



# Fort Report



## December, 2019

December ushers in winter, a month where brisk weather seems to translate to a brisk pace for all. Holidays generate excitement for our students which often results in them being preoccupied with thoughts that have little or nothing to do with school. The challenge of keeping students focused and mindful of school expectations for both behavior and learning is not an easy one. Our SMART Plan is an especially effective tool in reminding students of the skills and behaviors we know they are capable of showing.

The SMART Plan has a matrix for desired actions and behaviors of children as students and learners. Because the Plan describes behaviors we hope to see, there is no burden on students to “figure out” what any of our S.M.A.R.T. behaviors look like. A SMART matrix is available for parents, too. This can be a great resource if you are looking for ways to model the behaviors and approaches that are familiar to students and

help carry over behaviors that you will appreciate, too. The SMART Plan is located under the “for parents” tab on our school website so please be sure to check it out.

Through assemblies and the work of teachers and students in classrooms, we hope students will come to understand how the actions outlined in our SMART Learner Plan can be used to tackle ambitious student learning goals. It’s easy to see how taking your time could be an example of trying your best while double checking your answers may be an example of being responsible. Setting personal goals motivates us to compete against our best selves and ensures that we give each endeavor our personal best. Let’s make developing SMART children our common goal in 2020!

As calendars go, December will mark the end of the first third of the year. Marks will close on December 6 and report cards are scheduled to go home on December 20. Besides using this document as a way of identifying your child’s areas of strength and weakness, it has the potential to be a very important and useful conversation starter. Your child should be encouraged to assume responsibility for his/her performance. From there and together set goals for improvement in effort, work habits and renewed perseverance. Why not let the SMART Plan guide your efforts?!

Under “housekeeping” items, the following are worth noting:

~ Please be reminded of our parking and loop protocols. These include not parking along the perimeter of the loop (where signage also indicates it is unlawful park) and accessing the loop exclusively at your child’s grade level dismissal time. And it should be an automatic that you proceed in and out of the loop very cautiously and slowly...no matter the time. WPD supports us in enforcing these protocols which are in place for the safety of our students. Please be reminded there is absolutely no parking allowed in the DPW lot.

~ Physical exercise is an important part of each child's day. It provides the necessary movement and social engagement that re-energize our bodies and stimulate our brains. Unless excused by a medical need and a weather advisory suggests otherwise, please expect that your child will go out each and every day. Please be sure to send your child in with warm clothing that includes a hat, gloves and safe footwear for a comfortable and fun outdoor time.

~ Families who are in need at the holidays are reminded that food/toy donations have been made and are available. Please feel comfortable in reaching out to me directly and be assured your request will remain confidential.

Wishing you and all who matter to you a very happy and festive holiday season!

Your partner in education,  
*Ms. Pearson, Principal*

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## Shout OUTS!

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Thank you to Ms. Calinda, Drama Teacher at WHS, and her students for performing 3 short skits all highlighting elements of our SMART Plan. Wow...they've got talent!

Thank you to Ms. Wallerice, a GFB parent and Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, for applying for and receiving generous grant funds for improved safety and visibility signage. This will be a tremendous help to students and their families who walk to/from our school.

November's SMART students included:

Kindergarten: Steven S., Brendan M., Eli A., Daniella C., Cora I., Quinn N., Matheus N., Gabriella B., Avery R., Carmen B., Keegan H., Brianna G., Veronica D., Peyton F., Mohammed O., Maya W., Nicky D., Dante G., Meiah D., Zoeg G., Charlie B., Elias D.,

Alexandru I., Samuel M., Sophia F., Cameron S., Amelia C., Layne T.

1st Grade: Giulian D., Luca T., Beatrice H., Yeshua Q., Cormac O., Jayden P., Ben H., David D., Wyatt H., Stella S., Allie P., Gavin S., Callie T., Dahna P., Allison F., Kathryn E., Michael D., Ryan C., Christian S., Kaylin G., Myles O., Yasmeen E., Wyatt H., Ella D., Ella A., Marina G., Logan D., Imane B.

2nd Grade: Robert D., Emilian G., Lily B., Zackary S., Tyler S., Damian S., Jace E., Zoe S., Lili R., Emanuelle D., Maddie C., Aubrey H., Max C., Livia P., Ryan K., Teagan M., Ellie G., Kallie B., Edyn F., Ryder B., Simon C., Aven T., Franco F., Mikayla D., Katya C., Alena C., Cecelia D., Camden L.



Early Release Days: December 11 (Please see calendar for early release times.)

Last Day for Fun at the Fort: December 12 for Thursday groups, December 18 for Wednesday groups

No School Days: December 23-January 1

Report Cards issue: December 20

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