

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Dear Hale Families,

Lots going on as October sneaks up on us tomorrow. Please take a close look at everything going on and as always, feel free to reach out with questions.

- **Extended Learning** will be offering fall programming under the Gems-Gise-Stem umbrella similar to their summer programming. For more information, go to [https://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/g\\_g\\_s\\_after\\_school\\_program\\_2](https://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/g_g_s_after_school_program_2)
- **Community Education Classes** are also being offered this fall. Please find more at <https://sites.google.com/mps.k12.mn.us/tealtitans/home>
- **ONE DAY UNTIL THE HALE ONLINE BOOK FAIR OPENS!!!!** Shop all the amazing options on Scholastic and expand your home library, buy gifts, or purchase the next book in your favorite series, all while supporting our amazing school!!! Please watch for the URL, which will be sent in an email, as well as posted on Facebook on Thursday, October 1st! Please feel free to share with friends and family! Feel free to reach out to Lisa @ [lisawbullard@gmail.com](mailto:lisawbullard@gmail.com), with ANY questions or if you for some reason do not receive the URL.
- Next week, October 5th to 9th, is **National Walk and Bike to School week!** Even though we are in Distance Learning mode, we still encourage students to walk, bike, run, scooter, or roll around the neighborhood and rack up the miles. Use the Google Form [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHK7P92uukYsv\\_9QBWZ97Fu\\_7NiXcaAmiOzNn7\\_wXk6sS4sO/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHK7P92uukYsv_9QBWZ97Fu_7NiXcaAmiOzNn7_wXk6sS4sO/viewform) to submit student miles each day, or at the end of the week, to Ms. Parr and Ms. Bruun. A mile is roughly 8 city blocks! Ms. Parr and Ms. Bruun will post the top 3 students from each grade on their PE website. In addition, on **Wednesday, October 7th**, make sure to swing by Hale while you are on the move and pick up an *I Walked/Biked to School* sticker. Baskets with stickers will be set out on the four corners of around the school from 7:30am to 7:30 pm. Please take only one, throw away your sticker backs, and post a picture of your child wearing their sticker at <https://www.facebook.com/PTAHale>
- **Still in need of a device for Distance Learning?** Please email [sofia.vladimirova@mps.k12.mn.us](mailto:sofia.vladimirova@mps.k12.mn.us)
- It's time to complete your **Application for Educational Benefits (AEB)**, previously known as the "Free and Reduced Lunch" form. Families of all incomes should complete this form each year. Every application matters! Complete your form today! Only one application is needed for all children in a family. <https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/application>
- **Technology Tutorials** for Google Classroom, Seesaw, Google Meet, setting up iPads, Chromebooks and hotspots, and much more can be found at <https://source.mpls.k12.mn.us/support-for-your-students>
- **Student Meals during Distance Learning** will be available for families. However, pick-up days and locations will be a little different than summer. [https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/2020-21\\_school\\_year.html](https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/2020-21_school_year.html)
- Some of this year's **PTA supplies** were already distributed to students while other supplies will remain at school in case we return, or be used for a second supply delivery. We are asking for \$45.00 per student or whatever amount you can contribute. If you have not had a chance to contribute yet, you can do so on the Hale website <https://hale.mpls.k12.mn.us/supplies>.

- As we parted ways last spring, in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, I shared that Hale School had **room for improvement**. I said that we would reflect on, and reexamine, our personal selves and our instructional practices. After a COVID restricted summer and ongoing civil unrest across our country, I'd like to share a few things we are working on here at Hale.
  - Hale is starting a new anti-bias book program from AMAZEworks, a St. Paul, Minnesota-based, nonprofit organization that works with schools to create equity, welcoming, and belonging for all students. The program is used in other Minneapolis schools and we are excited to have the program at Hale. After reading books with different themes, students will participate in regular, intentional conversations on identity, difference, and bias. However, being that Distance Learning and online instruction do not provide the best setting for rich, authentic discussion, we have agreed that making the books available to students and their families still has value. We hope you take the opportunity to watch/listen to the books with your children and are able to have ongoing discussions with them afterwards. Upon returning to school, we'll reexamine how we use the books in classroom settings.
  - Over the past couple years, Hale, with the help of our Welcoming Equity parent group, Parent Teacher Association, and the Minneapolis Public Schools, has purchased several new books for our classrooms and school library, many that much better represent who we are as a community.
  - Unearthing History.... Last year, Mrs. Jessica Ellison, from the Minnesota Historical Society, collaborated with Hale first graders in a project centered on the naming of Fort Snelling. The project required students to "unearth" some of Fort Snelling's extensive history. Students were taught to think like a historian and encouraged to formulate ideas, ask questions, and make connections. This year, Mrs. Ellison has agreed to partner with Hale in guiding ALL Hale students to Unearth History. Understanding that progress cannot be made until we understand our own history, Hale will focus on the wealth of history right here in south Minneapolis, beginning with Hale and Field schools. Of course, lessons will be age appropriate and adjusted for different grade levels.
  - 26 Letters is a program our staff has used for the past couple years. The program works to engage and outfit teachers with tools to better understand, relate and empathize with the students and families we partner with daily.
  - The Hale Site Council spent the past year examining how we build a Site Council that better represents our community. We've made progress and strive to continue the work across the building and community as we move forward.

While we know that two or three programs are only part of the much larger solution, we understand the importance and urgency in action. We also know that while several systems/programs here at Hale are comfortable for many, there are many others that don't share in that comfort. I, along with the Hale staff, am committed to this community and improving, not just as individuals, but as an institution.

*"Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."  
-George Bernard Shaw*