



KIRK A. SYKES
HEAD OF SCHOOL



<http://SEEDSchoolMD.org>



(410) 843-9477



200 Font Hill Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223

THE SABER LOOP

Quote of the Week:

"Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire."

- William Butler Yeats

As the month of September ends, I would like to salute our staff for another week of teaching, learning, and living on the SEED MD campus. As the quote above implies, education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire, and you are continuing to light the fires within our scholars each week.

As you instruct, guide, and observe scholars, please be sure to inspire and encourage them. Here are some [encouraging words](#) to keep youth inspired that can be added to your toolbox.

With MAP testing behind us, we are now solely focused on supporting students in classrooms with content mastery. We aim to maximize students' time on task and ensure rigor and relevance in each lesson. Classroom visits and walkthroughs began this week, and it

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was great to see so many strong core learning goals and scholars starting the class period strongly. Remember that there is no need to do anything special during a classroom visit. The observers will either capture notes electronically or use a note capture sheet. Either way, you should expect the feedback in the same week.

On the Student Life side of things, we are focused on providing the most enriching experiences in our lived curriculum with the kick-off of the fall activities and clubs. Please see the [full list](#) of activities and active clubs that are now up and running in student life through the month of October. We have varied interests amongst our student body and invite all staff to lean in with their ideas for clubs and activities. If you would like to sponsor a club or activity, please see Sam Olujimi, our community school's coordinator.

As you can sense, SEED MD is experiencing somewhat of a transition.



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Some are describing this as a renaissance. The definition of a renaissance is “a revival of or renewed interest in something.” While our staff is transitioning, we have a tremendous vision that we will be implementing in the next several years.

These include increasing the numbers of students who are college and career ready and who successfully graduate from college. To get there, we are continuing our investments in building staff capacity, enriching and rigorous programming, 21st-century learning, professional learning spaces, Restorative Justice, and a new track and field. While those improvements are important, it’s our support of each other that will make the ultimate difference.

In the spirit of connection, we need you to fill out the [attached survey](#) so we can get to know you better. The survey will help us plan engaging team exercises that will help us improve internal communication here at SEED MD. Please let us hear from you; your voice and input matter.

This week, shout-outs go to the following staff members for going above and beyond—**Eric Henderson** for working with staff members on the 6th-grade team to unite their efforts for a strong 6th-grade year. Also, shout-outs to **Takee Jobe**, **Kyndale Lyles**, and **JoAnn Robinson** for supporting admissions and **Veronica Rios** for training and onboarding new team members and assisting in the Head of School suite. Please thank these staff members as you see them moving throughout the building. It’s a busy week ahead as we move into the month of October. See the activities on [Calendarwiz](#).

Please, join us today for an end of month [Happy Hour](#).

Lastly, our COVID-19 numbers are still low. We had one case this week.

Have a great weekend!

Kirk A. Sykes,
Head of School