

## Newletter from the ES

# Council for Teaching & Learning



March 2024

Dear Crafty Teachers,

We hope you have had a great March! If you're reading this before the 22nd, you have one more day! If you're reading this after Spring Break, welcome back! It's baseball season!!

Next month is a very important month for the CTL team, as we are hosting our Annual Open House. This is the first one we've had in person in the last 3 years and we'd love for you to join. Please come and meet your grade level representatives, talk to your union leaders, and hear Mrs. Melaika Brown, Supervisor of Elementary English and Language Arts speak about the new ELA curriculum. This is a great opportunity for you to get all of your questions answered and network with your fellow teachers. We'll have door prizes and light refreshments as well.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 24 from 5-6:30pm at MCEA, located at 12 Taft Court in Rockville.

On March 19, we had our CTL Meeting and were joined by Amy Cropp, The Director of PreK, Special Programs, and Related Services, and Faith Fischel, the Supervisor of Child Find and Early Childhood Disabilities. We asked them numerous questions and many of their answers are below:

The first question was related to Kindergarten Orientation. We learned that answers are in the Principal's memo from a few weeks ago:  
<https://mcpsmd.sharepoint.com/sites/MemorandumLibrary/Principal%20Memo/240215%20OPM%20Kindergarten%20Registration.pdf>

We asked about potty training for K kids - We learned there is nothing that says "this person should do it." There is no document that says "this person is not responsible and that person is responsible." This is a group effort and we are trying to develop kids to become potty trained.

- A workgroup is looking into independent toileting and developing guidance on how to help students develop independent toileting skills.

We asked about the number of SKBs for the Early Childhood Learning Assessment. We learned that there are 19 SKBs that are needed to be included and are mandatory from MSDE. The ELA assessment looks at



specific things over 7 domains to see how the children are progressing and aligns to kindergarten readiness.

We asked about who attends IEP meetings regarding when students transition from one school to another, i.e. PreK to K, Grades 5 to 6, and then Grades 8 to 9. The main thing we learned is that the current teachers, special educator, Admin, and parents attend that meeting, NOT the new school staff.

One of the challenges we learned was just how many special education students there are and we asked what MCPS is doing to support general education teachers. Mrs Cropp and Mrs. Fischel reiterated that the goal is for the GenEd teachers to know what the Special Education teachers know and the Gen Ed teachers need a baseline of knowledge to give instruction. Please be on the lookout for Tier 1 training this summer.

If you have any questions about anything above or need more information from our meeting this past week, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Please click [this link](#) for more information, including an accommodation guide.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to your CTL reps so we can escalate your questions to the appropriate office. Please continue to upload questions on this [link](#) and find answers to your curriculum and instructional questions.

Sincerely,

Your representative