

MIC3

Military Interstate Children's Compact commission

October 13, 2021

Military Family and Student Transitions... during COVID

Presented by Dr. Keith Mispagel and Ms. Helen Payne

During this presentation we will..

- ◆ Highlight what we know about operating schools in COVID school year 2.0.
- ◆ Discuss some identified military family/student challenges in schools
- ◆ Outline priority focus areas to assist our mobile military connected students and families.
- ◆ Highlight a few strategies in use in MISA districts to better service students post 2020-2021
- ◆ Q & A

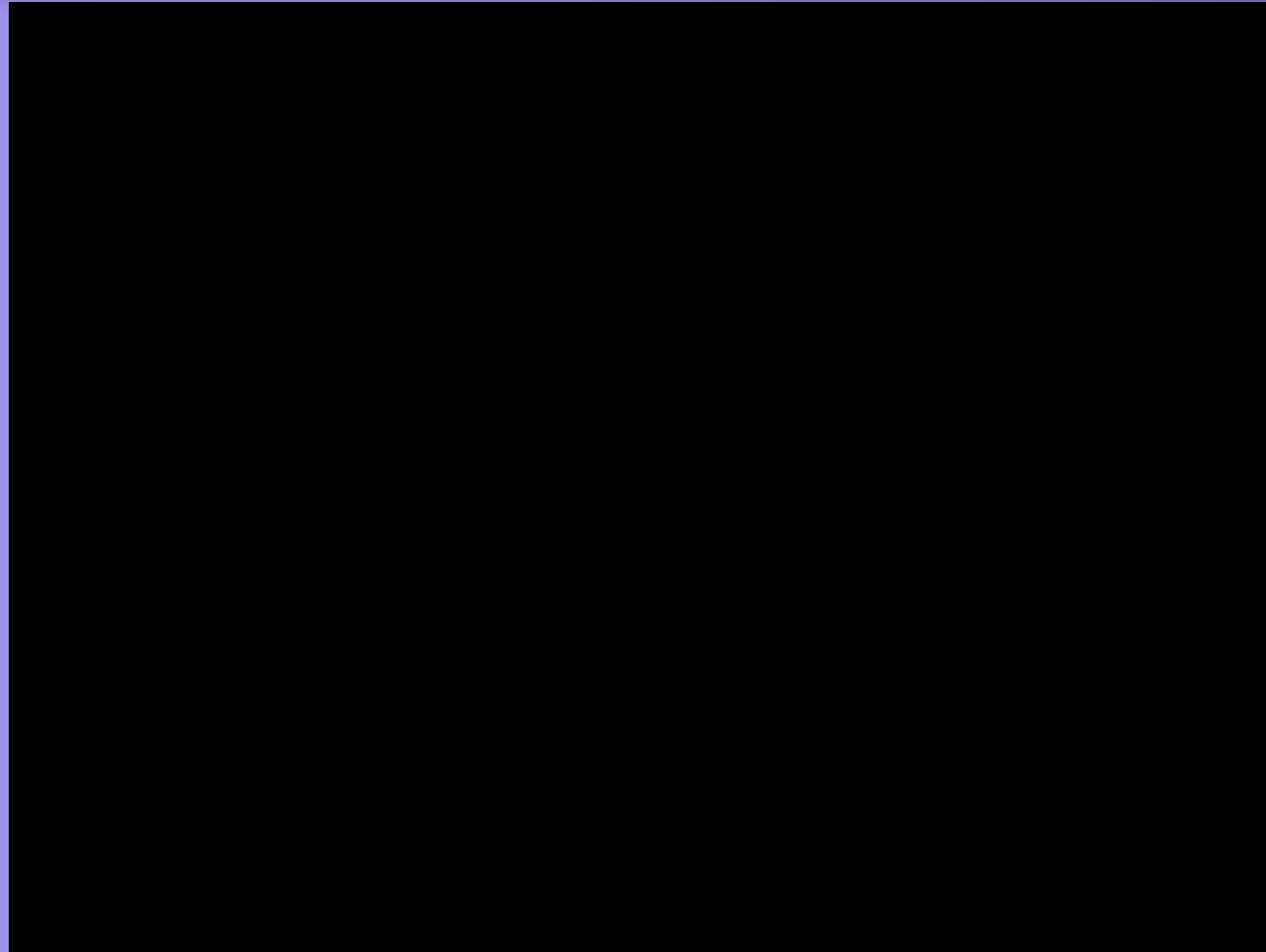
First the Good News!

School
is
open!



“The Truth in schools...”

(by Gerry brooks)



What we know as educators...

- ◆ ...our jobs and our roles will take on many forms, such as Teacher, Counselor, Friend, Mentor, Support, Leaders, and “doers”
- ◆ ...we have an opportunity every day to help children grow and improve
- ◆ ...our professionalism, integrity, attitude, emotions, and work-ethic determines not only our success, but also the success of others.

What we know... (continued)

- ◆...We are still dealing with and adapting to covid
- ◆...Our “normal” is best realized as the current moment in time
- ◆...our kids and families need us more than ever
- ◆...we need each other more than ever

What we Know... (Continued again)

- ◆ ...Safety measures will remain in place, but may look different
 - ◇ State to State, County by County, District by District
- ◆ ...Decisions must be made for the whole
- ◆ ...the moving target continues

AND

Adaptation to change is critical to success

IN OTHER WORDS...Right now,

Being a school administrator is easy!

It is just like riding a bike!

Except the bike is on fire.

You are on fire.

Everything is on fire!



Challenges for Military Connected Schools

- ◆ Full expectations- Grace of year 1.0 is gone
- ◆ Still managing pandemic protocols while advancing programs for students
- ◆ Students had widely varying experiences 1.0
- ◆ Additional social pressure/conflict/disagreement/fatigue
- ◆ Many new staff members and students who arrived in the past two years--lack of institutional memory
- ◆ Staffing difficulties
- ◆ Unanticipated population swings
- ◆ Delayed moves

Challenges for Military Families

- Getting familiarized with a new location during a pandemic
- Child Care uncertainty
- Concerns about quarantining, missing school, health
- Large scale events at school may still be on hold--harder to feel connected to school personnel and the school community
- Varying “response culture” from state to state (arrival from another state may require quarantine, masking, travel restrictions, etc.)
- Concern about child’s progress/prior experience, readiness for school
- Concerns about child’s mental health

Building the FOUNDATION...

◆ Definition of Foundation:

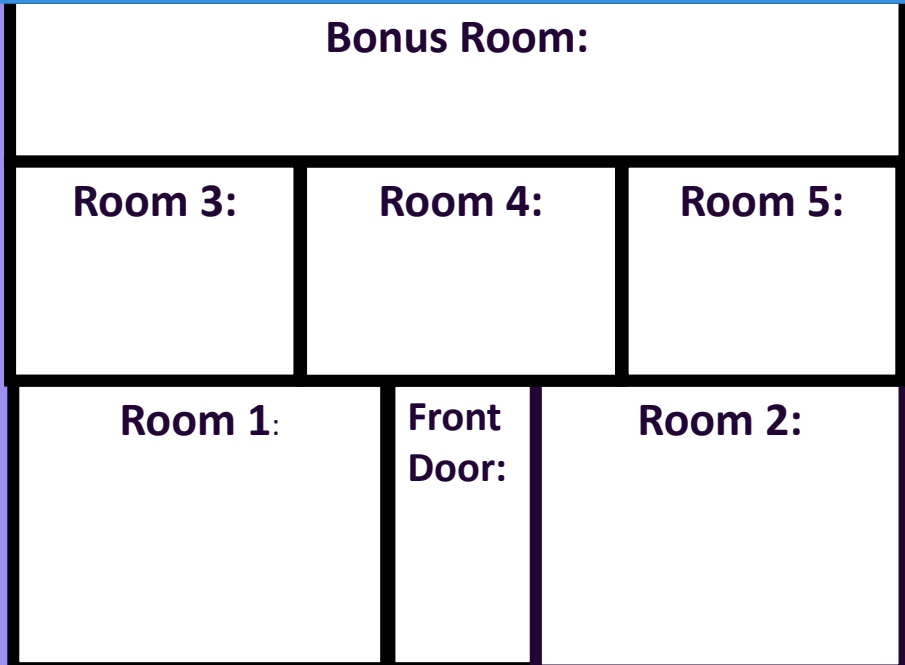
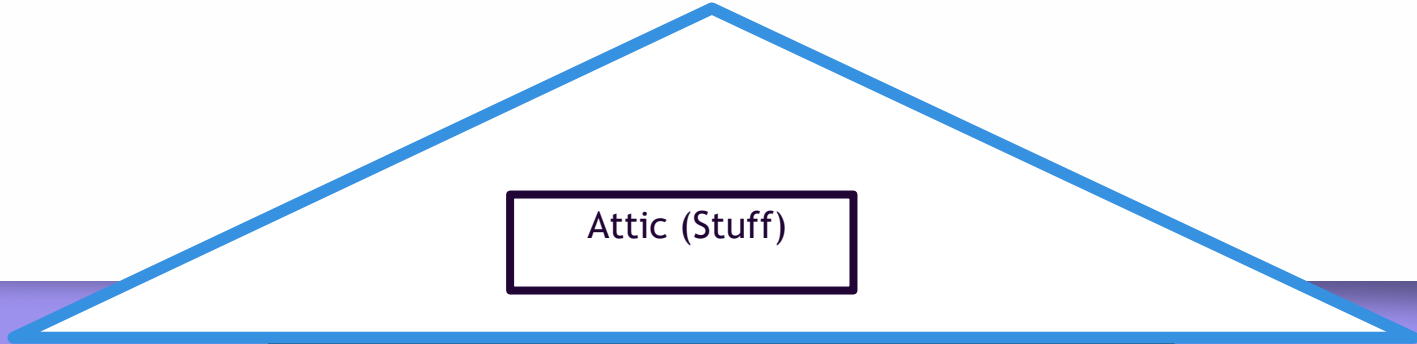
- ◇ *“The lowest load-bearing part of a building, typically below ground level.”*
- ◇ *“An underlying basis or principle”*

◆ In-Action:

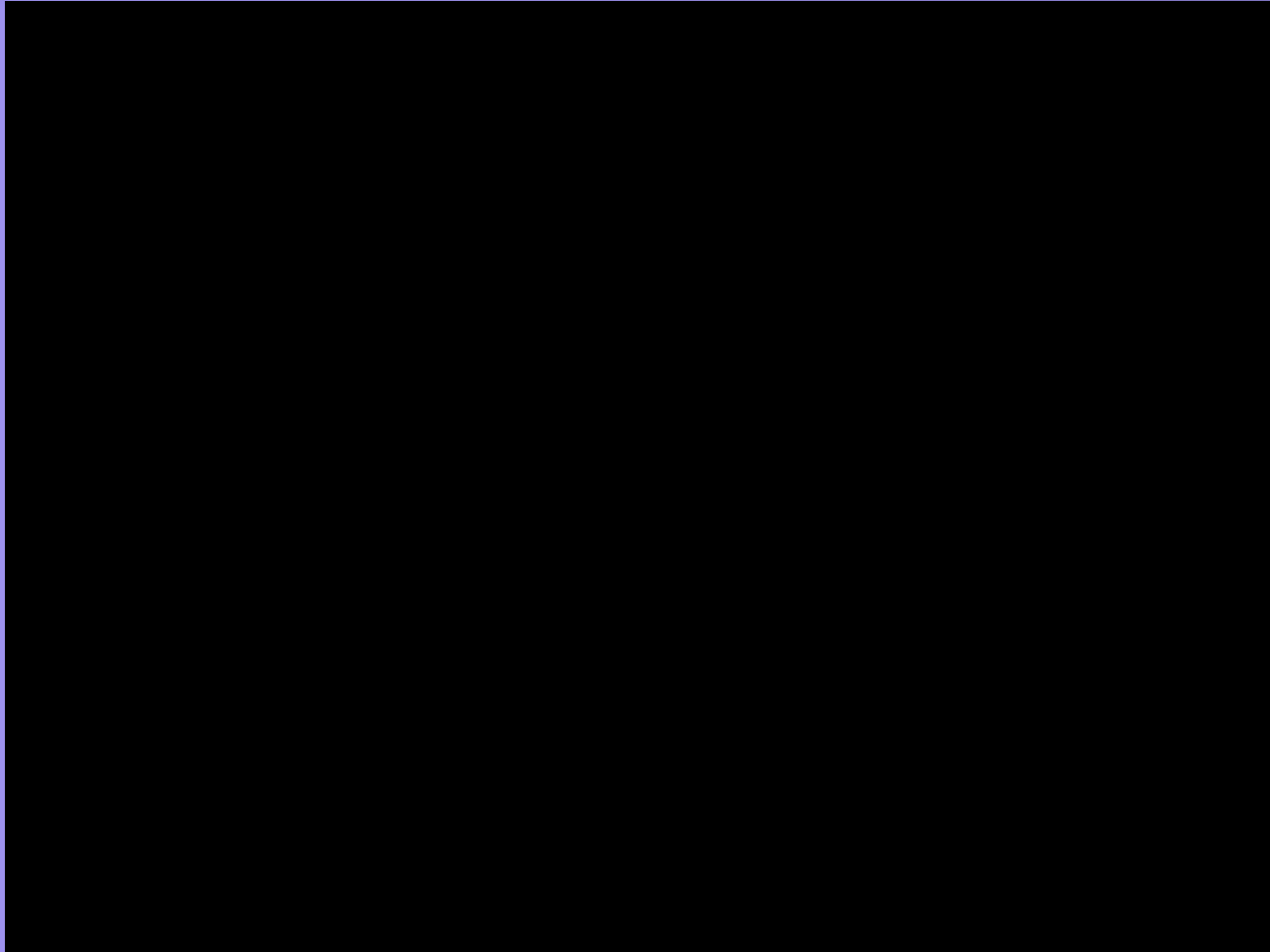
- ◇ Structure, Consistency, Support, Teamwork

◆ IDEAS:

- ◇ Planning, Scheduling, Instructional Strategies, Resources, etc.



What is still “Same as it ever was”...?



Same as it ever was...(Cont.)

- ◆ Safety Measures...
 - ◇ Yes/Maybe/No
 - ◇ PPE/Cleaning Measures/Social Distancing/Quarantine
- ◆ How did States respond?
 - ◇ State Departments of Education and State Leaders collaborate and support
- ◆ Is there still an Impact on Military Families and Mobile Military Families?
 - ◇ ABSOLUTELY
 - ◇ Stress
 - ◇ Unknown Timelines
 - ◇ Fear for Safety of their Children.

Three Priority Areas for MISA Schools

- 1. Transition**
- 2. Academic Progress/Acceleration pathways**
- 3. Connection/ Reconnection**

Transition

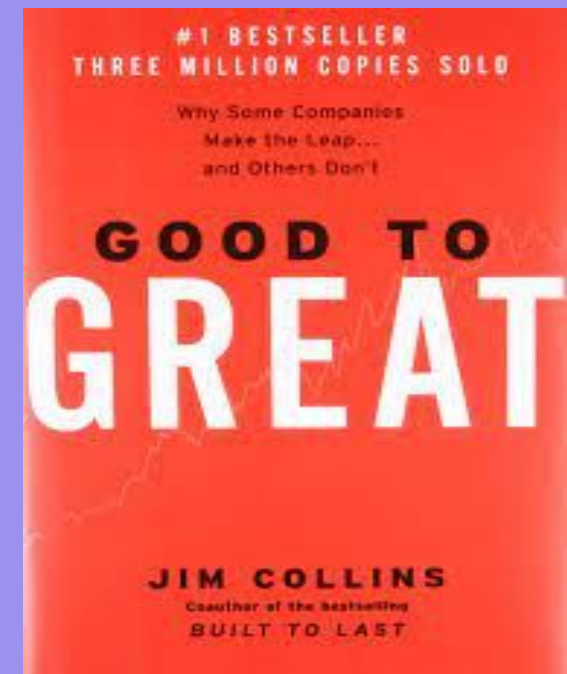


- ◆ **First Touch: One stop website, electronic registration process**
- ◆ **Virtual Tours and video messages**
- ◆ **New Family Contact- Transition Coordinator**
- ◆ **New Family Open House, Welcome Packs and Meet the Teacher**
- ◆ **Student Ambassadors tour new students**
- ◆ **Peer Partners**
- ◆ **Special Education [Transition Document](#) [and](#) Outreach, What to Expect**

Academic Progress

“A key step in any effective improvement process is an honest assessment of the current reality – a diligent effort to determine the truth.”

(Collins, 2001)



Academic Progress

- ◆ Incoming student baseline assessment, interview
- ◆ Common benchmarking throughout the school year
- ◆ Looking closely at data about students
- ◆ Focusing on power/essential standards in depth
- ◆ Modified schedules for intervention time (Response time, WIN time)-all hands on deck
- ◆ Leveraging personalized electronic resources: Exact Path, STAR, IXL, Tutor.com, Teachtown
- ◆ Universal Design for Instruction
- ◆ 1:1 Devices



Connection/Reconnection

- Expectations academy- reteaching norms
- New Family Open House (2x/year)
- Virtual walkthroughs, open houses and parent conferences
- Student ambassadors, tours
- MFLACS in every building
- School Counselors in every building
- Behavior Specialist
- School Nurses
- Celebrations
- SEL Focus built in (Responsive Classroom, SWAG, Leader In Me)



What are Schools Focusing on for the 2021/2022 School Year:

Care...Care for yourself, students, families, the district, and the community

Reflect...Reflect on where we've been and where we're going.

Understand...Sympathize, Empathize, and seek to learn and understand.

Nourish...Engage and energize the students and each other.

Communicate... Clearly and often. Don't assume something is already known or understood.

Heroic...Be committed to the academic and social-emotional growth of each student.

Teamwork...Harness the strengths and skills of the combined team.

Inspire...Excite, encourage, motivate, engage students and staff.

Mentor...Guide your students, peers, parents, and friends to greater success.

Extraordinary...Exceed expectations...be exceptional in who you are

CRUNCH TIME!!!!

What do our crystal balls reveal for rest of this year?

QUESTIONS ON EVERYONE'S MIND:

- ◆ Will the COVID Vaccine offer any relief?
- ◆ Will restrictions be lessened in schools...communities...states...the country?
- ◆ How do we plan for another year of the unknown?
 - ◇ Plan for:
 - ◇ 1.) Normal Education
 - ◇ 2.) COVID Environment
 - ◇ 3.) Modified Normal COVID Environment
- ◆ What can the MIC3 Commission/Commissioners do?



It Takes A Village! MISA Schools partner and network with:

DoDEA

Parent Organizations

NMFA

Tutor.com

MIC3

MCEC

Military Branches

ADC

School Liaison Specialists

Military School Advisors to the Board of Education

Each other!





Military Impacted Schools Association

...providing for the needs of military children



Dr. Keith Mispagel (kmispagel@usd207.org)

Superintendent of Schools, USD 207, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA)- President

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) - Vice-President

Ms. Helen Payne (hpayne@nhanover.com)

Superintendent of Schools, North Hanover Township, NJ

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) – Vice-President

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) – Board Member

THANK YOU!