

Dear Armatage families,

Last Wednesday, March 1st, all MPS schools received their budget allocations for the 2017-2018 school year. The money is used for staffing, professional development, supplies and miscellaneous expenses to run the school.

Several weeks ago, Superintendent Graff shared with principals that we could anticipate a 2.5% decrease in funding in order for the district to work toward a 2-year plan to address a budget deficit.

Over the last few days, many staff and parents have asked about the allocation and if there was an impact on our school. Although there were increases in several budget lines to accommodate cost of living raises, there are also some areas where the allocations were decreased which will directly impact staffing; those budget lines are:

Basic per student:	- \$ 20,448
Magnet funds:	- \$105,676
Compensatory:	- \$ 5,079
ELL:	<u>- \$ 31,744</u>
	-\$ 162,947

Over the week-end, I examined the budget and developed several scenarios. This week the staff, Site Council, & PTA will have any opportunity to review and provide feedback as we move toward developing a balanced budget that needs to be finalized and submitted to the district on March 24th.

An example would be eliminating the following positions as one possibility:

Band -	\$ 19,297
(2) - Associate Educators -	\$ 72,963
Technology -	\$ 48,242
Testing coordinator -	<u>\$ 22,080</u>
	\$162,582

This Thursday, I will be presenting a detailed account of the budget and some scenarios for review to the Site Council at 5:30 p.m. and the PTA at 6:30 p.m. This will be a time that parents can give me feedback / or suggestions to help create a balanced budget. All parents are welcome to attend either / or both meetings.

Many folks have asked how they can help. Oddly enough, this is all happening in the midst of our biggest school fundraiser, which directly benefits our staffing efforts. So please consider participating in that effort by purchasing a ticket to the Maude, Mingle, and Montessori event on 3/13 at Cafe Maude, and by bidding and contributing in the online auction, going on now and ending this Friday at 8pm!"

In summary, the Armata budget for next year cannot fund all of the positions we have staffed for this year. I encourage you to come and participate in these deliberations on the budget. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Joan S. Franks, Principal