Head of School Address

Dear SEED MD Family,

We are off to a terrific start! It has been both encouraging and inspiring to see the high levels of engagement during the academic day, as well as in the evenings, where social and emotional learning is taking place during Student Life. The Student Support Team's morning meetings and mindfulness sessions ensure that we are messaging the necessary self-care that we know is best for everyone. Engagement was the focus of this week, as we know that staying engaged is essential to learning, but not always easy. I would like to thank those instructors in Academics and Student Life for providing lessons that keep students engaged during the time they are in front of the screens. I would also like to thank our students for being engaged, keeping your cameras on - even if that means you need to use a virtual background. We love to see your faces and doing so helps to create a virtual environment that most closely resembles the classroom atmosphere. More information on how the school year is taking off and what to look forward to here.

Academically Speaking

Greetings SEED Family!
Academic Team Beta is proud to share some of our the wins for students from our Summer Learning Programs, Middle School Camp Saber and our High School Credit Recovery Challenge.

- 115 students were registered for our Middle School Camp Saber and High School Credit Recovery Challenge, which resulted in a significant decrease in the number of students required to repeat grade levels or courses in the fall.
- Our partnership with Edmentum allowed us to offer more course offerings for high school students, including English, Algebra I, Geometry, World History, Modern History, and Spanish.
- Both our Middle school Camp Saber and Upper School Credit Recovery Challenge provided the opportunity for lead teachers to execute distinguished program management skills.
- Each student was surrounded by a team of advocates who checked in with them daily to support understanding of course content, course pacing, and navigation of the Edmentum Platform. This team included an SEL coach, Academic Coach, Counselor, Special Education Instructional Assistant, and Enrichment Practitioner. Wrap-around services were provided by teams comprised of professionals from Academics, Student Life and Student Support.
- Students were given additional time to complete the work with wrap-around support, if needed.
- Students behind in credits or who wanted to accelerate their credit acquisition were allowed to take summer learning courses. This means there will be more opportunities for them to take AP or dual enrollment courses.
- More than 350 Family/Parent/Student Support calls were made by US and MS Summer School Staff, strengthening our school community.
- Attendance in MS Summer Learning was higher than Q4 MS attendance.
- A lead special education teacher was on deck to ensure equity for our students with disabilities.

Kudos to Ms. Chelsea Neddo and Mr. Jesse Stovall, our summer learning Program Managers whose leadership was the key lever for our students’ success.

**Student Life**

**Update:** September is National Suicide awareness Month (The Mental Health Team will be providing resources and awareness around this topic)

**Self Care:** Remember to find time throughout the day to focus on yourself

**The Breath:** Mindfulness breathing

- helps reduce stress
- reduce anxiety
- improves focus
Model of Care: Encouraging Positive Behaviors (Creating a positive learning environment)

- General Praise
- Specific Praise
- Effective Praise

Student Support

- We have appointed a Student Life counselor to the role of language support for the Student Life department for our students and families that have ESOL barriers. He will support staff and families to ensure that they have clarity around SEL and other program related components. Kudos Mr. Ford!
- Keeping the equity lens in the forefront of the work we do with students and connecting the relationship with social and emotional learning is very important. This week the 10th grade boys participated in a phenomenal lesson regarding our current cultural climate, the lesson and discussion was inspired by the attached article https://www.blackstarproject.org/index.php/resources/editorials/50-america-has-lost-a-generation-of-black-boys.html. Excellent job Mr. McMillan connecting students understanding to goal setting and decision making.

Planting the SEED in Your Neighborhood

Greetings SEED MD families! The Office of Admissions is getting ready to start recruiting for the 2021/2022 academic year. In the coming weeks, we will be opening our new application for 6th and 9th grade students for next school year. You, as part of the SEED family can help in our recruitment efforts through word of mouth throughout your communities. Always remember that our best scholars and their families always provide the best testimonials about life at SEED. You are our best referrals!

Please feel free to refer families to Ms. Lumas at clumas@seedschoolmd.org or Mr. Espada at aespada@seedschoolmd.org for further details.

Staying Connected

Don’t forget to stay connected to SEED MD on the socials! Here’s where you can find us:

Facebook: @TheSEEDSchoolMD
Instagram: @theseedschoolmd
Twitter: @TheSEEDSchoolMD
LinkedIn: @TheSEEDSchoolofMaryland

We’d love to share back to school pictures of your student(s) during their first weeks of remote school! Remember to tag us!
Regional Youth Summit on Teen Resistance to Systemic Racism

WHEN
Saturday, Sep. 26th, 11am-12pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION
Join teens from around the region in a conversation on how they are addressing and fighting system injustices occurring in their world today. Students will discuss how teens are active in their communities and the power they yield to shape change. The summit will feature artistic and musical expressions. This summit is facilitated by educator Dr. LaMarr Shields and Hadiya-Ayodele.
In conjunction with the Smithsonian’s National Youth Summit on Teen Resistance to Systemic Racism by the National American History Museum.

Register for this FREE Summit:
https://17527.blackbaudhosting.com/17527/Regional-Youth-Summit-on-Teen-Resistance-to-Systemic-Racism
Virtual Youth Photography Workshop: How I See My Community

WHEN
Saturday, Sep. 12th, 12-1pm

WHERE
This is an online event.

MORE INFORMATION

A Message From Reginald F. Lewis Museum:
Calling all youth photographers! Young photographers in training are invited to learn the tricks of the trade with Baltimore photojournalist, Kyle Pompey, over this two-session course starting this Saturday, September 12.

Kyle will share his experiences and work while teaching youth how to create their own photographic works of art. Student photographers will showcase their work online following the workshop.

Click here to sign up:
https://17527.blackbaudhosting.com/17527/Virtual-Youth-Photography-Workshop-How-I-See-My-Community

This is a virtual event. Appropriate for ages 9-16.
#MeetMeAtTheLewisOnline #YouthPhotographers #BaltimorePhotographers