

DECEMBER 16TH, 2020

Loring Community School

2600 44th Avenue N, Minneapolis, MN 55412

T: 612-668-2060 Online: Loring.mpls.k12.mn.us

<https://www.facebook.com/MPS.Loring>



LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL GIBBS

Dear Loring Families,

As we move into the cold winter months my usual reminders about sending kids to school with warm clothing like jackets, snow pants, boots, gloves and headgear definitely isn't our focus this year. This year we're all focusing on doing our very best to stay safe and healthy, and to do everything in our power to support the health and well-being of all of us. We know this pandemic has significantly impacted mental health across our country. Here at Loring, we're continuing our focus on social emotional learning, wellness, and doing our very best with distance learning. Any moment we get to interact with kids is the highlight of our days. When I speak to Loring Staff one thing is common across pretty much every conversation. That is, how much we love this community, the kids, the families and the drive to do whatever it takes to support scholars through distance learning. The unsung heroes of this pandemic are the teachers, parents, students and support staff who are continuing to support the education of our youth. For that, I am grateful to all of you!

Second Semester Planning

- **Hybrid/In-Person Planning** - In anticipation of an eventual hybrid or in-person model, we will be moving our flexible learning day to Wednesday starting in February. What does this mean for families and scholars? The typical work you do every Friday will be moved to every Wednesday. We're doing this because if we move into a hybrid model, students would either come to school on a Monday/Tuesday or a Thursday/Friday. This will allow us to clean the buildings each Wednesday for the next group. We are a long way away from this model, but we want to be prepared in the event we move to Phase 4 of in-person hybrid learning at some point in the spring.

UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1

NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 18

NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 21

PTA Meeting 6:30 - 8 PM

JANUARY 29

End of Quarter Two

- **Comprehensive District Design (CDD)** – It has been a heartbreaking month learning that many of our families received letters stating that due to where they live within the city that they no longer live in the Loring boundaries and will not get a secured spot at Loring. Just a reminder that the school choice window is open now through February 7th, 2021. If families living outside of the Loring boundaries can transport their scholars to and from school each day and they want to continue at Loring, they would need to put in their request to get into the placement lottery. This isn't a guarantee that your scholar would be placed back at Loring, but there is a good chance that could happen. Please reach out to me, your teacher, or our Family Liaison at carly.siewert@mpls.k12.mn.us with any questions.
- **Materials Pick Up** – In order to provide scholars with up-to-date learning materials we will be moving towards a material's pick-up window about every month or so. We appreciate families prioritizing these pick-up dates to help keep kids up to date with the proper materials and curriculum to continue progressing through distance learning.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Hello Loring families,

We want to let you know about a free, convenient Covid 19 testing option, as cases continue to rise in Minnesota.

- Minnesota and Vault Medical Services are offering at-home saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms, at no cost. You can order a test on the MN Dept of Health website:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>
- When you are ready to take the test, you will do a video visit with a test supervisor, and then drop it off at a UPS location, using the prepaid UPS package. Once it arrives at the lab, you will get your test results by email in 24-48 hours.
- This saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost for every Minnesotan, whether or not you have insurance. Any cost that is not paid for by your insurance company will be paid for by the state.
- Both adults and children can use these tests. An adult 18 or older must request a test for a child. Saliva testing may not be right for those with low saliva production, such as children under 4 or someone who has suffered a stroke.
- You can also do the swab or saliva test in-person, and at no cost, at sites across the state:
<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/testing-locations/community-testing.jsp>

Feel free to contact Kelly Erickson, School Nurse, if you have questions about COVID-19 testing or need help finding a testing location (612-806-2762). You can also call the MN helpline for questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, at 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

BELL TIME CHANGE

We wanted to bring to your attention that next year, for the 2021-22 school year, Loring Community School will have a new bell time (school start and end) of 8:25 AM - 2:55 PM.

At their November 10 meeting, the MPS Board of Education voted to approve the proposed bell time schedule beginning school year 2021-22. The Board of Education is confident the approved schedule can meet the goals of:

- Increasing participation in after-school programming particularly for those schools with a higher concentration of families receiving educational benefits as this has been shown to have a direct correlation to student achievement and sense of belonging.
- Reducing transportation costs so that savings can be reinvested into the classroom.
- Improving on-time arrivals at schools.

2021-2022 SCHOOL REQUEST

We know that many scholars may be moving schools next year due to the CDD, transitioning to middle school, or another circumstance. Get your 2021-2022 school requests **in by Feb. 7** to have the best chance of getting into your preferred school. You'll be able to learn more about schools you're interested in and submit your request online at [ExploreMPS.org](https://mpls.k12.mn.us/request-kickoff.html) and <https://mpls.k12.mn.us/request-kickoff.html>.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCES

Beginning December 2020, MPS will be expanding their efforts to share information and resources with caregivers, staff, and students around safe internet and social media use. During the pandemic, many of us are spending more time online to learn, meet up or play with friends and to explore new topics of interest. It is important for us as a school district community, to ensure we all have up to date information on how to best use the internet and social media safely and with kindness.

As caregivers it is important to be aware of some of the risks your student might experience while online. Students may be exposed to cyberbullying or other online predators may pose a significant threat to children, because the internet makes it easy for people to disguise their identity and be anonymous. This makes it easy to manipulate or trick children and teens, and sometimes even adults. Check out tips, tricks, and more information here:

https://mpls.k12.mn.us/social_media_online_safety_for_caregivers

RESOURCES FOR OVER WINTER BREAK

Pick up local toys and gifts:

- Toys for Tots ([Website Link Here](#))
- Salvation Army Toy Shop ([Website Link Here](#))
 - In December, the Salvation Army's Toy Shop will consolidate seven sites into one at its Roseville headquarters, with a drive-through, contactless toy pickup.
- Prism Holiday Toy Shoppe ([Website Link Here](#))
 - PRISM's Holiday Toy Shoppe Registration is now OPEN! To register text 763.308.4890 or e-mail prism.signup@gmail.com
- United Way
 - Call 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211 to learn which programs have toys for children. A child may only be registered through one charitable organization.

Food Shelves and Community Food Distributions:

- Hunger Solutions-food shelf finder ([Website Link Here](#))
- Fare for All Express
 - Fresh groceries at discounted prices with a drive-through sale model. Payment options include: cash, credit/debit card, or EBT. Please check the schedule on the website. Closest upcoming event is in Golden Valley on 12/21. More info here: <https://fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org/december-2020-schedule/>
- Focus MN - food shelf, community meals, and clothing closet ([Website Link Here](#))
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)
 - Has a weekly delivery service available to seniors and single parent households. If you have grocery or pharmacy needs but cannot get to the store, this could be for you. Deliveries occur every Saturday. For more info: (612) 335 - 5924 or email blee@nrcc.org.
- Good in the Hood- Food, clothing, and other resources.
 - Please contact Good in the Hood directly for open hours and availability for a particular program/service. For more info: 612-217-4003 (leave a voicemail please) or email info@goodinthehood.org. More info about upcoming food distribution events: <https://www.goodinthehood.org/about/about-us/>
- Community Emergency Assistance Program(CEAP) ([Website Link Here](#))
 - Food, holiday gifts and other supports. If you are interested in visiting CEAP's food shelf and receiving food, please make an appointment by calling our office at 763-566-9600 (se habla español). Same-day and next-day appointments available.
- Waite House Food Shelf
 - Local Food Shelf, community cafe for lunches and Fresh fruits and vegetables on the 2nd and 4th Weds of month @1pm. 2323 11th Ave So, 612-455-0389

FREE MEAL BOXES FOR YOUTH & HOLIDAY BOXES FOR ADULTS

All MPS free meal box pick-up sites will be open December 21-22 and December 29-30 during winter break, with regular hours. Sites will reopen on January 5th and resume their normal schedule. During winter break, families can pick up free meal boxes for youth and something special for the adults too! For two weeks in a row, MPS will be offering Free Holiday Meal Box for Adults.

For more information visit the MPS Culinary & Wellness Services website https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/2020-21_school_year

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Winter Break

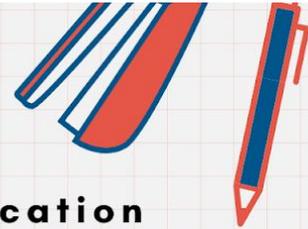
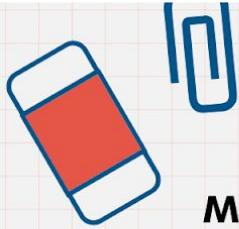
DECEMBER/JANUARY

	M	T	W	T	F
DEC	21 OPEN	22 OPEN	23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED
DEC/JAN	28 CLOSED	29 OPEN	30 OPEN	31 CLOSED	1 CLOSED
JAN	4 CLOSED	5 OPEN	6 OPEN	7 OPEN	8 OPEN

Plan Ahead!

Pick-up on **December 21** or **22** and **December 29** or **30**, normal hours.
We resume our regular schedule on January 5, 2021.

cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/2020-21_school_year



Minneapolis Community Education VIRTUAL AFTERSCHOOL

Starting on January 4th, register for an amazing slate of live virtual after school classes - everything from **kendama** and **theater** to **Legos**, **cooking**, **crochet** and more. **Tae Kwon Do** and **Latin Dance** for those that want to keep moving. **Chess** for the strategists, and **Dungeons and Dragons** for the warriors and wizards. There is something for everyone after school!

Live online classes are available Mondays through Thursdays
Classes at 4:15-5:15pm
Jan 19th - Feb 25th

Registration starts Jan 4th through 13th!

Find all of the information about the program and links to register here:
<https://sites.google.com/mpls.k12.mn.us/orange>. Register online or by calling your school's Community Education coordinator!

Please contact your site coordinator with any questions:

Carly.Siewert@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-466-0562





Minneapolis Community Education

Las clases en línea después de la escuela

Vuelve aquí a partir del 4 de enero para registrarte para una increíble lista de clases virtuales en vivo después de la escuela: todo, **desde kendama y teatro hasta Legos, cocina, crochet** y más. **Tae kwon do** y **Baile Latino** para aquellos que quieran seguir moviéndose. **Ajedrez** para los estrategas y **Mazmorras y Dragones** para los guerreros y magos. ¡Hay algo para todos después de la escuela!



**Las clases en vivo se impartirán de lunes a jueves,
de 4:15 a 5:15 p.m.**

La clase será del 19 de enero al 25 de febrero.

¡La inscripción comienza del 4 al 13 de enero!

Encuentre toda la información sobre el programa y los enlaces para registrarse aquí: <https://sites.google.com/mpls.k12.mn.us/naranja>. Regístrese en línea o por teléfono llamando al coordinador de educación comunitaria de su escuela.

Comuníquese con el coordinador de su sitio si tiene alguna pregunta (Si el coordinador no hable español, puede comunicarse con Jeff):

Carly.Siewert@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-466-0562

Jeff.Carlson01@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-205-8828

