

BEARS BULLETIN

April Edition

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Coming up @ Miner

4/11- 4/18- Spring Break School is closed for all students

4/19 - LSAT 5-6:30pm via Zoom-

4/23 - Enrollment Saturday 9a-12p at Miner ES

4/23 - New Student Playdate 10am -12p on the K-5 Playground

4/26 - PTO Leadership 6-7pm on Zoom

4/26- 5/6- PARCC testing for grades 3-5

DCPS Test To Return

Next week, DC Public Schools has its planned Spring Break and school will be closed for students from Monday, April 11 through Monday, April 18. As we prepare to return to the classroom after break, we are requiring students to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test before school starts again on Tuesday, April 19.

All students will receive a COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit this week. Check your student's backpack for the COVID-19 test kit that will be provided to them on Friday, April 8th . If your student will not be in school to receive a test this week, please visit a [District COVID Center](#) or a [Rapid Test Pickup site](#) to receive one. Upload your student's test results that same day. You must provide proof of your negative test results to dcpsreopenstrong.com/safereturn by Monday, April 18 at 9:00 p.m

Parking Lot Safety

Morning Drop Off Reminders: During morning drop off (8:15 AM - 9:00 AM) and afternoon pick up (2:45 PM - 3:45 PM) parents are asked to park in the north lot (Lot B) next to the Old Miner building. The circular lot (Lot A) adjacent to the main building is reserved for staff parking, pedestrians, and bus drop off and pick up only.

To ensure the safety of our students please be reminded to **Please stay behind the cones when dropping and picking up your children**

Cell Phone Policy

Please note that students are not allowed to use personal cell phones during school day. Students will hand in their cell phones to our student support staff during morning arrival and will get their cell phones back at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support as we enforce this policy.

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. Offor. 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."



Staffing Update

We welcome our new Paraprofessional Mykell Blackwell who will assist in Ms. Dykes ECE classroom.

Lets congratulate Mrs. Trilby Hillenbrand who was just named **State Finalists** for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching ([PAEMST.org](https://www.paemst.org)), which is the Nation's highest honor for STEM teachers.

After 11 years teaching middle school science in DC, **Ms. Hillenbrand** pivoted to the elementary grades, where she is in her third year teaching STEM courses for all K-5 students at Miner Elementary School. She also teaches weekly robotics and engineering enrichment classes and organizes schoolwide events, such as Family STEM Night and the Hour of Code.

A message from Food Corps- Ms. Emma

Our students learn about food, nutrition, and earth science through garden-based and classroom lessons with our Foodcorps service member, Ms. Emma. This year, students have learned about reducing waste through composting in the garden and vermicomposting with worms in STEM class. We've also learned how to regrow vegetables from scraps, and ways to use all parts of the plant when we cook. We look forward to finding more ways to connect waste reduction to learning at Miner this spring, especially on Earth Day, when we will have a schoolwide trash pickup and Earth Day craft activity.

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.

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.

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.

5th Grade Community Service Project

The Fifth Grade is partnering with the Humane Rescue Alliance to collect items for dogs and cats in the animal shelter. Please help us reach our goal by donating:

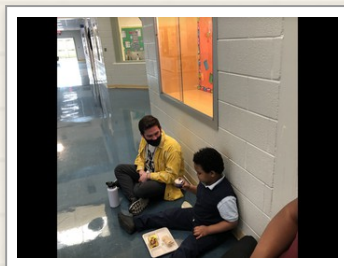
Towels (all sizes, new and freshly washed)

Cat or Dog Treats

Cat or Dog Food

Toys (new and unopened)

A collection bin will be located in the school lobby. We are collecting items between April 19, 2022- May 6th. Please contact Ms. Woodard or a member of the 5th Grade Team @ 202-397-3960 for more information.



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.



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 required to submit health forms, including updated immunization records and Universal 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.



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