August 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We trust that this communication finds each of you doing well and enjoying the remainder of the summer!

We are rapidly approaching the opening day of school year 2020-2021 at Robert R. Gray Elementary School. Our “virtual doors” will officially open on Monday, August 31, 2020.

We are excited and proud of the progress and growth of all of our scholars – even as we transitioned to a virtual platform in the spring of last school year. Your support of your children and our staff was phenomenal and we want to take this time to let you know that you are appreciated!

We would like to personally thank each of you for ensuring that students came to school each day – whether in person or virtually - ready for a day of rigorous learning. We applaud all of our scholars for making phenomenal progress across all content areas and look forward to the academic growth that SY 2020-2021 will bring. While there is continued room for growth, we are pleased to partner with you through this journey towards academic excellence.

It is important for us to inform you that this school year brings another level of academic rigor with our curriculum. You will hear more about this in the days to come. We will spend time ensuring that you are aware of the shifts in instruction and the high expectations this will mean for ALL learners. We are preparing students for success in a global society. WE can do it! Each student, parent/guardian and teacher must work cooperatively to maximize student learning.

Our school theme for the 2020-2021 school year is, “We Strive for Excellence.” In order for each student to be successful, it is critical that he/she reads with comprehension at or above grade level and shows competency in basic math facts and data analysis. To address this, we are excited to provide an instructional design which emphasizes independent reading fluency, comprehension, strategic reading, research, and analytical writing skills of our students. Further, students will utilize their data analysis skills and basic computation skills to demonstrate proficiency around the 8 Standards of Mathematical Practice.

The focus for the upcoming year in PGCPS is Literacy across ALL content areas! To assist us in the process of improving your child’s reading/comprehension skills we are asking that encourage your child to read independently each day. More information will be forthcoming regarding initiatives and supports that are available to improve student’s reading skills.

The Robert R. Gray Elementary School staff is committed to excellence as we work with you and your child (ren) to ensure that every student:
   - is exposed to a nurturing and caring school environment
   - achieves and is successful in all subject areas
   - continues to develop outstanding social skills and character
   - feels safe at school

We welcome your involvement in your child’s education. Both student achievement and behavior are significantly improved when parents/guardians are actively and positively involved in their child’s
Dr. Cheryl Franklin, Principal

education. Therefore, I am asking you to be actively involved by working cooperatively with your child’s teacher throughout the school year.

This year we will continue to serve as a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) school. This means that we will enhance our school-wide focus on EAGLE P.R.I.D.E. (Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Determined, and Excellence).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS  8:30am-2:40pm

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS
While a tentative School Supply List is listed on our website, we are anticipating a School Supply List in the near future for all PGCPS students. Please stay tuned to ClassDojo and our School Website for more information. https://www.pgcps.org/robertrgray/

FOOD SERVICES
BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FOR ALL STUDENTS FREE OF CHARGE.
PK-5: LUNCH Full price: $2.75 Reduced price: NO COST
Grade 6: LUNCH Full price: $3.00 Reduced price: NO COST

Applications for free and reduced meals must be completed by EVERY STUDENT each year. The quickest way to complete this process is to complete an application online at www.applyforlunch.com. Your child may continue the same status as last year until Wednesday, September 30, 2020. After that date, if the application has not been submitted or approved, full price for meals will be required.

ATTIRE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING
All students are required to attend class sessions appropriately dressed and in a posture ready for learning. Students should be fully clothed and not in bed during instruction. You will receive more information about this from your Classroom Teacher. Please use our PBIS Virtual PBIS Matrix as a general guide to help students “SOAR” during our Virtual School this year:

- S -Self-control: • Follow instructions • Wait for your turn to speak • Use the “raise your hand” feature • Use chat features appropriately (avoid all caps, bold, italics, sarcasm/jokes etc.)
- O- On-task: • Log in on time • Be present/actively engaged • Have a back-up plan if you get disconnected • Video calls-be dressed appropriately (wear a modest top and bottoms)
- A – Achievement: • Complete tasks on time • Minimize distractions • Reach out to the teacher for help • Always do your best
- R – Respect: • Mute microphone when others are speaking • Respect others perspectives • Use kind words

CHROMEBOOKS AND MATERIALS FOR INSTRUCTION DISTRIBUTION
Dates from our District regarding the distribution of Chromebooks and other materials for instruction are forthcoming. As soon as we receive this information, we will inform our families.

Board of Education of Prince George’s County
Dr. Cheryl Franklin, Principal

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION (please see the included flyer)
Parents/guardians of all pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students only are invited to join us for a Virtual Orientation on Thursday, August 27th. The times for each grade level is included on the attached flyer. Since this is the first time your child may have been in a public school setting, this will provide you and your son/daughter an opportunity to meet the teacher and learn more about instruction this year.

ORIENTATION/MOCK DAY OF DISTANCE LEARNING FOR GRADES 1-6
This wonderful opportunity will take place on the morning of Friday, August 28, 2020. Specific information regarding instructional schedules, curriculum, and other helpful information will be provided at this time. A specific Zoom Link will be provided to you by your child’s Classroom Teacher prior to August 28, 2020.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
Back to School Night for all grades will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2020 beginning at 6:00pm. Zoom Links will be forthcoming.

WE COMMUNICATE USING CLASSDOJO
Your child’s teacher will provide you with instructions regarding how to sign up for ClassDojo to remain aware of class assignments and school announcements.

I am excited about working with you as we provide a quality education for every child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (301) 636-8400. We are in the Main Office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8am-4pm to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you and your child on the first day of a GREAT school year!

In Service,

Dr. Cheryl Franklin
Principal

Enclosures
PK/K Orientation Flyer
School Supply Lists (located on the school website) http://www1.pgcps.org/robertgray/

The Prince George’s County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups.
Dear Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Students and Families:

Your teachers are getting excited since summer vacation is almost over and a new school year is about to start!

To get ready for this year, we will be having a Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, August 27, 2020

**Prekindergarten Orientation will take place at 9am**
Robert Gray Elementary School is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Prekindergarten Orientation
Time: Aug 27, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/89447693362?pwd=RGpKYUR6QTFTV3VOZfhh5blBMQUtjdz09
Meeting ID: 894 4769 3362
Passcode: 555594

**Kindergarten Orientation will take place at 10am**
Robert Gray Elementary School is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Kindergarten Orientation
Time: Aug 27, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/86544190485?pwd=ZTJJK3y2bGhhRXN2WDNnVWdRRGJXQT09
Meeting ID: 865 4419 0485
Passcode: 074258

At this time, you will meet your teachers, make new friends, and learn more about the exciting new year. Also at this time, your teachers will be sharing information with your parents/guardians that will help you get off to a great start.

We hope you have had a fun-filled summer and are now looking forward to starting Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. We can hardly wait to see you!

Sincerely,

The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers