

# Learning Today - Building Tomorrow

September 25, 2020

Greetings Markham Families,

I want to continue to express gratitude to families who are engaging, adapting, and supporting their children in learning from home. As a school we are committed to providing the best possible academic instruction while balancing the well-being of your children. There is nothing familiar about what any of us are experiencing right now, and all of us are trying to reduce the uncertainty that students are feeling. At the heart of culturally responsive teaching is the idea of being responsive to students' academic and social emotional needs. Our teachers are building culturally responsive virtual classrooms by building trusting learning relationships, creating opportunities for student-centered dialogue, and meeting the challenge of communal learning in a remote environment. With care and planning our staff is committed to provide a space where every day, students feel welcomed and valued.

While within our community, there are multiple perspectives and beliefs, people are undoubtedly suffering. As our city braces for the possibility of violent protests this weekend, I want to acknowledge the news of the grand jury decision to not prosecute the police officers who shot and killed Breonna Taylor. Many in our community are again experiencing additional pain, in particular our Black staff, friends and families. While it is difficult to know what to say, I feel it important to share that I recognize the potential impact of this decision on you and those close to you and as we remain committed to our personal and school anti-racist work.

## **Back to School Night:**

We are excited to host virtual Back to School Night on **Thursday, October 1st. 6:00-7:30pm**. Prior to the event grade level teams will send their families a video that captures much of the information about their teaching approach, how the class operates, and the curriculum used. At Back to School Night, we will begin with a welcome and meeting your specials teachers and support team, followed by class visits that will be facilitated like Town Hall question and answer sessions. There will also be open office hours for the specials teachers and other key staff members.

Link to Agenda: [Markham Back To School Night Flyer](#)

## **School Supply List: [Markham CDL School Supply List 2020-21](#)**

I know that teachers have reached out to families with adjusted school supply lists for comprehensive distance learning. We have compiled these lists, along with district suggested supplies into one document. If your child needs supplies please call the school office so that we can provide assistance.

## **Hello from the health room!**

My name is Cheryl Bell, and I am your school nurse. I will be working alongside Denise, the Student Health Assistant, to provide care for your student while they are at school. Your child's safety is our priority. If your child has a chronic health condition or will be taking medication at school then please let us know so we can provide an appropriate level of support to keep your child healthy and ready to learn at school. Even if your child is a self-manager of their health condition we would appreciate knowing of their health status so we can be aware of and best respond in an emergency situation. Health information is confidential and only shared with staff who would need to know.

For your convenience, you can let us know of your child's health condition by accessing the Student Health Condition Portal <https://www.multnomahesd.org/shs-boy-919413.html> on the MESD School Health Services website. Select the health condition that is applicable to your child and complete the necessary forms.

Also, if your child has any medication that needs to be taken during the school day you can access the necessary form(s) at the same website link. Forms are needed even if your student is able to carry and take their own medication.

Examples of medications include:

- Emergency medications: epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergies, like EpiPens®, albuterol inhalers for asthma, or glucagon for diabetes
- Daily medications: methylphenidate, insulin, etc.
- Over-the-counter medications: ibuprofen (Advil®), acetaminophen (Tylenol®), diphenhydramine (Benadryl®), etc.

Note: All medications must be kept in their original container. Prescription medication must be in the pharmacy labeled container.

If you would prefer a paper copy or to have the forms emailed to you then contact the school health room or front office and we will make that happen! If you prefer to talk with me before completing any of the forms then you can call/text me at 503-997-3273 or email me at [cbell@mesd.k12.or.us](mailto:cbell@mesd.k12.or.us)

**Fall TAG Night** is scheduled for October 22, details will follow.

### **MAP Assessment Grades 3-5**

Normally, the MAP assessment is conducted in the classroom setting, but because of distance learning, students will take this assessment at home. Testing will take place between September 28 and October 23. Many students, especially younger children, will need assistance from an adult in the home. Please review the [PPS Parent Guide for Fall 2020 MAP Testing](#) to learn more about the assessment. Your student's teacher will provide further information about when the test will be given. The district will provide your student's scores to you sometime in early to mid-November.

### **Nutrition Services:**

Markham is a designated nutrition site offering seven days' worth of meals every week for not just PPS students, but all Portland children ages 1-18.

Our regular meal service schedule will be from 3:00 to 5:00pm on M-W-F

- Mondays: 2 days' worth of food
- Wednesdays: 2 days' worth of food
- Fridays: 3 three days' worth of food

### **PPS Tech support**

If you or your student is still struggling with any of the aspects of learning technology, you can reach out to your teacher and we can arrange for someone to walk you through the basics. You can also call the PPS Technology Help Desk, which is open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. M-F.

The Technology Help Desk is available in all PPS-supported languages. Email [support@pps.net](mailto:support@pps.net) or call them:

- English: 503-916-3375
- Español: 503-916-3582
- 中文 : 503-916-3585
- Tiếng Việt: 503-916-3584
- Soomaali: 503-916-3586
- Русский: 503-916-3583

Thank you again for partnering with the Markham staff to create a caring community dedicated to educating your child. Please know that we are here for you, don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the Markham staff if you have any questions, concerns, or needs.

Together We Will,

Pam Joyner  
Interim Principal