

Cleveland Elementary School

July 6, 2020

Dear Cleveland Parents & Families,

I hope that you had a restful summer and that you are recharged and ready to start the 2020-2021 school year! As principal of Cleveland Elementary School for the sixth year, I would like to welcome both, new and returning students and families, to our amazing school!

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we, as a community, responded to the unexpected circumstances of COVID-19 in March. I am very proud of the way our students, parents, employees, and community leaders handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate and feed our students during the most unusual of circumstances. Please know that we are closely monitoring CDC, State and District Guidelines. As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in August 2020. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees. Be assured, we have been working diligently on our reopening plans and due to all the factors and information needed to plan as COVID-19 issues unfold, we must be proactive and be prepared during these ever-changing times. We will communicate changes as they are made. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we do everything, we can to be responsive to the needs of the community around us.

Our theme this year is **“Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day”** and it is through our passion for learning and our long tradition of educating the “whole” child, that we will engage our students intellectually and inspire them to reach their potential. We are very proud of our rich traditions and the educational strives and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and community for almost 95 years. To continue this great work, our dedicated staff is working diligently to prepare for another year. Our wonderful office staff has been updating student files, answering all calls concerning registration, and ordering all student and staff materials and resources that will be needed for all students and staff. Our hardworking and meticulous custodians have been working the entire summer to ensure that Cleveland is thoroughly cleaned and in top notch shape for everyone’s safe return. We also have teams of teachers and other staff working on exciting, new projects that I’m sure everyone will love, including our new house system inspired by the Ron Clark Academy.

Cleveland’s Mission

As we plan for a beginning like no other we have seen in the past, our focus will still be to ensure that every child, every chance, every day:

- Knows how important, valued and loved he or she is.
- Receives high quality instruction and is being challenged by new learning experiences.
- Is learning a set of skills, knowledge, and behaviors involved in goal setting, engaging in positive relationships, and solving problems effectively.

In a world of unknowns, be assured we are doing our very best to maintain a sense of normalcy and regularity this school year. The teachers have already been working hard to start the year off with a positive, proactive approach to learning for students. We will spend a great deal of time gathering data about students’ strengths and needs at the start of the year to help guide instruction throughout the year to ensure that all our students receive the support that they need to be successful.

New Staff

Cleveland is a school staffed with energetic, caring and qualified educators who are committed to high academic expectations and mutual respect. Additionally, this level of commitment and support has been influenced by many caring and involved parents and community partners. To add, this year we have the pleasure of welcoming the following new staff members to our Cleveland family: Cindy Land (Grade 2), Keysha Simmons (Grade 5), Kelsey McDermott (Math Coach), and Kelly Blankenship (Reading Coach). Each teacher brings with them a wealth of knowledge, solid skill set, and years of experience in various content. We are blessed to have them join our family and are excited about you meeting each of them once we return to school!

Open House

Our Open House “Meet the Teacher” Event is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th. We will welcome families to join us from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Updates will be provided if a virtual format is necessary.

First Day of School and Meals

Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 10th. As you already know, the beginning of this school year will be a little different than those in the past. Students may enter the campus as early as 7:10 A.M. and instruction begins promptly at 7:40 A.M. Breakfast is served daily for all students from 7:10 – 7:35 A.M. Apply online for school meal benefits at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us and search “Go SNS” on your computer, tablet or phone. You can also call the Healthy Meals Express Application Center for assistance at (813)840-7066 or the Meals Status/Meal Prepay Hotline at 1-866-544-5575.

Transportation

Bus routes and schedules will be released soon. All bus riders are to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the printed arrival time. Your child’s safety is of the utmost concern to us, therefore, please be sure that your child is always well supervised while he or she is at the bus stop. All kindergarten students must have a parent or designated adult at the bus stop every afternoon. If a parent or designated adult is not at the bus stop, your child will be returned to school. You will then be contacted to pick up your child from school.

Uniforms

Cleveland is a uniform school. We want our students to be dressed for success and ready to learn and have a sense of community and pride in our school. Our uniform policy consists of a white, navy or red polo style collared shirt with khaki or navy bottoms. All students are encouraged to wear sneakers every day to safely participate in outdoor activities.

Stay Updated

Remember to stay informed with the latest updates from our superintendent, Addison Davis, regarding Hillsborough County’s reopen plan and other important information. By now, you should have received a survey from HCPS in which you will select the best option for your student to begin the 2020-2021 school year. This survey must be completed by July 17th, and it is imperative that we receive one for each child as we plan and prepare for the upcoming year. It is important that you complete all surveys and forms via the district’s website and parent links. Your input is valued and needed to help us decide how to best meet your child’s educational needs for the upcoming 20-21 school year. Our staff is ready to continue to support rigorous learning via the platform of learning that is best for your family.

We will continue to keep our families abreast of changes to platforms of learning and on site events. Families will be notified of upcoming changes via parent links, texts, twitter and website updates. I look forward to a positive, productive, and enriching school year with our students and families. Should you have any questions during the school year, please feel free to contact me at 276-5583 and we will be happy to meet with you to discuss your child’s educational program.

**For your convenience, the 2020-2021 supply list has been posted to our website at <http://cleveland.mysdhc.org>.*

Sincerely,

Lynn Roberts, Principal