


Weekly Parent Newsletter
September 25, 2020

Fifth Grade Highlight

Our incredible 5th graders are learning all about Westward Expansion and why some people in the 1800's decided to go west. They've been using their almost-middle-school reading skills to identify multiple main ideas and understand some tricky language. Would a newspaper article saying "there's more gold than mud in the streets" convince you to move west?



School Materials Pickup

We will be distributing school materials for students to use in class for grades Kinder – 4th.

Dates: September 28 – October 2

Times: 10 am – 2 pm

Masks must be worn and please observe social distance while waiting (6 feet apart).

Netiquette - yes that's a word!

Etiquette - the rules we follow to be polite and civil to others - is still important when working on the internet. Teachers are explaining important norms to students and we hope you follow them as well and encourage your children to do so. Here are a few expectations:

- **Chat appropriately:** Use the chat when the teacher asks for a response and when you have something relevant and appropriate to share
- **Use mute:** Mute yourself when not sharing so that your background noise doesn't interfere with classmates' learning
- **Raise your hand:** Raise a hand (either literally / physically or using the online 'raise hand' feature in Teams)

Important additional expectations for caregivers:

- **Refrain from interrupting:** Teachers may not be able to pause instruction to address an individual student's needs, especially in a whole group lesson that leaves 20+ students waiting. Please instead reach out to the DCPS tech line for support, try texting the partner teacher who is not leading instruction, and if you are still having a challenge, ask your child to work on other tasks in Canvas/Clever or in the binder until you are able to solve the tech problem.
- **Show appropriate background behavior:** Please remember, when your child is in live online learning, your actions in the background are exposed to the class of small children. Be mindful of this during instruction and stay aware of language use, state of dress, and other visuals on students' screens that can be harmful or distracting.

Family Virtual Learning Survey

As we continue to learn together, we want to hear about distance learning from your perspective. Please take a few moments to record your thoughts/reflections below to support us in a better understanding of how we can adjust to excel in this virtual environment.

Click here for [SURVEY](#).

Updated Physicals and Oral Health Assessments

Health physicals and oral health assessments are required annually. Medical forms must be turned in to the school as part of the enrollment process, and any updated forms throughout the school year should be submitted to the school. Students must have an up-to-date health assessment form on file with the school once in-person learning begins. This is the best time to ensure your student's health form is updated. Schedule an appointment with your doctor if your student needs a current physical.

You may call the school to find out if your student has an updated health form (202-939-5390) or you can email your current health form to Ms. Emma (emma.amaya@k12.dc.gov).

You can find all the forms by visiting: [School Health Requirements](#)

Kids Ride Free

Kids Ride Free cards for the current school year (SY20-21) have arrived. School Year 19-20 cards are effective through September 29, 2020. If you would like to request a new card, please contact the main office and we can have one ready for you to pick up. Pickup days are ONLY on **9/23, 9/30, 10/7 and 10/14**. You must contact the school to request one prior to picking up.

For more information you can visit: [Kids Ride Free FAQ](#)

Having Technology Problems?

If you are having problems with technology or login into your class, contact the Family Support line by calling (202) 442-5885 or visit: [DCPS Support Page](#)

Breakfast and Lunch for Students (and Food Distribution)

Even though we will be starting the year with virtual instruction, DCPS remains committed to supporting our students with meal distribution during the pandemic. Ensuring access to nutritious meals means that students are set up for success and ready to learn.

Grocery sites are available throughout the District to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable groceries to families. Residents are encouraged to bring a cart and/or tote bag to transport groceries at home. Masks are required at the grocery sites. Grocery sites are open 10 am – 11:30 am (Friday's at CHEC).

The closest location to our school for breakfast/lunch and food distribution is Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC): 3101 16th St NW. You can find more locations by visiting: [Food Distribution](#)

Parent University

DCPS Parent University is a workshop series for families facilitated by the Communications and Engagement Office. Each session is designed to help families play their important role in supporting student learning and growth. The workshops are an opportunity for families to share strategies and learn new ones from each other and DCPS Central Office teams.

To view or register for upcoming sessions, visit: [Parent University](#)

Family Microsoft Teams Training Sessions!

Microsoft is partnering with DCPS to offer free training sessions for families!

Join the webinar where you will learn from an experienced educator, trainer and parent how to use Surface and Teams to promote independence, engage with teachers and peers, support various learning preferences and styles while providing a simple and safe remote learning experience for all. Q&A will be available.

Every Wednesday through the end of September at 10am and 6pm.

- Sep 30: [Live Event 10am](#)/[Live Event 5pm](#)

News from PTO

Please see attached flyer for information regarding food donations.

Stay in Connected!

Visit our website:

<https://www.hdcookeschool.org/>

Follow us on Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/HDCookeES>

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