



A message from Principal Brunson...

Happy New Year! I am thrilled that students and staff took a “break” and returned to school with expressions of happiness on their faces. Like 2016, I am confident that 2017 will be yet another productive year and an opportunity to meet and conquer new challenges and celebrate successes.

Health and Wellness Reminders

At Cloverly, we are committed to the health and well-being of students. During the month of December and also during winter break, our wonderful building services team cleaned and sanitized classrooms and learning spaces. Students continue to receive weekly reminders about the importance of hand-washing, which considered to be the most important way to prevent infection. Please see the attached letter, which was sent out to families last month, from our school nurse, Ms. Linda Lewis.

Furthermore, please make sure that students are dressing warmly during this cold, winter season. Parents will be notified, as needed, if their child did not come to school wearing clothing items that do not cover their arms, legs, and feet.

STEAM Night

We are very excited to present to you *Starry Night*, the theme for this year’s STEAM Night. There will be exciting programs and activities that will engage students and their families in an interactive evening of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh’s famous painting STARRY NIGHT. The date for STEAM Night is **January 26, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Family registration will be via paper this year. Registration forms are going home this Friday. We did sign up genius for the past two years, and there were often difficulties with families accessing printers or technology, so we elected to follow the Family Reading Night model for ease of access. Families will select their top 6 choices. The STEAM Committee will then assign each family to a rotation schedule of 4 sessions based on their choices. More information will be sent home early January.

Student Absences

Whenever a student does not attend school at a rate of 10% or higher, a letter is sent home to his or her parents, and a copy of it is placed in the student’s cumulative file. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances in which you would like to provide a rationale, then send an email to me; and, I will be sure that it is also included in your child’s cumulative file as an attachment to the absence letter. My email address is Melissa_A_Brunson@mcpsmd.org.

Also, when students are absent, teachers make every effort to provide missed work. However, please allow teachers **at least 24 hours** to prepare work to be sent home. If students will only be absent for one or two days, they may obtain missed work when they return. If a student is absent for more than 2 days, notify the office so that the classroom teacher may be informed of the extended absence and may collect the work as appropriate. Please be aware that in the case of an extended absence, a teacher may choose to modify and adjust the work to be completed.

Extended Student Absences

Many times, parents plan vacations or may need to leave the area with their children for a temporary length of time for personal reasons during the school year. Children who leave for an extended time are subjected to breaks in their instruction. Much of the work cannot be made up because the classroom teacher has moved on to other areas of instruction. Furthermore, teachers are not expected to develop multiple weeks’ worth of classroom

reinforcement work or homework during the time students are out; unless, there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. the student is in the hospital).

Revised Fingerprinting Requirements for Day Field Trip Chaperones

Effective immediately and for the remainder of this school year, chaperones on day field trips that are expected to return to school on or before 7:00 p.m. **no longer** need to complete the fingerprinting and background check process. However, chaperones are still expected to complete the Online Training for Volunteers and Contractors: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, which is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect.

Principal-Parent Chat & Chew

Parents are invited to attend a second semester Principal-Parent Chat at Chew on Tuesday, February 14, immediately following the Valentine's parties. This is an open opportunity for parents to hear about what's new at Cloverly and to also share their thoughts or concerns about how we can improve our educational environment at Cloverly Elementary School. We are planning to provide childcare for this event.

Early Dismissal, Late or Delayed School Opening

Use the following resources for information regarding early dismissal, late, or delayed opening:

- MCPS Cable TV: Channel 34 (Comcast); Channel 36 (Verizon); Channel 89 (RCN)
- MCPS Emergency Hotline 301-279-3643
- MCPS Webpage at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
- MCPS Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/mcps>
- Principal Brunson Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/CloverlyES Prin>
- Local Radio



“A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.” --Colin Powell

“Where there is unity there is always victory.” --Publilius Syrus

May all of our Cloverly families have a healthy, prosperous, and enjoyable new year!

Melissa Brunson
Dr. Melissa Brunson
Principal