

## JANUARY 2019

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! I sincerely hope that all of our families were able to enjoy the recent winter holiday by spending time with loved ones and friends and basically taking a break from all of the usual demands and scheduling commitments in our lives. Each year, I tell people that once Halloween arrives, things are fun, but very hectic at MBS until the Christmas season is over. This year has been no different, so with January comes not only a new calendar year, but hopefully a noticeable sense of calm in our school, at least until the first big snowstorm hits!

Speaking of snow, this is an important reminder that we will continue to take the students outside for daily recess time as long as the weather conditions permit. So, as long as the temperature is above freezing (including the wind chill), we will go outside for recess as much as possible. In order to be ready for this part of the day, it is important for students to come to school dressed appropriately, so please be sure to have your children come prepared with their cold weather attire!

As someone who believes in making New Year's resolutions, I am compelled to ask for your help in achieving one of my goals for the new year. Quite simply, I would like to see a reduction in the number of students that arrive late to school each week. As a parent, I realize that there are those mornings where "life happens" resulting in a disruption and delay to the start of the day. We have all had those mornings. However, we have too many students that arrive late to school far more frequently than they should. As a walking district, our students (especially the younger children) rely on adults to drive them to school each day. It is for this reason alone that I am asking for your help. During the winter months, even our oldest students rely on adults to drive them to school, so this is an issue that pertains to the entire school. I can and have assigned consequences to students that are chronically late to school. Unfortunately, this action does not always improve the situation. My request is that you all join me in making promptness a priority in your house! As you know, the arrival/homeroom time at school is 8:15 - 8:25 each morning. As I have said to many students (and parents), leaving the house just five minutes earlier will make a big difference in arriving on time and starting the day in a less stressful manner. So, as we begin to make our way into 2019, I hope that you will all join me on road to promptness!

Finally, the one certainty of a new year is that it represents a fresh start for all of us, at least where the calendar is concerned. Among the new developments that lie ahead for MBS will be the opening of our new all-purpose room! As of now, the interior ramp has been constructed and hopefully the space will be enclosed in the near future. I will continue to keep the community updated on this project as we make our way through the winter months. For now, my wish for everyone is that 2019 will be filled with good health and happiness.

Respectfully,

*Michael E. Ettore*

Principal/Superintendent