

Dear Cloverly Families:

I would like to thank all of the parents for attending *Open House* and *Academic Night* last month. We hope you walked away with a variety of activities that will serve as a reinforcement or extension to our instructional program.

We are very committed to providing a first-class instructional program at Cloverly. As a part of our professional learning community, the Cloverly staff takes advantage of the following training opportunities to promote their professional growth:

- Ongoing Professional Development  
Continuous improvement through ongoing professional development is paramount at Cloverly. Led mainly by our reading specialist and staff development teacher, our monthly staff training meetings focus on targeted educational strategies that support the teaching and learning process. This year's training focus is on infusing critical thinking using Promethean technology.
- Data Chats  
Ongoing, close monitoring of student achievement data to know what is working for individual students take place during monthly Reading and Math Data Chats. Each grade level meets for approximately one hour with the involvement of the school administrators, reading or staff development specialist, instructional data assistant, and counselor to analyze and determine strategies needed to adapt instruction and to regroup students for remediation or acceleration as necessary. Providing intervention supports for at-risk students continues to be a focus this school year.
- Intervention Meetings  
School administration, reading specialist, ESOL teachers, special education resource teacher, and staff development teacher identify specific interventions for at-risk reading students. Input is also provided by the classroom teachers. As a result of these meetings, students are recommended for reading intervention programs such as SOAR, Corrective Reading, Read Naturally, or in-class interventions. Additional intervention recommendations for math are decided upon and are implemented primarily in the classroom. These meetings are held early to ensure that intervention supports are in place right from the start of the new school year. We will be implementing a new MCPS titled Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) that focuses on providing appropriate and effective interventions to at-risk students.
- System-Wide Professional Development  
Ongoing professional development is provided to all staff (i.e. teachers, support staff, and school administrators) throughout Montgomery County Public Schools. Some trainings/meetings are required. This year, many of our teachers attended trainings on grading and reporting and on critical thinking using Promethean technology. Ongoing training continues to take place at the local school level.
- Training to Support New Teachers  
Teachers new to teaching and experienced teachers new to MCPS are required to go to new teacher training over the summer or at the beginning of the school year. New teachers are assigned a mentor or consulting teacher in addition to the support provided by their teammates, colleagues, staff development teacher, and school administration. There are additional courses like *The Skillful Teacher* that is offered to new and experienced MCPS teachers. Many of our teachers have taken this course.

Several of our teachers take advantage of college/university course offerings and attend statewide conferences to promote their professional growth. For example, Mrs. Jennifer Grey is working on her Master's Degree in Bilingual Special Education.

We are committed to providing accelerated instruction and opportunities that promote critical thinking. To date, all of our general teachers have been trained and are implementing the William and Mary Program (grades 3-5), Junior Great Books (grades K-5), and Jacob's Ladder (grades 3-5) for the delivery of effective, enhanced reading instruction. At each grade level, we have at least one class of students receiving above grade level math instruction.

We continue to engage in ongoing trainings that focus on the infusion of critical thinking and Promethean technology in all subject areas.

As a school community, we are actively engaging in collegial conversations about race and its impact on student achievement. This year, we are extending our focus to the community through the *Study Circles* program. The ultimate goal of the program is to have staff and parents work together to remove racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement and parent involvement. *Study Circles* are scheduled to begin on January 13 for six consecutive weeks. Additionally, our leadership team is studying a book titled, Mindset.

Our staff goes “above and beyond” the call of duty to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education. In addition to initiatives that were started last year, we continue to implement the *Mentoring Support* program. Selected students receive mentoring support from assigned staff persons. Parents must give permission for their children to participate. Ms. Carol Elliott, our school counselor, oversees this program.

To also support Cloverly’s instructional program, meaningful, comprehensive teacher-led after-school programs are being offered to students. This year we have 2 sessions (fall and spring) of Math (grades 2-5), Science (grades K-5), and Technology (grades 4-5) clubs being offered to students. **Math Club is by invitation only.**

As a result of all of the professional development, the collaboration of parents and teachers working together, and the extension activities being provided to students, we continue to maintain an outstanding instructional program for our students.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Brunson*

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Principal