

CALENDAR

- Monday, January 11, 4:00pm – VLS (Virtual Learning School) enrollment Deadline
- Monday, January 11, 6:00-7:00pm – Mays Q&A Meeting (Return to In Person Education)
- Tuesday, January 12, 6:00-7:00pm – PTA Meeting
- Thursday, January 14, 7:00-8:00pm – Parent Circle
- NO SCHOOL Monday, January 18, MLK observation
- NO SCHOOL Monday, January 25 – Friday, January 29, preparation for ASD & PreK-2
- Monday, February 1 – SPPS begins in-person learning for ASD & PreK-2



NO SCHOOL - TRANSITION PREP

There will be NO SCHOOL for students PreK-5 January 25-29 as we prepare for the return to in person learning. We look forward to welcoming ASD and Prek - 2 grade students back to the building on Monday, February 1. Mays is hosting a Q&A session on Monday, January 11, 6:00-7:00 pm, to answer questions regarding this transition.

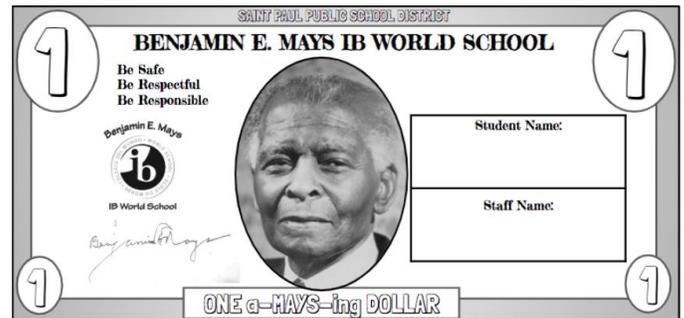
iUpdate - KEEP CONNECTED

iUpdate is an online tool for parents/guardians to complete important school forms, including contact and address changes, field trip forms and the Technology Use Agreement. iUpdate is accessed through One Stop on the St. Paul Public Schools website.

If you need to update contact information after submitting iUpdate, call Mays at (651) 325-2400.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES & PBIS

Our next Restorative Practices Parent Circle is Thursday, January 14th from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Join and share your thoughts about in-person learning and what is happening in our world (see invitation below).



Students are working to earn more Mays money by being safe, respectful, and responsible while learning online. Our next school wide reward is to earn \$15,000 Mays dollars so teachers can complete a TikTok challenge. Help your child login to their Google Meets on time, complete their work, and be respectful to others.

**RESTORATIVE PRACTICES
PARENT CIRCLE**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH
7:00PM-8:00PM
GOOGLE MEETS
MEET.GOOGLE.COM/AXY-GNDW-BCK**

(see next page for IB at Home)



IB at Home – Supporting Conceptual Understanding

Benjamin E. Mays IB World School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) school. An IB education develops lifelong learners. As your child's first teacher, you play an important role in helping them take their learning deeper. Below are 5 simple ways you can support your child's IB learning at home. These 5 strategies will help you help your child become a lifelong learner. Each month we will look at one of these 5 strategies.



This month, we will be looking at “**Support conceptual understanding.**”

What do we mean by conceptual understanding? IB explains a concept as a “big idea”—a principle or notion that is enduring and is not constrained by a particular origin, subject matter or place in time (Erickson 2008). Concepts represent ideas that are broad, abstract, timeless and universal.

IB focuses on concepts, not *topics*. Concepts add depth and rigour in student thinking to the traditional “two-dimensional” curriculum consisting of facts and skills. Concepts place no limits on breadth of knowledge or on depth of understanding, and therefore are accessible to every student.

This helps student to:

- think critically about big ideas
- recognize patterns
- make generalizations, predictions and connections across their learning
- transfer understanding to different contexts.

So how can you support conceptual understanding at home?

- Help your child see connections.
 - When your child is learning about something new, say “This is kind of like _____. Do you see how?”
- Ask your child if *they* can make connections.
 - When your child encounters something new, say “What does this remind you of? Why? How?” or “What does this make you think about? Why?”
- Value process. When your child solves a problem (any problem - not just school related), ask questions like:
 - How did you do that?
 - Why did you do that?
 - What strategy did you use?
- Refer to the **key concepts!** IB has 7 key concepts that are used to help students understand the world around them. These key concepts, and the questions that go along with them, can be used when looking at anything!

(see next page)



