



(All Parent Notes are published on the school's website. To access, click on [Main Office](#))

January 3, 2021

Happy Sunday Murray Parents and Happy New Year!

We hope you and your families are safe and well.

In loving memory of Peter S. Johnson

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Peter S. Johnson. Mr. Johnson passed away on December 23, 2020. He had been a valued member of the Chicago Public School's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team. He supported Network 9 and Murray as the FACE Manager. Mr. Johnson was a proud graduate of Murray Language Academy.

Principal Chats

On January 28, 2021 we will kick off the Principal Chat series. The monthly chats are more relaxing conversations with parents. The chats allow for a two-way conversation: parents bring information and get information. Here are a few upcoming topics:

- Administration Connection with Parents
- Support Staff in the Building
- School and Community Resources
- Community Partnerships

My Very Own Library (MVOL)

For those parents that were not able to pick up their MVOL books, you can come by the school this week. The distribution dates and times are outlined below:

Week of January 4 – 8, 2021

- Monday, **January 4, 2020** – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Tuesday, **January 5, 2020** – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, **January 6, 2020** – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Thursday, **January 7, 2020** – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday, **January 8, 2020** – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Burton at tlburton2@cps.edu or (773) 535-0585.

Family Resources

In addition to sharing school information and upcoming dates, I want to offer parents educational resources. Learning is an acquired skill. We get better at learning by “giving new material meaning by expressing it in your own words and connection it with what you already know.” (Make it Stick: the Science of Successful Learning). In the words of John Dewey: *Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.*

Here are a few family resources I hope you find useful. The list is long, but has some variety.

Family Math Activities

Understanding math is critical not only for school, but also for employment, business, and personal finance. But If you're new to online school, homeschool, or distance learning—or if math makes you break out in a sweat—you've probably had questions about supporting your child in this important subject. But don't stress out! You're not alone—we can help.

Our math resource list for parents was developed by subject matter experts. You're sure to find some good advice for encouraging your student's mathematical abilities!

Family Activities

- [Palindromes](#)
This is a Family Math activity about palindromes.
- [Geometric Numbers](#)
This is a Family Math activity about geometric numbers.
- [Magic Squares](#)
This is a Family Math activity about magic squares.
- [Games Build Math Master Minds](#)
This is a Family Math activity with challenging games requiring more logic and strategy.
- [Powerful Pennies](#)
This is a Family Math activity using different options to determine which way will show the greatest increase in pennies.
- [All About Apples](#)
This activity explores the symmetry, patterns, some fun statistics, and surprising facts about this popular, delicious fruit.
- [We Gather Together](#)
These activities explore some unusual math terms and seating arrangements to be completed together as you gather around the table.
- [Wrapping Up the Year](#)
These activities explore some mathematical patterns, tips, and tricks about "wrapping up".
- [Winter Wonderland](#)
These activities explore the geometry of snowflakes and some amazing record-breaking winter statistics.
- [Bits and Bytes](#)
These activities explore computer language and coding.

- [A Slice of Pi](#)
Explore the mathematical importance of Pi and learn some of the many places where you can find Pi in everyday life.
- [Numbrix](#)
Introducing Numbrix, a game to see who can complete Numbrix grids the fastest. If you can count, you can play Numbrix!
- [Summer Math Sleuth](#)
Find as many math connections as possible this summer! Look for numbers, shapes, patterns, logic, and problem-solving opportunities.
- [Math Mind Reader](#)
Amaze family and friends by being able to reveal numbers they have in mind.
- [Fun With Infinity](#)
Explore shapes through topology. One little twist in a piece of paper leads to some surprising discoveries.
- [Let the Math Games Begin!](#)
November 1 marked the start of the 100-day countdown to the 2018 Winter Olympics. There's no need to wait! There are plenty of math games to play now!
- [Adventures with Numbers and Words](#)
This month's Family Math Activity explores the linguistics of math and the English words behind the numbers. You will discover some puzzling facts and some surprising patterns!
- [It's Just a Matter of Time](#)
This month's Family Math Activity explores the math behind the way time is divided into years, months, and days.
- [The Domino Effect](#)
This month's Family Math Activity explores one of the greatest strategy games of all time-dominoes!
- [Math Unplugged](#)
This month's Family Math Activity explores various methods for computation without using a digital device.
- [Famous Number Phrases](#)
In this month's Family Math Activity challenge yourself to identify famous number phrases.
- [Find the Math Superhero In You!](#)
In this month's Family Math Activity celebrate your accomplishments and share strategies for continuing to exercise your mathematical muscles.
- To discover more ways to enhance your child's learning from home, explore our [family resource page](#).

Here are some additional content resources for families.

1. [Smart Kids 101](#)– I like that this gives you different approaches for a math problem. I was stuck and this helped.
2. [Hello Thinkster](#): 6 Ways to Improve Your Child's Mathematical Mind
3. Math practice from counting to algebra and geometry <http://www.mathscore.com/>
4. Math and Reading games <https://www.funbrain.com/>
5. Math and reading games <https://www.abcya.com/>

6. Math and language games <https://www.arcademics.com/>
7. A wide range of math content from middle school through AP Calculus. <https://deltamath.com/overview>
8. **THIS ONE IS VERY POPULAR!** online education program for toddler through high school... <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
9. Your child can play games, learn fun facts, and find out how to turn coin collecting into a hobby. <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/kids>
10. Math as a fun part of your daily family routine <http://bedtimemath.org/>
11. Elem Math through 6th grade <https://boddlelearning.com/>
12. Math Videos with lessons, real life uses of math, famous actors <https://www.hmhco.com/math-at-work>
13. Short videos about numbers that help kids explore complex math topics and make math more fun. <https://www.numberphile.com/>
14. Geometry <https://www.canfigureit.com/>
15. Enter your math problem or search term, press the button, and they show you the step-by-step work and answer instantly. 2nd grade through college. <https://www.mathcelebrity.com/online-math-tutor.php>
16. Elem Math games, logic puzzles and educational resources <https://www.mathplayground.com/>
17. Math practice <https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>
18. The website allows students to play basic games to reinforce math skills and compete against the computer or others <https://www.mangahigh.com/en-us/>
19. Math Games, Logic Puzzles and Brain Builders <https://www.mathplayground.com/>
20. Immerse yourself in cryptography <https://www.cryptoclub.org/>
21. Math games galore <https://gridclub.com/>
22. Banzai exposes students to real-world financial dilemmas to teach them the importance of smart money management. <https://www.teachbanzai.com/>
23. K-5 curriculum that builds deep understanding and a love of learning math for all students <https://www.zearn.org/>
24. Scads of free resources, games, learning resources, and lesson plans for teaching personal finance <https://www.ngpf.org/>
25. Science and math labs and simulations <https://phet.colorado.edu/>
26. K-8 online math program that looks at how a student is solving problems to adjust accordingly and build a unique learning path for them. <https://www.dreambox.com/at-home>

A note from our CPS Leadership on Reopening

Our district leaders sent a note to parents regarding reopening. Here is the FAQ portion of the letter.

What is the district's reopening timeline?

The transition to in-person learning opportunities will occur over the following timeline:

<p>January 4-8</p>	<p>Early childhood teachers, special education teachers, SECAs, and other classroom assistants assigned to cluster classrooms, as well as some RSPs and clinicians who support students in these classrooms will come back on January 4.</p> <p>Instruction for ECE and cluster programs will continue to be delivered fully remote from schools from January 4-8.</p> <p>*Teachers and staff who are on approved leave or have received an accommodation to telework from home are exempted from reporting in person.</p>
<p>January 11</p>	<p>Students in pre-k and cluster programs who chose in-person learning will return to school.</p>
<p>January 25-29</p>	<p>All K-8 elementary school teachers and staff return to school.</p> <p>Instruction will continue to be delivered fully remote to students in Grades K–8 between January 25-29.</p> <p>*Teachers and staff who are on approved leave or received an accommodation to telework from home are exempted from reporting to school in person.</p>
<p>February 1</p>	<p>Students in Grades K–8 who chose in-person instruction return to school.</p>

What is CPS doing to keep students and staff safe?

- The district has developed extensive [contact tracing](#) processes, as well as protocols for alerting the wider school community of a COVID-19 case when needed.
- Every classroom will have a HEPA air purifier that will remove 99.99% of airborne mold, bacteria, and viruses to reduce the risk of indoor transmission of viruses and bacteria.
- We hired independent state-certified environmental specialists to test schools for indoor air quality. Any classroom that is not properly ventilated will be fixed and will not be used until it meets ASHRAE’s standards. Please visit cps.edu/airquality to learn more.
- Staff will be encouraged to participate in the district’s comprehensive COVID-19 surveillance testing program.
- Students and staff who are symptomatic or have had close contact with someone who tested positive will not be allowed to enter the building and will be provided access to free COVID-19 tests through either established primary care providers or city partners.
- Anyone entering a school building for more than 10 minutes will be required to complete a health screener, pass a temperature check, and be required to wear a face covering, which the district will provide for every student and staff member.
- Signs have been installed throughout the building to help students socially distance, and desks and classroom furniture will be spaced further apart.

- Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the building to help everyone practice good hand hygiene.
- Classrooms have been cleaned from top to bottom and facilities staff members will implement an enhanced cleaning routine.

Are there any childcare options available for students who are not learning in person?

Child Learning Hubs are available from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Learning Hubs are hosted by either CPS or community-based organizations and allow a limited number of students to participate in online classes while being supervised by an adult in a safe environment. If you are interested in enrolling your child in a Child Learning Hub, please complete this [survey](#).

What happens next?

Please update your contact information with your school to ensure you receive all district communications. For more information and resources, please visit cps.edu/reopening and review our [Reopening Guide for Parents](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

PARENTS – STAY CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER!

Class of 2021 8 th Graders	Murray Class of 2021 GroupMe
Class of 2022 7 th Graders	Murray Class of 2022 GroupMe
Class of 2023 6 th Graders	Murray Class of 2023 GroupMe
Class of 2024 5 th Grades	Murray Class of 2024 GroupMe
Class of 2025 4 th Graders	Murray Class of 2025 GroupMe
Class of 2026 3 rd Graders	Murray Class of 2026 GroupMe
Class of 2027 2 nd Graders	Murray Class of 2027 GroupMe
Class of 2028 1 st Graders	Murray Class of 2028 GroupMe
Class of 2029 Kindergarten	Murray Class of 2029 GroupMe

Upcoming dates

January 5th
January 13th
January 18th

LSC Meeting @ 6:00PM
PTO Meeting @ 6:00PM
Dr. King Holiday; school closed

We are Murray, We are one!
<https://murray.cps.edu/>