

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Media:

Learning: In September all Drew students will participate in a media center orientation. The orientation will review do's and don'ts for taking care of books and how to locate materials in the media center. Students in PreK, Head Start, and kindergarten will be checking out one book at a time. Students in first grade are able to check out two books at a time. Students in second through fifth grade can borrow three books at a time. You can keep up with the number of books Drew students have checked out from the media center this year by visiting the [media center's web page](#).

In October students will be learning about digital citizenship as part of the MCPS partnership with [Common Sense Media](#). In grades K-2 we will be talking about how using technology can make us feel and how to make good choices about our use of technology. In grades 2-3 we will be focusing on how to be a good digital citizen. In grades 4-5 we will be talking about making healthy and balanced choices about the use of media.

Reminders:

- If your student has library books at home from a previous school year, please return them to Drew's media center. If your student has books that belong to other schools, they can be returned to Drew and we will make sure they get back to the school where they belong.
- Teachers may use a variety of online digital tools to support instruction. These tools have been evaluated to be safe for student use and are consistent with federal laws on student data privacy. To authorize your student's use of these online tools, please complete [this form](#).
- If your student needs a Chromebook for home use, please use [this form](#) to request a device. After your request is received, a device will be sent home with your student.
- Please reach out to me at [Lori Tecler@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lori_Tecler@mcpsmd.org) if you have questions about Drew's media center or our online services and logins. The online services are linked [here](#).

Art:

Learning:

- *Pre-K / HS, Kindergarten* : Welcome back to art! In September, early childhood students are learning about dots and lines by using a variety of materials to explore. They will be making 2D and 3D line artwork! In October we will start working with geometric shapes and primary colors to create one of a kind artworks.
- *First and Second grade*: Students are exploring what a "Beautiful Oops" is and are becoming comfortable with making mistakes in the art room! Students will be working with paints and mixed media to create unique artworks. In October, first graders will start exploring the theme of "place" with 2d and 3d materials. Second graders will start exploring the theme of "community"
- *Third grade, Fourth grade and fifth grade*: Students in the upper grades have been creating their own sketchbooks to be used all year as a place of experimenting and assessment. Our next large project for all these grade levels is a self portrait collage. We are still getting to know each other by using a variety

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

of materials and talking about what our students are interested in! In October third graders will start exploring the theme of “story”, fourth graders will start exploring the theme of “tradition” and fifth graders will start exploring the theme of “change and transformation”!

Reminders:

- Please wear old, dark-colored clothing on art days!
- Our emails are jennifer_l_potter@mcpsmd.org and jacquelyn_h_skandalis@mcpsmd.org (PreK).
- If you need to contact us, please feel free! Thanks so much for your support.

Music:

Learning: Students are working on creating music and reading and notating music. Creating music is shown through creating movement to music and creating vocal and instrumental music inspired by songs and stories. Reading and notating music is shown through notating created sounds and reading solfege and rhythms. We will be singing, playing instruments, dancing, as well as playing music games!

- *Pre-K / HS, Kindergarten, and First grade:* Students are reading/writing rhythms and pitches. Students are also creating using pitch, rhythm, fast/slow, and loud/soft.
- *Second grade and Third grade:* Students are reading and writing rhythms including half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. Pitches Do, Re, and Mi on the staff are notes that students are reading, writing and using to create.
- *Fourth grade and Fifth Grade:* Singing in a 3-part round, reading and writing rhythms including sixteenth notes and eighth/sixteenth note combinations are a part of the music curriculum. Students are also Reading and creating with pitches from the music staff.

Reminders:

- You can reach your student’s music teacher at Brian_W_Weyant@mcpsmd.org or Alexander_J_Edwards@mcpsmd.org (Blackman and Arnold).

Physical Education:

Learning: Hello Drew Families! I hope that you are taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather! If you have a fourth-grade child, check out <https://www.everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm>. You can download a pass so your child and family can experience the history, treasure, culture, and beauty of any national park in the country. Don’t forget your water and a healthy snack!

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Our students are working very hard in the gym. All classes are familiar with what our Drew expectations, **respect**, **responsibility**, and **safety** look like in P.E. class. Please help to remind your child to be safe by wearing sneakers on their assigned day.

This marking period, Pre-K to Grade 2 are learning about movement skills such as locomotor movements, special awareness, pathways, levels, and directions. We are also discussing the importance of rules and cooperation.

Our third through fifth graders are learning ball skills with hands and feet, (dribbling, passing, and shooting). We are also learning the four components of fitness, (cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility). The students are practicing to find their resting heart rates and trying to stay in their target heart rate zone during activity time, (approximately 130-160 beats per minute).

You can reach your child's physical education teacher at:

Lauren_G_Rinker@mcpsmd.org or Sean_T_O'Connor@mcpsmd.org

Adapted PE:

Learning: The students in Adapted PE classes continue to engage in a variety of individual and group activities to increase fitness, coordination and balance using many different types of equipment. The students really enjoy moving to the music during warm-up and rolling the dice to choose what type of stretching to do. Thanks so much to the wonderful paraeducators who work with the students and help them stay engaged!

Reminders:

- Please make sure that your student knows how to tie their sneakers. A large amount of time is wasted at the beginning of class. If you are still tying your student's laces, please use a double knot.

Please email either of us with any questions! Lauren_G_Rinker@mcpsmd.org and Sean_T_O'Connor@mcpsmd.org

Instrumental Music:

Learning: Students are preparing for their first lessons of the school year.

Our beginning students have been given the opportunity to see and try out different instruments before making their final decision. Lessons will begin October 11 for Tuesday groups and October 12 for Wednesday groups. Our advanced students will get to experience playing in small ensemble settings as they return to lessons. This will start to prepare them for middle school and for future performances.

Please rent your instrument by October 11th so that we are ready to play at the first lesson!

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Mark your calendars! The Winter Concert (Advanced students only) is January 25, 2023 at 2:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.. Winter weather can be unpredictable and we must follow all school closing calls MCPS makes. If the concert is postponed, a virtual option will be made available for families to view. Beginners will perform with the Advanced students at the Spring Concert on May 23, 2023 at 2:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Reminders:

- The exact schedule is posted to MyMCPS classroom one week before lessons begin!
- Set aside a 10-15 minute practice time block, 4-5 days a week for students to practice and review for the next class.
- Questions? Email Ms. Krohn at Daniella_E_Krohn@mcpsmd.org

Counseling:

Learning: To begin the year, I am visiting each class with the intent of getting to know each student, their name, and something that makes them unique. For the youngest students, lessons focus on recognizing emotions in ourselves and our friends. We also are talking about strategies to help ourselves when we feel sad, mad, or confused. Specifically, I am encouraging students to talk with a peer, teacher, or ask to meet with me. In the older grades, students are engaging in activities that encourage them to share their strengths, emerging skills, and special talents. We are also talking about perspective and why it's important to consider others' points of view before jumping to conclusions. We conclude these conversations with a discussion of empathy, and the power of putting ourselves in others' shoes.

Next month, the focus of the lesson will be Personal Body Safety. This topic is mandated by MCPS. I will scaffold the message in a way that is appropriate for each grade level.

Reminders:

- Every student has counseling in their rotation once every 4 weeks.
- There is no grade for counseling lessons, students just need to be ready to participate.

If you have any concerns please feel free to reach out, my email is sara_b_krauss@mcpsmd.org.