

# The Patriot

NEWSLETTER



19110 LIBERTY MILL ROAD \* GERMANTOWN \* MD \* 2087 \* 301-353-8050

## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Wow, we are certainly experiencing a new normal with school closures until the tentative reopen date of April 27<sup>th</sup>. As you are aware, the MCPS and GES staff will implement **distance learning via Continuity of Learning (COL)**. It is exciting to reconnect to our school community even though we must do so in a remote way. The schedules (included on pg. 3) for March 30 through April 3 provides you with information regarding what our staff, students, and parents and guardians will experience during this week. As you can see, there is an emphasis on orienting members of our learning community to the functions and use of technology platforms and reconnecting with our students. Late this evening, MCPS released in email a preview of goals set for week 2 of remote learning. Online Learning plans will not follow the schedule of a typical school day. However, MCPS schools are working to finalize specific schedules for students to follow at their respective schools. GES families will receive student schedules for their child(ren) before Monday morning.

Recently over the weekend, MCPS held a **virtual conversation** on phase 1 of the continuity of learning plan. If you missed the conversation, click on the link to view the video.

English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbTrMkVxaf0&feature=youtu.be>

Spanish:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCPSTVe/featured>

Lastly, you can find continuity of learning updates and resources for families and staff on the Continuity of Learning webpage:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/continuity-of-learning/>.

Originally, the school system planned to have additional chromebook distribution at regional sites for those families that missed it at GES or other schools. However, with Governor Hogan's "stay at home" order, those plans have been reworked some. If parents need a chromebook for their GES child, the parent must email to our administrative secretary [Mrs. Starlings](#) with their child's first and last name, teacher's name,

*Continued on next page...*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message	1-2
Dates to Remember	1
Schedules	3
Week 1	
"Live" class sessions	
modified Spring Break	4
School Spirit classes	4
PTA News	5-6

CDC: COVID-19

[Symptoms](#)

[Self-Checker and Testing](#)

[Care for self and others](#)

**Germantown Elementary**  
19110 Liberty Mill Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 301-353-8050

**GES Website**  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

Contact: Jaime Howenstein  
[jaime\\_b\\_howenstein@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jaime_b_howenstein@mcpsmd.org)

Listserv: Join and stay up-to-date! To sign up, submit your email at the bottom on our website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org) and click blue button GO

**Patriot Newsletter Editor:**  
Kris daCosta-Warshauer  
[KdacW35@gmail.com](mailto:KdacW35@gmail.com)



## Dates to Remember

Weds, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Teachers will contact students
April 1-9	School closed; Online Learning
April 9-13	Spring Break (see next page for revised dates)
April 14-24	School closed; Online Learning
April 27	TBA - update on MCPS schools

\*\*\*\*\*

Principal's Message continued ...

language spoken at home and student ID (if you have it) by Friday at 4:30 pm. If a family needs a MiFi hotspot, a parent needs to follow the same process. Please be specific with your request for chromebook and/or MiFi. Mrs. Starlings will enter your information into a MCPS database to request a chromebook, which will then be distributed next week at a place/time to be determined. Email to: [Judith\\_A\\_Starlings@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Judith_A_Starlings@mcpsmd.org)

Please also remember, the county is still **distributing meals (a breakfast, lunch, and dinner in 1 bag) for ANY family that needs it.** Northwest HS continues to be a grab and go meal distribution center from 11am to 1pm, Monday through Friday. Great Seneca Creek ES is an alternative site (buses are dropping off the meals). You must be at GSCES at 11am to get your meals. Weekend backpack food snacks are being distributed at selected school sites for all families with a need on Fridays between 10am and 12noon. Sites for weekend backpack food changes every Friday. Check this [MCPS page](#) for the current sites on Friday mornings. Whether you previously qualified for free and reduced meals or recently find your family with a need for supplemental food support, please go to one of the sites.

With our school office on limited hours, we are trying to help with your questions. Answers to questions not published by GES or MCPS, please direct your questions to this Google form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JjVIFpVbh0hS6wXgQXqO0YnHO6WPoJbo0i3V5fDDj9o/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JjVIFpVbh0hS6wXgQXqO0YnHO6WPoJbo0i3V5fDDj9o/viewform?edit_requested=true) Parents/guardians can use this form to ask questions that are not otherwise answered in any document or website already published by GES or MCPS. This Google form was created by MCPS to simplify parents and guardians communication experience and limit their need to go to the staff directory to look up an email address.

I have a few **staff updates** to share.

- We will say a fond farewell to DeAnna Mathous, SCB teacher. She will move on to teach an Autism program class next school year.
- We will welcome Kristine Dodd as HSM, Amy England as SCB, and Carla Kimwele as grade 4 teachers at GES next school year.
- For our support staff, we'll soon welcome Fessou "Arthur" Lawson, 6-hour TPT SCB para in Ms. Farrell's room and Aram Emamjomeh as a 5.2-hour HSM/LHA to replace PeeJay Romanov who left MCPS in early March.

In next month's Patriot newsletter, I will share the tentative grade level teacher team assignments, as there will be slight changes.

As always, I will share additional updates they become available. Please keep your eye out for emails from GES via ConnectEd. Due to extended school closures and the need to protect the health/safety of our own families, the main office at GES is closed until further notice. Therefore, it is best to contact us via email. Please direct your question, comment or concern to the appropriate staff:

Grades K, 3, 5 and PEP concerns - [Amy\\_D\\_Taylor@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Taylor@mcpsmd.org)

Grades 1, 2, 4 and SCB concerns - [Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)

Chromebooks, MiFi hotspots, and general school questions - [Judith\\_A\\_Starlings@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Judith_A_Starlings@mcpsmd.org)

Stay healthy,

*Amy D. Bryan*  
Principal  
[Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)



Follow Amy Bryan's tweets



@TeamGermantown1

**MCPS On-line Learning Schedule**

**Elementary Week 1**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Teacher Experience</b>	<b>Student Experience</b>	<b>Parent/ Guardian Experience</b>
<b>Monday March 30</b>	Systemwide Kickoff Web Conference Teachers go to schools to get technology, instructional materials MP3 Wrap up all week	Getting familiar with online learning platforms activities	
<b>Tuesday March 31</b>	Professional Development and Planning	Getting familiar with online learning platforms activities	
<b>Wednesday April 1</b>	Professional Development and Planning Teachers contact families to share day and time of the virtual class meeting. Teachers will also inform families of the online meeting platform	Expect contact from teacher	
<b>Thursday April 2</b>	Live Morning Class Meeting and Social Emotional Learning Lesson Preview content for week 2		Receive a message from the teacher on steps for Friday
<b>Friday April 3</b>	Live Class Meeting to introduce Eureka Math lesson format and expectations Specialist lesson Office hours		Receive a message from the teacher on steps for Monday

**GES Whole Class “Live” Class Session**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Thursday, April 2</b> <b>Reconnecting “live” with teacher</b>	<b>Friday, April 3</b> <b>Setting Math Expectations with “live” teacher &amp; SEL Lesson</b>
<b>K-1</b>	9:15 - 9:45am	9:15 - 9:45am
<b>2-3</b>	9:55 -10:25am	9:55 -10:25am
<b>4</b>	10:35 - 11:05am	10:35 -11:05am
<b>5 (Departmentalized)</b>	10:35 - 11:05am	10:35 -11:05am (Math 5) 1:15 - 1:45pm (Math 5/6)
<b>PEP/SCB</b>	9:30am (Ho) 10:00am (McKenzie) 10:30am (Leizear)	9:30am (Ho) 10:00am (McKenzie) 10:30am (Leizear)
<b>SCB</b>	To be determined by each SCB teacher	To be determined by each SCB teacher

### Free Comcast Internet Access Opportunities

Since MCPS schools are now beginning the online learning phase, MCPS is pleased to provide families in need with internet access.

- **Internet Essentials:** For families without internet access at home, Comcast is offering free internet access for the first 60 days through its Internet Essentials program. More information about this program is at <https://internetessentials.com/>.
- **Xfinity WiFi:** Comcast has also made their xfinitywifi public wireless network located in businesses and outdoor locations available to anyone who needs them for free. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit [www.xfinity.com/wifi](http://www.xfinity.com/wifi). Once at a hotspot, users can select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available networks and then launch a browser.

### Spring Break Update:

Instead of schools being closed for spring break on Monday, April 6 and re-opening on Tuesday, April 14 as originally planned, the new recommended calendar follows:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday April 6-8 - classes meet for remote learning
- Thursday, April 9 - Spring Break, no classes; administrative offices will be open
- Friday, April 10 (state holiday) - Spring Break, no classes; administrative offices closed
- Monday, April 13 (state holiday) - Spring Break, no classes; administrative offices closed
- Tuesday, April 14 - classes meet (remote learning resumes)

### Congratulations to our **March** School Spirit Classes of the Month!

**Mrs. Kissal’s class (86%)**  
**Mrs. Kiernan’s class (57%)**

School classes of the month are identified by the highest % of (K-2 and 3-5) students in a class wearing school colors and/or spirit wear on the GES School Spirit Day!

## PTA News from GES PTA President and President-elect

### GES Families,

*Uncharted waters, a whole new experience.* We hope everyone has been managing well through these difficult times. When we cancelled International Night last month we hoped we were making the right decision, never imagining this is where we would be less than a month later. Obviously we will not be holding the annual Grounds Beautification in April, and Family Movie Night originally for May seems far fetched.



During all of this social distancing and remote learning it is easy to feel isolated.

Last week our school did an amazing job with the cyber Virtual Spirit Week on Twitter and Facebook, capped with the awesome teacher and staff parade. Our GES students participated in most activities from the comforts of their homes and on the last day within our GES community. On Monday, we saw music makers; Tuesday was taking easy day; we viewed a showcase of social distancing on Wednesday; on Thursday, we made or learned a new skill; wrapped up the week all decked out in GES Spirit wear and waving posters for the teacher parade! My boys loved seeing the teachers' and other students' [#GESspirit](#) posts online.

While we are limited to our homes, it can be refreshing to see familiar faces online. Feel free to check the following public accounts to catch up on teacher news, happenings from our GES students, and [#GESspirit](#) posts from Virtual Spirit Week.

- Tweets from GES teachers – ask your child(dren)'s teachers for their Twitter usernames
- Twitter [@TeamGermantown1](#)
- Twitter [@GermantownPTA](#)
- Facebook Germantown Elementary School PTA

The PTA has also created a private Facebook group account for any parent who prefers private postings. GES families have shared their children's participation in Spirit Week activities. Request to join and follow the **private** Facebook group [Germantown Elementary PTA Group](#) – please note this is different from the Facebook **public** group Germantown Elementary School PTA. The private page can only be viewed by members.

I expect things will only improve with more teacher involvement, and I'm hopeful of more class interaction, but during these remote times let's take advantage of our technical capabilities. You and your child(ren) are encouraged to continue posting on the PTA's Facebook pages and Twitter. We are such a small, tight knit community, we can pull on each other throughout this process.

As a parent, I know I look forward to when all of this quarantine and social distance mess is behind us and we can return to school and PTA as usual. Until then, continue to use Amazon Smile and Box Tops to raise money for next year's events. If you buy groceries online, you can email receipts to [receipts@boxtops4education.com](mailto:receipts@boxtops4education.com) for Box Tops credit.

Best,  
Meghan Lowery  
Danielle Story  
[gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com)

**Keep up with the current news and events:**

PTA website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org)



Germantown ES PTA @GermantownPTA



Germantown Elementary School PTA (public)



Germantown Elementary PTA Group (private)

**Shopping needs online, you purchase with purpose.**

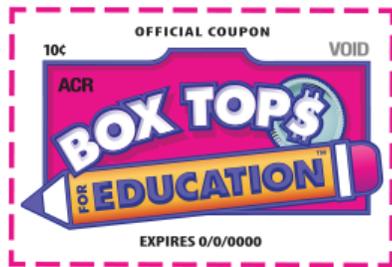
Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for your shopping needs and gifts at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

By using the **Smile.Amazon.com** link and designating Germantown Elementary School PTA as your beneficiary, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases. It’s the same Amazon you know and love, with the happy benefit of a PTA donation on purchases you’re already placing.



**Pantry Check! Any packaged boxes with box tops**

Box Tops for Education is making its way into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century! Download the **Box Tops app** and scan your receipt after purchasing any items with the new Box Tops Logo. The school will automatically receive 10¢ for each Box Tops item. During the transition, you may still see some of the old logos. They can be clipped and sent in to the school. Visit [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) for more info.



Old Clip-able Logo



New Scan-able Logo