



News from the Administration

June, 2012

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January 2012

JUNE HAS ARRIVED

Yes, June has arrived. It is amazing how quickly the last few weeks of school pass us by. It has been a year chock full of change and exciting new adventures. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the many end-of-year activities. The end of the year is always a whirlwind of activity and we don't want anyone missing a thing!

It is so exciting to see our new building taking shape. It is an amazing structure and its completion is on schedule. The square footage is increasing from approximately 58,000 square feet to over 96,000 square feet. The entire building will be certified a "Green School," which will provide many learning opportunities for our students. Our roof will be a truly "green" roof because it will be covered with foliage and plants to help keep the building cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

As we continue on our path to "greener" living, please look for our summer information letter to be sent electronically, saving paper and postage.



Look who else has a "New Nest" at BFES! Five baby birds sing to our students under the rafters leading out to the playground and portables. They already know Beverly Farms is the place to be!

THANK YOU

The activities and gifts our PTA showered upon the staff during Staff Appreciation Week was truly amazing. Everyone felt pampered and appreciated. It was filled with heartfelt gestures and surprises that will last well beyond the week. Thank you so very much for all that you do.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 28** Memorial Day – No School
- May 29** School Day Band Concert K–5
- May 31** FIELD DAY K–2 9:30–11:30
- June 1** FIELD DAY 3–5 9:30–11:30
- June 5** 11:00 Volunteer Tea- Media Center
- June 7** 6:00-8:00 End-of-Year Picnic
- June 11** 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 1:00 – 4:00 Churchill HS
- June 12** Last Day of School Early Dismissal 1:00 pm
- June 21** Report Cards Mailed

Curriculum 2.0 Implementation for 2012-2013 School Year

For the past three years, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has been implementing our exciting elementary school curriculum, called Curriculum 2.0. All students in kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2 have been taught using Curriculum 2.0 this year and the feedback from students, parents, and staff members has been very positive. In 2012–2013, we will begin using Curriculum 2.0 in all third-grade classes and we will improve our current report card to give parents more information about how students are performing in specific areas. Curriculum 2.0 is designed to make sure our students not only have the academic knowledge they need, but also develop the important skills they will need to succeed in the 21st century. There are three major elements of Curriculum 2.0:

- Internationally driven standards in math, reading, and writing: Instruction in these key areas is based on the strength of the Common Core State Standards, adopted by Maryland and 45 others states as the foundation for what students need to learn and know in math, reading, and writing.
- Renewed focus on teaching the whole child: Curriculum 2.0 puts more focus on subjects like the arts, science, social studies, and physical education by connecting these areas with core subjects.
- Critical thinking and creativity: Curriculum 2.0 is designed to develop academic, creative, and critical thinking skills that build confidence in students and prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

The report card for students in Grades K–3 will be improved to give parents more information about what a student knows and is able to do in relation to grade-level expectations. This "standards-based report card" will break subject areas into groups of related skills or topics and provide specific information about how a student is doing in each area. The report cards for Grades 4 and 5 will not be changed next school year.

Much more information will be shared with parents at the beginning of the new school year, but if you have questions about Curriculum 2.0 or the new report card, visit the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/>.

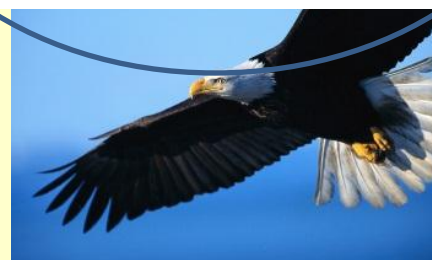
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MCPS WEBPAGE

MCPS Spanish website. MCPS recently launched a refreshed version of the Spanish section of the MCPS website. The revamped site features news stories, highlights upcoming events, and provides information on important resources for Spanish-speaking families. The website can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/>.

Superintendent's Book Club. Hundreds of parents, staff, students and community members joined Dr. Starr at the three book club events he held this school year. At the first book club event, Dr. Starr and members of the audience discussed *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck. *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* by Daniel Pink was featured at the second book club, and *The Global Achievement Gap* by Tony Wagner was discussed at the final book club. Video and related materials from the book club events are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/bookclub.aspx.

Spring Forums. Superintendent Joshua P. Starr held four forums this spring on topics of importance to the MCPS community—English language learners, gifted education, special education, and social and emotional learning. Video and related materials from the forums are available at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/springforums/>.



MCPS TV

Mcpssuper is a new program hosted by Superintendent Starr that provides an in-depth look at the important work being done in MCPS. In the first episode, Dr. Starr visits Oakland Terrace Elementary School and takes viewers inside the classroom to see Curriculum 2.0 in action. Dr. Starr then talks with two teachers from Oakland Terrace to learn more about their experience implementing Curriculum 2.0. The program can be seen on MCPS TV (Comcast 34, RCN 89, Verizon 36); the program guide is available at www.mcpstv.org. Mcpssuper also can be viewed online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/mcpssuper/.

MCPS News Update is a weekly, five-minute news program that shares important information and highlights with the MCPS community. The program is cablecast on MCPS TV and featured at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/news/>. The program for the week of May 28 includes the following stories:

- Tentative agreement reached with MCPS employee associations
- MCPS Counselor of the Year award recipients announced
- Dr. Kimberly Statham appointed deputy superintendent
- Cold Spring Elementary named a winner in America's Home Energy Challenge
- Hundreds of 4th graders learn math and science baking bread

New Ways for Spanish-Speaking Families to Connect with MCPS Noticias de MCPS is a new TV program for the MCPS Spanish-speaking community. The weekly update features news, information, and stories about MCPS' great students and staff. The show is broadcast on MCPS TV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) and can be viewed online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news. Also be sure to follow MCPS on Twitter in Spanish (www.twitter.com/mcpsespanol) and visit the new version of the MCPS Spanish website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es.

In Spanish:

Nuevas Formas de Conectarse con MCPS para Familias que Hablan Español Noticias de MCPS es un nuevo programa de televisión para la comunidad de MCPS que habla español. La actualización semanal ofrece noticias, información, e historias sobre los excelentes maestros y estudiantes de MCPS. El programa se transmite en MCPSTV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89) y se puede ver en línea www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news. De igual forma, asegúrese de seguir a MCPS por Twitter en español (www.twitter.com/mcpsespanol) y visite la nueva versión de la página internet de MCPS en español www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es