Greetings Isaac Gourdine Family,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this unexpected spread of COVID-19. You and your families have remained in our thoughts constantly and we hope that you are all well and staying safe. As you are aware, we will continue Distance Learning from August 31, 2020 until January 31, 2021. Although the school year will be different, I can assure you that each of our staff members are committed to providing a quality education to each of our students throughout the entire school year. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our scholars need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in our scholar’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our scholar’s success, and we want you to know that we will work extremely hard to fulfill our responsibilities.

On August 28th, we will have a Mock Transition Day Schedule. Students will attend "A" Day Schedule with only 30 minutes for a lunch break. The Transition Day schedule will include: visit to each mod, transition time and lunch. Teachers will share information about their classes at this time. Schedules will be shared with parents by August 25, 2020. Students will log-on to Zoom at the regular start time for our school to participate in the opening virtual session (principal's message, student message, virtual tour of the school.)

Chromebooks have been assigned to every middle school student in PGCPS. Students are expected to have a fully charged or plugged-in computer ready for instruction each day. Students should test their learning devices with their parents. Things for students to consider for online success:

1) Mute your microphone when you are not talking
2) Give your teacher and classmates your full attention
3) Always dress appropriately
4) Be respectful of your classmates at all times
5) Know the Zoom Link and classroom code for each mod

Students will begin school on Monday, August 31st. School hours remain the same: 7:45am -2:25pm.
We have scheduled three days for students to pick up their materials (and chromebooks if they have not already picked them up) material distribution dates are as follows:

August 24, 2020 - 10:00 - 3:00
August 26, 2020 - 10:00 - 3:00
August 27, 2020 - 10:00 - 3:00

Pre-packaged meals for breakfast and lunch will be distributed on Mondays and Wednesdays. The student's Personal Identification Number (PIN) will be needed to access the meal program. Students enrolled in a Prince George's County Public School last year, will use the same PIN. New students will be assigned a new PIN during the first week of school. Money should be deposited on the student's account to prepay for meals. You may also set up, review and add money to your child's account on line www.MySchoolBucks.com. Free and Reduced lunch applications are now available online at www.applyforlunch.com. One application per family is required. Confirmation letters for approval of the free or reduced meals will come from the Food & Nutrition Services.

Our Back to School Night will be held virtually from 6:30 - 8:00 pm on September 17, 2020.

Our Student Supply List is as follows: Scissors, pencils with erasers, pencil sharpener, ruler, glue bottle, glue stick(s), colored pencils and/or crayons, water based markers, 3 ring binder, loose leaf lined paper, composition or spiral notebooks, 3-hole pocket folder, highlighters, post it notes, index cards and pens.

It is very important that we keep the lines of communication open with our parents. Please ensure that you complete the Google Form on the Isaac Gourdine website so that we may keep you informed throughout the school year. The final PGCPS Reopening Plan has been posted on the PGCPS website at https://www.pgcps.org/reopen. Here are some important revisions that were made to the final plan. Uniforms - during the Distance Learning phase of instruction (August 31, 2020 - January 29, 2021) students are not expected to wear a school uniform. Students must adhere to the system-wide dress code which requires them to dress appropriately. Attendance - Attendance will be taken daily. Additional guidance for taking attendance during distance learning and on Wednesdays has also been provided in the Final Plan.

We are extremely excited about the work that we are about to embark on with Distance Learning and look forward to an innovative and inspiring school year.

Educationally Yours,

Leatriz D. D. Covington
Principal