



## From the Desk of Dr. Booker

Greetings Stakeholders, It's hard to believe there are only 14 school days left in the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. What does this mean? Time is of the essence. Therefore, ALL scholars are expected to be logged onto the virtual learning platform and are actively engaged in synchronous and asynchronous sessions every day. There are several standards scholars must master in order to ensure a successful second semester of teaching and learning. Please make sure your scholar is actively engaged in learning every day in every class. Recently, we have found students not attending Connections classes (Band, Health, Art, Etc.). These classes are just as important as core classes. In fact, Connections classes are an extension of the core curriculum. The Connections Department at SMS works extremely hard to make sure scholars stay connected to core content. How is this done? By implementing our SMS CSIP strategies and engaging students in quality virtual learning! Connections count! The grades scholars earn are a part of their final transcript affecting promotion/retention. We also have students not reaching their true potential. They are logging on but are not engaged. Some scholars are NOT giving their BEST efforts. In this challenging time, we are committed to doing all we can to

ensure our scholars' success. Now, we need you to partner with SMS once again and push your scholar towards excellence in ALL classes! I know I can count on you! Later this month (December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>), scholars will have an opportunity to increase their grade by completing missing assignments. Again, this is our effort to support scholars who are capable but need a little assistance. Those scholars who do not have missing assignments will receive special recognition during Honor's Day and an opportunity to complete a fun extra credit assignment created by the administrators! That's right, we do lesson plans as well 😊! Again, you are vital to student success. Your partnership is powerful and **MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!** Let's close out 2020 STEPHENSON STRONG!!

~ Dr. Booker

### Grade Level Parent Meetings:

All grade levels are meeting with parent and families discussing promotion, retention, grades, grade level expectation and clarifying platforms and protocols. Be sure to attend!

## Booker Briefs



December 2020



There are several ways to stay connected:

- SMS School Website  
[SMS Website](#)
- REMIND 101

### REMIND 101 Sign-Up

- School Messenger
- Grade Level Newsletters
- SMS School-wide Newsletter

### Jaguar Junction School-wide Weekly News

- Infinite Campus

### Infinite Campus Sign-Up

- Ms. Victoria Turner, Title I Parent Facilitator is just a phone call or an email away. Please visit the SMS website for her contact information.

## Social Emotional Learning aka SEL



ICARE is one of the most powerful classes of the school day at SMS. Why? During ICARE, we intentionally focus on the social and emotional needs of our scholars. Daily, scholars are engaged in Social Emotional Learning (SEL). What is SEL? *It is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.* SEL is deeply connected to the interaction of students and adults in and out of the classroom. Social Emotional Learning helps provide children with equitable, supportive, and welcoming environments. Research continues to show that SEL leads to increased student achievement and improved behavior. Please use the link below to learn more about SEL at Stephenson and the great things

[Parent SEL Resource](#)

## iREADY UPDATE



All students must complete the diagnostic assessment. We still have scholars that have yet to complete their diagnostic. Please be reminded, iReady addresses individual areas of growth and acceleration. This program is designed to provide support relative to a scholar's individual needs. Please be sure your scholar completes the diagnostic and logs-on a completed their pathway! Click the links below if you need support or have any questions about this valuable resource!

[iReady Diagnostic Parent Video](#)

[What is iReady](#)

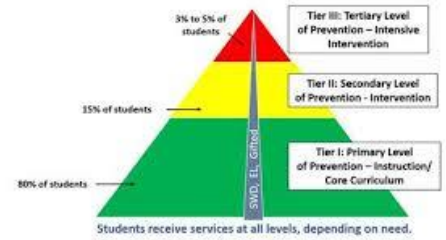
## DCSD Benchmarks Underway

Scholars are currently completing DCSD Unit Benchmarks.



The data gathered from the district benchmark serves as a measure of a scholar's success with a set number of standards and skills. This data will assist teachers with preparing lessons to address deficits or opportunities for acceleration. Please encourage your scholar to do their best!! All grades count!!

## Supporting Scholars through the Response to Intervention Process (RTI)



Is your scholar showing up for RTI?? The SMS Student Support Team is providing instruction Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2pm-4pm and Wednesdays from 8:50- 4pm. This process is to support scholars with measurable areas of growth in Math, ELA or behavior. Scholars are required to participate and should report to intervention as scheduled. Please be reminded, all data collected will be used for promotion/retention and entry to additional support programs. If you have any questions, please email our Student Support Specialist, Mrs. Harriet Woodard. [harriet\\_l\\_woodard@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:harriet_l_woodard@dekalbschoolsga.org)



- ✓ We are planning a Virtual Pep-Rally!! Get ready to show your school spirit!! More info to come.
- ✓ Jaguar Amnesty Days 2020 will be December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Time to get it done! Use this time wisely!!



## Parent Academies

SMS Parent Engagement Academies are in full effect! Please join us for the remaining sessions. The information shared will allow you to partner with SMS as we implement our Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP).



### Super Science Night

December 8, 2020 5:30 - 6:30pm

Zoom Information Super Science Night Link Meeting ID: 989 7651 9574  
Passcode: 4uYqWx

### Parent Teacher Conferences

December 9, 2020 11:00 am- 1:00 pm  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Platform links will be forwarded by Grade Level Teams

### Region III Parent Town Hall

December 9, 2020 5:00 pm

See flyer for platform and log-in information

### The Social Studies Culture Night

December 10, 2020 5:30 - 6:30pm

Zoom Information Social Studies Night Link Meeting ID: 990 9390 4010  
Passcode: 8UXZd9

### Making the Connection

December 15, 2020 5:30 - 6:30pm

Zoom Information Connections Night Meeting ID: 979 7080 1271 Passcode: 6WxTJY

## MAP Test Results



The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) score reports will be available the week of 12/14/2020. Please see link below to learn how to read scoring reports. Scholars will begin completing assignments via Skills Navigator to address remediation and gaps in learning as identified by MAP assessment data.

## Family Report

### Lexile: Do you know your scholar's Lexile?



In an effort to assist teachers and scholars with increasing Lexile levels, I have instituted The Principal's Book of the Month (PBOTM). Please encourage your scholar to participate! See the Jaguar Junction on the SMS website for details and prize information.

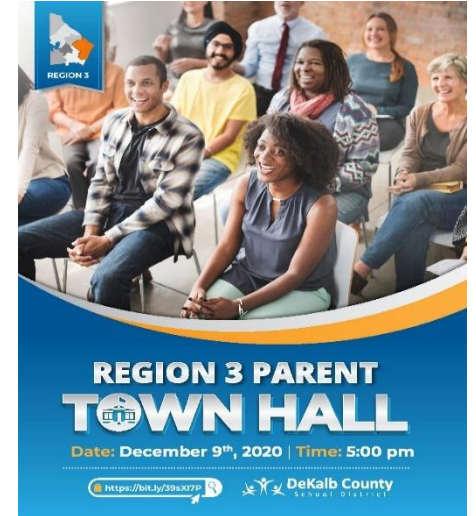
### Lexile Resource



Be sure your scholar is up to date with their immunizations! Our nurse is busy assisting families and scholars with resources. If you are not sure if your scholar is up to date with required immunizations or need assistance, please contact Nurse Loureiro.

[mailto:luisa\\_loureiro@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:luisa_loureiro@dekalbschoolsga.org)

We would love to have SMS well represented! Meet me there!!



## Return to Face to Face Instruction

Thank you for taking the Return



to Face to Face Learning Parent Survey. DCSD will utilize the data to make plans over the next couple of weeks. DCSD is committed to using the Science to determine if and when we will return. Please check the DCSD website for more details.

## Progress Reports

Progress reports will be available for review on 12/8.



## Need Assistance?

Please contact one of super Caring Counselors (Ms. Rice-Robinson 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Mrs. Beasley 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. Johnson 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

We also have Ms. Katina Watts, our Super Social Worker!