



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY
METZ MESSENGER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

*Our mission is to
inspire the pursuit
of excellence, one
student at a time.*

Principal Connection

What an unusual start to the school year we have had! I want to thank parents for helping everything go as smoothly as they have the past couple of weeks. I know many parents have had to make adjustments to their schedules due to the AM and PM cohorts in 3rd-5th grades. Students have been responsible and respectful by wear their masks or face shields during the needed times. They are also doing pretty well with physically distancing as much as possible.

I do want to remind parents to be patient when dropping students off by waiting for cars to pull forward and not going around others. We can get 4 to 5 cars of students temp checked at a time. Everyone can help this process be as efficient as possible by having your children put their mask on as you pull in the loop so we don't have to wait for them to do that as you stop the car for the temperature check.

I want to also encourage parents to have their contact information up to date with the office. You can do that through your parent portal on Infinite Campus 24/7 or you can call the office to update a phone number or address Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4pm. We always want to make sure we have accurate contact info for emergencies, sicknesses, etc. We also use your phone number to reach out and share announcements and reminders.

3rd-5th grade students are bringing Chromebooks provided by the school home each day to work on science, social studies, and homework for reading, writing, and math. Students need to take care of their devices and are responsible for any damage or lost items. While it's not required of in-person learners to pay the tech fee of \$40, parents can choose to go ahead and pay this as an insurance in case there is accidental damage done to a device. The fee can either be paid online on the district website or by check at the school office.

Lastly, I just wanted to remind you about the process to take when you have questions or concerns. First, talk to the teacher and/or staff member that is directly involved. Then after talking with them you may need more help from some of the following people: Josh Keeling (behavior interventionist) for issues concerning behaviors between students and for attendance; Kim Luitich (school counselor) for help in how students can deal with certain social or emotional situations; Gabe Futrell (principal) for help in all other areas or if you have already followed the chain of command and need additional help.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- *Thursday, Sept 10
@ 6pm - School
board meeting*
- *Sept 14-17 - Hear-
ing & Vision screen-
ing*
- *Tuesday, Sept 22 @
5pm - School Im-
provement Team
online meeting*
- *Thursday, Sept 24 -
Online learners
deadline to let
school know if they
plan to return to in-
person learning for
the 2nd quarter*

School Information

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Principal: Gabe Futrell
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Counselor's Corner

Hello everyone, welcome back to a new school year! This is Miss L and I am so excited to continue being your school counselor; this is now my 8th school year. I know this school year is very different for everyone and there is a lot of stress and that can be overwhelming. You may even be seeing signs of stress in yourself and your children. Some of these include: avoiding others, difficulty concentrating, changes in sleeping or eating patterns, lack of enjoyment in activities previously enjoyed, physical symptoms like headaches and stomach aches, or overall changes in behavior.

Whether you are doing school in person or online, I am here for you. In years past I have always taught counseling lessons in every classroom. This year, for most grades I will be sending videos out to teachers to share with you. For younger grades, I (or Mrs. Haslar) will still be able to come into the classroom. Either way, for the month of September, students will be learning more about skills that can help if we are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or feeling any other strong feeling and about skills that can help us focus on learning.

If you notice that your children are struggling with handling the new way that school is or is feeling more stress, please reach out to me. I can meet with students at school if they are in person or we can set up a video call through Google Meets or Hangouts if they are online or at home for half the day when they need to talk. I can also support you with ideas if you would like that as well. There is an online referral form at <http://bme.monte.k12.co.us/counselor.html> if students need to talk to me. Or, you can email me at kimal@monte.k12.co.us or call at (719) 852-4041 x 4138.

Miss L - BME Counselor

Parent School Improvement Team

Do you have an idea that could be used to improve Bill Metz Elementary? Do you want to know what is going on with the school? If you are on the parent school improvement team, then you'll be the first to know about student achievement and growth updates, the school and district budget, and school safety issues. The principal will share updates with you and ask for your input and feedback. Let your voice be heard! There are quarterly meetings throughout the year so it isn't a huge time commitment. The team will have our first meeting of the year virtually through Google Meet on Tuesday, September 22 from 5-6pm. If you would like to participate, you'll need to let Mr. Futrell know your email to receive the invitation. You can email him at gab-ef@monte.k12.co.us or call the office with your email. Please let us know by Monday, September 21 if you would like to attend. We encourage parents to participate!



Vision/Hearing Screening

We will be having our annual screenings the week of September 14-17. If your child wears glasses, please make sure they have them on those days so they can use them for their vision screening.

Collection for Valley Police Officers

Mrs. Smith's 3rd grade class is collecting items such as gum, candy, prepackaged snacks, etc. to show support for our local police officers. If you would like to donate items or have questions, you can contact her at heathers@monte.k12.co.us. Please have donations in by the end of September.