Dear Francis Scott Key Middle School Students, Parents and Guardians:

Summer greetings to all. Welcome to another exciting school year at one of the best middle schools in Montgomery County Public Schools! I hope that you are having an enjoyable and restful summer. Key Middle School staff and I have been busy this summer preparing for the new school year. This upcoming year promises to be filled with a laser-like focus on student academic achievement with particular attention to the integration of the five areas of interaction in the Middle Years Programme. As our mission states, we will “develop knowledgeable, compassionate, and reflective learners through inquiry-based learning and a rigorous instructional program”. As an IB world school, we are committed to engaging our students in a variety of higher level questioning and critical thinking opportunities that will help to transform them into global thinkers. This mailing contains a lot of important information. Please take time to review all of the attachments and save the important dates as you prepare for the first day of school.

LEED GOLD RATED GREEN SCHOOL OFFERS E-COMMUNICATION

This letter and all attachments will be posted on our school website at: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/fskms/. Electronic communication will be our common practice as environmentally friendly global citizens. As you may already know, LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. As a gold rated LEED Green school, we have a responsibility to conserve resources. To that end, we would like to request email addresses of all parents who wish to receive future documents in e-format only. If you would like to sign up, please send an email to joan_p_herbold@mcpsmd.org.
ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The newest member of the administrative team is Mr. Dove who is replacing Ms. Morales. With a focus on math and a background in elementary education, Mr. Dove was selected as grade 6 team leader and math teacher at Newport Mill Middle School before moving into administration. He has worked in the capacity of Assistant School Administrator and Acting Assistant Principal at Newport Middle School for the last three years. He will serve as the administrator for grade 7 and grade 8 (last names A-L). Mrs. Cherry will be returning to the Key family as assistant principal. Her commitment to students and quality instruction is noteworthy. She will serve as the administrator for grade 6 and grade 8 (last names M-Z). Please feel free to call or email your child’s administrator if you need assistance.

EDLINE, PROGRESS REPORTS & INTERIMS

We will continue to use Edline, a web based program that allows parents and students to see grades and homework assignments on line. Montgomery County Public Schools will mail activation codes to parents/guardians of all new students, and parents/guardians who have never activated their accounts last year on the first day of school. If you do not receive the activation code by September 7, 2010, please contact Ms. Felicia Parson at felicia_parson@mcpsmd.org. Please be sure to visit Edline on a regular basis to monitor the progress of your child. A schedule of grade sheet distribution dates will be posted on our website for you. We will also host parent conference days to meet with you and discuss your child’s academic progress. Quarterly interims will be mailed home this year. We will remind you of the dates using our automated phone system and via our website.

5 P’S – PROUD, PROMPT, POLITE, PREPARED AND PERSISTENT

Our school environment will continue to be a positive one. At Key Middle School, we expect all students to exhibit the five P’s – Proud, Prompt, Polite, Prepared and Persistent-at all times. Students must attend school daily and be on time in order to experience the benefits of an outstanding education. Respect for one’s self, others and the school should be evident on a daily basis through the interactions that we have with one another, our mode of dress and focus on our school work. I know that returning students are familiar with these expectations and will meet them with success. I am equally confident that our new students will learn them and model these positive behaviors on a regular basis. Please remember that hats are not to be worn in the building, and electronic devices, including, but not limited to, Ipods, Nintendo DS, PSP, and MP 3 players are not allowed on school property. Per MCPS policy, any student in possession of a cell phone is required to ensure that the cell phone is turned off and out of sight during the instructional day, which includes after school activities. The instructional day is defined as 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., unless a student is staying after school for extended day activities. In that case, the instructional day ends at 4:00 p.m.
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT – THE KEY TO SUCCESS**

The staff and I will continue to stress academic performance because we believe all students can experience rigor in the classroom. We want all of our students to achieve their highest potential. In order to do this, it will take effective communication among all of us. **If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher, counselor or administrator. Stay involved in your child's education by participating in our monthly family nights and additional parent outreach activities throughout the year. We are an open IB world school and we encourage you to visit anytime.** As a safety precaution, we ask that you always stop by the main office, sign in and receive a visitors badge before proceeding to your child’s class. You are encouraged to visit for a period or a full day. Please know that you are welcomed at Key and we would love to see you! In addition to visiting your child at work and attending the evening meetings, we also need parent volunteers to work in a variety of capacities including the offices and the classrooms both during and after school. **If you are interested in volunteering, please email Joan Herbold, administrative assistant, at Joan_P_Herbold@mcpsmd.org.** 

Mr. Daniel Abebe will serve as the president of the PTSA and will be sharing more information about parent involvement opportunities soon.

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**SAVE THE DATES**

**ORIENTATION, FIRST DAY & BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

There will be an incoming 6th grade and New Student Orientation for students on Thursday, August 26, from 7:30 am to 11:40 am. Students will report to the cafeteria for a meeting, tour the campus, meet students and staff, and learn more about Key Middle School. Refer to the attached bus schedule to determine bus arrival and bus top locations for your child. Remember, the bus times are estimated times and the buses may be a few minutes earlier or later than the times listed on the schedule. Please plan accordingly.

We have scheduled a special orientation picnic for our incoming 6th grade parents and students on Thursday, August 26 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for parents to meet staff and other parents and to enjoy light refreshments. You will have the opportunity to hear about the 6th grade team, Outdoor Education Experience, extracurricular activities, and purchase gym uniforms.

The official first day of school is Monday, August 30. Students will receive their schedules in homeroom.

Our Back-to-School Night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 at 6:30 pm. I hope you will find the time to visit our school during the evening program and meet your child’s teachers, counselor and administrator. During that night, you will learn more about course expectations and grading procedures. Key Ambassadors will be available to assist you to classrooms during our program.

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**Final Note...**

As we approach this upcoming school year and my first year as principal at Francis Scott Key Middle School, it is important that we support each other and continue the positive traditions that exist in this community. Developing global citizens can be challenging work, but with the partnership of the school and home, we can tackle all obstacles and succeed. At Francis Scott Key Middle School “Failure is not an option” and we are confident that you will join us in supporting our students and not settle for anything less than their very best each and every day.

Students, I know that you can accomplish anything this year if you are willing to work hard and ask for help. I hope that the remainder of your summer will be restful and pleasant and that you will work closely and cooperatively with me to fulfill our vision, goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

Myriam A. Rogers
Principal
July 1, 2010

Dear Francis Scott Key Middle School Community:

It is with great pride and joy that I write this letter as the new principal of Francis Scott Key Middle School. After serving as Principal Intern at Montgomery Blair High School for this past year and Assistant Principal for the two previous years, I am thrilled to be returning to middle school! I am equally excited to be working with the Northeast Consortium, the great cluster where I began my educational career with Montgomery County Public Schools 12 years ago (Blake High School- Chemistry Teacher). Since my appointment on June 8th, I have received numerous emails and cards from staff and parents. Please allow me to thank you so much for making me feel welcomed and a part of the Key family. I am looking forward to working together.

My meetings, visits, and review of the work that has been done have revealed a dedicated, top notch staff that is committed to our county’s vision of Success for Every Student. I am truly honored to work with you and support you as we continue to provide a world-class rigorous instructional program to our students. From the first day that I stopped by to visit, I knew Francis Scott Key Middle School was a special place. I was greeted by staff and students who shared Eagle Pride. I am impressed with the evident commitment of students, staff and parents to maintaining a physically and emotionally safe environment for all. Key Middle School will continue to be a school where all are welcomed and appreciated.

I began my journey to the principalship as a Chemistry Teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools. Three years later, I joined the teaching ranks in MCPS. After teaching Chemistry, I became the Science Resource Teacher and Grade 7 team leader at Westland Middle School. I entered administration seven years ago and have been fortunate enough to serve as an administrator on both the high school and middle school levels including Albert Einstein High School and Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology. I come to you with a wide range of experiences ready to share and work together. I am dedicated to the pursuit of a quality education for all. To that end, I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland College Park in Educational Policy and Leadership.

On a personal note, I am the proud wife of Daniel Sr., a senior marketing executive, and the mother of four- yes, four- children: Daniel Jr., Kennedy, Dominic and Madison. As we get ready to send our oldest son off to college next month, I am reminded of our collective responsibility to help our students become college ready and navigate their chosen paths successfully. We will be collaborating with the Francis Scott Key community to prepare our students both academically and socially to enter high school with the knowledge and skills that they need to thrive!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and please feel free to stop by the Principal Coffees this summer to introduce yourself and say hello. I am looking forward to a very successful and rewarding 2010- 2011 school year and many more to come.

Sincerely,

Myram A. Rogers
Principal