

Collective Consiousness....August 21, 2020

Caring 'Cats:

***School begins August 31. Students may be on the school grounds at 7:30. They will be admitted to school beginning at around 7:40. The playground and surrounding school areas are not open from 7:30-4:00 each day. All students will be asked to leave the school grounds by 3:30 each day with the exception of those in a special activity, at GAP or awaiting the bus.

***Next week are back-to-school meetings. You should have received a message from your home- room teacher this week to sign up for an appointment. These appointments are required so if you are having difficulty lining up a time or have not been contacted, please send an email to linda.horst@k12.sd.us and she will assist you and connect you to your home room teacher. Appointments are scheduled for 8-4 every day next week with the exception of Thursday, 11-7.

***At your back-to-school appointment with your teacher you will have a chance to meet, get in your locker if you want to drop off items, if you are new to the school have a quick tour, and discuss the following:

- All things Covid and our school protocols of safety

- Lunch

- Busing

- Orchestra and Band

- Classroom schedules and procedures

- Entry and Exit locations

- PTA

- Individual needs

- Any other questions you may have.

***A character trait schools have always proposed and practiced is the art of sharing. Our children are born generous and educators throughout time have cultivated that trait. However, this year we will have to counter with a "DO NOT SHARE" edict as a safety precaution. The implications are a need for every learner to have individual resources devoted singularly to the learner. We are fortunate to have a dedicated computer for every student this year and we ask that every learner be territorial and diligent in hanging on to and not sharing any resources. We will do our best to remind and if we can assist of any needs for any learner, let your classroom teacher know. We will take care of it.

***Only staff and students are allowed in the school proper to begin this school year. Please call ahead if you have a special need or need an appointment. You may wait in the front

foyer and we will have drop-off and pick-up of items in the foyer. There will be extremely limited visitation during this time.

***Please use the northeast parking lot as much as possible for drop off and pick-up of children. You will learn of your learners entry point during your back-to-school meeting. No matter the entry point, the safest and best drop off location remains the northeast parking lot. Thanks for helping us keep all safe.

***Pictures, September 9th for your calendar.

***A message from Mrs. Cogswell for 5th grade band: "Camelot Band - please see Mrs. Cogswell's website or Sign-up Genius band station in lobby to register for band."

*** *"This is getting old"...my sentiment and I am sure it is yours. It seems an eternity of confinement and a ceaseless barrage of all-Covid, all the time. So what can we do? And that statement, for we who hold so dear our continued quest for self-determination, symbolizes our deep frustration and challenge. Chasing safety and balancing our human needs of association and our schools' needs to maintain educational momentum is an elusive and kinetic target. But one theme dominates: **The actions we take must be taken by all.** Another tread on the individuality we not only treasure, but cultivate. I have passionately advocated my entire professional life for personalizing learning to allow students to find and show and cultivate their talent and gifts to the maximum. Our diversity and differing abilities are our American strength. Now, creating classroom conformity and slaving to protocols and procedures results in counter productivity of progress. But it is reality. And, if we do not succumb to the simplicity of masking, distancing, washing and sanitizing, and all that entails - we risk the continuation of this unfair period for our children, and likely the cessation of any semblance of human sight and sound..again. That would be interminable. We must have a collective consciousness at this time to maintain at least a shred of the past we long for. Our staff has prepared and visioned and is ready. But there will be eventualities we cannot predict. Please support the efforts of these soldiers of safety and of learning at home and in every environment by your words and deeds and leadership. The staff will do their best and will support you always. If we band together, light will shine sooner than later. Know this civic duty requires all of us to sacrifice, remain unselfish, and look after our neighbor before self. An outstanding example to our children and a habit that can perhaps become who we are in all instances. We may lose a little of our unique-ness in this collective, but we will gain a together that will last and send us to a new tomorrow.*

*Willing and loyal servant to the Camelot and Brookings Community - Kevin
"Do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do."*