoothly. Our students are following the safety protocols, thereby keeping the focus on teaching and learning. Our teachers and staff are doing what they do best: teaching and supporting.

On Monday, March 8th, we will welcome six through eight grade students to the building for the parents that opted their students for in-person learning.

Quick Reminders

- For all students registered to attend in-person learning, we need all parents to complete an updated Emergency Form. Please complete the form electronically and send back to murrayschoolforms5335@gmail.com;
- Please remember to complete the health screener prior to arrival every day;
- All students work remotely on Wednesdays;

Arrival Entry

- Door #1—Grades K, 1, 5 and 6
- Door # 3—Grades 2, 3, and 4
- Door #10—Grades 7, 8 and bus
PTO/PAC News

- **Mask Mondays**—starting tomorrow, and every subsequent Monday, our PTO will have spirit Face Masks for sale for students. The cost is $10 per mask. The sale hours are from 3:30PM to 4:30PM.
- The PAC parent workshop, *Path from NWEA to ACT English*, is posted on our school’s website. The next PAC parent workshop is March 17th. The workshop will focus of How Fractions can get you to College.

Opt-in for 4th Quarter
Beginning Monday, all CPS families, who have not yet returned to schools in-person, will be able to opt-in for a return later this year. The opt-in window will be available to students in all grades (grades Pre-K through 12) and will remain open for two weeks. Opt-in forms will be sent directly to parents, and this will be the final opportunity to choose in-person learning this school year.

- Families who have not yet returned to classrooms will be able to return Monday, April 19—the first day of the 4th-quarter.
- Families who are already enrolled in classroom-based learning will not need to fill out the intent form to remain in-person.

Progress Reports
The 25th–week progress period ended on Wednesday, March 10th. Progress Reports will be mailed to parents starting on March 12th. Parents can also access grades in the ASPEN Portal system. For support with Parent Portal navigation, please visit the CPS portal home page. Students can also view their grades, attendance, and other information on Aspen 24/7 from smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers. If you need support with the ASPEN portal system, please email Mrs. Prinz, Dean of Students at mprinz@cps.edu.

Math Circles

Our spring programs will again be held online. You might also want to sign up for our monthly email newsletter to make sure you don’t miss any announcements. Dates for winter and spring sessions can be found on our Locations Page.

All required and optional forms for participating in MC2 can be found here. New students have four forms they must complete to participate. Also, CPS students in 5th-8th grade can complete a form that gives MC2 access to your test scores and math grades—this is optional, but it helps us evaluate our program and report to our
sponsors, and is thus greatly appreciated (and we need you to complete the CPS form every year). Click here to register!

**Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)**

**What is Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Benefits (P-EBT)?**

**Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits?**
- All CPS students, *regardless of income or citizenship status*, are eligible for P-EBT. Families will receive P-EBT cards automatically and *do not need to complete an application*. Each child will receive their own card mailed to their primary address in Aspen. *Please ensure your address is up to date in order to receive this benefit.*

Please ensure your address (including apt #) is up-to-date in our system. Check your address in Parent Portal. If your address is incorrect, please email our school’s clerks Ms. Dickson (rsdickson1@cps.edu) and Ms. L. Williams (lmwilliams5@cps.edu) to update your address.

**When will P-EBT benefits start?**

**Beginning in March 2021**, Cards will be mailed in March and should arrive in an unmarked envelope. Families should keep their P-EBT card because future benefits will continue to be loaded onto the same card.

New benefits will be loaded on P-EBT cards between the 11th and 22nd of each month moving forward through June 2021. Additional information can be found [here](#).

**For additional information on this program, please view the FAQs, call the Healthy CPS Hotline at 773-553-KIDS or complete the Healthy CPS Encounter form.**

**Promotion Policy for Grades 3rd, 6th, and 8th**

CPS released its summer school policy for this school year. Students in grades 3rd, 6th and 8th may be required to attend summer school before being promoted to the next grade. Here is a summary of the policy:

**Summary of Promotion Policy 2020-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2021 District-wide Assessments (DWA) NWEA Percentile score for Reading and Math</th>
<th>Reading or Math Grades</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Promotion Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both Math and Reading scores 24th or higher</td>
<td>“D” or higher in both Math and Reading</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>No Summer School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading OR math OR both scores between 11th - 23rd</td>
<td>“C” or higher in Math or Reading</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>No Summer School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both scores 24th or higher</td>
<td>“F” in Math or Reading</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Summer School but NO exit test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading OR math OR both scores between 11th - 23rd</td>
<td>“D” or “F” in Math or Reading or both</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Summer School and exit test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading OR Math OR both scores 10th or less | No consideration | 3A and 3B | Summer School and exit test
---|---|---|---

PARENTS – STAY CONNECTED WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL! AND PARENTS – STAY CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2021 8th Graders</th>
<th>Murray Class of 2021 GroupMe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2022 7th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2022 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2023 6th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2023 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2024 5th Grades</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2024 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2025 4th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2025 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2026 3rd Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2026 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2027 2nd Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2027 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2028 1st Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2028 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2029 Kindergarten</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2029 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming dates

- **March 8th**: 5th-8th grade students return to school (only for those that opted in)
- **March 12th**: 25th week Progress Reports will be mailed home
- **March 16th**: LSC Meeting @ 6:00PM
- **March 17th**: PAC presents: How Fractions can get you to College @ 6:00PM
- **March 17th**: Saint Patrick’s Day

We are Murray, We are one!

https://murray.cps.edu/

**MEET THE BLACK WOMAN TRANSFORMING 12 ABANDONED ACRES INTO $25 MILLION TECH HUB IN MISSISSIPPI**

by Charlene Rhinehart
March 6, 2021

Dr. Nashlie Sephus purchased 12 abandoned acres to develop a $25 million tech hub for entrepreneurs in Mississippi. On September 11, 2020, the Jackson native closed on the purchase of 12 acres and seven buildings near Jackson State University. Now, she’s putting in the work to transform her vision into a reality to help the next generation of entrepreneurs.
“I think it’s really important for me to give back to the community that helped shape me and I always love to see people get enthused and exposed to technology and so I wanted to make that process a little bit easier,” Dr. Sephus shared with *WLBT*. Last month, she shared her passion for her work in a LinkedIn post. “Some may not understand my labor of love and life’s mission of helping underserved communities reach their full potential in *STEM*. It’s not easy, but it WILL happen.”

**Becoming an AI Leader**

Dr. Sephus has spent her career as a successful engineer. She’s an Applied Science manager for Amazon Artificial Intelligence. Previously, she led the Amazon Visual Search team in Atlanta. She was also a Chief Technology Officer for Partpic, a startup that was acquired by Amazon.

Education has played a major role in Sephus’ career journey. In 2014, she earned her Ph.D. from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Earlier in her career, she received her B.S. in Computer Engineering from Mississippi State University.

The five-year plan includes developing seven of the abandoned buildings. The space will be transformed into a photography studio, electronics lab, and maker’s space. Sephus also has plans for restaurants, a grocery store, innovation center, and apartments, according to *Inc*. “My goal is to turn this space into a self-sustaining village where people can live, work, play, and eat,” Sephus shares with *Inc*. (For the full article, *click here.*