

NOVEMBER 2017

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! Now that we have made our way through the first two months of the school year, it is safe to say that all of our classrooms are very busy making their way through the academic programs at every grade level. In fact, the end of the first marking period is actually fast approaching, so that will mean that we are almost one quarter of the way through the year! As always, there will be scheduled conferences later in November that will provide teachers and parents with opportunities to discuss the progress that has been made so far. When those meetings occur, I am sure that the teachers will be prepared to share work samples and other data to help parents understand the type of progress that has been made to date. As a parent, I encourage you to not only attend these meetings, but to also come prepared with any questions or concerns you might have about the class. As I stated at Back to School Night in September, it is important for parents and teachers to create partnerships for the year, and the conferences are an important means of reinforcing that relationship. If for some reason you are unable to attend either of the conference sessions and would still like to speak with or meet with a teacher, please contact the teacher directly via email or by school phone to schedule an alternate time to meet or talk.

It seems that every year, the month of November comes and goes very quickly for many reasons, one of which is that school is closed on four days during the month. Additionally, we also have an early dismissal scheduled for three other days as well. Besides those days, there are also many other exciting events that will take place this month. Please check the Dates to Remember for important dates to be aware of.

One of the other challenges that seems to surface each year starting in November is that families take children out of school for vacations or to extend holidays on the calendar. As a parent, I understand the importance of family vacation time, and I

strongly encourage parents to spend as much “quality time” with their children as possible. On the other hand, when students miss school time, there is always the possibility that they will fall behind in their studies. In order to minimize the negative impact on students, it is important for parents to notify the teacher(s) in advance that a trip has been planned. Although teachers may not be able to give you specific details about their plans while you are away, they will likely be able to give you an idea of what they will be covering during that time and possibly give you some work that can be done prior to your child’s return to school. What becomes most difficult is when students miss assessments while they are away. Although the teachers will be understanding about the need to give students time to make up quizzes and/or tests, it is critical for these assessments to be made up in a fair and reasonable manner. My advice is to remain in contact with the teachers in order to know what to expect. For parents of older students, I think it is appropriate for the children to take responsibility for their missed work and speak with their teachers directly.

Hopefully the beautiful weather we have been having will continue and will provide us with a festive and comfortable transition as the seasons continue to change. As always, if you have questions or concerns about what is happening here at school, please don’t hesitate to contact us. I can be reached by email (ettore@mbschool.org) or phone (732-222-6139) and don’t forget to follow me (and our district) on Twitter (@MBS_Ettore)!

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent