



Welcome to Back to School Night!

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

College Gardens
Elementary School



@cgesgators





Mrs. Barrett

Kindergarten Teacher

Wendolyn_A_Barrett@mcpsmd.org

I am beginning my 21st year teaching in MCPS. This is my 16th year at CGES and 16th year teaching kindergarten. I have also taught 1st grade and 2nd grade.

Shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!

I attended the University of Maryland and earned a BS in Early Childhood Education. I was born in Massachusetts and have lived in every New England state except Vermont.

I have two adult daughters, Taylor and Olivia. Both of my daughters (and husband!) are products of the MCPS system. I am a Patriots and Redsox fan. I enjoy reading, organizing, hearing live music, movies, and going to the beach.



Ms. Dias

“Jee-ahs”

Kindergarten Teacher

This is my 6th year teaching at CGES and 11th year overall in education. I have taught kindergarten and 2nd grade.

I attended Towson University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education.

I was born and raised in Brazil. My birth city is called “Rondon do Pará” located in the state of Pará. I love to travel, read, listen to music, and spend time with friends & family.

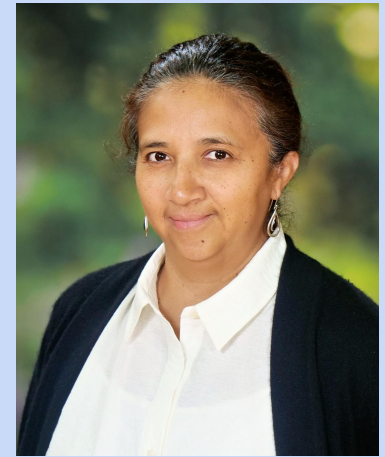




Mrs. Tubiolo

Early Childhood Education

Nidia_A_Tubiolo@mcpsmd.org



This is my 17 year of teaching and my 16 at CGES! I am also a former CGES parent! :)

I attended UMBC with a degree in Modern Languages and an Early Childhood Education Certification. I also attended GMU and received a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and an IB certificate in teaching and learning.

I was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia. I have been in the USA for over 30 years. I have two children: David a 10th grader, and Jacob an 8th grader! I speak Spanish, love to cook, read and go for hikes too! And as a good latina I love to dance!

Mrs. Rank

Special Education Home School Model

Leslie_g_rank@mcpsmd.org

- Teaching for 18 years in MCPS.
- I have taught 17 years at CGES in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade.
- 1st year teaching Special Education HSM.

- Graduated from Frostburg State University 2007
- Master Degree in Special Education from Towson 2013

- I was born and raised in North Potomac and a proud Wootton Patriot!
- I live in Potomac with my husband Sam, and our 3 boys, Aaron (10), Caleb (7), and Ethan(4).
- I enjoy working out, Mahj Jongg, and reality TV.



Ms. Kitsoulis

I began my teaching career in MCPS in 1997. I have taught 4th and 5th grade and have tutored students in K-12 in reading, writing and math. This is my 9th year at CGES teaching ELD and my 8th year teaching ELD in kindergarten.

I graduated from Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and certification in Elementary Education and graduated from UMD with a master's degree in 2016 Teaching English as a Second Language.

I was born and raised in Rockville, MD and am a proud graduate of Rockville High School.

I have a son, daughter and a poodle. I love doing yoga and zumba!



Stronger Together: Every Voice, Every Gator, Every Day

A community that
listens, grows, and
thrives—together.



► Our Administration

Ms. Yvonne Sanya
Principal



Ms. Thomas Ryan
Assistant Principal



Meet our Front Office team!

Ms. Armi Sardarbeggians
Administrative Secretary



Ms. Shirleeta Sewell
(currently on leave)



Counselor & PYP Coordinator

Ms. Karen Dobson
Counselor



Ms. Rachel Johns
IB PYP Coordinator



Staff Development Teacher & Reading Specialist

Mrs. Marjorie O'Brien



Ms. Amy Taylor
Reading Specialist



Health Room

Ms. April Medellin
School Nurse



Ms. Tierra Riggs
Health Technician

What is the College Gardens and IB Mission?

Vision

As an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School we will provide an engaging and open-minded learning community where all members collaborate respectfully to challenge and motivate one another within a safe and nurturing environment.

Mission

We develop and support a successful and inclusive environment where all students actively participate in and assume ownership of their learning. As a unified staff and community, we create a rigorous instructional program, which promotes globally minded, creative, confident, and reflective lifelong learners.

What is the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)?



A way of learning that helps children:

- **Ask questions & explore** – curiosity drives learning
- **Make connections** – link what they learn to the real world
- **Work together** – learn through play, collaboration, and discussion
- **Think globally** – understand themselves and others in a big, connected world
- **Develop the whole child** – focusing on academics, social skills, and emotional growth



What is the IB Learner Profile?

The learner profile is at the heart of all of the IB Programmes of study. Throughout student's experience at College Gardens, they will work towards exhibiting the traits of an IB Learner and an active global citizen.

Inquirers

Knowledgeable

Thinkers

Communicators

Principled

Open-minded

Caring

Risk-takers

Balanced

Reflective



Units of Inquiry in the PYP



Who We Are

How We Express Ourselves

How We Organize Ourselves

Sharing the Planet

How the World Works

Where We Are in Place and Time

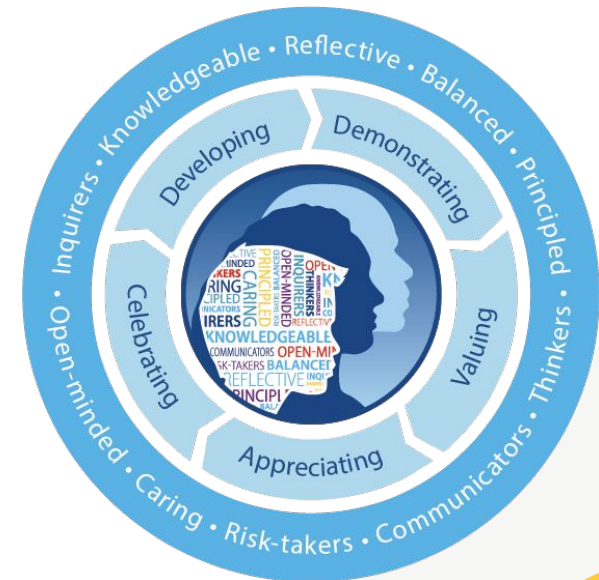
BeIB



Students may receive 'Be IB' stickers throughout the school day.

1 sticker = 1 ticket to be used at our Gator Store

In order to receive a sticker, students must be showing a great example of one of our PYP Learner Profile Attributes.



Typical Day in Kindergarten

Our typical learning day is transdisciplinary. During the day, we allow for student inquiry in ALL subject areas (math, reading, writing, social studies, science, etc.) based on our PYP units of inquiry.

Students have lunch and recess every day.

Lunch 11:00-11:30

Recess 11:30-12:00

Specials in Kindergarten

Physical Education

Mrs. Jennell Moore

**Mr. Emmett Fiawoo
(Friday)**



Specials in Kindergarten

Art

Mr. Gary Cousin



**Ms. Heather Jang
(Wednesdays Only)**



Specials in Kindergarten

Music

Mr. Andrew Hartnett

**Ms. Charlotte Sienkiewicz
(Tuesdays Only)**



Specials in Kindergarten

Chinese Mandarin

Ms. Lanhwei Blee



Specials in Kindergarten

Media Center

Mrs. Cynthia Kelly

Media Specialist



Mrs. Lesley Cross

Media Assistant



How it Works

CKLA is built on the science of how kids learn to read.



SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE

SKILLED
READING

How can *YOU* help your child be successful in math?

- **Practice rote counting to 100**
- **Practice counting to 31 with 1 to 1 correspondence**
- **Practice writing numbers to 20**
- **Practice identifying numbers to 20**
- **Practice identifying shapes and colors**
- **Practice positional words**

How can *YOU* help your child be successful in English Language Arts (ELA)?

- **Practice writing first and last name**
- **Identify letter sounds**
- **Identify upper and lower case letters**
- **Read with your child for 20 minutes every night**
- **If your child is writing already, practice writing a sentence ending with a punctuation mark (. ? !)**

Self Help Skills to Practice Independence

- Tying shoes
- Zipping your coat, backpack, lunchbox
- Buttoning and zipping pants
- Bathroom independence
- Recognizing name
- Opening food/drink containers
- Following directions from adults



Required Testing Fall

September/October

- DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) K-2
- MAP-P (Measures of Academic Progress - Primary) K-2
- EUREKA assessments throughout the school year.
- CKLA assessments related to reading & writing
- KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)

DIBELS and MAP-P assessments will occur again in the winter and spring.

Fall Conferences



Gators
Give Back



Monday, November 24
Tuesday, November 25

Is your ParentVUE account activated?

For more information visit:



Prefer an app?

ParentVue is available for both Apple and Android. Your account must be activated on the web before joining an app.

Full Menu

HOME

ABOUT US

SCHOOLS

PARENTS

STUDENTS

ACADEMICS

STAFF

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT

COVID-19

CAREERS

Q

STAFF DIRECTORY

MCPS DIGITAL BACKPACK

A 21st century digital learning environment specifically designed to meet the needs of staff, students, and parents of MCPS!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Letters

All MCPS Parents/guardians will receive a myMCPS Parent Portal activation letter via email or mail. Families of students who enroll in MCPS after this initial mailing will receive an activation letter within 1 week of the student's enrollment date. Email communication and letters are available in the following languages: Email: Español | 中文 | français | tiếng Việt | 한국어 | ಹೆಬ್ರעו Letter: Español | 中文 | français | tiếng Việt | 한국어 | ಹೆಬ್ರעו

myMCPS Classroom

From teaching and learning to community outreach to professional development, myMCPS Classroom is the next generation digital learning environment for staff and students!
**Parents/Guardians can access myMCPS Classroom via ParentVUE*

LOGIN TO MYMCPs CLASSROOM

ParentVUE

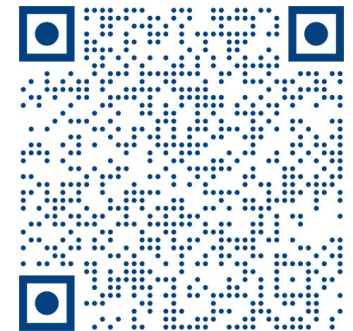
This school year, Synergy ParentVUE will replace the Parent Portal as the primary home-to-school communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, log into myMCPS Classroom, and more.

LOGIN INTO PARENTVUE

Apple App



Android App



Arrival Procedures

Start time

Our doors open at 9:15 AM, please ensure you arrive on time for your child to successfully unpack to start learning on time.

9:25 AM is when students should be seated and ready to learn

Breakfast

Students may pick up breakfast at the cafeteria when they arrive and eat it in their classroom.

Arrival Procedures

Kiss & Ride

- Open 9:15 - 9:25 A.M. The entrance to our lot closes promptly at 9:25
- If you arrive after 9:25, you must park and walk your child into the office to sign them in for a late pass.
- Remember that it is only a right turn into our lot and right turn out. Do not stop on Yale Place between our lot and bus loop entrance to let your child exit the car.

Walking to School

- We encourage students to walk to school
- We ask that if parents walk their child to school and pass our side parking lot that they say goodbye and give hugs to their child at the parking lot crosswalk to help us keep traffic flowing and limit the number of times we stop traffic moving in and out of our lot.

Arrival Procedures



Only buses should enter the bus loop.

K-5 Bus riders and walkers should enter using the main entrance.

Kiss & Ride Service.

Tubiola

Dias &

Barrett

Kinder walkers and car riders exit from their exterior doors.

Dismissal Procedures

End time

3:50 P.M. is the end of our instructional school day

Independent walkers will exit out of our classroom exit doors. Families will meet students at their respective classroom doors.

- Barrett and Dias DOOR 10 & Tubiolo, DOOR 9
- If you have not picked up your child by 3:55 P.M., they will be taken to the main office to call home and wait for you there.
- If your child is taking the bus home, be sure that you are present at the bus stop before the bus arrives.
- The bus drivers are permitted to leave all students which includes kindergarten students at the bus stop without an adult being present.

End of Day Calls to Office

Changes to the normal dismissal procedures please notify the office by calling 240-740-0150 as soon as possible.

School Meals

Breakfast and Lunch

- Students may purchase breakfast in the morning and eat it in their classrooms. The cost of breakfast is \$1.30.
- Students will order lunch daily with their homeroom teacher. Lunch purchased from the school is \$2.55. Lunch is held in the All Purpose Room (APR). Students may order a hot lunch or bring a lunch from home.
- If bringing a lunch from home, please pack your child's lunchbox with non-glass containers.

Menus

View the menu online at:

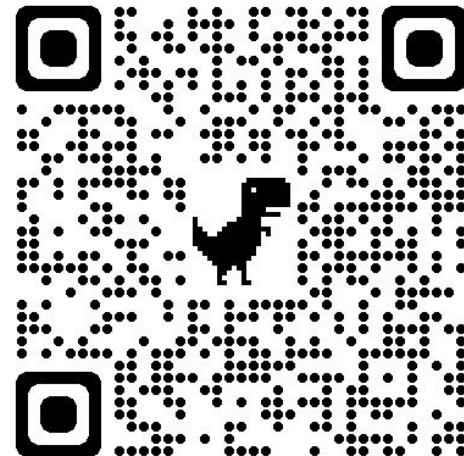


Online School Payments

All school payments may be made online using our new online tool: SchoolCash.

During the year, field trips may also be paid online. We appreciate donations to sponsor additional students.

The screenshot shows the SchoolCash Online website for Montgomery County Public Schools. The header includes the site name and navigation links for 'SIGN IN', 'ITEMS', and a shopping cart icon. Below the header, a banner promotes the service with the text 'Paying for school items just got easier! Sign up to get started today.' and features a 'What is SchoolCash Online?' section with 'Register' and 'Sign In' buttons. The page also highlights security certifications (CSAE 3416, PCI Compliant, SSAE 16) and lists benefits such as 24/7 secure payments, easy online shopping, safety for children, and time savings in managing school expenses. A 'KEV' logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the page content.



First Week of School CGES Kindergarten Switcheroo

How it Works:

- **First day of school students will stay with their homeroom teacher.**
- **On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday students will spend time in different kindergarten classrooms.**
- **Permanent classes will be made on Thursday, August 28th after school.**
- **An email will be sent home Thursday evening letting you know who your child's teacher will be for the remainder of the school year.**
- **Children will report to their permanent teacher classroom on Friday, August 29th.**
- **Schedules and class specific information will come home once classes are assigned.**

PTA Updates

Our PTA President is Mrs. Tina Gicale



Stay Informed

Weekly News Flash

This is a wonderful way to stay informed about what is happening at College Gardens. Sign up on the PTA website.

<https://cgespta.ptboard.com/home>

VOLUNTEERS

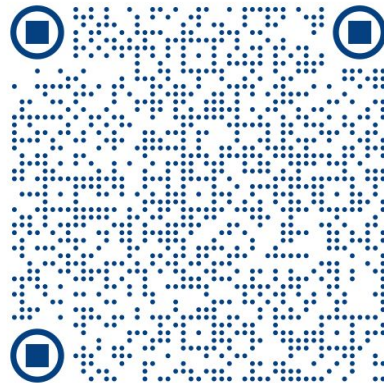


**Interested in becoming a CGES
Volunteer?**

**There are some important information
and steps you need to be aware of. Please
check MCPS website to guide you to this
process. The sooner you start it the faster
you can volunteer at our school.**

**Please use this link to find information about Volunteer Online
Training / Reporting Child and Abuse Neglect. This training is
valid for 3 years.**

If you have questions please contact the main office at our school.



Communication



Communication Folders

- Check and send your child's green folder to school every day.

Keeping in Contact

- Use the email address from the school website or provided by your child's teacher (@mcpsmd.org).
- Understanding that time is limited and valued. You should receive a response to emails within 2 days. Please send us another email if you don't hear from us...sometimes we make mistakes!

Frequently Asked Questions

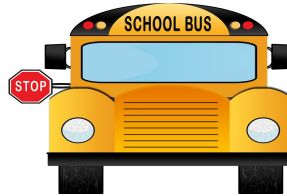
- **Breakfast:** Your child can buy breakfast at school and eat it in their classrooms.
- **Lunch:** Your child can bring a lunch box (labeled), or buy lunch at school. Students eat lunch in the All Purpose Room
- **Snack:** please send an individual snack (separate from lunchbox), so your child can eat it during the afternoon. (crackers, grapes, apples, etc). No glass containers, please.
- **Feel free to send a refillable water bottle with your child.** We have water fountains in our classroom.
- **Please no juice boxes or fruit cups**

Frequently Asked Questions

- Extra set of clothing labeled with your child's name in a bag (accidents can happen!)
- A labeled water bottle for your child **(NO GLASS)**.
- School supplies labeled with your child's name. Please send them during the second week of school (September 2nd).

How will your child get HOME from school every day?

IF THE FIRST DAY DISMISSAL IS DIFFERENT, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO THE TEACHER AND OR CALL THE MAIN OFFICE



Thanks!

Questions?