

BEARS BULLETIN

February Edition



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Coming up @ Miner

- 2/1- PTO General Meeting @ 6pm
- 2/3- K-5 Open House @5:30 pm
- 2/12- ECE Open House @ 10am (In person)
- 2/14- 2/18- Black History Month Spirit Week (Flyers came home in folders and sent on Remind app)
- 2/16: Ready for Pre K! Session: Families Who Want to be Allies: Talking to Young Children About Race (6 PM)
- 2/17 - LSAT Budget meeting

- 2/18- Test to return kits go home
- 2/21- President's Day
- 2/22-2/25- Winter Session
- 2/27: 9 PM Deadline to upload negative COVID test results for February break safe return
- 3/1: My School DC Lottery applications due (Grades PK - 8)
- 3/4- Coffee with Admin
- 3/5 - Mutual Aid Network Community Table

DCPS Safe Return for February Break:

All students and staff will be required to upload proof of a negative COVID-19 test result prior to returning to school on Monday, February 28. Test kits will be sent home with students and staff Friday February 18, 2022. Test results will need to be uploaded to dcpsreopenstrong.com/testing by 9 PM on Sunday, February 27.

Attendance

Attendance Matters! Attendance is mandatory every day. Please provide a note within 5 days after your student is absent. Notes can be written, emailed, or sent via Remind to Ms. Green or Ms. Offer. Families can also complete the link below:

[EXCUSE NOTE LINK](#)



Morning Meeting at Miner ES

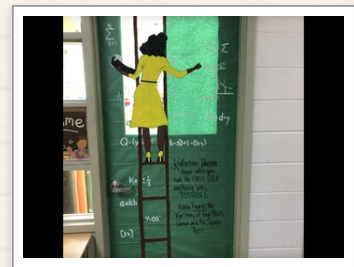
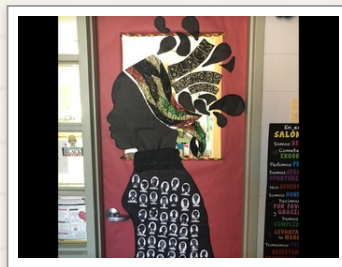
Morning meetings were implemented as a school-wide practice which is based on the idea that students' social-emotional growth is just as important as their academic growth. Teachers may adapt the Responsive Classroom model of a morning meeting to fit their classroom needs, using it to create a classroom culture where students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. This opportunity should be provided daily using the following 4 components.



- Greeting: Students and teachers greet and welcome each other.

- **Sharing:** Students share something about themselves or their lives, and the rest of their peers listen, then ask follow-up questions or offer comments.
- **Activity:** The group completes an activity that encourages teamwork while re-emphasizing social or academic skills.
- **Morning message:** Students read a short message from their teacher, usually describing what is to come in the day ahead.

The goal of the meeting as a whole, is to "set the tone for respectful learning, establish a climate of trust, motivate students to feel significant, create empathy, encourage collaboration, and support social, emotional, and academic learning."



Staff Update

Principal Angry- Is currently on medical leave until April 4, 2022. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as she recovers. While Principal Angry is out of the office, **AP Coleman** is available to answer any questions, comments, or concerns. latoya.coleman2@k12.dc.gov

Please Welcome our newest members to the Miner Bear community:

Ms. Alysia Lutz- Ms. Lutz will serve as our Interim Principal while Principal Angry is on leave. She is a veteran principal in DCPS and is currently the interim Principal at Seaton ES. She is expected to begin Thursday February 17, 2022.

Ms. Deanna Dykes- Ms. Dykes is our new Prek- 4 teacher. She is a veteran teacher of 20 years with ECE education. She will begin Monday February 14, 2022.

Expanded Pre-K Test to Stay Policy:

Effective February 10, if any positive COVID-19 case is reported in a Pre-K classroom, all students in that classroom will participate in the test-to-stay pilot. Through a mix of at-home and in-school testing, Pre-K students will be tested at least two times within a week if there is a positive case reported in their classroom.

ECE- Test to return every Monday . Testing kits will go home on Friday. Every family in Pre-k3 and Pre-k4 are required to use the home testing kits on Sunday and upload the results dcpsreopenstrong.com/testing

Easy to follow directions are included in the testing kit located in your child's backpack. If your child is absent on Friday you may pick up a testing kits on Monday and test your child before they return to school.

*As a reminder, all students who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms may continue to attend school in-person if they are identified as a **close contact**. There may be times where the class must move to virtual learning due to operational impacts. DCPS continues to urge all eligible students to get vaccinated to avoid serious illness and be able to continue attending school in-person.*

Asymptomatic Testing

Our testing day is on Thursday! The test are a random sample of 20% of our student population. If you DO NOT want your student tested you may complete the OPT OUT form and return it to Ms. Offor.

[OPT OUT TEST FORM](#)

COVID -Stronger & Safer Pledge & COVID Testing Sites

Thank you all for your commitment with keeping the Miner Community safe and taking the [Stronger & Safer Together Pledge](#) that outlines steps to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Please click on the link below for testing sites: [Testing sites](#)

Arrival / Dismissal

Arrival - Students in grades K-5 are asked to line up on the Playground side in front of the gate. Students line up on the yellow line painted in grade bands (K,1) (2,3) and (4,5)

Miner Staff will welcome students at 8:20am. NO students are permitted in the school prior to 8:20am. We are continuing to follow the Ask, Ask, Look protocol guidance from DCPS to limit the spread of Covid- 19. Please be patient as each students must be assessed prior to entering through the gate.

Students arriving after 8:45am must enter through the front of the building. The Ask Ask Look protocol will be followed.

Dismissal - Please be prepared to pick up your child by 3:15 pm daily. DCPS offers aftercare services for students who have registered. If your child is not enrolled in the DCPS afterschool program they must be picked up by 3:15 each day.

Parking Lot Procedures

To ensure the safety of our students please be reminded that Parking LOT B (The Large Playground) is for student drop off and pick up. **Please stay behind the cones when dropping and picking up your child(ren).**

Parking Lot A (Front Door Entrance) are reserved for School Buses and staff parking. For the safety of our students Parking Lot A is closed off from 8:15am - 9:15am

Kindred- Community Partners

Kindred is partnering with Miner this year to recruit staff to participate in dialogue groups to discuss racial equity.

Here is some information about what our dialogue group will look like:

- Dialogue groups will be virtual.
- 10 Weeks long and will occur biweekly.
- Each session is 90 minutes long.
- We ask that each person commits to attending at least 8 out of 10 sessions.

The link to sign up for the dialogue group is:

[Link Here](#)

For more information about Kindred, please see the attached flyer.

School Community Resources

- Miner has some winter coats for students who may need one for the winter season. If your student is in need of a winter coat, please contact Ms. Woodson at mwoodson@ebfsc.org
- Any family in need of employment (job placement, resume building), housing, or daily resources (uniforms, food, school supplies, clothes, baby items), please email Ms. Woodson at mwoodson@ebfsc.org.



Communications Plan

Please expect to receive parent communication from administration and teachers in the following order:

Administration (Monthly)

Classroom/ Specials Teachers (Bi-Weekly)

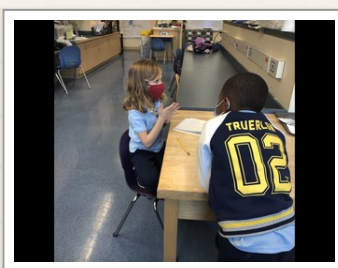
Remind App

Look for additional information on how to sign up and or troubleshoot on the Remind app communication platform this week.

Class Dojo- All parents have received an invite from your child's teacher for Class Dojo. This is an important communication App that keeps you informed of important classroom announcements, behavior management, and parent engagement opportunities.



**Exploring how
water travels
with Ms.
Luttmer**



**STEM- Ms.
Hillenbrand's
class discover
vibrations with
a tuning fork**



**Groovy with Art
Teacher Ms.
Pratt**

Important Reminders

After School Programming

Afterschool programming has started and includes tutoring, academic support, as well as social activities. The afterschool program hours are 3:30-5:45pm.

The DCPS Out of School Time program application is open. Students must be registered to attend. There is currently a waitlist at Miner; however, you may sign up to be added to our waitlist and you will be notified if a seat becomes available. Applications must be completed online at: <https://dcps.dc.gov/asp>

Given the stricter cleaning protocols, our building closes to students promptly at 6:00pm so that our custodial team can have ample time to clean and sanitize classrooms for the next school day. **All students registered for afterschool must be picked up by 5:45pm.**

Immunizations

Immunizations are required for all students who will be attending school. All families are

Health Certificates for each student. For SY21-22, all students must have updated immunization records on file with the school. Students who are not up to date on their immunization requirements by the 20th day of school, will not be allowed to attend school until we are in receipt of the appropriate immunization documentation. You may view OSSE's Immunization Attendance policy by clicking on the link below.

To support families with meeting these requirements, immunization pop-up clinics will be open at schools throughout August and September. DCPS school locations and hours of operation are listed below. To learn more, please visit:

<https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/vaccines/#school-immunization-clinics>

Pick Up Procedures:

PK3 and PK4: Students will be picked up daily at 3:15 pm (unless they are enrolled in aftercare) from the ECE Playground. Students will only be signed out and released to those individuals on their approved list of adults. Those doing pick up must have a photo ID. In the event of inclement weather, pick up will be done from the doorways near the ECE playground.

Kindergarten-5th Grade Students: Students will be picked up daily at 3:15 pm (unless they are enrolled in aftercare) from K-5 playground. Parents/Guardians will provide the name of the student(s) they are picking up to the adult on duty, then student(s) will be escorted to the gate for dismissal. Students will only be signed out and released to those individuals on the approved list of adults.

Walkers: Students in grades 3-5 who walk home must have signed permission on file with the school.

Uniform Policy

All students should arrive to school in their school uniforms. Our school uniform is as follows:

- **Dark blue bottoms (pants, skirts, jumpers, or shorts)**
- **White, light blue, or navy-blue polos (everyone)**
- **Navy-blue polos (suggested for ECE)**
- **Any Miner school gear**
- **Shoes must have heel straps; no flip flops are permitted.**
- **Blue jeans are not a part of the school uniform**
- If a student is dropped off without appropriate uniform clothes, Miner will require the student to contact their parents to bring them a proper uniform.
- Uniforms can be purchased from Target, Walmart, Old Navy, etc.
- For uniforms assistance, reach out to [Ms. Woodard](#).
- We do ask that students in Pre-K and K bring an extra set of clothes.

Student Meals

All students are provided with breakfast and lunch at no cost every school day.

ECE and Kindergarten students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.

Students in grades 1st-5th will have staggered breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria.

Breakfast for grades K-5th grade will be from 8:20 am-8:40 am. Breakfast for ECE students will be from 8:45 am-9:00 am. Late students will be able to eat breakfast until 9:15 am.

Food Restrictions/Allergies

Miner Elementary School is a nut-free school. If your child has any allergies or dietary restrictions, a Special Dietary Needs Form must be turned in to the nurse and cafeteria staff. These forms need to be completed and submitted annually.


PLEASE REMEMBER we are a nut-free school, which includes peanuts and tree nuts. For the safety of all please refrain from sending your student to school with any peanut or tree nut related products.

We strongly support parents sending their child with a lunch from home if the meal being served is not something their child eats, but we request the meal be comprised of healthy options to support student learning; candy, sugary snacks, and soda are not supported. Gum is not allowed in school.

Please feel free to contact mineres@k12.dc.gov if you have any questions or need any support. Please also refer to the [DCPS Re-Open Strong Website](#) for on-going updates for SY21-22.



Miner Elementary School

 @minerPTO

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