



August 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

I would like to welcome you to the 2018 – 2019 school year! I hope you have had a fun, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and you are ready for an amazing year. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 4, 2018, and we are looking forward to having you all back in the building. On September 4, we are looking forward to welcoming over 1,730 students, almost 70 students more than we had this past school year!

As I begin my second year at James Hubert Blake High School, I am excited to continue the work we began last school year. Our instructional leadership team worked exceptionally hard this summer to look at how we could promote and support the success of each of our 1,730 Bengals. We will be working this year to continue to build our partnership with our families as we work to personalize our work to meet the needs of your children.

In preparation for the upcoming school year we are looking for your input. We know that as we start each school year our students, parents, and staff each have very specific and unique hopes and dreams for that year. We are asking that you and your student(s) take some time to share those hopes with us. We are using an online video system (Flipgrid) to facilitate this. You are able (with a computer, tablet, or smart phone) to go to <http://flipgrid.com/e063f8>, log in using your student(s) school email address (the one that ends with mcpsmd.net), and post your response to our question about what your hopes for the upcoming school year are. Video responses will be reviewed prior to being posted and students 13 years old and younger must complete this [consent form](#) and email it back to me (Robert.Sinclair@mcpsmd.org) in order to have their video posted. Our goal is to use these videos to help guide and monitor our work for the year. We want to know what you are hoping for during the upcoming school year so that we can work to make that happen!

I wanted to take a minute to introduce two staff members that you may work with throughout the summer and into next school year. As our school has grown in size, we have been able to expand our staffing to better support the needs of our students. I am pleased to announce that we have been able to add a fourth assistant principal for next school year, Mr. Mark Brown, Jr., who joins us from Richard Montgomery High School where he has served as an assistant principal. In addition, we were able to add a seventh full time school counselor, Mr. Dwayne Thomas, who is joining us from Gaithersburg High School where he served as a school counselor.

Because of these staffing changes, we have adjusted the administrative and counseling assignments for next school year. For the 2018 – 2019 school year, Ms. Anita O'Neill will be serving as the 9th grade administrator, Mr. Norman Edwards will be serving as the 10th grade administrator, Mr. Mark Brown, Jr. will be serving as the 11th grade administrator, and Ms. Marie Koch will be serving as the 12th grade administrator. The counselor assignments for the upcoming year are outlined below. Each counselor will work with students in grades 9-12, organized by student last names. While we worked hard to minimize changes in counselors for our returning students, we were unable to keep all students

with their current counselors. This is a concern that our counselors are aware of and will be working together to make sure that all students and families are supported.

Ms. Conter: A - Card

Ms. Smith: Care - F

Ms. Hayes: G - Kar

Mr. Tolbert: Kas - Man

Ms. Baer: Mao - Par

Mr. Thomas: Pas-She

Ms. Costenbader: Shi - Z

We will be hosting our **New Student Orientation** on Thursday, August 30, from 7:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for all new students and ninth graders to get to meet their new peers, learn about the transition to James Hubert Blake High School, and get to check out their schedules and meet their teachers. Bus transportation will be provided on this day following the regular morning pick up time (you can find information in the Back to School Resource Bank) and an 11:30 a.m. dismissal time. Students should be sure to know their bus route numbers to make the day a successful one.

We will also be hosting our **9th grade parent meeting** the evening of Thursday, August 30, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Blake High School Auditorium. This is an opportunity for 9th grade parents to get to meet Blake staff, learn about the transition to high school, learn about the supports in place at Blake for student success, and to make the transition for our parents a smooth one as well.

The **school year starts as a full day on Tuesday, September 4, 2018**. Our bell schedules are posted on our website, but students are expected to be in class, seated and ready to learn by 7:45 a.m. The first two days of school students will report to homeroom (these lists can be found on our 18-19 Summer Resources webpage) at the start of the school day. While we do not have a school-wide school supply list students should arrive the first day with pens, pencils, and paper. As they work through their schedule teachers will provide them with lists of materials needed based on their course enrollments.

We have our underclassmen portraits scheduled right at the start of the school year. Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will have their fall portraits (the pictures that will be in the yearbook) taken on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 5, 6, and 7. Additional information about the scheduling of this pictures and order forms will be sent out as soon as it they are ready.

I want to thank you in advance for your support and dedication to our work together this year for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 240-740-1400. Enjoy the rest of the summer and we are looking forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday, September 4.

Respectfully,



Robert Sinclair Jr.
Principal