2026-2027

Prekindergarten/Head Start Calendar/Handbook

Child's Name: _____

Prekindergarten (Pre-K)/Head Start Family
Service Worker assigned to child's class: _____

Phone: **240-740-4530**

Montgomery County Public Schools
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

AUGUST 2026

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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AUGUST 2022

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
16	**17** Professional day for teachers	**18** Professional day for teachers	**19** Professional day for teachers	**20** Professional day for teachers	**21** Professional day for teachers	**22**
23	**24** Head Start Home/Family Visits– No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	**25** Head Start Home/Family Visits– No school for Pre-K and Head Start students First day of school for students (K–12)	**26** Head Start Home/Family Visits– No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	**27** Head Start Home/Family Visits– No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	**28** Head Start Home/Family Visits– No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	**29**
30	**31** Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students					

Draw a picture of something you liked about summer.

SEPTEMBER 2026

AUGUST 2026

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30	31					

OCTOBER 2026

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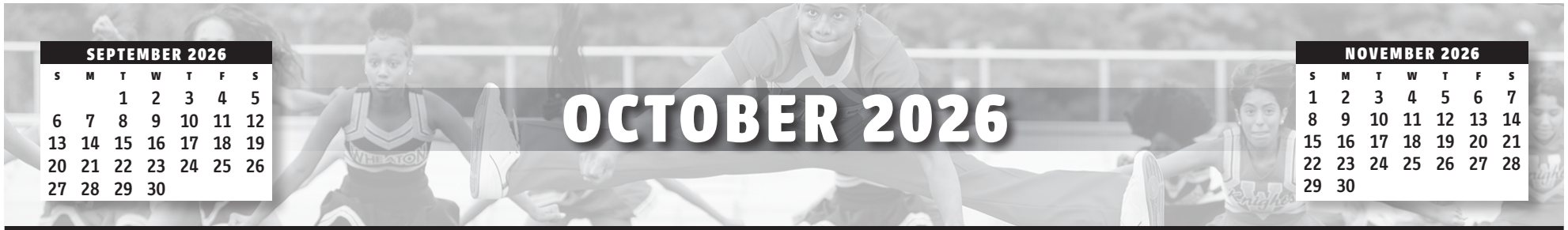
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
6	**7** **LABOR DAY–** Schools and Offices Closed	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
13	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18** Early release day for all students	**19**
20	**21** No School for all students	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
27	**28**	**29**	**30**			

Find leaves from different trees, put like ones together, and trace them with sidewalk chalk.



OCTOBER 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**2**	**3**
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
11	**12**	**13** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)	**14** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)	**15** Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM– Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**16** No School for all students	**17**
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**

Go on a scavenger hunt and line up all items in ABC order.

NOVEMBER 2026

OCTOBER 2026

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DECEMBER 2026

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27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	**2** No school for all students; end of quarter planning	**3** **ELECTION DAY** Schools and Offices Closed	**4**	**5** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**6**	**7**
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19** Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM– Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**20**	**21**
22	**23** **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES–** No school for PART-DAY Pre-K and Head Start students; early release for FULL DAY Pre-K and Head Start students	**24** **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES–** No school for PART-DAY Pre-K and Head Start students; early release for FULL DAY Pre-K and Head Start students	**25** **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES–** No school for PART-DAY Pre-K and Head Start students; early release for FULL DAY Pre-K and Head Start students	**26** **HOLIDAY–THANKSGIVING–** Schools and offices closed	**27** **HOLIDAY–THANKSGIVING–** Schools and offices closed	**28**
29	**30**					

Bake cookies with a friend, measure and count, talk about the experience.

DECEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

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JANUARY 2027

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	**2**	**3** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**4**	**5**
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)	**11**	**12**
13	**14**	**15** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)	**16** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training–No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)	**17** Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM– Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**18**	**19**
20	**21**	**22**	**23** Early Release Day for Students	**24** **WINTER BREAK–** Schools and offices closed	**25** **WINTER BREAK–** Schools and offices closed	**26**
27	**28** **WINTER BREAK–** No school for students and teachers	**29** **WINTER BREAK–** No school for students and teachers	**30** **WINTER BREAK–** Schools and offices closed	**31** **WINTER BREAK–** Schools and offices closed		

Make a snow angel—measure your height and the width of your wings.

JANUARY 2027

DECEMBER 2026

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27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2027

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 **HOLIDAY—NEW YEAR'S DAY—** Schools and offices closed	**2**
3	**4** Classes Resume	**5**	**6**	**7** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**8**	**9**
10	**11**	**12**	**13** Fatherhood Activity—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**14** Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**15**	**16**
17	**18** **HOLIDAY—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY—** Schools and offices closed	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**
24 **31**	**25** No school for all students; end of quarter planning	**26** Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students	**27** Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students	**28** Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students	**29** Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students	**30**

Make a tent with a friend, have lunch, and cozy up to tell stories.

FEBRUARY 2027

JANUARY 2027

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31						

MARCH 2027

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	**2**	**3**	**4** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**5**	**6**
7	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**
14	**15** **HOLIDAY—PRESIDENTS' DAY—** Schools and offices closed	**16**	**17**	**18** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A) Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**19**	**20**
21	**22**	**23** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)	**24** Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)	**25**	**26** Early Release Day for Students	**27**
28						

Make and fly a kite, tell a friend about the adventure.

MARCH 2027

FEBRUARY 2027

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APRIL 2027

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Prekindergarten/Head Start registration begins for fall 2027	**2**	**3**	**4** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**5**	**6**
7	**8**	**9** No School for all students	**10** Fatherhood Activity–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**11**	**12**	**13**
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18** Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**19**	**20**
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers; offices closed	**27**
28	**29** **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers; offices closed	**30** **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers	**31** **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers			

Play ball with a friend, keep score, and write a story about the fun you had.

APRIL 2027

MARCH 2027

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MAY 2027

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers; offices closed	**2** **SPRING BREAK–** No school for students and teachers; offices closed	**3**
4	**5** Classes Resume	**6**	**7**	**8** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**9**	**10**
11	**12** No school for all students; end of quarter planning	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22** No school for all students Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	

Take a walk and talk about the colors of all the flowers you see. Count the different kinds.

MAY 2027

APRIL 2027

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JUNE 2027

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11**	**12** Fatherhood Activity–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**13**	**14**	**15**
16	**17** No School for all students	**18**	**19**	**20** Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**21**	**22**
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**
30	**31** **HOLIDAY–MEMORIAL DAY–** Schools and offices closed					

Read or tell a story every night.

JUNE 2027

MAY 2027

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JULY 2027

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	**2**	**3** Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**4**	**5**
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10** Last day of school for Prekindergarten/Head Start Students Policy Council Monthly Meeting–6:30 PM–Virtual Meeting/Zoom	**11** Last Day of School (K–12)–Early release for students (K–12)	**12**
13	**14** Professional Day for Teachers	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18** **JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY OBSERVED–** Schools and offices closed	**19**
20	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
27	**28**	**29**	**30**			

Read or tell a story every night.

JULY 2027

JUNE 2027

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AUGUST 2027

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Pre-K/Head Start Staff

ADMINISTRATION 240-740-4530

Jessica Blasic..... Supervisor, Pre-K/HS
Colleen Johnson ..... Coordinator, Pre-K/HS
Natalie Hernandez ..... Coordinator, Birth to 5
Tesfaye Muluneh..... Accountant
Kevin Shim ..... Data Systems Operator
Sonia Granados ..... Data Systems Operator
Wendy Winingham..... Administrative Secretary
Sarai Martell ..... Administrative Secretary
Joanna Vasquez ..... Registrar
Flor Martinez ..... Registrar
Tania Quintanilla..... Registrar
Tamea Stover..... Registrar

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH SERVICES— EDUCATION STAFF..... 240-740-4530

Rhonda Amissah ..... Instructional Specialist
Kelly Barrett ..... Instructional Specialist
Stephanie Brink ..... Instructional Specialist
Deirdra Fuller ..... Instructional Specialist
Jiji Olds ..... Instructional Specialist
Shona Weaver..... Pre-K Central Office Teacher
Susan Dowling ..... Program Support Teacher
Sonali Motha..... Program Support Teacher
Maree Nicoll ..... Program Support Teacher
Jessica Spears ..... Program Support Teacher
Gabriella Estevez..... Psychologist
Sara McKeen ..... Psychologist
Marissa Senese ..... Psychologist
Julie Shields ..... Psychologist
Victoria Fanelli ..... Psychologist
Patricia (Lynne) Teoman..... Speech/Language Pathologist

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) 240-777-1553

Mary Cullinane ..... Health Services Manager
Katherine Boylan ..... Dental Hygenist
Jill Diss ..... Dental Hygenist
Lesley Konigsburg ..... Dental Hygenist
Wond Workalemahu ..... Eligibility Specialist
Norma Davis ..... Health Aide
Terri Hock ..... Health Aide
Cheryl Pyle ..... Health Aide
Mina Aliabadi ..... Nurse
Pam Gambon ..... Nurse
Renee McNevin..... Nurse
Kimberly Muhammed ..... Nurse
Nina Munck..... Nurse
Nomvuyo Qubeka..... Nurse
Simone Roberts ..... Nurse
Patty Winters..... Nurse

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF..... 240-740-4530

Lisa Conlon ..... Social Worker
Terry Fisher Thompson ..... Social Worker
Renee Foster ..... Social Worker
Kendra Grimmett ..... Social Worker
Annette Harris..... Social Worker
Traci Powell..... Social Worker
Jose Roberto Flores... Parent Engagement/Volunteer Specialist
Kelly Alfaro ..... Family Service Worker
Jazmina Begazo ..... Family Service Worker
Sarah Bae ..... Family Service Worker
Elsi Bonilla ..... Family Service Worker
Lestine Colbert ..... Family Service Worker
Odessa Davis ..... Family Service Worker
Silvia del Granado..... Family Service Worker
Damara Dockery ..... Family Service Worker
Michelle Dove ..... Family Service Worker
Morganne Edwards..... Family Service Worker
Reyna Escamilla ..... Family Service Worker
Joanna Gonzalez ..... Family Service Worker
Vianka Hardy..... Family Service Worker
Yvonne Jean-Berluche ..... Family Service Worker
Jean-Marie Johnson ..... Family Service Worker
Nuha Khalaf ..... Family Service Worker
Patty Marroquin ..... Family Service Worker
Leida Martinez ..... Family Service Worker
Keiry Meza..... Family Service Worker
Luz Orozco Castillo ..... Family Service Worker
Sorangel Peralta ..... Family Service Worker
Indira Perez ..... Family Service Worker
Myrna Perez ..... Family Service Worker
Grecia Ramos..... Family Service Worker
Eliana Robles..... Family Service Worker
Daniela Rodriguez..... Family Service Worker
Young-sil Shin..... Family Service Worker
Paskaline Tana Nga..... Family Service Worker
Renee TenEyck..... Family Service Worker
Cesiah Ventura ..... Family Service Worker

Program Design and Management

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in partnership with parents/guardians and collaboration with community stakeholders, including county government and state and local agencies, provides Pre-K and Head Start programs that allow every child to establish a solid foundation for learning through high-quality early childhood experiences and attain key educational and developmental milestones in each successive grade as they progress from elementary grades, to middle and high school, then a lifetime of academic and personal achievements. The recently amended Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IEA, Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, details the Board's commitment to effectively utilizing county, state, and federal resources, along with community partners, to establish a continuum of essential services needed by young children and their families in order to identify children in need of services and facilitate student development, transition, placement, and program continuity at each stage of a child's development, from home, child care, or preschool to Pre-K, as appropriate, and from one elementary grade to another.

The Board collaborates with public and private agencies across Montgomery County to support children in the early years, from birth to 5 years, and prepares them for school success as set forth in the Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative Action Plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. MCPS provides a variety of screening, early-intervention, and special education services to children from birth to 8 years, through home and school-based programs and other area central programs. Services are provided to children with a wide range of needs, including, but not limited to, speech/language, auditory, vision, orthopedic, and developmental delays.

In MCPS, the Pre-K/Head Start supervisor coordinates the implementation of grant requirements with the Policy Council, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Regional Office, and MCPS. This group also maintains and nurtures contacts with other agencies that provide services to meet the needs of families with low incomes and their preschool children. The supervisor assesses, evaluates, and updates the program's goals, objectives, and outcomes to support the needs of Pre-K/Head Start parents.

Getting Students Ready for Success

MCPS Pre-K/Head Start provides a wide range of services to support children's readiness for school. School-readiness means that children have the skills, abilities, and attitudes to make them successful in school. Parents/guardians are children's first and most important teachers. Parents/guardians, teachers, program staff members, and other family and community members all play a key part in preparing children for school.

Policy Council

Each MCPS school that provides Pre-K/Head Start programs elects a parent/guardian delegate to the Policy Council. Delegates work to keep other parents/guardians informed and help plan activities. New officers are elected in December and take office in January.

Policy Council parent/guardian delegates meet monthly at 6:30 p.m., on Zoom. Meetings begin with orientation/training sessions in late September or early October. The budget meeting is held during the October meeting, and regular monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month thereafter. Meetings are held via Zoom to facilitate more parent engagement and attendance. Zoom meeting information such as meeting ID and password are available and shared at parent orientation.

Policy Council Officers

The elected officers of the Policy Council set the agenda for the monthly meetings and make recommendations to the total body.

Chairperson

Vice Chairpersons (2)

Treasurer

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Community Action Board Representatives (2)

Maryland State Head Start Representatives (2)

Policy Council Delegate for your Center:

_____

Phone No: _____

Policy Council Alternate for your Center:

_____

Phone No: _____

Some out-of-pocket expenses are paid to Policy Council representatives from the program Parent Activity Fund. The council updates the budget annually and determines the amount of reimbursement. All parents/guardians are invited to attend the Policy Council meetings and to participate. However, only elected representatives may vote.

The Policy Council has subcommittees that plan and conduct activities related to the Pre-K/Head Start service areas, such as social services, education, disabilities services, and health. Other subcommittees focus on issues related to program operation.

Responsibilities of the Policy Council

- Prepares a budget for the Parent Activity Fund
- Participates in the program evaluations
- Supports action on child and family legislation
- Arranges programs with guest speakers
- Hosts family outings and events
- Helps prepare the program budget and the project proposal
- Serves on service-area committees
- Develops plans for recruiting children

Child Development and Education

Children do a great deal of playing in the Pre-K/Head Start program. Play is the work of small children; this is the way they learn. As children prepare for success in kindergarten, they will do the following:

- Develop small and large muscles
- Listen to stories and look at books
- Paint, draw, and create
- Explore science materials
- Play house and act out stories and songs
- Listen, dance, sing, and make music
- Work puzzles and play games
- Recognize names, colors, and numbers
- Learn to share and cooperate

Pre-K/Head Start promotes children's emotional, intellectual, social, and physical growth.

A Typical Pre-K/Head Start Day

- Opening and Welcome Routines
- Whole and Small Group Mathematics
  - » Number concepts, sorting and patterns
- Whole and Small Group Language and Literacy
  - » Concepts about print, phonemic awareness, oral language and vocabulary development
- Learning Centers and Exploration
  - » Dramatic play, science, social skills
- Outdoor Play
  - » Physical motor, social activites
- Lunch

Other Things to Know About the MCPS Pre-K and Head Start Programs

Meals

Head Start children receive a school lunch each day at no cost to families. Schools with breakfast programs also may provide breakfast for Head Start children, if class begins early.

Cooking and tasting activities in class give Pre-K/Head Start children other experiences with new foods and good nutrition. Parents/guardians are invited to help plan and cook with the children.

As volunteers or visitors, Head Start parents/guardians are invited to share lunch in the classroom with their children when they come to school.

Field Trips
Field trips expand the children's cultural experiences, broaden their horizons, and increase understanding of their own environments.

Personal Safety
As a part of the safety curriculum, children will be taught personal safety techniques, including giving them permission to say "no" to adults, and encouraging children to tell an adult they trust when they feel their safety is threatened. Parents/guardians need to know that Maryland state law requires staff and volunteers to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect.

Speech/Language
Pre-K/Head Start's speech/language pathologists and psychologists have early-childhood education special training; they provide services for children and families.

Clothing
Play clothes are appropriate for Pre-K/Head Start. Sometimes children spill things, get wet, or have accidents on their clothing. Parents/guardians are requested to send a change of clothing labeled with the child's name so that fresh clothes will be available when needed. Raincoats, boots, gloves, and other types of clothes also need to be marked with your child's name to prevent mix-ups.

Attendance
It is important that students attend school every day and arrive on time. Regular attendance is necessary in order for each child to receive the most benefit from the Pre-K/Head Start experience. Going to school regularly and being on time are important factors in the attitude your child will develop about school. A positive attitude about school and regular attendance will pay off in the years to come.

When children arrive to school on time, they have a better educational and social experience in Pre-K/Head Start. If your child is sick, call the school and leave a message for the teacher. When your child is able to return, send a note with the child to explain the absence. Please keep your child's teacher informed of any illness or emergency. If your child is absent 3 days or more in a month, follow-up with the family service worker will be conducted, whether the days are consecutive or nonconsecutive. If your child is absent 10 days or more consecutively, or your child is chronically absent, your child may be withdrawn from the program.

Home Visits and Parent-Teacher Conferences
For students in Head Start, your child's teacher and paraeducator will visit your home to meet with you before school starts in September. For students in Pre-K, your child's teacher and paraeducator will conduct a family visit at school or at home. Head Start families will receive another home visit in February. Also, you will have two conferences—one in November and one in June. Parents/guardians can arrange to meet with their child's teacher at other times by calling the school to schedule an appointment.

Home visits and conferences with the classroom teacher provide an excellent opportunity to share information about your child. This ongoing communication can lead to lasting partnerships between home and school. When such partnerships are created, your child has a better chance for a happy and successful school experience.

Emergency Closings
In case of bad weather or other emergencies, MCPS schools may be closed for the entire day or school opening may be delayed for two hours.

- If school opening is delayed for two hours, Pre-K/Head Start morning classes will not meet. Afternoon classes will meet as usual.
- If schools close early because of inclement weather, Pre-K/Head Start children in the morning classes may be returned home early; afternoon Pre-K/Head Start classes will not meet.
- If school is closed all day, or if there is an early closing of school, all evening activities will be canceled automatically, and there will be no Policy Council meeting or adult education classes.

School-closing information is broadcast on local radio and television stations, the MCPS cable channels, and the MCPS website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org). You also can get information on the MCPS X account (x.com/MCPS); the MCPS Facebook account (www.facebook.com/mcpsmd/); and MCPS will send out messages via Connect-ED (a recorded phone and e-mail messaging system that uses emergency contact numbers and e-mail addresses supplied by parents/guardians). Also, you can sign up to receive text and e-mail messages through Montgomery County's alert system (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx).

Early Release Days
Pre-K/Head Start classes are scheduled differently on early release days. Your child's teacher will inform you of the times of departure. Also, a reminder will be sent before these early release days occur:

September 18

December 23

February 26

Children with Disabilities

Pre-K/Head Start programs provide inclusive learning opportunities for children with disabilities within the general education setting. Head Start is a federally funded program that mandates inclusion of children with disabilities in 10 percent of the program enrollment slots. In addition, through partnership with the MCPS Preschool Education Program (PEP), additional enrollment slots are reserved for children with disabilities in the many Pre-K classrooms as well. Children with disabilities share Pre-K/Head Start classrooms with typically developing peers (inclusion model) and receive all services and privileges enjoyed by all Pre-K/Head Start children. Classroom activities and experiences are adapted to accommodate children with disabilities whenever and wherever needed.

Parents/guardians, educators, and children enjoy the inclusion model, as it is a time when all children learn and grow together. Staff members answer questions parents/guardians have about their child's development. Also, staff members provide parents/guardians with at-home activities that assist their child with a particular area of need. Children receive screenings in various areas of development (educational, speech/language, vision, dental, and hearing.) If, through the screenings, an educational disability is suspected, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team (e.g., teachers, parents/guardians and school psychologist, special educator, speech pathologist, nurse, etc.) meet to determine the need for further assessments. If further assessments are recommended, the school must obtain parent/guardian consent for the recommended assessments.

Once the assessments and evaluations have been completed, the IEP team must determine if an educational disability is present and, if so, which one of the federal educational disability codes best describes the student's disability. Once the existence of the educational disability has been determined and the IEP team has determined that the disability impacts the student's learning, appropriate goals and special education services will be discussed.

Services needed may be provided through the Pre-K/Head Start program or other MCPS programs. If your child needs more special education services than what can be provided in the Pre-K/Head Start classroom or services other than those provided by MCPS, Pre-K/Head Start staff will help parents/guardians locate the recommended services.

Things to look for in your child's development:

- Speech and Language: Is your child able to speak clearly and understand language?
- Cognitive: Is your child learning and developing in the same way as other children their age?
- Gross and Fine Motor: Is your child "clumsy" or does your child have trouble using their hands to play with blocks or scribble on paper?
- Social/Emotional: Does your child get along with other children and adults?
- Attention: Does your child have more difficulty sitting still or paying attention than other children their age?
- Hearing or vision: Does your child squint when looking at books or watching TV? Does your child respond appropriately to sounds in their environment?

Notify your teacher if you have concerns about your child's development, or call Pre-K/Head Start at 240-740-4530.

English Learners

In accordance with federal and state requirements, parents/guardians of all Pre-K/Head Start students complete the Maryland Home Language Survey at the time of registration. It provides information about the language your child speaks at home.

Health Services

As a requirement for Pre-K/Head Start, all students must have a physical examination, state and federal required immunizations, blood lead testing, and a dental examination. If your child does not have a source of health care to receive the physical examination and immunizations, please let your child's teacher, family service worker, or the school nurse know so that we may assist you in getting these services. You may be financially eligible for state or local health and nutrition programs for your family, which are available at the following Office of Eligibility and Support Services (OESS) locations:

12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874 240-777-3591

1401 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852 240-777-3120

8630 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910 240-777-3066

4910 Macon Road
Rockville, MD 20852 240-740-4430

All immunizations given at Montgomery County health centers and the MCPS Health Services Center at Rocking Horse Road Center (4910 Macon Road, Rockville) are offered at low cost to families. Please keep a record of the immunizations your child receives.

During the school year, your child will receive screenings for dental, hearing, vision, height, and weight.

If your child will need any medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) during the school day, you must provide the school with an authorized prescriber's order and complete MCPS Form 525-13, *Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication* (available at your child's school and on the MCPS website: *www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-13.pdf*). Prescription medication must be labeled properly by a pharmacist and brought to school in its original container. Nonprescription over-the-counter medication must be in the manufacturer's original container with the seal intact. MCPS Form 525-14, *Emergency*

Care for the Management of a Student with a Diagnosis of Anaphylaxis, is the preferred authorized prescriber's order form for epinephrine auto-injectors (*www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf*). All medications MUST be hand-delivered to school by the parent or guardian. If your child has any health problems, particularly those that may require emergency action, such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or an allergy to insect stings or food, please notify the principal and school nurse.

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

The Head Start program requires that each federally eligible family develop a family partnership agreement called a Family Development Plan (FDP) with a designated Pre-K/Head Start staff member. The FDP is a process for determining family strengths and needs and assisting families in achieving their personal goals.

Pre-K/Head Start staff form partnerships with other community agencies and link parents/guardians to support services such as employment, housing, food, clothing, family literacy, domestic violence, and substance abuse resources. Families are encouraged to complete the FDP to coordinate services between Pre-K/Head Start and community agencies and avoid duplication of efforts.

Community resource information and support is provided by the Pre-K/Head Start family service worker assigned to your child's class. Contact them at 240-740-4530. Each family will receive a community resource guide to assist them with current and future needs. Both individual and family counseling, including emergency and crisis intervention, are provided by the Pre-K/Head Start social workers. All information is confidential.

Each month, parents/guardians are invited to assist the family service worker and the teaching team in planning a parent/guardian education workshop at their child's school. Topics include child growth and development, health and nutrition, family involvement in school readiness, language and literacy, and personal safety. Also, some meetings are held via Zoom to facilitate more parent engagement and attendance. Zoom meeting information such as meeting ID and password are shared by the family service worker in advance.

In order to have a high-quality Pre-K/Head Start program, parents/guardians and staff need to share their talents, knowledge, time, and energy so that children can receive the maximum benefits. Parents/guardians who participate in the program show their children that learning and sharing are important. Parents/guardians participate in the following ways:

Helping to make decisions about the nature and operation of the program by—

- electing one parent/guardian to be the center representative at the Policy Council meetings,
- attending the Policy Council meetings,
- organizing and running center meetings,
- planning ways to help the center and the program to operate effectively,
- working on the program budget and project proposal, and
- helping with the annual program evaluation.

Working in the classroom as a volunteer, observer, or paid employee, by—

- visiting the classroom
- chaperoning field trips
- volunteering regularly in the classroom
- gaining employment as a paraeducator, substitute paraeducator, family service worker, etc.

Developing activities for parents/guardians, including—

- planning and carrying out family activities
- working with county and nonprofit organizations to improve communities
- using community resources

Working with their children at home in cooperation with the Pre-K/Head Start staff, including—

- using games or activities at home that encourage children to learn, and
- using techniques learned about child development

Volunteers

Parent/guardian participation in Pre-K/Head Start is extremely important and is encouraged. Parents/guardians support their children and Pre-K/Head Start by visiting and helping in the classroom. Also, parents/guardians help by going on field trips, making suggestions to improve the program, and preparing classroom materials at home. If you can help as a regular volunteer, talk with your child's teacher and schedule the day of the week when you are available to volunteer in the class. If daytime hours are limited, you can discuss other ways you can help at home. Call the Pre-K/Head Start Unit at 240-740-4530 for more information.

All volunteers who regularly support schools and students and those who attend field trips, must complete an online training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect." The training is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese on the MCPS website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org. When you complete the training, you should print the certificate of completion and give it to your child's school. Remember that all volunteers need to sign in and out of the school building using the Visitor Management System (VMS), at the beginning and end of each volunteer activity and wear a volunteer identification name tag at all times.

You are recommended to have a tuberculosis (TB) test before volunteering in the classroom. To get a TB test, please call the school nurse at your child's school.

Transportation

MCPS bus transportation may be requested, but it is not guaranteed. Parents/guardians who request and are assigned bus transportation are responsible for their children on the way to the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the way home from the bus stop. Please bring your child to the bus each morning and meet the bus each afternoon. Bus schedules are approximate and may vary due to weather, traffic, and student changes. It is best to be present at the bus stop at least five minutes ahead of the normal arrival time. If you are unable to meet the bus and you have chosen another responsible adult to do so (e.g., child care provider, grandparent), please notify your child's teacher or paraeducator in writing. Keep the school phone number in your cell phone or other convenient place in case of emergency.

If you or your designee fail to meet your child, they will be returned to school. If you or your designee fail to meet the bus three times, you must meet with the family service worker. If problems continue, transportation privileges may be terminated. Also, behavior problems on the bus can result in termination of bus privileges.

Parent/Center Committee Meetings

Parents/guardians, teaching staff, and family service workers cooperate to plan parent/guardian meetings that provide information and fun.

Your child will bring home invitations for you to attend parent/guardian center committee meetings at the school and/or via Zoom. You may ride the bus with your child if space permits. Often, child care is provided.

Interpretation is available in multiple languages, including American Sign Language (ASL); please request interpreters in advance by letting your family service worker know.

Each Pre-K/Head Start class has a center committee to which all parents/guardians belong. The center committee meets monthly during class hours for the following reasons:

- Assisting parents/guardians in getting acquainted
- Making decisions about the Pre-K/Head Start class volunteers and field trips, and assisting in planning the best possible program for students
- Providing two-way communication between the school and the Pre-K/Head Start program
- Sending/receiving concerns and information to and from the Policy Council
- Conducting center business and sharing information on—
  - how children grow and develop
  - enjoyable ways to help children learn
  - how to stretch food dollars and cook nutritious meals
  - crafts and skills
  - helping students learn at home

Pre-K/Head Start is a family program. We need your help in the classroom, on the Policy Council, and in the whole program.

Other Information

Early Head Start

Early Head Start is an exciting program for families with children from birth to 3 years old. The program provides many of the same services as Head Start, and some that are special to Early Head Start. To apply, families must be pregnant or have children 26 months or younger.

Here's how to get more information about the program:

In the Silver Spring and Rockville areas:
Call Early Childhood Services, Early Head Start at 240-777-4769.

In the Langley Park/Silver Spring areas:
Call CentroNía, Early Head Start at 301-543-8040.

In the Gaithersburg/Germantown areas:
Call Easterseals, Early Head Start at 301-789-4357.

Child Care

Parents/guardians who need a child care provider can call LOCATE: Child Care at 1-877-261-0060, for free assistance with finding a licensed child care provider, school-age program, summer camp, preschool, and/or nursery school program. LOCATE identifies providers based on each family's individual needs, such as hours of care, location, number and ages of children, and child care cost. This service may be accessed in multiple languages.

LOCATE can identify providers located in or near the school's service area. In addition, counselors will provide tips on how to identify good-quality programs and easy-to-follow tips to help parents/guardians choose the right program for their child. LOCATE: Child Care identifies both family child care providers and child care centers that have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care.

Parents/guardians should look for high-quality programs that exhibit the following characteristics: the staff understands the developmental needs of the children; the program has a variety of educational materials, supplies, and games geared to the ages served; parents/guardians are welcomed and involved; and staff works with school personnel regarding schedules, policies, procedures, and programming.

State and county laws require that children under the age of 8 be supervised at all times by a parent/guardian, child care provider, or babysitter who is at least 13 years old. Parents/guardians also can search for child care information online at www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

You may apply for financial assistance to pay for child care through Montgomery County Health and Human Services: Working Parents Assistance (WPA) call 240-777-1177. A recording provides general information including how to determine scholarship if you are eligible. The Maryland State Child Care Scholarship Program offers assistance with the cost of child care to eligible working families; call 1-877-227-0125.

Words Often Used in Pre-K/Head Start

ACYF
Administration on Children, Youth, and Families—a federal agency that oversees the Head Start program.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE
A person who serves with the Policy Council but is not a parent/guardian of a current Pre-K/Head Start child; often parents/guardians who had children in the program previously or a representative of an organization or county agency.

CURRICULUM
The instructional framework that supports children's learning.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FDP)
An opportunity for families, with support from their family service worker, to set family goals and develop a written plan with steps for follow-up and completion. Also called a family partnership agreement.

GRANT
Money provided to finance the Head Start program, as described in a written proposal.

GRANTEE AGENCY
The agency that receives funds from ACYF to finance the Head Start program—Montgomery County Community Action Agency.

DELEGATE AGENCY
The agency that is responsible for daily operation of the Pre-K/Head Start program—Montgomery County Public Schools.

POLICY COUNCIL
The parent/center committee representatives who assist in policy making for the Pre-K/Head Start program.

FEDERAL REVIEW
The routine Head Start program assessment conducted by the federal government.

SCHOOL READINESS
A child has the skills, abilities, and attitudes necessary for school success.

SELF-ASSESSMENT
The program self-evaluation process conducted by parents/guardians and staff annually.

Pre-K/Head Start TOT Line: 240-740-4580

A special telephone line is available for Pre-K/Head Start parents/guardians to use when they have questions or concerns about their child's behavior or development. Call for specific suggestions on handling problems. The TOT Line operates Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2026–2027 Pre-K/Head Start Calendar

2026	
August 17-21	Professional days for teachers
August 24-28	Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students
August 25	First day of school for students (K–12)
August 31 and September 1	Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students
September 7	Labor Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
September 18	Early release day for all students
September 21	No School for all students
October 1	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
October 13	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
October 14	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
October 15	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
October 16	No School for all students
October 22	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)
November 2	No school for all students; end of quarter planning
November 3	Election Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
November 5	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
November 19	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
November 23, 24 and 25	Parent-Teacher Conferences—No school for PART-DAY Pre-K and Head Start students; early release for FULL DAY Pre-K and Head Start students
November 26 and 27	Thanksgiving—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
December 3	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
December 10	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
December 15	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
December 16	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)
December 17	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
December 23	Early release day for all students
December 24-31	Winter Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed December 24, 25, 30 and 31

2027	
January 1	New Year's Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
January 4	Classes Resume
January 7	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 13	Fatherhood Activity—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 14	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 18	Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
January 25	No school for all students; end of quarter planning
January 26-29	Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students
February 4	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
February 15	Presidents' Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
February 18	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
February 18	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
February 23	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
February 24	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group C)
February 26	Early release day for all students
March 1	Prekindergarten/Head Start registration begins for fall 2027
March 4	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 9	No School for all students
March 10	Fatherhood Activity—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 18	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 26 and 29	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed
March 30 and 31	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers
April 1 and 2	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed
April 5	Classes Resume
April 8	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
April 12	No school for all students; end of quarter planning
April 22	No school for all students
April 22	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 6	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 12	Fatherhood Activity—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 17	No School for all students
May 20	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 31	Memorial Day—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
June 3	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
June 10	Last day of school for Prekindergarten/Head Start Students
June 10	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom
June 11	Last Day of School (K–12)—Early release for students (K–12)
June 14	Professional Day for Teachers
June 18	Juneteenth Holiday Observed—SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED

MCPS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community's long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency. This Policy affirms the Board's belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.*

It is the policy of the state of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in compliance with:

(1) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

(2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not

- (a) discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
- (b) refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or
- (c) discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint.**

Please note that contact information and federal, state, or local content requirements may change between editions of this document and shall supersede the statements and references contained in this version. Please see the online version for the most up-to-date information at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/nondiscrimination.

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students*	**For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff***
Department of Student Conduct and Appeals Student Welfare and Compliance Team Division of Equity and Organizational Development 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 | SWC@mcpsmd.org	Human Resource Compliance Officer Division of Human Resources and Talent Management Department of Compliance and Investigations 15 West Gude Drive, Suite B400, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 | DCI@mcpsmd.org
For student requests for accommodations under *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*	**For staff requests for accommodations under the *Americans with Disabilities Act***
Section 504 Coordinator Division of Specialized Support Services, Department of School Counseling 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 170, Rockville, MD 20850 240-987-8031 | 504@mcpsmd.org	ADA Compliance Coordinator Division of Human Resources and Talent Management Department of Compliance and Investigations 15 West Gude Drive, Suite B400, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 | DCI@mcpsmd.org
For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff*	
Department of Student Conduct and Appeals, Title IX Team Division of Equity and Organizational Development 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 | TitleIX@mcpsmd.org	

**This notification complies with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.*

***This notification complies with the Code of Maryland Regulations Section 13A.01.07.*

****Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mccr@maryland.gov; Agency Equity Officer, Office of Equity Assurance and Compliance, Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of Operations, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2595, oeac.msde@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 61 Forsyth St. S.W., Suite 19T10, Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-974-9406 and TDD: 800-877-8339, OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.*

This document is available, upon request, in languages other than English and in an alternate format under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837, 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay), or PIO@mcpsmd.org. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact the MCPS Office of Interpreting Services at 240-740-1800, 301-637-2958 (VP) mcpsinterpretingservices@mcpsmd.org, or MCPSInterpretingServices@mcpsmd.org.

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