Let’s **FACE** It – Monthly Updates

In the words of the inimitable Barbara Walters, “This is 2020!”

Welcome to second semester, where a plethora of important and exciting programs and milestones lie ahead of us. While your individual school is planning parent activities, here are a few district-wide reminders:

- **January 7, 2020 (January 13, 2020 for Year-Round Schools)** – Classes resume. Welcome to the new semester. Whether that means new courses and teachers or new curriculum and a clean slate, make a plan to navigate second semester with your scholar and their teachers.

- **February 6, 2020 12:30-7:00pm** – Year-Round Schools Parent-Teacher Conferences. Be on the lookout for flyers and phone calls with more details specific to your school. Find out if you need to schedule a time slot or if conferences are held on a first come, first served basis. Which teachers do you need to prioritize meetings with? Come with a list of questions and ask how you can support the classroom work at home. Have more than one scholar, maybe at different schools? Talk to your teachers and schedule conferences on another day for schools you can’t make it to in one night.
  - Traditional schools, your conferences are coming up in March. The above applies to you too, but you have a little more time to make your list of questions for teachers.

- **February 19 & March 4, 2020** – The next round of Family Partnership Institute. We had great responses from families that attended our fall sessions, and we would love for you to join us this time! More details to follow.

Welcome back, let’s jump in with both feet to partner with our schools. When we work together, the possibilities for our scholars are endless!
**Tips on Supporting Scholars at Home**

1. Routines and schedules every day to create consistency for scholars.
2. Monitor school and homework through teacher communication and online gradebooks.
3. Create a clean neat quiet space for completing activities related to learning.
4. Praise scholars for the big accomplishments as well as the small accomplishments.
5. Have conversations with scholars pertaining to the importance of education.
6. Take advantage of all opportunities to visit the schools. (Parent Teacher Conference, Literacy nights, Math nights, Parent meetings etc…)

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**Parent Meeting Tips**

The 411 on Parent Organizations at CMSD

All three organizations are designed to strengthen students’ learning and school improvement. Family and community members interested in participating in any one should contact their child’s school by phone or check the schools’ website for upcoming meetings. Anyone who has a child currently enrolled in the school is a member and welcomed to attend a meeting.

**School Parent Organization (SPO):**
Helps to plan workshops and programs that are aligned with school improvement goals and the Academic Achievement Plan.

**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):**
Functions the same way as an SPO but without elections, parents share leadership with the assistance of a school employee advisor.

**Family Engagement Committee (FEC):**
Advises the school’s Building Leadership Team when planning family engagement interventions to support overall school improvement and individual student academic achievement.

Find out which type of meeting is being held at your child’s school. If they do not have one, help them establish one and create those meaningful partnerships! It is never too late!

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**Resource Highlight**

Here you will find the information for a variety of free online courses for our parents/caregivers, through the Cleveland Public Library. Topics included but not limited to Accounting, Business, Healthcare, Legal, etc.

Click on the following link for more information:

https://education.gale.com/l-cpl/

**Research Brief**

**Family Engagement in Education**

Children whose parents and families are engaged in and hold high expectations of their education tend to earn better grades, have higher graduations rates, and are more likely to enroll in post-secondary education.

Click the link to read more on this research.

School Highlights – CMSD has many schools that support your child’s educational needs. At CMSD we support family choice. This section is to help you make the right choice for your family. Each month we will highlight a Pre K – 8 and High School.

PreK – 8 – Louisa May Alcott

Louisa M Alcott is highly effective, diverse, inclusive, family oriented K-5 elementary school located in a quiet, tight-knit community in the Baltic-Edgewater-West Boulevard neighborhood. The mission is to produce a joyful, rigorous, student-led culture that embraces a child’s social-emotional needs, differentiated academic needs, and cultural artistic needs, to be confident, successful, balanced, thinkers and leaders prepared for college, career and service to others.

High School – Bard High School

Bard High School Early College Cleveland provides students the unique opportunity to take rigorous courses, earn college credit and even graduate high school with an Associate’s degree in just four years. Students can take a two-year, tuition free college course of study in college core classes and electives. They can graduate with up to 60 transferable college credits. Bard has a 20-1 student-to-professor ratio on average.

https://adayinourshoes.com/

A Day in our Shoes | Don’t IEP Alone

Don’t IEP Alone: Change your child’s outcomes with the best free online IEP advice for parents, all written and shared by a Special Education Advocate and Disability Parent.

adayinourshoes.com


Stories for Parents Under Stress

Stories. Act Now, Pay Later – When my son entered foster care, I couldn’t think, plan, or stay calm. by Jeanette Vega; Home Safe Home – I’m looking for supportive housing for my son and me. by Sara Werner; Mommy Time – I had to change for my children’s sake. by Melissa Landrau; Breaking the Chain (English and Spanish) – Building a calm, safe home for my son.

www.risemagazine.org