



**Myron B. Thompson Academy**  
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## **Message from the Principal**

A decision to move from one video conferencing platform to another at the beginning of this school year was the result of much study, research and listening to experts who expressed concerns over security issues of ZOOM. MBTA transitioned into Cisco's WEBEX video conferencing platform, which provided adequate synchronous video conferencing for our direct instruction but was not as user friendly or as robust as ZOOM.

The most significant challenge we have faced in the first month of school has been the inability of the current WEBEX platform to provide consistent, ease of use for all participants. Direct instruction provided by our faculty has been compromised because of all the technical glitches and drop-feeds. We are now faced with a responsibility to have the best technology delivery systems without compromising the security of our students and school community.

IT Director Yuni An and I have had numerous and serious discussions about these issues. IT Director An has extensive experience and expertise in cybersecurity at the national (DOD) and international levels. Our discussions have included implementing industry cybersecurity best practices for ZOOM to harden our security posture such as requiring the "waiting room" and password features to be used for all classes. We will also follow a plan to increase the monitoring of the firewall, network traffic, and other possible entry points where security breaches are most likely to occur. Additionally, Director An has identified steps for all faculty/staff to follow when using ZOOM in the near future to guard against security incidents.

WEBEX will still be used for different administration and student support staff as they interact with the Department of Education and outside professional institutions. Please anticipate additional information from core teachers who have weekly scheduled Virtual Classes. Please feel free to contact me should you have additional questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

For further information, please email Principal Diana Oshiro at [msoshiro@ethompson.org](mailto:msoshiro@ethompson.org)

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