Parents and Friends,

The staff and I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to thank you and your child for your resilience during the 2019-2020 second semester as we experienced unprecedented challenges but we are encouraged by the leadership of the Prince George’s County Board of Education and CEO Dr. Goldson in their proactive approach to addressing these challenges.

As you may know, the Prince Georges County school system will begin the upcoming school year in Distance Learning out of the concern for safety and well-being of the entire school community. The first day of school will be on Monday, August 31, 2020. However, prior to our students returning there is pertinent information that you should be aware of. On Tuesday, August 25 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm we will be distributing chromebooks to our first through fifth grade students who have not received a chromebook during the 2019-2020 school year. The distribution will occur in the parking lot of Isaac Gourdine Middle School. We have a limited amount of chromebooks at this time. If we happened to run out of chromebooks, we will provide you one when the school system procures additional devices, which should occur by September 21, 2020 because there has been a high demand for electronic devices as a result of distance education throughout the nation. Once received, you will be notified and a date and time will be scheduled for you to pick up a device. Your understanding is appreciated.

Additionally, our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will participate in a “Mock Day” on Friday, August 28th at 9:00AM. All students will join their Google Classroom to meet their teacher and learn about how their instructional day will look.

Finally, our virtual “Back To School Night” is scheduled for Friday, August 28th at 5:00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing you virtually.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carr
Principal
To our Tayac students, parents, and community members, it is a pleasure to welcome all of you back to school for another exciting school year of learning and fun. It is not an understatement that we are starting this school year in a very unique way, however that does not make your school experience less valuable. We are here to support you any way we can to ensure you are receiving the best education possible while navigating our new normal. Once again, it is an honor and privilege to serve you as the school counselor for this school year. We will continue to learn about best practices in the areas of personal, social, academic, and college and career readiness. During the month of September, some of the items we will cover are school wide and grade specific expectations, online behavioral expectations, reviewing the county wide handbook and understanding the roles of the school counselor. I am here to ensure you are safe and have a safe place to go when needed. Your mental health and academic achievement are my top priorities. Again, I am over the moon excited for this school year and look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Ndaka

FROM OUR READING SPECIALIST

To help your child select appropriate books that he or she will be able to read independently and successfully use the “five finger test”. Open the book to any page, for every word unknown put a finger down. If there are five unknown words (five fingers down), then the text should be saved for later. Be sure to visit your local library to check out books!
Want more parental information about reading?


Ms. Deese
Fluency in Math is the ability to recall the answers to basic math facts automatically and without hesitation. Fact fluency is gained through significant practice. Research has shown that long-term success in mathematics is closely tied to strong number sense, including fluency with basic facts. The sooner your child becomes fluent with her or his addition and subtraction facts from 1-10, the better! Addition and subtraction of larger numbers will be much easier to master, and multiplication and division are easier to learn with the support of addition and subtraction fluency.

Kindergarten through Second Grade Students:
In order for students to become fluent with their basic facts, they need to develop strategies that move beyond counting. We are asking that you spend 5-10 minutes a night practicing math facts with your child. The combination of practice at home and at school will help your child learn his or her facts quickly. If your child has mastered his/her facts from 1-10, he/she can begin working on facts to 20 and improving his/her speed. First and second grade should also practice subtraction fluency to 20. Students can use flashcards, online websites, and worksheets to name a few.

Third through Fifth Grade Students:
In order for students to become fluent with their basic facts, they need to develop strategies that move beyond counting. We are asking that you spend 10-15 minutes a night practicing math facts with your child. The combination of practice at home and at school will help your child learn his or her facts quickly. Students in these grade levels should have addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division single-digit facts mastered.
I know the rug has been pulled out from under you. In fact, it’s probably been pulled many times in the past 6 months. Nothing is sure; everything becomes THE thing.

We are charting a course for the best possible outcome: connecting with our students.

**Your child still needs family.**
Teachers are still teaching, just in a virtual format, and with a different schedule. It can be confusing for students if families try to assume the role of teacher.

- Explain to your child that their teacher is still their teacher, and that you are in communication with the teacher to help them learn at home. While you may feel more pressure with your child at home, try to think of it as a different way of helping your child with learning.

**Set up a comfortable space in your home for learning.** While school closure for COVID-19 is a temporary situation, it is likely that it may be extended as needed to keep people safe. Choose a non-distracting space in your home to set up a learning space. Some students need a quiet area in their room, while others need oversight and frequent assistance.

- Remember that it is not necessary for your child to sit at a table in order to learn. Pillows, a floor space, lying on the couch, or even a yoga ball might provide additional comfort for your child while learning. Students with sensory needs can be supported in this way.

- Think about what your child will need in order to learn and plan around those needs. Once you have a space, gather supplies such as notebooks, pencils, calculators, or any type of supportive or assistive devices your child needs, and make sure they are nearby.

**Establish a schedule.** Schedules are important for you and for your child, especially if you are also working from home. Set clear expectations and goals with your child.

Try to limit distractors to scheduled break times. Set a timer to signal the end of a break.

- Try playing music with 50-80 beats per minute in the background, such as classical music, nature sounds, or video game music (without the visuals, of course). Music has been found to have a positive impact on productivity and concentration. You might find that music helps you focus more and be productive, too!