

April 1, 2020



Dear Marshall Primary School Parents,

What a wonderful time to be at Marshall Primary School! We have so many positive changes to be excited about and so many successes to celebrate. We would like to take this time to celebrate these areas of progress that our school and School Improvement Council have made in the goals and objectives of our School Renewal Plan.

This year we had an opportunity to have the majority of our classroom teachers and interventionists trained in Orton-Gillingham. This is a multi-sensory approach that breaks reading and spelling into smaller skills, and then builds on those skills over time to help students learn how to read. Teachers use sight, hearing, touch, and movement to help students connect and learn the concepts being taught. We believe that this approach has made a huge difference in the progress our students are making in the area of phonics.

We were also very fortunate to have more technology added to our school this year as part of the ASD2 Technology expansion. Each student in kindergarten through second grade has access to their own Chromebook for daily use in the classroom. This access to technology has allowed our students to take learning outside of the classroom walls by participating in virtual trips and researching new topics of interest. It has also allowed us to open up our computer labs for related arts, and offer more activities in STEM and typing skills.

In looking at our assessment data, our kindergarten through second grade students have shown substantial academic improvement from fall to spring test administrations on our reading and math i-Ready assessments, as well as the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessments. This year we have continued our common weekly planning periods for certified teachers with school administrators and instructional coaches, to focus on curriculum updates and common assessments. Our pre-kindergarten students have also shown tremendous growth on both their DIAL-4 (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) screening and PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) assessment. The hard work displayed by our teachers, staff, and students this year has truly paid off, and we could not be more proud!

In addition to our academic success, our school continues to make our students' social development a top priority. This year we purchased the Core Essentials Curriculum and have

focused on a different character trait each month with our students both in classroom lessons and morning announcements. Each month we take time to celebrate students through our MPS Hall of Fame and MPS Birthday Club.

Parent involvement is an area we always seek to strengthen at Marshall Primary School. This year, we hosted several parent workshops throughout the year that focused on reading, math, and science integration. We also held quarterly STEAM days and invited parents to participate in several of the planned STEAM activities. Our fall Literacy Night gave parents an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher and select new reading materials at the Book Fair, while our winter STEAM Night gave families an opportunity to participate in hands-on learning through Google Expedition, building igloos, and making snow. To combat summer reading loss, we are excited to hold a Free Book Fair for our students prior to the end of the year so that every child has new books to take home and read with their family during the summer months.

We are excited about the 2020-2021 school year at Marshall Primary School. We will continue to implement more common standards-based assessments throughout each grade level and strengthen our instructional practices.

Thank you for your continued support as we work hard to improve and provide your child with a world-class education that builds the foundation for their future as a college-and-career ready student.

Sincerely,

Shelly Blalock, Principal

Norma Hughes-Smith, SIC Chairperson