October 17, 2014

Dear MCS Families,

In keeping with the District’s commitment to student and employee safety, we are staying abreast of the most recent information regarding the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). It is important to us that you are informed about the disease and are aware of the proactive steps the District is taking.

**Ebola Symptoms**

After exposure, the symptoms appear in 2 to 21 days but the average is 8 to 10 days. The signs of Ebola include:

- fever (greater than 101.5°F or 38.6°C) and additional symptoms, such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach) pain, or unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising).

**Prevention**

Through good hygiene individuals can protect themselves from viruses including Ebola. Frequent hand washing, using hand sanitizer, and cleaning areas of frequent contact are all ways to protect yourself and your children. You can learn more about prevention techniques at [http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/index.html).

Our schools will also continue to use universal precautions to address the spread of germs.

**Response Processes**

While we strive to be welcoming to all students, those that have recently traveled from Ebola-affected regions will not be permitted to enroll or return to school without proper medical documentation approved by the Superintendent or her designee. In addition, proper precautions and reporting procedures will be taken with individuals that exhibit symptoms and may have had contact with anyone that has traveled to affected areas. Please know that we have not had any reported cases to date.

**Additional Information**

More information regarding Ebola can be accessed through the Georgia Department of Public Health website at [http://dph.georgia.gov/ebola](http://dph.georgia.gov/ebola). You can also contact Cobb and Douglas Health at 770-514-3000.

We will continue to monitor this situation very carefully and are prepared to modify our procedures as new information becomes available from public health officials.

Sincerely,

Emily Lembeck, Ed. D.
Superintendent