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INFORMATION

Office of School Performance
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

November 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Elementary School Principals

From: Frank H. Stetson, Chief School Performance Officer 

Subject: INFORMATION: Participation in Recess

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification to the information you recently received from your community superintendent regarding recess. In that communication, it was explained that participation in recess should not be denied due to disciplinary reasons. The Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation JPG-RA, *Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health*, recognizes the importance of the incorporation of physical activity into students' daily lives to support a healthy lifestyle as we address the needs of the whole child. Indeed, it emphasizes that physical activity is encouraged for students, staff, and community members before and after school and during the instructional day.

We recognize that you and your staff members strive to provide a stimulating atmosphere that will produce enjoyable and rigorous learning experiences for your students. We also recognize that you need to be able to make decisions that make sense for the growth of your students. We further understand that there are situations relating to safety that may require you to remove a student from recess while the student is counseled about his/her behavior and you have reasonable certainty that it is appropriate to return that student to the recess environment.

Principals also have shared with us that there are times that students have received academic intervention or enrichment during recess time. Conversations should be held with a student's parent/guardian to gain his/her agreement for this additional academic assistance during recess time.

If you need further clarification or have questions regarding participation in recess, please contact your community superintendent.

FHS:dmm

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mrs. Collins

Elementary School Administrative Secretaries

Mrs. Faden

Dr. Steinberg


Ms. Cuttitta

Dr. Mugge

Mr. Prouty

Ms. Tribble

Approved:


Frieda K. Lacey, Deputy Superintendent of Schools