



Fox Chapel Tribune

19315 Archdale Road
Germantown, Maryland 20876

Principal: Ms. Diana L. Zabetakis
Assistant Principal: Ms. Sherilyn Moses

Important Testing Dates

To ensure testing success, please mark the following dates on your calendar. Please keep these dates in mind when scheduling appointments. It is an expectation that your child is here during the administration of these important assessments unless they are home sick.

February 6 - March 2: ACCESS (all grades)

February 8 & 19: MSA Simulation (3rd - 5th grades)

March 12 - 23: Reading/Math MSA (3rd - 5th grades)

February 24: TN2 Simulation

April 16 - 20: TN2 (2nd grade)

April 30 & May 4: Science MSA (gr. 5)



Test Taking Tips:

- Get a good nights sleep
- Eat breakfast
- Come to school on time
- Relax

Closing and Delays

We want to remind our community of the following sources for finding out about school closures and delays.

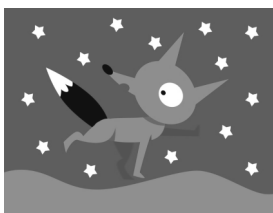
If school is closed or delayed, these announcements are made on:

- The weather line (301) 279 - 3673
- Local TV and radio stations: Comcast Channel 34, Verizon Fios Channel 36, RCN Channel 89
- The MCPS home page: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
- MCPS QuickNotes e-mail news service (register at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/welcome/english/>)
- Alert MCPS (register at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx>)
- Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mcps>



Monthly Calendar of Events:

2/1: Report Cards Distributed
2/1: PBIS Breakfast
2/2: After-school Activity Clubs,
Hands On Science
2/7: After-school Activity Clubs
2/8: MSA Simulation Grades 3 & 4
2/9: MSA Simulation Grade 5
2/9: After-school Activity Clubs,
Hands On Science
2/9: Chuck E. Cheese Family Night
2/9: After-school Activity Clubs,
Hands On Science
2/13: Class Group and Club
Pictures
2/14: Class Group and Club
Pictures
2/14: Valentine's Parties in
classrooms
2/14: After-school Activity Clubs
2/15: Blazin' Wheel
2/16: After-school Activity Clubs,
Hands On Science
2/16: Roy Roger's Family Night
2/17: PTA Sock Hop Dance
2/20: President's Day Holiday -
NO SCHOOL
2/21: February Birthday Snack
Distribution
2/21: After-school Activity Clubs
2/23: After-school Activity Clubs,
Hands On Science
2/23 - 26: PTA Jersey Mikes
Fundraiser, 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
2/24: TN2 Simulation Grade 2
2/24: Linkages Reading Corner
2/28: After-school Activity Clubs



Fox Chapel Mission & Vision

The Fox Chapel community is dedicated to helping students achieve academic success, develop a love of learning and respect differences by working as a team. Each student at Fox Chapel achieves success by actively learning, putting forth effort, and showing good character in an engaging comfortable environment.

Valentine's Day Parties

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Tuesday, February 14th**. Classes will be holding Valentine's Day parties in the afternoon. Classroom teachers will be sending out additional information on this exciting event!

Be On Time!

We have had an unusual number of students late to school in recent weeks. It is very important that students arrive at school on time. Students who are habitually tardy to school miss important instruction, announcements and classroom routines that are important for student success. Being on time is a critical life-long habit necessary for future success as well.

It may be necessary to allow extra time in the morning to make up for unexpected traffic or for back-ups in the parking lot. School officially begins when the first bell rings at 8:50 a.m. **Students who arrive after 8:50, for whatever reason, are considered tardy and must sign in the office. Attendance is taken promptly at 8:50.** It is important that students arriving in class after that time are signed in at the front office - even if they are only late by a minute or two - in order for the recorded absence to be removed. If you have any questions about attendance procedures, please contact Ms. Martinez in the school office. It is also important for students who walk to school to arrive on time, because the crossing guards are on duty only between 8:30 and 8:50 a.m. **Please strive to have your child/children at school by 8:30, so they have time to prepare for school success each day.**

President's Day

There will be no school on **Monday, February 20th**.

Reminder to Parents

If there is any change in the information given at the beginning of the year, such as your work or home phone, or the person you would like us to contact in case of an emergency, please update the office with changes. It is very important that we have current information for our files. Thank you!

Middle School Preparation

The staff of several middle schools have been working with our school to ensure a smooth transition for students entering sixth grade. Vertical articulation includes meetings with teachers, counselors and resource teachers. It also includes counselor and teacher visits to our school. Vertical articulation has been a priority for the Clarksburg cluster principals each year. If you have a fifth grader please be sure to turn in ALL required paperwork by the due date.

The Neelsville Middle School Parent Information Night (for parents with children entering the 6th grade at Neelsville Middle School) was held on January 25th. If you missed the meeting and you need additional information contact Neelsville Middle School at 301-353-8064.



Maryland School Assessment

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is required in response to requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal mandates. It provides Maryland criterion-referenced data. The criterion-referenced items provide proficiency scores (expressed as Basic, Proficient, or Advanced proficiency level) to describe how well a student has mastered the reading and mathematics content specified in the Maryland Content Standards. This is very important testing for all students in grades three, four and five. Testing this year will take place from **March 12 - March 21 and April 30 –May 4 (5th grade Science)**. Please do not schedule vacations or doctor appointments at this time. A great website to visit for more information about the MSA is <http://mdk12.org/parents/index.html>.

Student Transfer

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a change in school assignment for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season, which will be held from February 1 through April 1, 2012.

Students in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes of students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- An older sibling attending the requested school

- A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle school to high school, except when affected by boundary changes

- A documented hardship situation

- A student selected for an exempt program.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request an assignment change form and the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that describes the process and provides useful information. The assignment change form, which is contained in the information booklet, will be available in schools beginning the first week of February and on the school system's Web site at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfer.shtm. The booklet will be available in English and Spanish.

Exempt programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the front office of their home school. Non-English speaking parents may receive more information by calling the Spanish Hotline at 301-230-3073 or the ESOL Parent Center at 301-230-0674. Language Lines also are available to leave a message for someone to return the call - Spanish, 301-230-5403; Cambodian, 301-230-5427; Chinese, 301-230-5428; French, 301-230-5429; Korean, 301-230-5430; and Vietnamese, 301-230-5432.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration

MCPS offers Pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs for income-eligible children who will be four years old by September 1, 2012. **Who is eligible to apply for MCPS Prekindergarten and Head Start Programs?** The MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start program serves low-income families with children who will be four years old by September 1, 2012. This includes children with disabilities. There are limited spaces available in select areas of the county for Head Start income-eligible children who will be three years old by September 1, 2012.

How old do children need to be to apply for the programs?

To enroll in the four-year-old program, children **must** be four years old by **September 1, 2012**.

How do parents apply for the MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs?

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on March 1, 2012.

Walk-in applications are accepted Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m at Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Applications will also be accepted on selected weekday evenings and Saturdays as well as at other community locations:

Fox Chapel Elementary School will be a host site on May 23, 2012.

What do parents need to bring to complete an application?

In order for an application for Prekindergarten/Head Start to be processed, parents must bring the following documents:

1. U.S. Birth Certificate or U.S. Passport:

Children who are not U.S. citizens **MUST** first register with the Residency and International Admissions (RIA). For an appointment with RIA, call 301-230-0686.

2. Household Income Verification: This must be provided for all persons working or receiving income in the household

Acceptable forms of verification are:

- 2011 1040 tax statements including all W2's and three current pay stubs for each job; and, if self-employed, submit Schedule "C" (Profit and Loss from Business) and Form 1099
- Proof of additional income sources (i.e., child support, Temporary Cash Assistance, rental income, Social Security benefits, etc.)

3. Acceptable Proofs of Montgomery County Residence:

- Current property tax bill or deed and current utility bill (**if homeowner**)
- Copy of current lease and utility bill (**if renter**) and HOC letter, if applicable
- Notarized Shared Housing Disclosure: **MCPS Form 335-74** (if sharing housing and/or living with others); **AND** copy of Homeowners' **property tax bill or deed**, or Renters' **current lease**; and **owner's utility bill**; and three documents mailed to the parent/guardian at the shared housing address

4. Parent's/Guardian's Photo Identification

5. Additional Supporting Documents (child care provider's name, address, and telephone number, child's medical insurance information, Food Stamps, WIC, child care subsidy vouchers, rental/utilities assistance, Individualized Education Program (IEP), court documents for custody/guardianship/foster care), if applicable

Where can I get more information about the Prekindergarten and Head Start Programs?

For additional information about the MCPS Prekindergarten and Head Start programs:

Phone: 301-230-0676

TTY Phone Number: 301-230-5462