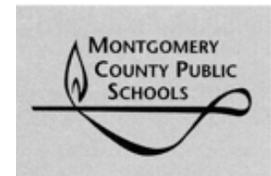




Neelsville Middle School
An International Baccalaureate World School
11700 Neelsville Church Road
Germantown • Maryland 20876
Phone: 301-353-8064



Office of the Principal

August 2019

Dear Neelsville Middle School Families:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at **Neelsville Middle School**. We are excited to welcome over 300 new 6th graders to our school, as well as many new 7th and 8th graders joining our community. Our school year begins on **Tuesday, September 3**, less than a month away!

We invite our incoming 6th grade students, as well as any new 7th and 8th graders, to join us for our **Student Orientation Day** on **Thursday, August 29**. The orientation session will consist of a ½ day for students, 8:15am until noon. Students will ride their buses to and from school (see attached). Also, please mark your calendars for our **Back to School Night**, scheduled for **Thursday, September 12**. Our regular school hours remain from 8:15am until 3:00pm. If you drop off your child in the morning, please do not drop them off before 8am as we do not have supervision prior to that time. Also, when dropping off or picking up your child, please follow all of the parking lot regulations, particularly in respect to our bus lanes – your children's safety is our number one priority, and we need everyone's support.

This year, we are embarking on an exciting program as one of only 3 MCPS selected middle schools selected to offer **iPads** to all of our students. **Verizon** is funding the **VILs (Verizon Innovative Learning)** project to provide access to technology to all students. We will establish our expectations regarding the use of the **iPads** with our students during the first few weeks of school, share information with parents, including requirements for the program, and will distribute the **iPads** to our students at the end of September/beginning of October. Students will use their **iPads** in all classes and take them home daily. The **iPads** come with 4G internet access, so students can extend their learning beyond the classroom. We are excited about this program and the benefits to our students. Teachers have been trained, and will continue to attend Professional Development sessions to ensure the most effective and engaging implementation of the **iPads** within the instructional program.

Another change for this year is our daily schedule. We are moving to a 5-period rotating schedule (see attached). Rather than attending 4 90-minute blocks each day as we have for many years, students will attend 5 blocks (periods), 4 of them around 60 minutes and 1 90-minute block. We considered feedback from staff, students and parents. We surveyed staff and students last year, and they overwhelmingly stated that they preferred the 5-period schedule. We also shared this information with our PTSA in the spring, and they voted to support this new schedule. We recognize that there will be challenges with this schedule, keeping up with the different days, but we have spoken with other schools that are implementing it, and all provided very positive feedback.

Some reminders:

- We will continue to send our weekly Sunday evening **ConnectEd** messages, both voice and email in English and Spanish, to keep families informed. Make sure your phone #/email is updated.
- Please check out our school's website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/neelsvilleMS/
- We encourage all families to access the **myMCPS Parent and Student Portal** which provides access to grades, attendance, and much more.
- Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) application is available online at www.MySchoolApps.com. Families must reapply each school year.

We are excited, honored and ready to begin the new school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our school at 301-353-8064. We look forward to seeing everyone in just a few short weeks. Enjoy this last month of summer!

Sincerely,

L. Victoria Lake-Parcan, Principal

Tonia Harley, Asst. Principal

Melissa Sigley, Asst. Principal