

Martin Luther King School

“Where our students and staff are Poised, Positive and Productive”

Dr. Gray’s Sunday Snapshot

Week of March 22, 2021



Good Evening King School families, this is Dr. Gray, with your Sunday Snapshot for the week of March 22nd.

Last week Dr. Ranelli shared a message with the entire Piscataway School community condemning the heinous acts against Asian Americans, particularly in response to the incidents down in Atlanta, Georgia. I am proud to serve in a district who speaks out on such incidents, and as a school, we wholeheartedly support Dr. Ranelli’s message, and join him in declaring our ongoing support for our Asian students and families here in Piscataway and beyond.

- **Update on Hybrid the Learning Model:**

As we enter our fourth week of hybrid learning, I want to reiterate that we continue to have many procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff who are in the building.

For this week, our hybrid groups are as follows:

Group 1 students will report to school Monday and Tuesday this week.

Group 2 students will report to school Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week.

Important Reminders for STUDENTS in the hybrid model:

- Please bring your **iPad** to school each day and make sure it is fully charged.
- Please bring your **iPad charger** in case you need to charge your iPad during the day.
- Please bring **headphones or earbuds**.

Important Reminders for PARENTS of students in the hybrid model:

- Remember to complete the **COVID DAILY PARENT FORM** on Genesis by 7:30am, each morning your child comes to school.
- Please make sure your child brings his/her **iPad** to school charged, along with the charger and headphones.

- Continue to use the staff parking lot to drop off (starting at 7:45am) & to pick up your child if you are transporting them. Students will enter and exit from Door 7 – the one closest to the parking lot. Staff will be outside before and after school to direct and assist you.
- Finally parents, just a reminder that breakfast and lunch is free for all students. No one will be billed or required to pay at any time. All students can take advantage of this service.
- Access **HYBRID LEARNING INFO** under the Parent Center tab on our school website for various documents related to hybrid learning:
https://king.piscatawayschools.org/parent_center/hybrid_learning_info
- Please refer to the **King School Re-entry Guide March 2021** for very specific details about all aspects of the hybrid model at King School. It was emailed to families last week and is accessible here:
https://king.piscatawayschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_805114/Image/King_School_Re_Entry_Guide_March_2021.pdf

Important information for STUDENTS & PARENTS in the hybrid model:

- Students will be able to enter the building at 7:45am and the late bell rings at 8:05am.
- On Mondays and Fridays students will be dismissed at 12:25pm.
- On Tuesdays through Thursdays, students will be dismissed at 2:20pm.
- A 25-minute lunch will be held in the cafeteria each day and on Tuesdays through Thursdays students will also have a 25-minute recess.

● **General Parent Information:**

If you would like to move your child to the hybrid model and haven't informed us, please call our main office and Mrs. Borges will be happy to assist you. She will then give you the specific date when your child can begin reporting to school.

Please feel free to call or email us with any other questions or concerns about the hybrid model.

● **Spring Break:**

Students and parents, just a reminder that this is our last week of school before **spring break**. Spring break will begin Monday March 29th and school will be closed through Friday April 2nd. School will start again on Monday April 5th which will be a half-day and everyone will be virtual. No one will report to school that day and all teachers will instruct virtually through Zoom.

● **Message From Dr. Ranelli:**

Parents, if you haven't done so already, please read the message Dr. Ranelli sent to all families last Friday. He provided an update on our first month of hybrid learning, some quarantine guidelines for families who elect to travel during spring break, and details about food distribution during spring break week.

- **Patience as Teachers Transition:**

Now that students are back in the building for hybrid learning, I'll ask that our remote students and parents continue to please exhibit patience as we transition. Teachers will now be walking students back and forth to some classes, which will mean they may need a few extra minutes before opening up their Zoom and letting students into the session. In addition to being patient, please be respectful, as your teachers will be navigating various new responsibilities while working hard to ensure they are being completely attentive to both their in-person and remote students.

- **Women's History Month:**

The month of March is Women's History Month. In celebration of Women's History Month at King School, we have a variety of lessons and activities that will take place on a school-wide level, and individual teachers across the school have also created unique lessons and activities that will be weaved into their instruction on a classroom level.

For this year, our school-wide Women's History Month activities will focus on two particular women who are currently making an amazing impact on society in different ways.

Dr. Syra Madad: Nationally recognized leader and epidemiologist, and expert on infectious diseases including the Coronavirus.

And

Isra Chaker: A civil rights activist who believes in positive social change. She advocates for underrepresented populations particularly refugees and immigrants.

Our school's Cultural Competency Committee has developed lessons and resources about each woman that teachers have been sharing with all students this month.

Additionally, on our digital sign outside of the school, will continue to have a quote running each week from a woman in present-day culture.

- **Individual Yearbook Photos:**

Some students were able to successfully upload their headshots for the yearbook last week during their PE classes. For those who were unable to do so, we will arrange plans in the coming weeks to make sure the pictures are uploaded.

- **King School Twitter:**

Parents, if you're not doing so already, please follow us on Twitter using the handle "**@principalmk**" You will receive periodic updates about the wonderful learning experiences and activities taking place at King School. We would like as many families as possible to follow us.

- **School Procedures Reminders:**

Parents, just a reminder for both hybrid and remote students, we ask that you continue to follow normal school procedures if your child needs to miss school due to illness or for any other reason, or may need to sign in late to Zoom or sign out early. Parents, also be reminded that whether your child is hybrid or fully remote, we're asking you to notify us when your child will be missing school.

Parents of hybrid students, please be sure to inform us if your child is not in school on their assigned hybrid day. We need to keep track of why he/she is missing school, even if they are able to sign in remotely that day.

- Absences: Please call our main office attendance extension to report the absence. Ms. Mueller (732) 699-1563 x**5444**
- Sign-in Late or Sign-out Early: Please email your child's homeroom teacher.
- Special Medical Information: Please contact Ms. Fink our School Nurse (732) 699-1563 x**5443**

- **Weekly Schedule:**

Parents and students, just a reminder that until further notice every Monday and Friday will continue to be early dismissal days for students, and their Zoom classes will end at 12:25pm. Hybrid students will be dismissed from school at 12:25pm.

On Mondays and Friday from about 1:00-2:20pm teachers will continue to be available to support students in various ways, which may include students signing back into their Zoom sessions to interact with teachers. Teachers will make sure students understand their availability and what they can expect to take place during those afternoon hours.

- **PTO Facebook:**

Parents, the MLK PTO invites you to join their Facebook group. The information will be shared in the Sunday Snapshot email.

PTO Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MLKPTOPiscataway>

- **Yearbook Photos:**

Students and parents, just a reminder that the MLK PTO is continuing to collect photos for our 2020-2021 yearbook. The MLK PTO has created a Dropbox account where you can share your spirit day or other school photos virtually so we can use them throughout the yearbook. The Dropbox link will be included in the Sunday Snapshot email.

Dropbox Photo Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/JPYQbPSLoOihDHHudtj0>

- **PTO Membership & PTO Amazon Smile Fundraiser:**

Parents, just a reminder that information about PTO membership and supporting King School through Amazon Smile will be included in the Sunday Snapshot email. All proceeds from membership and Amazon Smile will be used to support our students.

*The PTO is continuing to accept membership through the Cheddar Up website. The direct link to Cheddar Up is below:

MLK Cheddar Up Link: <https://mlk-intermediate-membership.cheddarup.com>

*Parents, if you shop on Amazon, why not help King School in the process by signing up for Amazon Smile. The Amazon Smile link is below:

Amazon Smile Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-3271165>

- **Virtual Academic Helpdesk:**

Parents and students, the district is continuing to offer Virtual Academic Helpdesks for students to receive immediate feedback and direction directly from content area teachers on designated days and hours. Details and links are always included in my Sunday Snapshot email and can also be found under the Curriculum and Instruction tab on the district website.

Below are the content areas, days, times, and links:

4-5 ELA	T, TH, 4:30pm-5:30pm	45ela@pway.org
4-5 Math	M, W, 3:30pm-4:30pm	45math@pway.org
4-5 Science	T, TH, 2:30pm-3:30pm	45sci@pway.org

4-5 Social Studies

M, W, 2:30pm-4:30pm

45soc@pway.org

- **Friday Spirit Day:**

Friday's school spirit day will be "**Dress Fancy Day**". Let's all get dressed up a little before we begin spring break.

I hope you and your families have a positive and productive week, and a restful and enjoyable Spring Break.

"Let's Remember to Stay Connected"

Upcoming Important Dates

March

"Women's History Month"

- Spring Break (Schools Closed)

Week of March 29

April

- Spring Break (Schools Closed)
- Early Dismissal Day – Everyone is Fully Remote (no one reports to school)
- Last Day of MP-3
- Report Cards Available in Genesis for Parents

April 1-2

April 5

April 13

April 30