October 2020

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REMINDER!
Intro to High School Selection Night
Who: 8th grade students and families
When: October 7th at 6 p.m.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725569558?pwd=TWxpNHJGcR8VUUTODlLc0lKOGGrZz09
Or
October 14th at 1 p.m.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145222015?pwd=RIaBG07zCSNfY0Jjbc3M5VhycGzdtdz09

Questions or Comments? Contact:
Jemima Mbaka: Site Director and Academic Coordinator
203-600-4464
ejimambaka@tenacity.org

My Huynh: Family Engagement Coordinator
207-239-2634/ 857-220-9549
mytienhuynh@tenacity.org

Malcolm Neville: Tennis Coordinator
404-556-8390
malcolmnevile@tenacity.org

College Prep Corner
The Tenacity College Prep (CP) team supports Tenacity students in high schools with check-ins, field-trips, academic support, monthly meetings, and college visits.

They are also available to eighth graders and their families during the high school selection process. For questions on the high school selection process, please reach out to Tenacity's Student and Family Support Coordinators.

Eric Hsu
erichsu@tenacity.org

Becky Geddes
beckygeddes@tenacity.org

Patrick Moriarty
patrickmoriarty@tenacity.org

Visit our Tenacity website at:
https://tenacity.org/mccormack-middle-school-resources/

@DMC_TENACITY
Tennis and Fitness
Welcome back to another fun year of tennis and fitness at McCormack Middle School. Although the year began virtually, Mr. Neville still found exciting ways to reintroduce Tenacity students to tennis vocabulary and tennis skills online! In the first few weeks, students have relearned about serves, volleys, forehands, and backhands. Mr. Neville led students and staff through how to properly hit the different tennis strokes via shadow swings with objects from home. Students then tested their tennis knowledge through fun yet competitive games of kahoot. Congratulations to Allen Preinal, Amaya Martinez, and Jathyn Fletcher on their mastery of tennis vocabulary! A special congratulations to Syrianna Dos Santos, Jakhil Gibbs, Theresa Robinson, Candy Berganza Morales, Jathyn Fletcher, Amaya Martinez for winning the raffles. They will be receiving free lunch, Patriots jerseys, and Tenacity t-shirts. During the fitness sessions, staff and students warm up for tennis by doing squats, high knees, and jogging in place. As the reining Holiday Classic Champions, the McCormack Panthers hope to get our student athletes energized and ready to compete when tennis matches against other Tenacity middle school resumes after the pandemic. In future weeks, students will use actual tennis racquets to practice their skills from home! We’ll also use videos to learn about different tennis grips and spacing on the tennis courts.

Make sure to follow us on Instagram @TENACITY_DMC

Literacy and Life Skills
During the first few weeks of class, Ms. Mbaka has introduced returning students to this year’s five new AmeriCorps fellows: Mr. Botta, Ms. Huntzinger, Ms. LaDuca, Mr. Dayheny, and Ms. DeLucia. During a mock interview set-up, students asked thought provoking questions to this year’s fellows and engaged in considerate conversations. Carmen Garcia wanted to know where the staff members saw themselves in five years, whereas Mussa Dahaba was curious about how the new staff members expressed themselves. While the exercise was used to get students to know the incoming staff members better, it had the equally important goal of teaching students interviewing skills as both interviewers and interviewees. Ms. Mbaka taught students about professionalism, timeliness, and quality questioning in an effort to furnish students with a set of tools that they can pull from in secondary careers.

The first life-skills unit of the year focuses on budgeting. Students are learning the value of a budget and have been introduced to terms including income, taxes, and expenses. Students are charged with creating their own budgets and provide their classmates with an explanation of their budget. The Tenacity team will guide you through the high school application and selection process beginning next week, October 7th at our Introduction to High School Selection Night at 6 p.m. During that night, our College Prep team alongside Ms. Huynh and Ms. Mbaka will introduce families to the different types of high schools around the city of Boston. We will begin the year with family visits over zoom or phone call with all of our 6th and 7th grade families. We look forward to working alongside you to set academic and social emotional goals for each of our students and to support each child in meeting his or her goals.

For our 8th grade families, the Tenacity team will provide tools for academic and career excellence. If you know a 6th or 7th grader who would like to join Tenacity, please reach out to Ms. Huynh 207-239-2634 or mytienhuynh@tenacity.org. We will be recruiting throughout the month of October.

Summer Recap/ Resources
Tenacity once again pulled off a great summer of tennis and reading despite this year’s unique challenges! Billy Nguyen and Joseph Lopez went out on the Tenacity courts and practiced their tennis skills at Carter Playground. Last year’s 8th grader Isaiah George was a staff member at the Mosakley Courts and Sarah Cardona-Tavares improved her skill sets while practicing with several of Tenacity’s tennis coordinators.

As the year begins, the Tenacity team hopes to continue to work in community with families as we all navigate the challenges brought on by Covid-19. The McCormack is a site for food pick-up. Families can pick up 5 day meal packs of breakfast and lunch for remote learners on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 6 pm at McCormack. For a list of other sites, please visit the linked website below.

https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/freemeals

For families who would like to gain access to the latest updates to Boston Public Schools (BPS) reopening plan, please visit:

https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/8371

Lastly, since our inception in 1999, Tenacity has worked alongside 40,000 students to provide tools for academic and career excellence. If you know a 6th or 7th grader who would like to join Tenacity and be part of our Pathway, please reach out to Ms. Huynh 207-239-2634 or mytienhuynh@tenacity.org. We will be recruiting throughout the month of October.

Family Engagement and College Prep
Greetings families!

The Tenacity team would like to welcome back our 7th and 8th grade families. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our 6th grade families! This year, the Tenacity team at McCormack will continue to cultivate a culture of collaboration and community with families! We recognize the wealth of knowledge families bring to the table and we are excited to learn from you each step of the way. We will begin the year with family visits over zoom or phone call with all of our 6th and 7th grade families. We look forward to working alongside you to set academic and social emotional goals for each of our students and to support each child in meeting his or her goals.

For our 8th grade families, the Tenacity team will guide you through the high school application and selection process beginning next week, October 7th at our Introduction to High School Selection Night at 6 p.m. During that night, our College Prep team alongside Ms. Huynh and Ms. Mbaka will introduce families to the different types of high schools around the city of Boston and begin to talk with families about beginning the process of applying to Best Fit high schools. In November, we will provide a list of suggestions and application materials for each 8th grade. The night will count as a family visit. We look forward to the evening’s questions and conversations! The link to our High School Introduction Nights are below listed below.