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*"Become a Part of the Journey – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education"*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a result of the growing number of listening opportunities and variety of new devices students have available to them at school this year, we're asking that students bring a personal pair of headphones or ear buds to be kept at school. These can be purchased at many places and are extremely affordable.

There are many reasons why having a personal set of headphones or ear buds is recommended as opposed to using shared headphones. Hygiene and convenience are two primary reasons we would like to address.

Any time children come together in group settings, head lice cases can increase. Students are encouraged not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, or barrettes. While we have had procedures for periodic wipe downs in place, having a personal set of headphones helps decrease the likelihood of head-lice being passed from individual to individual.

In addition to increased hygiene concerns, your child has access to desktop computers, laptops, and tablets in a growing number of locations. Having a personal set of headphones or ear buds makes listening and mobility much more convenient. With so many opportunities to enhance learning through listening, it is highly recommended that students come to school with personal equipment to take advantage of these tools.

Keeping these two points in mind, we are asking that students **bring a pair of appropriately sized headphones or ear buds in a clear plastic zip top bag with their name, grade level, and homeroom teacher's name written on it in black marker.** Your child's equipment will be kept in a designated location in his/her classroom, stored in the plastic bag, and will NOT be shared.

Headphones are recommended for smaller students because their ear canals are typically not able to handle ear buds yet. Fit and comfort are key.

Students may begin to bring these to school immediately. Students without personal headphones or ear buds will continue to use shared headphones.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Handwritten signature of Melinda B. Johnson in black ink.

Principal

Handwritten signature of Joi R. Bethea in black ink.

Principal

*"We Are Community Builders"*

Sheila L. Thorpe  
Executive Director/Founder

Joi R. Bethea  
Principal - Secondary

Melinda B. Johnson  
Director of Instruction/  
Acting Principal - Elementary