



# Are You in the KNOW?

November 18, 2020

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, I sent out information around the **Thanksgiving Card Campaign** we are organizing for the elected Board members. In the past when we have organized around a card campaign there has always been an *ask* involved. This time there is no ask-- it is all about saying thank you for your leadership. I know you have been watching the BOE meetings and participating in the Public Comment process by writing letters and sending emails to the Board. Is there a member or members that you want to reach out to to let them know he/she is doing a great job? We all understand that sometimes it seems like we have a thankless job and what it means to us when a parent or child recognizes how hard we are working or simply says thank you for caring...

Your Building Rep should have the Thanksgiving Day cards. If anyone needs more cards, please let me know and I will get them to you. I know this task is easier for the people who are working onsite, so if you are working from home, you could still participate by sending them an electronic Thanksgiving Day card. Please see the guidelines below.

## Thanks-giving Day Card Campaign Guidelines

- Write a handwritten message to any elected member(s) of the BOE who you appreciate:

Inez Claggett, President

Tracey McGuire

Pamela Cousins, Vice President

Pat Nutter

Dawn Balinski

- Try to tie your heartfelt message to a recent BOE meeting or something that a Board member has done or said in support of your profession.
- Let them know how much you appreciate their leadership.
- Wish them a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Remember to sign your card.

Since last week there has been much talk about how COVID cases are exponentially growing in Maryland, Governor Hogan has had three press conferences in the past week. I know there are varying opinions as to whether schools should "open up" and if so, to what degree. But I think the one thing we can agree on, Calvert County is experiencing a very large number of new cases and as the holidays get closer and more time is spent inside because of the colder temperatures, it is very likely that our numbers are going to continue to rise. In the past week at least 10 schools have sent notifications to parents about staff or students testing positive for COVID-19. Currently, the CCHD is notifying people that test results are extremely delayed due to the amount of people being tested.

I know this creates anxiety and concern for your own health every time you hear that there is a positive case in your school or your child's school. I do appreciate that the schools are now notifying staff/parents when someone has tested positive for COVID-19, but I do still have concerns about **contact tracing**. There are inconsistencies around the protocol of contact tracing. As of October 27, 2020, the CDC says that people who have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last contact. *Close contact* is defined as you were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. Quarantining helps prevent the spread of disease before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. Then there is some risk when cohorts are mixed. It allows for cross contamination and can make contact tracing more difficult. If you are working from your building, do you feel confident in the way CCPS is handling confirmed or suspected cases of infection?

Please let the elected BOE know. It is their responsibility to ensure that staff and students are healthy and safe when reopening schools, especially when they are considering bringing even more staff/students into the building. Last week the motion to bring grades 3-5 back on December 7<sup>th</sup> failed, but it is going to be re-discussed this Thursday, November 19, 2020 @ 7pm. These decisions impact everyone teaching in Calvert County.

Please use your voice to advocate for the health and well-being of yourself, your family and your students. **Public Comment** must be submitted to Karen Maxey by 7pm Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. You may also send your non-public email directly to the elected Board member...

Inez Claggett, President

Tracey McGuire

Pamela Cousins, Vice President

Pat Nutter

Dawn Balinski

## Observation/Evaluation

I understand that no one wants to think about being observed while teaching online and some even question why we have to be observed during a pandemic. CCPS must follow COMAR and COMAR requires two formal observations in 2020-21 for teachers in Cohort 2 or if you did not get observed/evaluated in 2019-20 from Cohort 1.

CCPS is using a new platform for observation/evaluation called **Perform**. If you have not had a chance to view the short [video](#) that Susan Johnson sent out last week, please do. It will explain how to access Perform to sign observations/evaluations and complete SLOs or Growth Goals.

On Friday you received an email from Susan Johnson explaining the *revised* CCPS Danielson Resource Guide and two short videos on what observations may look like in a “virtual” environment regarding Domains 2 and 3. The links may be found here:

[Domain 2](#): Observations in a Virtual Environment: Classroom Environment

[Domain 3](#): Observations in a Virtual Environment: Instruction

Now that the training videos have been completed and you have had an opportunity to view them, your administrator/supervisor will begin scheduling observations for tenured teachers. The observer will notify you ahead of time, so that you can make he/she an owner in the TEAMS meeting. **CCPS has stressed to administrators/supervisors to support you and reinforce the good things that you are doing in your virtual classroom.**

If you have any questions, please ask your administrator/supervisor.

In late January a short video will be released for Domains 1 and 4 during the Virtual and Hybrid Instruction as CCPS prepares for Intermediate and Summative Evaluations.

## SLOs

At this time, MSDE has taken no action to waive the student growth component, but I do NOT want you to stress about this. CCPS has modified the process for this year. In December they will release a short video for SLO guidance for 2020-21 and in January you will be given two hours to work on your SLO development.

## MSEA'S EDUCATE AT 8

MSEA's *Learn More at 4* is now **Educate at 8!** Join them every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. on MSEA's Facebook page for a live conversation with MSEA President Cheryl Bost, MSEA General Counsel Kristy Anderson, and special guests to discuss how coronavirus is impacting our schools and to answer members' questions. The latest **Educate at 8** episode can be viewed at [this link](#). The next episode will be **TONIGHT**, November 18.