DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School

October 2026

Dear Parents,

The fall weather is upon us and we are enjoying the crisp air, mixed with some summer weather, leaves changing colors and the fall activities. We had a busy first month of school with a variety of school events. We kicked off the beginning of the school year with a great turnout for Back To School Night. We would like to thank all of our parents who were able to attend Back-To-School Night. We would like to thank our PTA for hosting the Back-To-School Social. Teachers will be sharing information about Parent-Teacher Conferences in November. Please make sure that you sign up for a parent-teacher conference which is scheduled for **November 23 & 24 or on dates designated by each teacher**. Some teachers have scheduled conferences a few days before and after these dates. Do you plan to volunteer in your child's classroom or have a meeting with your child's teacher? Will you volunteer for recess/lunch? Just a reminder that when volunteers or visitors are in the school building, they must sign in the main office and receive a visitor sticker. This is to ensure the safety and security for your children in our school building. We appreciate your attention to this important safety matter.

Highlights for the month of October include **Student Picture Day** on **Thursday, October 15th, Our annual Halloween celebration** will be held on **Friday, October 30th.** We will begin with a Halloween Costume Parade at 2:15 pm, immediately followed by classroom parties. Please see further descriptions of the Halloween celebration expectations on pages 2.

In addition, we have experienced the change in outside temperature and our school air system has converted to heat until spring. We encourage all families to watch the weather to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. We suggest that you send your child to school dressed in layers so they can adjust to the temperature accordingly. We wish you and your children a safe and healthy month of October! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

OCTOBER CALENDAR

October 1-31: Andrea Virga Winter Coat Drive

Monday, October 5: 3rd Grade Assembly with City of Gaithersburg Mayor

Thursday, October 8: Marking Period 1 Interims Distributed via ParentVue and Bus Evacuation Drill.

Saturday, October 10: PTA Curb Appeal Event– 10:00AM-2:00PM

Tuesday, October 13: 1st Grade Field Trip to Gaver Farms– buses leave at 9:40AM

Wednesday, October 14: 4th Grade Field Trip - Agricultural History Farm Park . Buses leave at 9:40 AM

Thursday, October 15: Student Fall Pictures

Friday, October 16: No School for Students–Professional Day for Teachers

Wednesday, October 21: 5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore Music Center

Thursday, October 22: No School for PreK & PEP Students.

Thursday, October 29: 5th Grade Field Trip - Robinson Nature Center. Buses will leave at 9:40AM.

Friday, October 30: Halloween/ Harvest Parties and Halloween Costume Parade: 2:15—3:40 p.m.
*End of 1st Marking Period

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Halloween Costume Parade and Classroom Parties: On Friday, October 30th, the Halloween Costume Parade will begin at 2:15 p.m. we will conduct a costume parade in the back of the school building on the soccer field. All parents are welcome to attend and take pictures of their child in the costume parade. However after the parade, due to security reasons and building capacity limits only room parents and class party volunteers will be permitted into the building for the class parties. Our classroom Halloween parties will begin right after the parade. In regard to costumes, we encourage students to dress appropriately as characters from favorite books, sports heroes, super heroes (with no weapons) historical figures, and public safety personnel. Children should wear regular clothes to school and bring their costumes. All costumes should be appropriate for elementary school. The following will not be allowed: Weapons (real or toy), Gory or bloody costumes and accessories, costumes that require adult assistance (students should be able to dress themselves). A Harvest party will be planned for any students whose parents want them excluded from the Halloween activities. Please complete the Form link below to indicate you want your child to participate in the Harvest Party and not participate in the Halloween costume parade and classroom activities. If you do not want your child participating in the Halloween festivities due to personal/religious reasons and you wish for your child to participate in the Alternative Harvest Party instead, **please complete this google form, Request for Participation in the Harvest Party Celebration Form by no later than Wednesday, October 28th:** https://forms.gle/pUi9YKzmgXkp3DLo9

Classroom party planners need to make contact with their child's teacher to make sure they are aware if there are any students with allergies in the class, so they can plan the snacks and goodies accordingly. If you plan to take your child home at the end of the day, you will need to sign your child out with your child's teacher. Parents who are planning to come to the Halloween parade, please park along Marquis Drive, Diamond Drive, or Cullinan Drive and avoid blocking residential driveways. Do not park in the school bus loop/car drop off parking lot so it is clear for the parade and dismissal.

Personal Body Safety Lessons: MCPS implements Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSLs) with grade-level, age appropriate content for students in every grade from Pre-K to 12. These lessons were developed with input from national stakeholders and County partners, and are designed to empower students to recognize and report suspected cases of abuse without fear of reprisal. In addition, embedded in the MCPS elementary and secondary health curriculum are age-appropriate lessons on safety and injury prevention, family life and human sexuality, cyberbullying and social media, healthy relationships, harassment and intimidation.

During the months of November and December, our school counselors and classroom teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect with all grade levels Kindergarten through Grade 5. The lessons are known as Personal Body Safety Lessons and their purpose is to help students to:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

Parent Resources:

Ensuring Student Safety- Personal Body Safety Lessons Website: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/personal-body-safety-lessons This webpage provides an overview of the lesson objectives for each grade level.

Elementary Personal Body Safety Lessons Overview and Resources for Parents: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/childabuseandneglect/Parent-Elementary-Personal-Body-Safety-Lessons-Overview-and-Resources.pdf

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact your child's classroom teacher, or our school counselors, Mrs. Meuer (Grades 3-5) and Mrs. Kuzmickas (Grades K-2).

End of Day Plan Policy: With changes to Dismissal Plans, students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated with the school and your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, you can call the office prior to 3:00 p.m. ***Play Dates:*** If your child has a "play date" after school and will be accompanying another student home by car-rider, or walker, your child **MUST** have written authorization from their parent/guardian for this to occur. If a child does not have written permission from their parent for a play date, school staff will have the child report home by following their normal routine.

Request for Language Assistance Translation: If parents need oral language interpretation services or sign language interpretation for school meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school events, etc. please notify your child's teacher or contact the main office. Oral interpretation requests need to be made at least two weeks in advance of the school meeting or event to ensure interpreter availability.

How to Contact Diamond Elementary Staff Members: You can contact your child's teacher or any Diamond Elementary staff member by email or phone call. Parents/Guardians can leave phone messages for staff at 240-740-2120. Staff email addresses can be found on the Diamond Elementary School website, http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/ under the Staff Directory section, which is available at the following web link: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/staff/directory.aspx. In order to maximize instructional time, teachers will only be available to speak by telephone before or after the student day. Calls for teachers should be made between 8:45 a.m.- 9:10 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.- 4:25 p.m. In addition, teacher email addresses may be found on the Diamond website. We will do our best to return all phone or email messages within 24 hours.

Visitors: Starting at 9:00 a.m. and through 4:15 pm. each day all visitors must enter the building through the main entrance, stop at the main office to sign in, and wear a visitor's badge while in the school. For the safety and security of all individuals, we need to be aware of the presence and location of all visitors in the building. Any individuals without a visitor's badge will be asked to report to the main office. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to walk their child down to the classroom in the morning. Please give your kisses and say your good-byes at the front doors. If a parent/guardian wishes to speak with their child's teacher, you can email the teacher or set-up an appointment. Please help us keep all students in our school safe by following this important procedure! We ask for your support in maximizing the instructional time for students.

Monthly School Newsletter Preference: Monthly School Newsletters will be sent electronically via email each month. If you prefer to receive to receive a paper copy of the monthly school newsletter. Please complete the form on page 11 and return to school if you prefer to receive a paper copy of the monthly school newsletter.

Forgotten Homework/Lunch/Instrument Policy: When parents/guardians bring in a forgotten item (instrument, lunch, homework), please bring it to the main office. There is a table the main office to place forgotten lunch items, instruments, homework. We prefer not to interrupt the instructional periods, so we will have your child pick up the forgotten item at the earliest transitional time during the day.

Student Birthday Celebrations: Birthday treats are not permitted at school for students in grades K-5. Birthdays in grades K-5 are recognized on the morning announcements on the day of the child's birthday, and they receive a birthday sticker and pencil. An alternative arrangement is made for students whose birthdays fall on weekends, holidays, and during the summer so they can be recognized during the school year. If a child is distributing birthday party invitation cards at school, each child in the class must receive an invitation. Otherwise, parents must find another way to distribute birthday cards such as using the PTA directory to look up student contact information.

Pet/Dog on School Grounds Policy: Should you choose to walk your dog/pet to school when walking or picking up your child, the dog/pet must be on a leash, under close control as per Montgomery County Policy. For the safety of all people, especially the students and your dog/pet, you may not walk/carry the dog/pet in major traffic areas including the front main entrance of the school building during arrival. To accommodate our friendly companions, you may wait with your dog on the sidewalk area of Diamond Elementary School and Marquis Drive or by the bike rack located on the right side of the front of the school building. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Diamond ES & MCPS Volunteer Training: All Diamond Elementary parents, guardians, and community members who wish to volunteer at Diamond Elementary School by helping in the classroom, media center, chaperoning on grade-level field trips, lunch and/or recess, must complete the three-step volunteer training process which includes the Diamond Elementary Volunteering Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training before volunteering can begin at the school. Volunteers who completed both the Diamond ES and MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect training will be required to repeat the training every three years. We will notify you when you need to do the training again.

All new Volunteers will need to complete both trainings before you begin volunteering at the school (classroom, chaperone on field trips, etc). Both trainings are completed online (the links to the trainings are below) by reviewing the power point presentation, reading the volunteer statement of commitment, completing the MCPS volunteer training on recognizing and reporting child abuse, and then verifying that you have reviewed the training information. You can complete it online at home or at school. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this training. It should take about no more than 40 minutes which includes the Diamond Volunteer Training and the MCPS volunteer training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. The MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training can be found on the MCPS website at Volunteer Training Information. While we encourage all community members to engage in this important, informative training, currently we only require individuals who **regularly** support schools to complete the child abuse and neglect training. The online training is available in Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Parents/guardians will not be barred from participation in their schools due to the need for training accommodations.

Answers to frequently asked questions are posted on the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect webpage. MCPS and Diamond ES are grateful for your commitment and partnership to ensure the safety of students.

Volunteer Training 3-Step Process:

◊ **Step 1**: Complete the **Diamond Elementary On-line Volunteer Training**: https://forms.gle/uUxFsPhpwwvx6wHf8

◊ **Step 2.** Complete the mandatory online Volunteer Training Information is required for any volunteer who regularly supports schools, chaperones a field trip, etc. and is available in multiple languages. When the course is completed, a report is created to serve as proof of satisfying the training requirement. On the right hand side of the Volunteer page, click on the red section that says Online Training for Parents/Guardians or Online Training for Non-Parents (Contractors, Volunteer Coaches, and Community Members). **Parent/Guardians/Caretakers** with a ParentVUE account can access the training through their account using this set of directions (page 2). **Community members** can use the same set of directions beginning on page 4. The directions include pictures that support the step-by-step directions. Support Guide [Volunteers and Contractors: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect] - Google Docs

◊ **Step 3**: After completing the training, you will receive an email confirmation from MCPS regarding completion of the MCPS training for child abuse and neglect. Please forward the email confirmation or print a copy and submit to the main office to Mrs. Christine Chimera, school secretary at Christine_M_Chimera@mcpsmd.org or print a copy and send to the school's main office.

Volunteer Training on how to use school equipment including the copier machine and cutting equipment will be provided to parents and volunteers who volunteer at school and are interested in learning proper ways to use equipment.

Diamond ES & MCPS Volunteer Training

Personal Mobile Device Policy for Students:
As stated by Montgomery County Public Schools policy and Diamond Elementary School Policy, Elementary school students are not permitted to use Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs) during the student school day: 9:05am-4:10pm. This includes in the school building, classroom, during lunch and recess, specials classes, on school buses, etc. Elementary school students may use PMDs before and after the student day. If students have PMDs in their possession at school, the PMDS must be turned off and kept in their backpacks during the entire student school day. MCPS monitors and reserves the right to investigate all PMDs and PMD activity on the MCPS network. PMDs may be confiscated by school staff members if they are used in a manner inconsistent with Montgomery County Board of Education policies or MCPS regulations or rules. Any student who violates this regulation will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct in MCPS. MCPS and Diamond ES will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of any such PMD.

What is a personal mobile device (PMD)? A personal mobile device (PMD) refers to any non-MCPS-issued device used to send or receive data via voice, video, or text. Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, smart watches, or other devices equipped with microphones, headphones, speakers, and/or cameras are all considered PMDs. In accordance to the Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation COG-RA, students must abide by the following conditions:

- Students may not use personal mobile devices during the official student day 9:05 am to 4:10 pm.
- Students may not use a personal mobile devices on any MCPS property in a manner that is illegal, profane, indecent, obscene, constitutes an invasion of privacy, or violates MCPS regulations regarding academic integrity. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, phone calls, photographs or text messages.
- Cell phones, iwatches/smart watches, etc, must be turned off and kept in student back pack during the student school day (9:00 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.). Personal mobile devices may be used ***only*** before arrival (prior to 9:00 am) to school and after school dismissal (4:10 pm).
- Personal mobile devices are not shared with other students
- Students may get permission to use the main office telephones during the school day, before, and after school whenever they need to communicate with a parent or guardian. Calls about medical concerns are made through the Health Room. Social calls are not allowed. Students cannot contact their parent during the school with a cell-phone, i-watch, smart watch, etc.

Any student who violates the conditions to the cell phone/communication device contract will be subject to disciplinary actions. Depending on circumstances, the disciplinary action could include, but not be limited to, conference, confiscation of the device, loss of privileges, detention, or possibly suspension. Failure to agree to these conditions will result in any/all of the following consequences:

- First Offense: confiscation of the personal mobile device by school staff member. ***Only*** a parent may pick-up a student's communication device. **The personal mobile devices will not be returned to students**.
- Second Offense: confiscation of the personal mobile device by school staff member. Administration will schedule a conference with the student and his/her parent/guardian. The communication device will be returned to the parent/guardian following this conference.
- Third Offense: Permission to have a personal mobile device at school is revoked for the remainder of the school year and possibility of detention/suspension.

Responsibility/Liability

- MCPS and Diamond ES will assume no responsibility or liability for the loss, theft, or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of any such PMD.

Here is a link to this document. Personal Mobile Device Student Policy . It will be posted on our school website as well.

Student Absences: Parents have a number of options available to report a student's absence, travel plans, tardiness, or appointment:

- go to the Diamond Elementary website, click on "**Report a Student Absence,"** and fill out the form with the specific details, including the reason for the absence (We'll forward a copy to his/her teacher.)**
- (or) send an email to the teacher and please copy Mrs. Chimera, school secretary.
- (or) call the Attendance Secretary, at 240-740-2121, on the day of the absence/appointment;
- (or) write a note and put it in your student's backpack to take to his/her teacher.

**This is a convenient, quick way to notify the school. You don't need to take the time to call, write a note, or send an e-mail. You can fill in all the details under "Anything else?" Here is the link:
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/about/absenceform.aspx

If we do not hear from you, you will get an automated message reporting your child's absence. Parents should keep children at home when illness is suspected, a communicable disease has been diagnosed or lice nits have been found. After five consecutive days of absence, or chronic absences during the school year a physician's note will be required.

Absence Policy

AM absent, if a student arrives more than 2 hours late
PM absent, if a student leaves more than 2 hours early
If a student is absent for more than any 2 hours during the school day, it is considered a half day absence.
If a student is present for less than 2 hours of the entire school day, it is considered a full day absence.

Health Room Information:

- EpiPen Use for Severe Allergic Reactions: Maryland law (Epinephrine Availability and Use) requires all school districts in Maryland to establish a policy that authorizes school personnel to administer auto-injectable (EpiPen) epinephrine to a student who is determined to be, or perceived to be, in anaphylaxis, a sudden, severe life-threatening allergic reaction. Under this policy, EpiPens must be administered regardless of whether the student has a known severe allergy that causes anaphylaxis, or has a prescription for epinephrine. As part of the mandated requirements, training will now be provided to all staff members on the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and training will be provided to selected staff members in every school on the procedures for administering EpiPen auto-injectors to students suffering from anaphylaxis. Please contact the staff in the school Health Room at 240-740-2122 or the Department of Student Services at 301-279-3192 for more information.

- Everyday preventive actions that can help fight germs, like flu, and the spread of other illnesses. You can find additional health room information on the school website: Health Room Information

- Please see the attachment for more information. These steps include:
  • Cover your cough
  • Wash your hands
  • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth (T Zone)
  • Avoid sick people
  • Stay home when you are sick
  • Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces

- **Meet Our Health Room Team:**
  Mrs. Nicole Eyman School Community Health Nurse (SCHN)
  Ms. Sandra Honour-Holloway, School Health Room Technician (SHRT)

The health room direct phone line is 240-740-2122. Any health questions, please contact the health room staff or visit the link for more information: https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/about/healthroom/

Stop Walk Talk

Stop Walk Talk is a component of our school-wide behavior management system. All Diamond students will receive lessons about *Stop Walk Talk*. Staff members have learned how to respond if a student *reports* problem behavior (the Talk step), as well as how to respond when dealing with the students who do *engage in such behavior*, that is, behavior that is disrespectful and possibly even unsafe.

1) Stop Students were taught our hand motion for the Stop signal, which is to hold their left hand palm up and have their right hand move in a perpendicular position and stop on their left hand. The student should then say "Stop (and the behavior that is causing concern)" in a firm, strong voice**.**

Likewise, students were also taught how to respond ***if they are given the Stop signal.*** The student receiving the Stop signal should immediately stop what he or she is doing, take a deep breath, and then go on with their day following our school rules. Students were taught that they should stop what they are doing, regardless of whether or not they *agree* that they deserved the stop signal, or even if they think they were "just joking", etc. In other words, students were told that "when someone at Diamond tells you to stop, *you need to stop".* By following these guidelines, students are thereby showing respect for themselves and others.

2) *Walk* If a student gives another student the stop signal, but the problem behavior still continues, students should then ***Walk*** away. Students brainstormed where they could walk to such as a different location on the playground to continue playing or a different square on the carpet.

3*) Talk* Finally, if students have tried to solve the problem by doing the ***Stop*** and ***Walk*** steps, but the peer problem continues, then the student should ***Talk*** to an adult. All of our staff members have been trained on how to respond to a student's request to talk. First, the staff member will ask the student about the problem. Then, they will ask the student if they used the stop signal and tried walking away. Students will be praised for trying these steps or reminded about using these steps first before talking to an adult. Finally, the staff member will discuss the problem behavior with the student who is engaging in the problem or disrespectful behavior. They will remind students what they are to do when they are given the stop signal by another student (i.e., to immediately stop what they are doing, take a deep breath, and continue with their day following our school rules). In addition, staff will enforce the appropriate consequence for breaking one of our school rules. If the student continues to engage in disrespectful or unsafe behaviors, parents will receive notification from a staff member.

One important exception to the **Stop Walk Talk** sequence would be if a student has been hurt or is in some type of danger. In such cases, students were told to *immediately* tell an adult, without even using the **Stop** and **Walk** steps.

Our goal in teaching and encouraging the use of the Stop Walk Talk steps is to provide students with some problem-solving tools that can help them deal with situations they may encounter.

Please support our students' use of Stop Walk Talk at home, at school, and in the community by modeling and encouraging respectful behavior toward others and problem solving when there are conflicts. By working together as partners, we can best assure that our students and your children are being **Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.**

School Communication: There are several ways Diamond Elementary School staff communicate with our parent community on a regular basis.

- **Weekly Update Automated Phone or Email Message**: Every Sunday at 6:30 pm, every Diamond family will receive a message from Diamond ES via Parent Square email/phone with a weekly update message about what is going on in the building for that particular week.
- **Grade-level update emails:** Either weekly or bi-weekly, parents will receive a classroom update from their child's classroom teacher about what is going on in their child's classroom for that particular week with a description for each content area.
- **Diamond Mine Monthly Newsletter:** At the beginning of every month, parents will receive a Parent Square email with a link to our monthly newsletter. The monthly newsletter will identify important information and upcoming events for that specific month. The newsletters are posted on our school website.
- **Diamond Elementary Website:** Parents can access our school website for school information including calendar events, media center , newsletters, parent information, health room PTA information, staff directory reporting a student absence, etc. http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/index.aspx
- **Diamond Elementary X:** School event pictures and announcements will be posted on the Diamond ES X (Twitter) page @DiamondElementary.

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MCPS UPDATES:

Sign-up for *MCPS QuickNotes:* *MCPS QuickNotes* is a free e-mail service that provides subscribers with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit www.mcpsquicknotes.org to subscribe.

How to Receive Emergency Information from MCPS: MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools and stay informed in times of emergencies.

Student Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct: In order to ensure a safe, productive, and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents, and staff understand school rules and regulations, the expectations for student conduct, and the possible consequences for violating the rules. *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. The *Student Code of Conduct* provides an overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy to discipline. All families received a copy of these documents and are encouraged to review them with your child(ren). The documents are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/.

Diamond Elementary Arts Program
Grade Level Monthly Newsletter

What is going on in <u>Music</u> class during the month of October?

- In Kindergarten, students will respond, create and perform in various ways to use the voice: whispering, shouting, speaking, or singing; Moving in and around personal space, movement to music, and the steady beat; Movement to and playing unpitched percussion to fast/slow tempi and loud/soft sounds.

- In 1st grade, students will respond, create and perform in Keeping the steady beat through movement, Following musical cues through movement, Identify classroom instruments by sight and sound, Imitate rhythmic patterns on classroom instruments, Identify and perform loud/soft, and fast/slow, Demonstrate melodic contour through movement and singing.

- In 2nd grade, students will respond, create and perform in Music reading of so-mi-la, Reading and performing music with rhythms of quarter notes, eighth note pairs and half notes, Performing simple melodies and accompaniments on barred instruments, Classifying classroom and orchestral instruments.

- In 3rd grade, students will respond, create and perform in Reading and performing music with rhythms of 16th notes and whole notes, Reading and performing melodies with high do, low la and low so along with notes on the treble staff, Performing rhythmic, melodic and movement ostinato, Identifying the musical form of phrases that are the same or different.

- In 4th grade, students will respond, create and perform in Reading and performing music with rhythms of 16th and eighth notes, Reading and performing melodies on the treble staff using solfege syllables or letter names, Performing rhythmic, melodic and movement ostinato, Identifying and performing chord roots and/or accompaniment to support I-V tonality.

- In 5th grade, students will respond, create and perform in Performing chordal accompaniments to support the 12 bar blues chord progression, Identifying jazz and blues instruments by sight and sound, Learning about the history of the blues, Reading and performing music containing the pentatonic scale, fa, ti, sixteenth notes and two six-teenths-eighth notes.

What is going on in <u>Art</u> class during the month of October?

- In Kindergarten: Students will be practicing cutting, gluing and arranging paper to create a farm themed collage.
- In 1st Grade: Students will be exploring the process of printmaking with a pumpkin design.
- In 2nd Grade: Students will be creating a painted paper collage of a leaf or leaves.
- In 3rd Grade: Students will be creating an organic shapes collage in the style of Reggie Laurent.
- In 4th Grade: Students will be creating a food inspired collage.
- In 5th Grade: Students will be creating a fantasy self portrait.

What is going on in <u>Instrumental Music</u> for 4th and 5th Grade students during the month of October?

- Beginning Band and Strings: Students will be learning how to hold their instruments, make a quality sound, and learn the first few notes.

- Advanced Band and Strings: Students will create ensemble sounds together while incorporating elements of technique and tone learned from last year.

Diamond Elementary Arts Program
Grade Level Monthly Newsletter

What is going on in <u>Physical Education</u> class during the month of October?

- Kindergarten will be working on moving in self space, locomotor skills, and levels.
- 1st grade will be working on moving in self space, locomotor skills, levels, and directions.
- 2nd grade will be working on moving in self space, locomotor skills, levels, directions, and pathways.
- 3rd grade will be working on dribbling a soccer ball with control
- 4th grade will be working on passing a soccer ball with proper form
- 5th grade will be working on shooting a soccer ball with proper form

What is going on in the <u>Media Center</u> during the month of October?

In October, the Media Center is hosting our second annual Diamond Elementary **Book Character Pumpkin decorating contest**! To enter, all you have to do is decorate a pumpkin as your favorite book character! It can be a real pumpkin or it can be made of paper, or, it can even be a drawing. Students can bring them to the Media Center between October 26-30 including the student's name and teacher. Pumpkins will be on display and there will be a winner chosen from each grade level on November 4. Winners will be announced on Thursday, November 5 and entries will be sent home at the end of the day.

The **Media Center** is also hosting Digital Citizenship Spirit Week from October 19-23, 2026.
Diamond Dolphins are respectful, responsible, safe and kind online. Wednesday (10/19) is Hat Day– Remember to wear a "thinking hat" to ask questions about what you see online. Tuesday (10/20) is Spirit Day: Wear your Diamond Dolphin spirit wear to show you are part of a community of learners who are responsible digital citizens. On Wednesday, 10/21 is Wacky Sock Day: Wear wacky socks to think about your digital footprint and show you are an upstander. On Thursday, 10/22 is Sports Day is Rep your favorite sport to celebrate getting outside and moving. On Friday, 10/23 is Pajama Day: Wear your pajamas to remember how important it is to balance your screen time and get plenty of sleep.

What is going on in School Counseling during the month of October? Students in grades Kindergarten– 2nd grade classroom guidance lessons, will begin with the unit titled "Being My Best Self." This explores understanding how everyone has connected emotions, thoughts, and actions; strategies to use more helpful self-talk and to take a growth mindset; and how these skills contribute to positive group dynamics. Students learn about:

- recognizing their own and others' emotions
- how situations influence their thoughts and emotions
- how emotions, thoughts, and actions work together
- emotional regulation and supporting strategies
- using a growth mindset and flexible thinking

Students in grades 3-5 are finishing a unit on coping strategies. Students learned strategies in four categories - Problem Solving, Self-Talk, Relaxation, and Distraction. For our last lesson on coping strategies, students were invited to participate in role playing to demonstrate how to use the strategies. Next students in grades 3 and 4 will begin a series of lessons on conflict resolution. They will learn what a conflict/disagreement is and learn different strategies to problem solve when involved in disagreements. Students in 5th grade will begin a series of lessons focusing on executive functioning skills such as organization, goal setting, time management, task initiation, and focusing.

DIAMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Diamond Mine Monthly School Newsletter Preference

In our continued efforts to support a "green environment", our school newsletter, *The Diamond Mine,* will be distributed electronically to each family at the beginning of each month. All monthly school *Diamond Mine* newsletters for the 2026-2027 school year will be posted electronically on our Diamond Elementary School website as well for parents to access.

All Diamond families will receive a connect-ed email at the beginning of each month with a link to the newsletter. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter each month, please fill out the form below and have your child return it to the main office, or send an email to Mrs. Christine Chimera attendance secretary, at christine_m_chimera@mcpsmd.org.

Diamond Elementary School
Diamond Mine Monthly School Newsletter Preference Form

If you would like a paper copy of the monthly school newsletter, please complete this form and return it to the main office.

Please send me a paper copy of the school *Diamond Mine* newsletters each month.

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____