



KIRK A. SYKES
HEAD OF SCHOOL



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THE SABER LOOP

Quote of the Week:

"The greatest gift that you can give to others and to yourself is time. Embrace the gift of time whether you give it or receive it."

- Unknown

Dear SEED MD Family,

A salute goes out to all staff for another impactful week of teaching and learning on the SEED MD Campus. Today marks the 24th instructional day since we began the school year. The gift of time with our students can be the gift that keeps on giving if we are purposeful in each interaction with students, and seize each opportunity to build academic and life skills that are enduring and transferable.

The gift of time with each other can yield equally powerful results. We hope that your co-planning is leading to strong professional relationships with your colleagues.

I'm grateful to all who came out to our first Head of School Coffee, Cupcakes, and Conversations event to have conversations about our students and our work together. To be sure, we are working

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to be our best selves professionally, and when we have dialogues about our work, it helps us to see our blindside and improve.

Some of the topics we opened up were: teambuilding opportunities, sharing student information across departments, a central place for professional learning documents, planning time and self-care time, internal internship opportunities for students, building robust activity schedules for student life, replacing carpets in dorms, improving systems of operations in student life, staff support, cell phone privileges for students, and support, and recognition of students who serve. These were just some of the themes and anecdotes we will be following up on.

MSDE just announced that teachers who earn or possess their National Board Teacher Certification are entitled to additional pay. These increases can be significant. See the new regulation [here](#). SEED encourages teachers to be a part of this process, and we are proud to say that we are also participating in the program.

Better Together. Connection, Collaboration, Collegiality



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Also, the [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teachers \(PAEMST\)](#) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers. The award recognizes those teachers who have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas.

We have many talented staff members, and several of them are unsung. Their reputations precede them, and they are champions for students and professional peers. We will be formally recognizing some of these star staff members this year during our first full staff PD on October 7th and at the end of the 1st quarter. With that said, I would like to take a minute to send some shout-outs to staff who went above and beyond this week. Please join me in shouting out the following staff members this week—[Louisa Footman](#), [Edward Green](#), [Cheantae Henry](#), [Philippe Henry](#), [Michelle Kyle](#), [Jahmel Raymond](#), [Teonna Thompson](#), [Anita Wade](#), and [Steve Williams](#). In addition, we have created a [weekly portal for](#) you to send a shout-out to a colleague

who is going above and beyond on campus.

As you know, our [SEED MD Core Values](#) are [respect](#), [compassion](#), [perseverance](#), [integrity](#), [responsibility](#), [growth](#), and [gratitude](#). As we embed these Core Values into all that we do, we are also excited to announce that this year we are committed to launching a full-on restorative justice program.

We are going big with this, and it begins with the leadership and staff members. On October 7th, Ms. Maya Semans, the newest member of the Student Support Team, will lead us into the work of developing the right mindset for a school-wide restorative justice program. Next week we are expecting great things as we bring the month of September to a close. See the events that are planned on [CalendarWiz](#).

Lastly, our COVID-19 numbers are still low. We had three cases this week, after testing all students and staff.

Have a great weekend!

Kirk A. Sykes,
Head of School