

## Parent Newsletter | December 2020

Dear Parents,

Our TEAM continues to work tirelessly to provide students with learning activities that foster creative thinking. As we approach the end of the 1st semester, you are encouraged to continue to stay in contact with your child teacher(s), check homework each day, and ensure that your child is logging in by 8:30am. In addition, continue to check Seesaw & Schoology for a list of outstanding assignments. All scholars must complete i-Ready assignments each day for a minimum of 20 minutes. You are encouraged to watch our virtual Holiday Program on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:00am. Last day of school for 1<sup>st</sup> semester is Friday, December 18, 2020. First day of school in 2021 is Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Have a fabulous holiday break and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,



Dr. Lee Clinton Buddy Jr.  
Principal

### Grade Level & Department Updates

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

In English Language Arts, we are finishing our NWEA test before the Christmas break and completing some special lessons to celebrate the Winter season. Please continue to encourage your child to read and build an enjoyment for reading. In Math, we continue to develop addition and subtraction strategies and will begin to solve word problems. Remember iReady is online and provides immediate feedback so practice is meaningful and engaging. iReady is available 24/7, from school, home, or a public library and would provide a fantastic reinforcing activity over the Christmas break. In Social Studies and Science, we're in the process of completing the Unit: *Living Things*. In honor of the Christmas season, scholars will learn about holiday traditions and cultures from around the world. Thank you for your support!

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### 2020-2021 PROMOTION UPDATE

Under newly enacted legislation for the 2020-2021 school year (Section 18 of House Bill 164 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly), no district, community school, STEM school or chartered nonpublic school shall retain a student in the third grade who does not meet the promotion score of **683** on the Ohio's State Test for grade 3 English language arts if the student's principal ***and reading teacher agree that other evaluations of the student's skills in reading demonstrate the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the fourth grade.*** This provision applies to students who are in third grade for the 2020-2021 school year and would be enrolling in the fourth grade for the 2021-2022 school year, unless retained.

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### 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

It is hard to believe how quickly the days have passed and that we are already in December. As we look back over the first half of the school year and reflect upon challenges and successes, it's a fantastic time to look ahead and set new goals. The 8th grade scholars and homeroom teachers are looking forward to our TRUE2U Mentoring Program. This year the program will take place virtually and once a month. The scholars will also participate in the Naviance career assessment survey. We will send out notifications regarding these programs.

Ms. Powell's class will continue to participate in study novels. We are planning an exciting art project with Ms. Hutchinson (art teacher).

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we are adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers in math. Students are reminded to log in to Schoology each day to access their daily folder of activities for each class. On Tuesday, November 17th the entire 5th grade class took part in a virtual field trip at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Led by a museum scientist, students learned about light, sound and motion and how it can be seen and exhibited at the museum.

### 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies

6th grade scholars continued a unit on ancient Mesopotamia. 7th graders are currently studying about Classical Civilizations, Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. 8th grade scholars engaged in the study of how America came to be.

### 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Science

We are currently looking at tables, graphs, and models in science, and how that data is analyzed by both scientists and engineers. A new essay will be arriving shortly, and all students are required to complete it.

### 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> English/Language Arts

Eighth grade scholars just concluded their debate projects, and are now moving into a strong focus on "Introductory and Conclusion Writing." The seventh-grade students are reading short stories and articles in their Into literature textbooks about teens. They will be identifying how the two texts relate to each other, and collaborate on a final project. The sixth graders are learning about fears, phobias, and how being embarrassed is connected to our brain. We have read many stories in the Into Literature textbook, and will be working on group projects around various parts of the brain and their functions.

### 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Mathematics

Ms. Ivory expects all students to complete their work online in their math book (Ed app in Clever). The assignments that students must complete are online and graded immediately so that the scholar may receive immediate feedback. They are also given quizzes and once a quarter they receive an opportunity for bonus points. All classes are expected to have their math book, notebook and pencil - grades 7 & 8 can use calculators during class. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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### 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are having fun engaging in the Monday Stem activities. The following scholars (Darnesha Greene, Ty'Vier Williams, and Tre'El Ford) were investigating, designing, and constructing a bridge that can be used to transport vehicles and pedestrians. Students also wrote original poems about fall. Outstanding poems were written by Miyona Levert-Wallace, Ma'Riyah Johnson, Layla Harden and Darnesha Greene. In ELA/Science students are learning how to write a one-page paper in MLA writing style about Covid-19. They are also infusing technology & collaborating by creating PowerPoint presentations with audio/video.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade gifted ELA, students are continuing to read stories about overcoming hardships and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade we are exploring literature about our fight for freedom. Both classes are working on writing an informational text. In math, 8<sup>th</sup> grade is learning about rational and irrational numbers and 7<sup>th</sup> grade is studying percent's. We are excited for our scholars to participate in a program through the Maltz museum called "Stop the Hate," where scholars are working with an artist to record their own original pieces. Please make sure your child is reading 30 minutes nightly as well as completing their 20 minutes of i-Ready minutes in both reading and math during their independent time.

### Special Education

#### Blooming Learning Activities in December

A wonderful gift to give this holiday season is a book to share with your scholar and the entire family. Another very important aspect of learning that is equally important is being a critical thinker/ problem solver. To develop these skills, learning activities that can expand our scholars thinking can come from six levels of thinking called "Bloom's Taxonomy". These levels of thinking have activities that help our scholars expand their critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills allow scholars to think independently, find and fix mistakes, solve problems as well as evaluate and reflect on what they know.

The original levels of Bloom's Taxonomy are: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. A brief explanation of each level below as well as the activities for each level will help our scholars with learning at home and at school.

1. Knowledge: remembering previously learned materials
2. Comprehension: grasping the meaning of materials
3. Application: using learned materials in new and concrete ways
4. Analysis: breaking down material into parts that may be more easily understood
5. Synthesis: putting material together to form something new
6. Evaluation: judging the value of material for a given purpose

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### Special Education Continued

These six critical thinking and problem solving skills are developed by engaging our scholars in talking, discussions and hands on learning activities that can be completed at home. Some of the activities are:

1. Knowledge: List the states of all car license tags on a trip or in a parking lot
2. Comprehension: Ask your scholar, “How many words can you identify from the words, “Reading Adventure”, then go to a bookstore and buy a book
3. Application: Measure ingredients for a recipe
4. Analysis: Compare cereals for their nutritional value
5. Synthesis: Design a holiday card or make a present for a neighbor or family member
6. Evaluation: Ask your scholar questions such as “Would you rather be a surgeon or a pathologist?” and ask your child to defend the answer.

These are just a few home activities to expose our scholars to different levels of thinking that will truly begin or continue to prepare them to be problem solvers and thinkers for any endeavor that may cross their paths in the future.

**HAVE FUN, STAY SAFE, AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

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