

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
MAY 2026



Dear Diamond Families,

We are in the home stretch to the 2025-2026 school year. The last marking period has been moving along quickly and extremely busy! The month of May is busy with field trips, end of the year assessments for grades K-5, state assessments for grades 3-5, and PTA events including our annual International Night, which will be held on Friday, May 29th from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Our building recently changed over the air units from heating to air-conditioning. Students should dress in layers and are encouraged to bring a sweatshirt or sweater to leave in class, especially since we have experienced several cold temperatures in the past few days or due to the building cooling system.

We wish all Diamond ES families a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend with family and friends! If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

MAY 2026 CALENDAR

May 4-8: Staff Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 5: Nature on Wheels - PreK & Kindergarten Classes

Wednesday, May 6: PTA Meeting at 6:30 pm in Media Center

Thursday, May 7: Flyer Distribution Day

Tuesday, May 12: 1st Grade In School Field Trip - Mount Rainier Presentation

Wednesday, May 13: 1st Grade In School Field Trip - Mount Rainier Presentation
4th/5th Grade Safety Patrol Picnic from 9:45am - 1:45pm

Tuesday, May 19: Kindergarten In-House Field Trip. & 2nd Grade Parent Lunches- 12:25-12:55 PM

Friday, May 22: Marking Period 4 Interims Distributed & 5th Grade Parent Lunches- 11:40-12:10

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day Holiday- No School for Students and Staff

Wednesday, May 27: No School for Students/Staff

Thursday, May 28: 1st Grade Parent Lunches- 1:20-1:50 PM

Friday, May 29: 5th Grade Panoramic Picture @ 9:45 AM (entire 5th grade w/ students and staff)
4th grade Parent Lunches- 1:35-2:05 PM
PTA sponsored International Night from 6:30-8:30 PM

MCAP Assessment for Grades 3-5: The state of Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which serve as the foundation for all MCPS Curriculum. The MCAP assessments are computer based and are divided into administered during the month of April/May. The students in grades 3-5 will complete four sessions in English/ Language Arts and four sessions in Mathematics. Student results of the MCAP assessment are mailed home to parents in August/September. For our school, the MCAP testing days are listed below.

Testing	Date/Time
<p align="center">MCAP English Language Arts (Literacy)</p>	<p>Grade 3 – Afternoon (PM) on May 4, 5, 6, 7 Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on May 11, 12, 14, 15 Grade 5– Mornings (AM) on May 18, 19, 21, 22</p>
<p align="center">MCAP Math</p>	<p>Grade 3 – Afternoons (PM) on May 11, 12, 14, 15 Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on May 4, 5, 6, 7 Grade 5 – Mornings (AM) on April 30, May 1</p>

Parents can assist in the following ways which include:

- Ensure your child is reading independently every night. Reading can vary from fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Ask your child comprehension questions to ensure they understand what they are reading.
- Review basic math facts: multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
- Make sure your child is in attendance each day for the state assessments (please see assessment chart below)
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest the night before and a healthy breakfast.
- Communicate to your child that they should do their best and “stick with it.”
- Please do not schedule doctor appointments or family events during the MCAP testing schedule for your child’s respective grade level.

Morning (AM) testing time usually ranges from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Afternoon (PM) testing time usually ranges from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information about the MCAP assessments, visit the MCPS website <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/mcap/> or contact the school, your child's teacher, or our school testing coordinators Mrs. Hageman and Mrs. Nacelli.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program May Newsletter

What is going on in **Art** class during May?

Kindergarten will be creating clay pinch pots.

First Grade students will be creating radial designs using sand.

Second Grade students will be creating floral still life collages.

Third Grade students will be completing a weaving.

Fourth Grade students will be completing paper mâché sculptures.

Fifth grade students will be completing their legacy mural tiles out of clay.

What is going on in **Music** class during May?

Kindergarten students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will improvise using movement, unpitched percussion, and barred instruments to represent long/short and high/low to accompany a story, song or poem.

1st grade students will be working on reading simple rhythm patterns. Students will notate simple rhythm patterns. Students will improvise using unpitched percussion, and barred instruments to create rhythmic ostinato patterns that enhance a given melody, story or poem.

2nd grade students will be working on composing a simple rhythm pattern and notating it using iconic or standard notation. Students will improvise using unpitched percussion and barred instruments to create rhythms, melodies and/or ostinato patterns that enhance a given melody, story, or poem.

3rd grade students will notate simple rhythm patterns and read notation for pitch patterns. Students will use the voice, recorder, or body percussion to improvise phrases that answer given melodic phrases in the same style. Students will read melodic notation on the treble staff and play on the recorder or barred instrument.

4th grade students will read rhythm and melodic patterns using quarter notes/rest, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. Students will create movements to enhance a song, story, or poem. Students will create or improvise melodies to enhance a song, story, or poem.

5th grade students will read and perform songs with a descant or partner songs to create harmony. Students will create movements to enhance a song, story, or poem. Students will create or improvise melodies to enhance a song, story, or poem.

What is going on in **Physical Education** class during May?

Kindergarten students will be working on fundamental jumping and landing patterns.

1st grade students will be working on jumping and landing for height and distance, as well as jump roping.

2nd grade students will be working on jumping and landing a self turned short rope, as well as turning and jumping a long rope.

3rd grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a forehand stroke.

4th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a backhand stroke.

5th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a gently tossed ball over a low level line with a forehand and backhand stroke.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program May Newsletter

What is going on in the **Media Center** during May?

In May, the **Media Center** is hosting a Read Around the World reading challenge!

What are students doing in **Counseling** during May?

In Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades, students will be learning about:

- Honesty and integrity in daily interactions
- Responsible decision-making, including anticipating and evaluating the consequences of one's actions
- Developing an understanding of how to take responsibility for personal actions and behavior
- How to make sincere and reparative amends when mistakes are made
- Building the ability to show forgiveness and maintain a compassionate attitude toward others

In addition, every lesson will end with students having the opportunity to explore one of the eight common life skills from the A Little SPOT Book Set:

- Perseverance
- Teamwork
- Optimism
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Giving
- Talent
- Creativity

In May, students in grades 3 and 4 will begin exploring careers through an interactive game of Career Bingo. Third and fourth graders will finish the school year with a lesson on perseverance. They will be given a difficult task to complete. After a productive struggle on the task and discussing strategies to persevere, the answer on how to solve the task will be revealed. In 5th grade, students will receive a lesson on Student Service Learning Hours and complete a Transition to Middle School Escape Room.

Kindergarten Registration/Enrollment Process for 2026-2027

The Kindergarten Registration System is LIVE! If you are registering your child for kindergarten for the upcoming 2026-2027 School year, please follow the **4-Step Registration Process** below.

4-Step Registration Process

- Kindergarten Registration Webpage: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/kindergarten.aspx>
- Diamond ES Directions to Kindergarten Registration: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1awjuOm795FVireWlu0cLeFRjGJXEnKLzZZY7gE59T4I/edit?usp=sharing>
- [Translated Directions for Kindergarten Registration/Enrollment Process](#) (Amharic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Hindi, Korean, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Telugu)

STEP 1: Determine Eligibility

Children age 5 by September 1 on the first day of school are eligible for enrollment.

[Age and Attendance Requirements](#)

Contact International Admissions and Enrollment at 240-740-4500 to begin the enrollment process when:

- The student is age 7 or older by September 1 and has not attended school within the U.S. or a U.S. accredited school (i.e., Department of Defense school or an accredited American International school in a foreign country) within the past two years, or
- The student does not live with a parent or legal guardian.

STEP 2: How would you Like to Register?

• **Online**

You will need to create a ParentVue account [here](#). If your child is already enrolled in an MCPS program (pre-school, PEP program, etc), you do not need to create another Parent Vue account.

If you have questions about online registration, here are helpful tips on how to [Get Started with Kindergarten Online Registration](#)

• **Paper Forms**

Please contact the Diamond ES main office directly. Mrs. Christine Chimera is the school secretary and Kindergarten registrar. You can determine which school is assigned to your address by using the [School Assignment Locator](#).

STEP 3: Important Documents

- Proof of Residency
- Identification
- Birth documents
- Health Forms

Parents registering their children for the first time in a Montgomery County public school must provide proof of county residency, identity, age and immunizations, unless homeless. Required immunizations must be completed within 20 days of registration.

Students who have previously attended school should bring their latest report card, if available. Students receiving special education services should bring a copy of the current Individualized Education Program (IEP).

[Examples of acceptable verification documentation](#)

What other forms do I need to complete for kindergarten registration for my child?

1. **Complete the Kindergarten Student Profile Form:** <https://forms.gle/TF21Z1a6vtYgnssGA> . This form provides parents with the opportunity to share information about their child that will be used as we make decisions on class placement for next year. Please complete by June 1, 2026.
2. **Kindergarten Readiness Checklist for 2026-2027:** Have your child's pre-school teacher or child care provider complete the following form to provide information on **Kindergarten Readiness Checklist for 2026-2027:** <https://forms.gle/Z2vqWcSydK97X79M7> . This form should be completed by your child's current child care provider or pre-school/nursery school teacher. If your child does not attend a pre-school or child care, the parent can complete the checklist to the best of their knowledge. Please complete this form by June 1, 2026. The checklist will help us get to know your child's learning experiences, strengths and areas of need. For the child care provider or pre-school teacher, please read each statement and indicate your child's abilities by checking the appropriate column.

Other Resources for Kindergarten:

- **Day Care Centers servicing the Diamond ES community:** The following is a list of some of the Children's Day Care (Before/After School) Centers that are used by Diamond families. Bar-T is on location at Diamond ES, and the others have buses that transport students to and from their location. For more information, please contact the centers directly. Visit the link for information on Day Care Centers: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vxvu5rTPincnxqj1GuTo4NjjNKaZmyjDo4Yaudk2MMM/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Kindergarten Handbook:** https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/info/enroll/kindergarten/2026-2027/0903.26_kindergartenhandbook_eng_web.pdf . This resource includes basic information about your child's Kindergarten year and all of the forms needed to enroll your child in MCPS.
- **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Information:** <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/earlychildhood/early-entrance.aspx> Per Maryland State Department of Education regulations, to be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year, children must be five years of age by September 1, 2026. Children who will turn five years old between September 2 and October 15, 2026 are eligible for consideration for the early entrance to kindergarten process.
- Parents/guardians of children who wish to apply for early entrance to kindergarten must complete the Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten form. **Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten:** <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=81&formNumber=271-6&catID=2&subCatId=0>

Please complete this application if you feel that your child demonstrates academic achievement, social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for kindergarten placement, has a birth date that where he/she turns five between September 2 and October 15, and should be considered for early placement in kindergarten. Return the completed form to your school before June 30th. Applications for early entrance to kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year will be accepted from February 1 through June 30, 2026. The testing for Early Entrance to Kindergarten will occur in May-June 2026.

You can refer to this link for the information in this email regarding the Kindergarten Registration Process for 2026-2027: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1awjuOm795FVireWiu0cLeFRjGJXEnKLzZZY7gE59T4I/edit?usp=sharing>

Any questions regarding the kindergarten registration process, please contact Mrs. Christine Chimera, school secretary via email Christine_M_Chimera@mcpsmd.org or by phone at 240-740-2120.

Diamond Elementary Yearbooks

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER 2026 DIAMOND ES SCHOOL YEARBOOKS!!!
SO FAR 272 YEARBOOKS HAVE BEEN ORDERED.
DON'T MISS OUT!! LAST DAY TO ORDER YEARBOOKS IS JUNE 5th**

Order Your Diamond ES Yearbook Now

Diamond Elementary School is offering yearbooks for the 2025-2026 school year. Yearbook Orders are \$28.00. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in June 2026 before the last day of school. Last Day to purchase school yearbooks is Friday, June 5, 2026.

To order a School Yearbook, follow these 2 easy steps:

- Step 1: Please complete this DES Yearbook Order Form. DES Yearbook Order Form: [DES School Yearbook Order Form](#)

- Step 2: Submit your payment for the DES Yearbook. (There are 3 options for payment)

Option 1: Purchase yearbook online through School Cash Online:

<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/> or use the QR code that is here.



Option 2: Purchase yearbook with check payable to “Diamond Elementary School” and submit to school’s main office.

Option 3: Purchase yearbook with cash payment (exact payment only: \$28.00) and submit in an envelope addressed to Diamond ES Yearbook to the school’s main office.

We prefer online payments through School Cash Online: <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>
As mentioned before, we also accept checks made payable to “Diamond E.S.” or cash payment (exact change only). You can use this [SchoolCash Online](#) document for procedures on setting up an online account.

Any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact yearbook sponsors Mr. Desai @ Rahul_G_Desai@mcpsmd.org or Ms. Fleming @ nakeya_1_fleming@mcpsmd.org

Diamond Elementary Yearbook 2026 order

Only return this tear-off form if you are submitting cash or check payment to order a DES yearbook.

Student's Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Quantity: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$28 per yearbook)

School Cash Online

Diamond Elementary School offers SchoolCash Online for making online payments for field trips and other school orders and fees like school yearbook, etc. SchoolCash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school-related fees.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. It will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The system puts all the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school.

How to register

- Go to <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/> and click **Register**. Then, click the Green button **“Use your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account”**
- Sign in with your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account login. If you haven't registered with it yet, follow follow these steps:
 - Click “Sign Up now”
 - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
 - Click the “Send verification code” button
 - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
 - Create your password for the account.
 - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
 - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
 - Click the “Send verification code” button
 - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
 - Create your password for the account.
 - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
 - Click the “Create” button
- Go back to https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com and sign in with the email address on file and the password you created
- Answer “Yes” to receive email notifications of new school-related fees assigned to your student.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's main office team.