Principal’s Message to Parents - Week of June 21:

Thank you! As I’ve talked to parents over the last two weeks who have reached out and praised the teachers and their ability to navigate through this school year and keep the focus on our students by providing solid instruction despite all the obstacles that got in their way, I want you to know how much I appreciate your comments and this recognition. I know your role in your child’s education and attention to what was going on this year also played a major part in your child’s success. Many times, we were aware of events occurring during virtual learning that were beyond our ability to act and fix and the problems this caused and your needing to step in.  So, thank you for all your understanding and your hard work too.

This has been a school year unparalleled by any I’ve ever experienced. Please know that over the summer there will be a few activities for 9th and 10th grade students to voluntarily participate in a program to develop their skill sets and for incoming 9th grade students, become acclimated to the building.  (Information about this program will be arriving to you Tuesday via Messenger.) There are also several workshops planned for teachers to look at their curriculum and review and prepare instruction with the goal to accelerate students at a pace in the Fall where they fill in gaps that occurred during the pandemic and virtual learning and dive into their new courses of study with confidence and success. That will be our goal and that will be what I am looking for from teachers as we begin the new school year.  But first, let’s rest and enjoy summer and get away from all this. You need a break from me, the weekly updates, the school, and everything connected with it. Enjoy your summer. We’ll talk in a while.

**Schedule for this Week**

BCPS calendar makes our last days of school Monday and Tuesday. Teachers last day is Tuesday also. Teachers will spend much time tomorrow and Tuesday providing make-up exams for students who missed a final last week, grading finals,  and calculating grades for the quarter and year along with completing final checklists to pack up their classrooms and bring the school year to a close.

**Spring Sports and State Championships**

A huge congratulations and “well done” to all our Spring athletes and coaches, but particularly to the tennis, girls’ track and field, and the boys’ lacrosse teams. Hereford’s tennis team and Coach McVeigh; girls’ track and field team and Coaches Duval, Fellows, Schreiner, Sanacore and Hittner; and the boys’ lacrosse team all participated in state finals on Saturday and brought home a state championship. What a way to end a season. Three state championships in one season on one day! Not sure this has happened before with any school in Baltimore County. What a tribute to our players, their parents, the coaches and the community and a great way to end the school year.

**Class of 2021 Book and Materials Obligation List**

Thanks to all underclassmen and graduates who stopped by last Wednesday and turned in materials and books and cleared your child’s name off our obligation list. The day was a huge success with lots of materials and texts being returned. If, by chance, you find a book that belongs to us over the summer, please stop by and return it so we can reconcile your account.  We’ll be around all summer in the main office and someone will be present to collect it.

**Hereford’s Enrichment Period And Bell Schedule**

As I said last week, as we wrap-up this school year and with the 15 mandated minutes BCPS has added to the school day bell schedule for school year 2021-2022, I am not sure what Hereford’s school day will look like for us or other schools next year. But, following this pandemic and a year of virtual instruction and the gaps in skills that will be present with our students when they return in the Fall, it’s the right time to take a deep-dive and look at our Enrichment program along with our bell schedule to see if we are still creating the optimum ingredients to support the delivery of quality instruction to our students. We will create several committees over the summer and into the Fall that provide teachers and our leadership team the opportunity to engage in discussions about how Herford’s Enrichment period and the bell schedule are working to achieve this goal and if they are not, what can be done to modify Enrichment or the bell schedule given the options available.  Working with our PTSA, I anticipate that at the right time, we will invite several community stakeholders to join us, and then create a form to ensure the voices from parents of current students are heard.  I will keep you posted over the summer and into the Fall as to developments, but the game plan for us now will be to study what we have, look deeply at current school data, determine how our underachieving and overachieving students use Enrichment and are impacted by the bell schedule, and gain a better understanding of what we have so we can improve with the goal being to reinforce and accelerate the delivery of instruction for our students.