

Wildcat Newsletter

Mary C Snow West Side Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Greetings Wildcats!

Welcome to the 2021- 2022 school year! Our school theme this year is "It's Grow Time!" This means that as long as you are improving your personal goals, academic goals, behavior goals, and attendance goals, you are showing growth! Please log in to Schoology to see what is happening in your child's classroom.

This year we thought we were going to get back to some "normalcy" but as we have all seen, that is just simply not the case. Please help synergize with us as we are learning to navigate through this uncertain time. Masks are required at MCSWSE. Your student may be asked to quarantine, but fortunately, your student's teacher will be offering instruction on Schoology so that even when they are sick or required to quarantine, they will still be able to have access to their education. If you don't have the internet, please let your student's teacher know and we can help you with this.

Our mission for our students at MCSWSE is to LEAD. We Listen to learn, Engage our minds, Achieve our goals, and Do the right thing. Our vision for our students at MCSWSE is meeting our goals now to become leaders in our community always.

We are a Leader in Me School which means students find their voice in the classroom and through leadership roles by learning and applying life-ready leadership skills. Children at *Leader in Me* Schools thrive in a nurturing environment when they feel safe, confident, and supported by teachers and other staff members. By recognizing each child as a leader with unique gifts and talents to share, all aspects of their education begin to flourish. This social and emotional learning process equips students with essential 21-century skills to build meaningful relationships and take ownership of their education.

We teach the following Covey habits throughout the day to become successful learners and citizens and would like for you to help us do this at home too:

- * Be Proactive
- * Begin with the End in Mind
- * Put First Things First
- * Think Win Win
- * Seek First to Understand then to be Understood
- * Synergize
- * Sharpen the Saw

Please read with your child every night for at least 20 minutes. This will increase student achievement!

In this newsletter, you will find information that will prepare you for the school year. Although we have a lot of work ahead of us, I know that your child, your child's teachers, and administration is up for the task! It's a great year to be a wildcat and Remember that the West Side is the Best Side! IT'S GROW TIME!!! 

Sincerely,

Destiny Spencer

Upcoming Events

Monday, 9/6/21

- Labor Day Holiday
- Schools and Offices CLOSED

Friday, 9/10/21

- Midterms

Tuesday, 9/14/21

- LSIC @ MCSWSE @ 3:30p.m.

9/27/21 - 10/1/21

- Book Fair

Thursday, 9/30/21

- Family Night
- 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 10/8/21

- End of 1st Nine Weeks

Monday, 10/11/21

- Beginning of 2nd Nine Weeks

Wednesday, 10/13/21

- NO SCHOOL for students
- Professional Learning Day

Friday, 10/15/21

- Report Cards go home
- Awards Assembly

Friday, 10/29/21

- Pumpkin Drop

Monday, 11/1/21

- LSIC with CSI presentation
- @ MCSWSE @ 6:00 p.m.

10/1/21 - 10/5/21

- College & Exploration Week

Meet our new teachers:

My name is Ashley Tinnel, I recently graduated college from Concord University, and was hired at MCSWSE to teach 4th grade. I have three main loves in my life; food, pets, and teaching. I live in my house with my aunt, two cousins, and several pets. I am looking forward to working with the staff and students to make 2021-2022 the best year yet!

Hello! I would like to introduce myself for those of you who may not know me. My name is Maggie-Sue Dickens, and I am one of the First Grade teachers. I am so excited to see what this school year will bring to not only myself, but your children as well!

Hello! My name is Cassie Gregg, I am also one of the First Grade teachers. This is my second year teaching, and I am so thrilled to be teaching your children!

Mrs. Peterson has been a teacher with Kanawha County Schools for four years. She has two daughters ages 17 and 10 and has been married for 25 years. She graduated from American Public University with a master's degree in elementary education and is currently teaching third grade.

Nickie French-Hanshew is a new face at Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary, but is no stranger to teaching music! The 2021-2022 school year marks her 14th year of teaching music, but her first in the state of West Virginia. Mrs. Hanshew completed her undergraduate music education degree at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH and her Master's in Music Education through Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. In her free time, Mrs. Hanshew enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, playing with her two children and her three dogs, playing piano and guitar, and singing. So far, Mrs. Hanshew is really enjoying her time at Mary C. Snow and absolutely loves her mini-musicians already!

Classroom News

Preschool

We have two preschool classes at Mary C. Snow Elementary. The first preschool class is in room 129 with Ms. Hilda Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong has been employed with KCS since 2008, working directly and indirectly with preschool. She stays busy raising her three old grandson and selling Mary Kay. Also in room 129 is Mrs. Connie Runion, teacher's assistant, and Ms. Jala, parent assistant. Mrs. Runion has been working for KCS for 20 years. She has one daughter and one son. She loves to work in her flowerbeds and read. Ms. Jala has been working with children since 2014. She helps with our BBC afterschool program. The second preschool class is in room 134 with Mrs. Alison Douglas-Chiles. Mrs. Douglas has been employed by KCS since 1997 working mainly in kindergarten. She has two teenage daughters that keep her busy. Also in room 134 is Mrs. Cheryl Galloway, teacher's assistant. She started working with KCS in the early 90s and at MCSWSE in 2007. She is the mother of two kids and loves spending time with her grandchildren. Mrs. Liza Smith, parent assistant, is also in room 134. She joined our staff last year and has two children at MCSWSE.

In preschool we use Creative Curriculum where our students learn through exploring, investigating and dramatic play. This quarter our focuses have been getting to know each other, learning the school rules and learning each other's names. Our preschool students have been learning to trace their names and learning to

identify their name by sight. Other topics we have been learning about are: "Beginning Of The Year and Signs." We introduced the letters Aa and Jj focusing on the letters' names and the correct pencil strokes to write the letters. We are pleased with how well our preschool students are adjusting to school and we look forward to a great year!

Kindergarten

I hope your little ones are as excited about the start of school as we Kindergarten teachers are. For the past few weeks, we have been practicing classroom expectations, being a friend, and making good choices in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, and playground. Every day, we will review the expectations and how to keep everyone safe. This year we will also be learning about the 7 habits of leaders. We had fun exploring our classrooms too! In the motor room, we explored our creative play space in dramatic play, played with blocks, and had fun with some large motor activities. In addition, to exploring our classrooms, we also began to learn about our daily classroom routines. We have really been working on our hand washing techniques, giving each other space by using our "wingspan" to be socially distant when necessary. All of our friends have become excellent hand washers! We are so proud of our class and how well they have adapted to some of the changes around school, they really seem to understand that this is what we have to do to keep ourselves and one another safe.

Language Arts - In Reading, we are learning about the sounds we hear in words and starting to write our first

name. We also read and talk about stories about Kindergarten and more. In Phonics we have been busy learning our upper/lowercase letters/sounds for Mm and Tt. In kindergarten, we are currently working on the following sight words: I, am, and the. These are words that student will see frequently in stories.

Math - We have been recognizing, writing and counting objects for numbers 1-5.

First Grade

We hope you all are doing wonderfully and we have loved teaching your first graders so far this year! First grade is a very important year! It is packed with important and exciting transitions as children leave behind much of the play of preschool and kindergarten, and begin to develop more academic skills. Your child will also go through a significant transition to more extensive learning. As your child adjusts, they may get tired at the end of the day or have trouble focusing as the day progresses — that's normal! Just check with your child's teacher on their progress, and work together to develop strategies if they're having trouble adjusting, especially at the beginning of the year. Most importantly, prime your child for success by continuing the learning process at home with enriching books and activities that support what they're learning in class. When your first grader spends time learning new skills with you, it not only makes that time more valuable to them, but also helps them reach the milestones expected at this age. Here is everything you need to know about what we are learning this nine weeks:

Academic skills you can expect of your first grader:

- Read directions off the board, some children may still have difficulty with this
- Write words with letter combination patterns such as words with the silent e like make
- Read and write high-frequency words such as where and every
- Write complete sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation
- Read aloud first-grade books with accuracy and understanding
- Quickly answer addition and subtraction facts for sums up to 20
- Complete addition and subtraction problems on paper

We are so excited to continue teaching your 1st grader and if you have any questions please just let us know! Have a great day!

Second Grade

Second grade is getting back in the hang of school procedures. We are excited about our new reading books. Ask us about the first story. In math, we are practicing our adding and subtracting facts. Any help at home is appreciated. We are trying with the masks, but it is really hard.

Third Grade

Third grade has had a busy start to the year. We have been learning about place value in math and look forward to talking about addition properties soon. Reading is always a great way to learn about new and exciting people and places. Currently, we are reading a traditional tale from India, but will soon be reading a folk tale from Nigeria. The third grade team would like to welcome Mrs. Peterson to MCSWSE. Ms. Williams, Mr. Flanagan and Mrs. Peterson is looking forward to a great year full of fun and learning new things!

Fourth Grade

English - We will be working through Unit 1 and Unit 2 in our MyView Literacy program. Unit 1 is about Networks and Unit 2 is about Adaptations.

Essential Questions: How can a place affect how we live? How do living things adapt to the world around them?

Students will explore this essential question through a variety of stories. Students will learn the different types of narrative nonfiction. Students will use language to make connections between reading narrative nonfiction and writing a personal narrative. Students will determine how a place can affect how they live.

Students will learn the different types of informational texts and understand their structures. Students will collaborate with others to determine how living things adapt to the world around them.

Math - We will be working through Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 in our MyMath workbooks. Chapter 1 is learning about Place Value and Chapter 2 is about Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers with larger values.

Fifth Grade

“Welcome back, Wildcats! In 5th grade, we are working hard to learn our new routine, setting our academic goals and practicing the 7 habits. We're also beginning Place Value from Millions to Thousandths in Math as well as Informational texts, Main Idea and Details and Narrative Writing in ELA.

Lastly, shout out to our Patrols and Lighthouse Team members. We're so proud of you! It's GROW TIME!”

Special Education

Mary C Snow West Side Elementary special education department would like to give a big welcome to our new K-2 ID teacher Mrs. Tanya Fryson. We also want to give a big welcome to our new assistants Mr. Lanz, Ms. Amber, and Ms. Iyrna. We also want to welcome our returning teachers and assistants, Ms. Katie and Ms. Peace, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Nathan, Ms. Chic and Ms. Amanda.

Procedural safeguards and Medicaid forms have been sent home with your children, please complete these forms, and return them to school as soon as possible. IEP meetings will be starting soon please be watching your students backpack for meeting notices.

Title I Math

This year the Title 1 Math team is Mrs. Elizabeth Turley, Mrs. Ashley Mays, and Ms. Marissa Dingess. Ms. Dingess is new to Mary C Snow West Side Elementary. She received her undergraduate degree from WVU. Then went on and got her masters of education in reading from Fairmont State. This year as Title 1 Math teachers, we will be going into the classrooms and working with the students. We will be providing skill based lessons in order to help our students succeed. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Title I Reading

We are excited to have been working with your children since the first week of school. We have been supporting the classroom teachers by working with students in small groups during Reading, as well as helping to administer the Reading assessments which provide the data that is used to form small groups. We meet with students during the Small Group portion of the Reading block. Title I Reading teachers provide additional support and very focused instruction on the foundational reading skills needed to increase the students' reading levels. We provide two, 20-minute daily sessions per classroom. Our goals for this first nine weeks are to provide a safety net for students who need to catch-up on lost skills because of last year's unusual school year due to the pandemic and to foster an "I Can Do" attitude for becoming a successful reader. **WE WANT ALL CHILDREN TO LOVE TO READ!**



Support Services

Meet MCSWSE Support Services Team!

School Counselors (Chelsey Cosby & Starlena Slater)

We are here to support all of the wonderful children here at Mary C. Snow WSE Elementary and their families! We provide classroom guidance lessons, individual counseling, small group counseling, consultation services, SAT/504 coordination, and plan special events! If you would like support for your child's social-emotional needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time – We are here to help you!

Family Support Worker (Natalie Blevins)

I can help families be linked to services in the community to help meet their basic needs, such as help with utility bills, food, clothing etc. I monitor the tardiness of students and through a home visit will come up with a plan to address the concern.

I am also the After-School Director for Mary C Snow site through Bob Burdette Center.

Free After-School Care - Provides enrichment such as STEM, ART, College Career Readiness, Engaged Writing, SPARK PE, homework help, hot meal and snack. Call Bob Burdette Center 304-342-1158 for more information. After-School where friends are made!

School Nurse (Janet Allio)

COVID TIPS TO KNOW

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Both quarantine and isolation helps slow the spread of COVID-19.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. Quarantine means to stay home. People who were near someone with COVID-19 must quarantine. Quarantine for 10 days if you were near someone with COVID-19. Take your temperature two times each day. Stay away from other people. Stay away from people with other health problems.

Isolation separates people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Isolation means to stay away from other people. People with COVID-19 must stay in isolation. People with COVID-19 must stay away from other people. People with COVID-19 must stay away from people in their home.

- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people if able.

COVID related absences are excused.

It is very important to notify the school if your child has been exposed to COVID, tested for COVID or has COVID.

Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information.

Assistant Attendance Director (Chenelle Coy-Williams)

Attendance Matters! Families and schools working together is the key to helping our students be successful. Being present and on time are key factors that will help students make the best of their educational opportunities. "It's Grow Time" here at MCSWSE and working together we can help your family and student grow in every area. Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. This year my goal for our students is to just be better than the day before. We want to make sure we are putting forth effort and also reaching out when our own effort just does not seem to be enough. Within these efforts I am here for assistance and to be an advocate for your family through community resource and referral services and the Grandfamilies program. This year we are looking forward to surpassing any attendance goals set forth and enjoying INCENTIVES!!

Related Arts

Art

In art class this year we will be experimenting with different art materials and processes. The students will have a chance to create artwork with tempera paint, watercolor paint, pencils, markers, clay, fibers, tie-dye, oil pastels, printmaking and much more!

Music

Hanshew

Kindergarten: We have been working on reinforcing the concept of steady beat as well as distinguishing between our talking and singing voices. We have played lots of games and we have even started playing our first instruments for the year: rhythm sticks! Ask your kindergartner about their new favorite game, "Hands Like This". First Grade: In first grade, we have been

reviewing long versus short sounds (which we will eventually call quarter notes and eighth notes). We have also been solo singing through a game called "Doggie, Doggie." Mrs. Hanshew has been really impressed with the first graders' singing voices! Ask your child about the song and game, "Doggie, Doggie!" Second Grade: The second graders have been working on reviewing "ta" and "ti-ti" (quarter note and eighth notes). They have also been playing some xylophones to accompany the song "Apple Tree." The second graders have showed great skill when it comes to steady beat playing. Ask them about "Apple Tree!" Third, Fourth and Fifth: The upper grades have been reviewing all the rhythms they've previously learned, including eighth notes, quarter notes, quarter rests, and sixteenth notes. We have been putting together a song called "Dinah" which includes a game, a xylophone part, and a rhythm stick part. We have also worked on improvisation (specifically, making up a xylophone melody on the spot). The upper grades have been doing a great job singing and playing at the same time. Ask your child about the song and game, "Dinah!"

Tucker

K-5: Working on procedures

K-2: Working on basic rhythms and personal space games

3-5: Working on basic rhythms on drums. We are starting xylophones this week and creating our own compositions using C Major Pentatonic.

Schuda

K-2: Working on singing voice and basic games to identify personal space. 3-5: Playing drums and learning basic rhythms. Students will start xylophones this week. We will work on basic sticking and proper instrument care

Gym

We are working on basic procedures K-5. K-2: We are working on personal space activities and daily routine. 3-5: We are working on hand-eye coordination and reviewing rules. All classes are doing a great job and enjoy the various games and activities I have planned.

