



Welcome Back to School

Council Comets, we are looking forward to meeting, connecting, and communicating with our students. It has been a long break from school, and we know things have been unpredictable, but meeting our new group of students will be enjoyable. Despite our circumstances, we plan to make our school year as positive and safe as possible. Every staff member has returned with only a few changes to highlight. Mrs. Gavin is now our Counselor; Ms. Renegar will be a 3rd grade teacher and teacher over the Extended Day Program. A special welcome to our new teachers **Mrs. Tanya Simmons** and **Ms. Mason**. Mrs. Simmons will be our very own, onsite PACE teacher and Ms. Mason will be our kindergarten teacher in the place of Mrs. Hughes. Mrs. Hughes retired last week. Everyone will miss her, as she was a model teacher for our school. Mrs. Hughes was responsible for training a new group of kindergarten teachers in the last few years and they were trained well! All other positions and grade level teachers will remain the same for 2020-21 academic year. That is exciting news for all of us, as it makes a difference when a staff is established and familiar with Council families in these uncharted times in our world. Council is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, an IB World School. We will start our self-study this year virtually to continue our status as an authorized IB Program. We will be asking parents for assistance and feedback throughout the year.

Academic focus: The focus for teachers during August will be to become acclimated and comfortable with the new Learning Management System, Schoology. Ask questions and work collaboratively using social distancing and remote meetings to get the job done.

The IB Learner Profile for August is Communicators. Students and adults that are Communicators receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language, including the language of mathematical symbols. They communicate their feelings with words. They collaborate effectively and listen carefully to the perspective of other individuals and groups. Let's strive to be communicators throughout the month of August.

Registration: Thanks to everyone for pre-registering through the website this year by the cut-off, date of June 1. However, if you have not completed this process, please do so ASAP! Ms. Amber has been reaching out to parents that have not completed the process via personal phone calls. Therefore, if you have not received a call from Ms. Amber the in last few days you are good to go! 😊 Our goal is to have all 700 students set for remote learning classes ASAP. The new pre-K students have been selected and we are working with those parents to get all of their information into INOW at this time.

Contracts for Magnet School: The Magnet School Office has provided contracts for all parents to sign. This needs to be taken care of at the end of August. There will be specific directions for this procedure provided to you in our next mid-month communication. However, all signatures will be done through virtual means. Teacher assignments for students will be made towards the middle of the month. All parents will receive a call from that designated teacher.

COVID-19 Updates: Due to the high number of COVID cases in our area, parents and students will not be allowed in the school building until further notice. All communication will be done virtually. There will be dates and more information for parents to come through the drive through to pick-up needed material for the students.

Council Parents/Students School Road Map: All communication will be sent virtually and posted on the school's website; this includes the opening of school bulletin and all biweekly bulletins. We will post our parent and student handbook on our website the first week of school. Important dates and notes:


- ✓ August 4 - Teachers return to work
- ✓ August 7 WebEx invitation from Ms. Alexander will be sent out to everyone on this day.
- ✓ August 10- WebEx Meeting with the Principal. The meeting will begin at **12 noon** and again at **4:00 p.m.** Please accept the meeting invite for the WebEx meeting time that is convenient for you. You do not need to attend both meetings.

If you do not have the WebEx app, use the information that is attached to this e-mail to download the website. Parents must download the WebEx app in order to attend the virtual meeting using their mobile device. They may be able to use a computer or laptop without downloading the program.

- ✓ August 10 – WebEx meeting with the Principal. Ms. Alexander will review and update parents in preparations for the remote learning platform *Schoology*. Parents will be allowed to ask questions at the end of the presentation. . We will also provide suggestions for getting ready for school remotely. This meeting will followed up with a quick Council School survey.
- ✓ August 4-28- Teachers will be trained in the Learning Management System
- ✓ August the teachers will communicate with the new parents/students by phone call and follow-up by email to welcome their new students. The students will receive a call during the week of August 17-21. The information from INOW will be used to contact parents.
- ✓ August 24-28 “Meet the Teacher” Teachers will provide an overview of their classroom routines and procedures. *“Meet the Teacher”* specific details and times will be forth coming from your child’s assigned teacher later this month.
- ✓ Parents will have the option of a recorded session of the teachers’ presentation. Parents will receive an email of the presentation if the parent selects not to have a remote meeting. An overview of their classroom routines and procedures will be discussed as well as meeting times and schedules for lessons each day.

Academic/ Instructional Platform: *Schoology* is the new platform for instruction this entire school year. The district will have a website for parents to become acquainted with the program in the coming weeks

Fees and supplies: The remote learning platform requires limited supplies for students’ use at home. Teachers will discuss more about this with you for your child’s needs for supplies in the home setting. If you have purchased the suggested supplies for your child’s grade level, please keep them at your home until we return to school.

Fees can be paid at the end of the 1st quarter using e-funds  School fees have been listed on the school’s website (Use the e-Funds for Schools icon shown above) along with the grade level supply lists. Once you log in and enter your student’s last name and student number, select the option to pay student fees on the left side of the screen. The fees specific to your student should appear. Extended Day is full for 2nd quarter however, once the students return to school 2nd quarter Extended Day fees will be paid through e-funds only. More information will be forth coming closer to the end of the 1st quarter regarding extended day.

Please join the PTA: We just got a PTA website that launched today and it has interfaced with our Memberhub store so parents can go to this site directly to join the PTA or even connect with us through Facebook. In the future, we will have links to fundraisers, PTA officer lists, and upcoming events on the website. Because of the current situation, we do not have all of those features but will have the ability to do so when those things happen. <https://counciltraditional.new.memberhub.store/>

We will be having a Breakfast & Lunch Drive-Thru from August 10-August 31 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the carpool line. If you come off Virginia Street and turn on Wilkinson Street. Please pull down to the driveway. This is what we “call carpool”.

Dates to Remember

August 4th- Teachers return to work

August 7th- See email with invite for Ms. Alexander

August 10th @ 12 noon WebEx meeting with the principal

August 14th Mid-month bulletin will be emailed to all parents, will updates.

August 17- 20- Students notified of the 20-21 teachers- Note: we will not change out students from one teacher to the next. Thank you for your cooperation. If there is a problem, please email Ms. Alexander halexand@mcpss.com or call 251-221-1139 and the problem will be addressed.

August 24-28- Meet the Teacher Meetings/Parent Meetings

September 1- First day of remote learning for school.

August 10-31 @ 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Breakfast & Lunch Drive-Thru in Carpool Line