

# **Cresthaven Elementary School**

1234 Cresthaven Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903

Main Office: 240-740-0580



August 3, 2026

Greetings Cresthaven Families,

I am extremely proud to serve as the Principal of Cresthaven Elementary School and to be part of our inclusive, passionate, and committed learning community! Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

I hope you are all having a relaxing and enjoyable summer break! At Cresthaven, we have been busy preparing to welcome your child back to our school! Whether you are a new or returning family, we encourage you to read through this welcome letter carefully, as it contains important information and helpful links to support a smooth start to the school year.

This year, the theme at Cresthaven Elementary School is “*Intentionally Maximizing Every Learning Opportunity*.” This theme embodies our belief that every member (students, families, and staff) of our learning community has the opportunity to learn in every space that we occupy, whether it be in the classroom, at lunch, during recess, or on the way to and from school. As a community, we will work together to create a nurturing environment where all children are supported and challenged to unleash their potential. In line with our mission, we will continue to foster an environment that emphasizes intentional academic and social-emotional instruction, culturally relevant practices, and restorative approaches to achieve academic milestones and promote inclusivity.

## **Cresthaven’s New Administrative Team**

### **New Principal, Dr. Jeffrey D. Mehr:**

I’m excited to begin my first year as Principal at Cresthaven Elementary School and feel honored and humbled to continue serving our beloved learning community. This will be my seventh school year at Cresthaven, having previously served as Assistant Principal and, most recently last year, as Acting Principal. This year will be my twenty-sixth year in education and my twenty-first year serving Montgomery County Public Schools.

My family includes my wife, Cara, who is a middle school counselor also serving MCPS. Our son Callum will be turning five this fall and is preparing for Kindergarten the following school year. I love to read, go for a run, and spend much of my free time with my family exploring local parks and being outdoors.

Your child deserves a safe space to learn, grow, and meet their full potential! At Cresthaven, we look forward to partnering with families to foster an inclusive, connected learning environment in which students will grow academically and socially. I can’t wait to welcome you back to Cresthaven in just a few weeks, and we will continue our learning journey together!

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## New Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jennifer Smith:

I am excited to begin my first year as the Assistant Principal at Cresthaven Elementary! While new to this role, I have had the privilege of serving Cresthaven as a Staff Development Teacher here for the past 13 years. I have worked alongside our incredible teachers to strengthen instruction and support student growth across every grade level. In that time, I have come to know our students, families, and staff well, and I've seen firsthand what makes our school special: a shared commitment to helping every child thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I'm honored to step into this new role and continue that work in the new role.

My family includes my husband, John, my 13-year old son, Justin, and my 9-year-old daughter, Juliana. We also have three dogs (Max, Ava, and Bruce), a bearded dragon (Branch), and two gerbils (Cutie and Oreo). I spend most of my time on the sideline watching Justin on the soccer field or Juliana on the softball field. I also love reading, swimming, and being outdoors.

I look forward to partnering with you this year and getting to know even more of our families.

### Cresthaven Main Office Staff

Dr. Jeffrey D. Mehr, Principal, [jeffrey\\_mehr@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jeffrey_mehr@mcpsmd.org)

Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Assistant Principal, [jennifer\\_l\\_smith@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jennifer_l_smith@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Lucila Canales, Administrative Secretary, [lucila\\_j\\_canales@mcpsmd.org](mailto:lucila_j_canales@mcpsmd.org)

Mrs. Tatia Edmonds, School Secretary, [tatia\\_y\\_edmonds@mcps.org](mailto:tatia_y_edmonds@mcps.org)

Mrs. Lailaa Jazouli, Community School Liaison,

[lailaa\\_r\\_jazouli@mcpsmd.org](mailto:lailaa_r_jazouli@mcpsmd.org)

Mrs. Ana Medrano-Chavez, Parent Community Coordinator,

[ana\\_m\\_medrano-chavez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:ana_m_medrano-chavez@mcpsmd.org)

## 2026 - 2027 School Supply List

The school supply list for the 2026-2027 school year can be found here: [2026 - 2027 School Supplies List](#). Please note that any of the items on this list are considered personal instructional materials. These items are your child's personal materials, and they are not collected and pooled in classrooms. Please make sure that your child's materials are labeled with their name. The classroom teacher provides any materials not on this list. **Please contact your child's teacher, Ms. Jazouli or Ms. Medrano-Chavez, if you need assistance with providing supplies for your child(ren).**

**Stay Connected to Cresthaven Elementary School**

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## ParentSquare Direct Messaging App

Cresthaven Elementary School staff, central office staff, and parents will all use the ParentSquare Direct Messaging app to send and/or receive messages from your child's teacher, updates on school events and activities, and alerts about transportation, emergency closures, etc.

## Stay Connected with ParentVue

Synergy ParentVUE is the Parent Portal that serves as the primary source for home-to-school communication to share information regarding your child's grades, attendance, and scheduling. The ParentVue portal can also be used to send email messages to your child's teacher and communicate with the school administrators. ParentVue is also our school's primary source for parent and emergency contact information. Parents are encouraged to activate their account to ensure that you receive timely information, such as quarterly report cards and academic program status about accelerated programs and Magnet program application status and the like. We are here to assist you if you need to get connected; just contact the school office and let us know.

\*Information about logging into the Synergy ParentVue is here: [Synergy Quick Guide](#)

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|  The image features the text "Our Daily Schedule" in a large, black, cursive font. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a yellow alarm clock with a red base and a small red bell on top.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Bell Schedule:</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Students Enter the Building<br/>9:25 AM Class Begins<br/>3:50 PM Dismissal Begins</p> <p><b>*Early Dismissal Begins at 1:20 PM</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  The image shows a green cartoon car with a red balloon tied to its roof. On the roof, there are several colorful books (red, yellow, blue, and green) stacked on top of each other. The background is dark blue with various white icons representing school subjects like math, science, and art. The text "ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES" is written in white, bold, capital letters on the right side of the image. | <p><b>Daily Arrival and Dismissal:</b><br/>Student drop-off and pick up - first lot on the right. Please do not block driveways or crosswalks.</p> <p><b>Late Arrival:</b> After 9:25 AM, parents must sign in their child.</p> <p><b>Early Dismissal:</b> Students may be picked up early before 3:30 PM. Parent must present identification when picking students up early from school. Students will only be released to those persons authorized based on the current information on ParentVue. Parents must notify the office of any changes to who is authorized to</p> |

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|                                                                                   | pick up their child for early dismissal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | <p><b>Updated Bus Route Schedule:</b></p> <p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>The updated bus route schedule will be sent home via email and posted to the <a href="#">Cresthaven School Website</a> once we receive that information from the <a href="#">West Farm Transportation Depot</a>.</p> |

### **Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2026 - 2027 School Year:**

Cresthaven will continue to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision program. All students will continue to receive free breakfast and free lunch every school day. **Households DO NOT need to complete the Free and Reduced-price Meal (FARMS) application to receive free meal benefits at our school.** We encourage students to enjoy breakfast and lunch at Cresthaven.

**Volunteers:** Parents are encouraged to visit and to support school programs such as class or school events and field trips. If you wish to volunteer, you are required to complete the MCPS online training *Preventing, Recognizing, and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* before you may participate in school field trips or volunteer in school.

**Visit:** <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-engagement/volunteers/>

**\*All parents who visit the school will be required to log into the Visitor Management System with a picture ID card.**

**Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) Aftercare Program:** The EBB program will begin in October 2026. Registration information will be shared during September; stay tuned.

## **Back to School Events**

**August 21, 2026: Welcome to Cresthaven/OPEN HOUSE: 9:30 - 11:00 AM**

**Open House: Friday, August 21, 2026:** Visit your child's classroom and meet their homeroom teacher.

All families may come to the school building, visit their child's classroom, meet the teacher, and drop off student supplies or donations. We will welcome families between 9:30 and 11:00 AM.

\*Can't make the Open House? Don't worry, we will have plenty of Cresthaven staff on hand the first day, Tuesday, August 25th, and the entire first week of school to help your child locate their classrooms.

### **\*August 21, 2026: Meet the New Administrative Team:**

Come meet Dr. Jeffrey Mehr, Principal, and Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Assistant Principal. Let's get to

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know each other, share your ideas, hopes, and ways you would like to partner; also learn about Cresthaven policies and procedures, and ask questions.

-Session 1: 9:00 - 9:30 AM (All Purpose Room)

-Session 2: 10:30 - 11:00 AM (All Purpose Room)

### **Homeroom Teacher Introduction Emails:**

Homeroom teachers will send a welcome email by Tuesday, August 18th, introducing themselves and welcoming students to their classrooms. This email will serve as the official notification of your child's homeroom placement. Until then, please do not rely on any classroom information you may see in ParentSquare or Synergy, as those assignments are not considered official. **Please note that we do not take requests for specific teachers and do not make changes to teacher selection.** All of our teachers are amazing, and we go to great lengths to craft the best learning environments for all of our students.

### **MCPS Back to School Fair: Paint Branch High School, Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 - 12:00 PM**

MCPS Families will have access to MCPS staff from transportation, technology, special education, multilingual services, mental health, and other central offices who can answer questions and provide support. To make the day more enjoyable and memorable, the back-to-school fair will feature family-friendly activities, giveaways, and fun!

### **Transition Day for NEW Students, August 24, 2026**

Transition Day is intended to provide a positive onboarding transition for students who are attending a particular school for the first time. All third-grade students and all new 4th and 5th grade students to Cresthaven can attend a preview day on August 24th. **This is for students new to Cresthaven only.**

During Transition Day, students will go to assigned homerooms, engage in welcome activities, meet other new students, take a school tour, and have lunch and recess. Buses will pick your child up at the neighborhood stop and drop them off in the afternoon. We will send more information directly to third-grade families and new 4th and 5th-grade students' families later in August after we finalize further details.

**\*Students who previously attended Cresthaven will return to the building on Tuesday, August 25th.**

### **First School Day for All Students, Tuesday, August 25th**

We look forward to welcoming our students back starting on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026**. School hours are from **9:25 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.** Buses will run according to the attached schedule; however, please be patient the first few days as bus route times can vary.

### **Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 16, 2026- 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm (in-person).**

Back to School Night provides families an opportunity to visit classrooms and hear the latest school updates, including curriculum, schedules, and other important information.

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We encourage families to stay involved and informed about your child's educational journey at Cresthaven Elementary School. Should you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the main office.

We are so excited to begin our school year and continue to unleash your child's and our students' potential. We thank you for entrusting us with the education and development of your child. Together, we will make this a memorable year full of academic and social-emotional growth and learning! We look forward to welcoming your children back to Cresthaven soon.

In partnership,

Jeffrey Mehr, Ed.D.  
Principal, Cresthaven

Jennifer Smith  
Assistant Principal, Cresthaven