Glenfield Middle School

TOWN HALL/PTA NOTES 9/3/2020



5:30 PM /VIRTUAL

# WELCOME TO NEW SCHOOL YEAR - REMOTE DELIVERY OVERVIEW

# Principal Pierce, Vice Principal Aboushi, PTA Co-President Sarah Young (presenting questions from chat box)

# Opening Remarks, Principal Pierce/Vice Principal Aboushi

* Welcome and thank you to everyone in the GF community who expressed their support last spring and through the summer, it has meant a lot to us, especially as new administrators facing these unprecedented challenges.
* We are facing a dual pandemic: Covid and Racial Injustice. It has been a difficult year for everyone, and many members of our community have felt real pain and loss as a result of the events of 2020. We must have the difficult but necessary conversations. GF will offer a culturally responsive curriculum, e.g., Social Studies and ELA giving historical context and encouraging discussion of current events.
* Introduction and welcome to new teachers (including Spanish, PE, House Titus social studies, House Pelli math)
* Schedule will follow the GF master schedule on the remote learning plan, available on District website. Attendance will be taken and recorded on Genesis. Students are expected to be engaged at first “bell” (7:54am), ready to participate with camera and/or mic, and move through the schedule like they’re in school. Grading will resume as normal, and students will maintain same teachers if/when we move to Hybrid schedule. No recording of live instruction is allowed due to student privacy laws.
* Last 45 minutes of each day (1:25-2:10) are reserved for office hours for students and families to schedule time with teachers to address any concerns/challenges. House Leaders and teachers will coordinate this.
* First couple days teachers will provide students with Google classroom codes, and begin to assess where students are - understanding we are dealing with the spring Covid and summer “slides” along with social/emotional fatigue. We will be leaning on our counselors more than ever to help students.
* Teachers are very aware of screen fatigue and breaks/off-screen work will be built into classes.
* We are all in this together, and we need to treat one another with grace. Teachers and staff are working very hard to provide our kids with the best possible experience, but we know there will be bumps. Please approach your teacher first with any issues. Teachers are working from home, have and will continue to participate in professional development regarding remote teaching/learning, but please be patient, kind, and flexible.
* TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES: math texts will be distributed next week. We will email everyone with that info asap. Supplies required for electives will also be provided.
* Electives - teachers of performance classes are working to find opportunities to share performances during remote instruction. GF continues to work on electives so that every student has the opportunity to participate in the GF experience, including dance.
* Tech Support - District has distributed 1200 devices and continues to provide to anyone who needs. Please contact school ASAP to order device so you may pick up at self service/no contact vestibule at Hillside. Tech help is available M-F, 8am-3pm @ (301) 259-1510, if no one answers, please leave voicemail and someone will get back to you ASAP. You may also contact Nick Veni from the district Tech team at nveni@montclair.k12.nj.us for assistance.
* Please monitor your child’s social media presence. We are seeing a rise of online bullying and harassment, and HIB reports often involve social media. In an effort to address this, we are requiring students to take Digital Citizenship.
* House Zooms/meetings will happen for 7-8th, already happening for 6th.
* We understand things are always changing and information/communication is important. We will be happy to do more Town Halls as we move into year.

# OPEN QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD:

* When will we get info on IEP contact and 504s accommodations: Aboushi- someone will reach out to you very soon if not already. We understand how challenging remote can be. We want accommodations to be effective and realistic.
* Who do we talk to about scheduling problems? Please give Ms. Weintraub the weekend, then send her your questions.
* Will GF offer any one on one time with teachers and/or counselors? Yes. Like a normal school day, however, students will need to check in for attendance at the appropriate class, then can go to meet with counselor.
* Will there be any math differentiation in 6th grade? No. Every incoming 6th grader will be taking Math 6 because of challenges in spring due to Covid.
* What will be the homework expectations? Teachers are sensitive to overload, and will be creative with assignments to reduce screen time.
* What about clubs? We are definitely hopeful clubs will be offered (Science Olympiad, robotics, e.g,) but we aren’t there yet given the effort required to get regular schedule up and running. Stay tuned.
* How will class go/what will it be like for students? Meech - for example, I would speak live for 10-15minutes and then let kids work on assignment during remainder of time while they are able to ask questions. Teachers are being creative. We won’t be asking kids to sit and stare at screen for hours passively.
* Mr. Titus discussed how online school will look - students should see a standardized look on his/her google classroom dashboard where each period/course is clear and easy to access. Students will need to check in to each class at the scheduled time, and will be “live” with their teacher for that period. Teachers will use combination of google classroom and zoom, other online resources - but things should be more uniform now.