

October 3, 2017 Rock Creek Forest PTA meeting minutes

Announcements:

- Kim Porter announced Rock Creek Forest Relays will be happening October 22 from 9-1 at Whitman High School and are open to any child in the family over 3 years of age. They are looking for sponsors from small businesses or family sponsorships. Sponsors' names will be on a RCF Relays t-shirt. Every child registered gets this nice performance t-shirt. It is a fun community building event. Sign your family up! All proceeds go to benefit A Wider Circle, a local organization that works to end poverty. You can pay by item donations that will be given to A Wider Circle or by your registration fee. Check out the website for more information at Rockcreekrelays.blogspot.com
- Tanea Foglia announced volunteer needs. We need apprentices who will step up and learn some of the PTA roles who would feel comfortable watching/helping now, but possibly jumping in later to run different events. Specifically, going forward, we need someone to step in for the fall picnic, book fair, and RCF Relays. You can help the PTA in other ways and from home, too. For example, the PTA is in need of Spanish translations that can be done from home. Party parents for the classroom parties are another need currently. We need volunteers for the book fair, even if you don't want to apprentice to learn to run the book fair. Tutors are also needed for our Believe Achieve tutoring program that occurs before school to support students academically. Rock Creek Relays needs volunteers for the event this year. Finally, lunch and recess volunteers are needed. If you've been looking to get involved, there are lots of opportunities!
- Mrs. Lowndes shared that the staff and students laid out their hopes and dreams for the school year. They are going to try to make these hopes and dreams a reality through using Responsive Classroom techniques. It is a way of teaching that emphasizes social/emotional learning as well as academic learning. It is not an add on but a way for teachers to refine their practices. Classroom rules are built together with their teachers, and it focuses on how teachers and children talk to each other. One strategy teachers are using is the Morning Meeting which is a way of building a strong community. We got to try out some of the components of Morning Meeting.

Assessments:

One of the reasons for assessments is for schools to measure and make sure children are making at least a year's worth of growth each year.

Classroom measures: Teachers are taking data when they are in small groups with students. This can come from written tasks or from the verbal thinking that students share.

County measures: There are also county measures. See handout below under *Content Area* for county math and reading assessments:

Handout 5

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Item	Grade Level	Academic Grades
Report Card Grades	Grades K-1	P= Proficient I= In Progress N= Not Yet
	Grades 2-5	A= Consistently Demonstrates Mastery B= Frequently Demonstrates Mastery C= Occasionally Demonstrates Mastery

Content Area	Tool	Purpose
Reading	MCPS-APPR MCPS Assessment Program for Primary Reading	Measure independent reading levels
	MIRL Monitoring Instructional Reading Levels	Monitors instructional reading levels
	Written Response	Measures reading comprehension through writing
	MAP Measures of Academic Progress	Measures growth over time
Mathematics	EMAT Elementary Mathematics Assessment Tasks	Measures progress towards mastery of the content emphasis standards in mathematics
	Progress Checks	On-line assessment that measures on-going instruction as well as previously taught standards
	MAP Measures of Academic Progress	Measures growth over time.

Grade	MP1	MP2	MP3	MP4
K	1-2	3-4	4-5	6
1	6-7	8-11	12-15	16
2	J	K	L	M
3	M	N	O	P
4	Q-R		S-T	
5	T-U		V-W	

Outside measures: PARCC assessment

Grading and Reporting:

There is a link about the new MCPS Report card in Mrs. Lowndes' weekly communication to parents. It is a great informative resource to check out.

Grading and reporting is a comprehensive system that aligns to instruction and assessment standards at each grade level. It describes how well students are demonstrating knowledge against a standard. The report card communicates to parents about student performance.

Report Card Upgrades:

Kindergarten will now receive report cards 4 times per year instead of two. Additional reading data has been added to the K report card. It will include how many High Frequency Words and how many letters and sounds your child knows. This will continue to be reported on the report card until they have mastered all the words and sounds they need to know for kindergarten.

Levels of performance (grades) for Kindergarten and 1st are:

P-proficient

I-In progress

N-Not yet making progress or making minimal progress

M-Missing data

NEP-Not English Proficient for students who are new to the English language

Levels of Performance for grades 2-5:

A-Consistently demonstrates mastery

B-Frequently demonstrates mastery

C-Periodically demonstrates mastery

D-Rarely demonstrates mastery

The A,B,C,D grades ARE NOT based on percentages.

Homework is not graded. There will be an overall grade for each subject for each quarter, and then there will be an end of the year average grade for each subject.

Learning Skills on the Report Card:

The skills measured vary by grade.

The Learning Skills are graded with these descriptors:

Demonstrating

Progressing

Not Yet Evident

The report cards will also note whether your child is above or below grade level in reading and whether they were enriched or accelerated in math.

Parent Portal Account:

It will eventually be a place to see your children's interim grades and report card grades. You can also see your child's schedule and will also have pop out windows for additional applications like MySchoolBucks. Additionally, it will also be a place for teachers to send out messages to parents.

Other final announcements:

There are fun events happening in October! The Fall Festival is on October 27 (without costumes), Red Ribbon Week and Rock Creek Relays are also happening in October.