January 20, 2021

Dear Thunder Families,

We welcomed our in-person students back this week. It has been so great to see some of our students in person and they all seem excited to be back in the building with some of their classmates. All of our procedures have gone very well and students are adapting to the changes that have been put in place to safeguard their health as well as the health of all adults in the building.

As you might remember, we are opting for a hybrid model, so we have one group of students in the building on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and a different group of students in the building on Thursdays and Fridays. Every Monday will be remote for all students except our Center Program students. I want to remind everyone that for the remainder of this year, there will not be any DPS transportation, except for those students who have transportation as a part of their IEP. Classes end each day at 2:05PM and students need to be picked up then. We do not have after school care available, and all clubs are virtual.

Starting Monday, January 25, we expect that every student who opted for in-person instruction will come to school in a McAuliffe Manual t-shirt or sweatshirt. These may be purchased here: [https://thunderuniforms.com/mcauliffe_manual_school/shop/home](https://thunderuniforms.com/mcauliffe_manual_school/shop/home). We are a school that has a dress code and we are holding every in-person student to that dress code. Students are able to wear any bottoms that are appropriate. Appropriate means that there are no rips in inappropriate places, and that shorts or skorts/skirts are not shorter than where fingertips meet the leg. We know that the building is colder in the morning as the heat comes on, so students are allowed to wear a jacket or sweater over the uniform shirts. **Students are not allowed to have hoods on or any hats/du rags/head scarves (except those for religious or health reasons) on during school hours. Please help us enforce this by**
speaking to your student(s) about what is appropriate gear to wear to school.

If you need uniform tops, please reach out to our vendor: Impact Printing at 6500 Stapleton Dr. S, unit K. They can be reached at 303-548-6746, there hours are M-F, 9AM-5PM and Saturdays by appointment. If you are having a financial hardship, Dave Shander will work with you. You are also able to wear our older t-shirts/ hoodies/ sweatshirts too.

We have had great attendance these first days of in-person instruction, with 8th grade at 95%, 7th grade at 92% and 6th grade at 85% attending. This is wonderful, and we want to thank you parents and guardians for valuing ontime attendance for your students.

We know there have been delays for students who are virtual and we know teachers will continue to improve transitions as they get more comfortable teaching students who are in-person and remote. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

As you know, we had been considering a name change. We had our students vote on this, and we did not have a large enough majority buy-in to support the name change. Since we highly value student voice and our community, we are going to put the name change on pause and revisit this next year when we can truly make this a process that fully includes all students and our community. Our planned changes involving trips and curricular modifications will go on as scheduled.

We are having a Virtual Open House for perspective families and their students on Thursday, January 21 @ 5:30 PM. Please let your friends and family members know of this upcoming event. All families can attend by using this link: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MMMSZOOM.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support of MM and the work we are doing.
Sincerely,
Suzanne Morris-Sherer
Principal