

Subject: Message from Principal Gaylord, 9/6/19

Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 at 10:33:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Ellicott Mills Middle School

To: Jennifer Johnson

Ellicott Mills Middle School

Message from Principal, 9/6/19

Ellicott Mills School Community,

Wow, what an amazing first week of school. The energy in the building is back and this place is hopping with excited students and staff eager to Make Great Things Happen! I had the privilege of spending time speaking to every student through their Science classes yesterday and today. I was able to engage in a great dialogue with them about my core values as a principal, placing a premium on being student-centered, celebrating diversity as a strength, ensuring equity and inclusion, and promoting school voice. We also had an opportunity to talk about the revisions to the HCPSS Dress Code and Grading Policies, as well as overall school-wide expectations.

EMMS staff spent a great deal of time this week developing positive relationships and routines meant to promote a sense of community and cohesiveness with your children. Our extended homeroom time reinforced many of those themes as we focused our discussions around our school's three Rs (mottos): Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships. Students and staff engaged in carefully crafted lessons and discussions aimed at developing a shared sense of responsibility and ownership surrounding the three Rs (mottos). Additionally, students developed authentic indicators of these behaviors and expectations, in kid friendly language, that was specific to locations around the school. That student-teacher crowd sourcing of indicators will be used to develop posters that will be displayed throughout the school in order to clearly articulate those expectations and behaviors. We believe the allowing students to use their voice and ideas when developing expectations will serve to increase a higher level of buy-in, understanding, and follow-through.

Thank you for allowing us to teach and lead with such a great group of kids!

[Reminder: Back to School Night is next Thursday, September 12 starting at 6:30PM; Canvas Parent Orientation \(optional\) starting at 5:30PM](#)

Peter M Gaylord
Principal

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