

Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School

Upcoming Dates

1 - No School

15 -Dot Day

16 - Dynamic Dolphin Night
6:30-8:00 pm

23 - No School

26 - Early Release
1:20 pm dismissal

29 - Individual Picture Day!

Reminders

★ Don't forget to send in your child's school supplies, headphones, and a change of clothes.

★ Drew is no longer offering free lunch to students. Lunch will cost \$2.55 per student. Parents may send cash, check, or choose to set up an account on MySchoolBucks.com. Financial assistance is available through the completion of the FARMS application. (Direct support is available).

★ Please consider joining the Drew PTSA to support our school community. You can join by going to www.DrCharlesDrewES.givebacks.com

★ Gentle reminder that all students should be wearing sneakers on the days that they have P.E.

(Moradel: Friday, Palmeiro: Wednesday, Seasay: Thursday).

Reading & Writing

MCPS has adopted the Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum. CKLA is a language arts program for Grades PreK–5 that combines a multi-sensory approach to phonics with rich texts carefully sequenced to build content knowledge—so that students learn to read and read to learn at the same time.

The CKLA program is divided into two strands: the Skills Strand and the Knowledge Strand. The Skills Strand focuses on the building blocks of reading, while the Knowledge Strand focuses on academic vocabulary. Every day in kindergarten, students complete one full lesson that builds foundational reading skills, as well as one full lesson that builds background knowledge. Please see page 3 to access the CKLA Caregiver Hub.

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In Skills this month, we will be working on Units 1 and 2. Unit 1 lays the groundwork for reading and writing. Students will build awareness of environmental noises, of words within sentences, and of sounds within words. They will also learn several writing strokes used to create letters. In Unit 2, students will learn how to blend syllables together to form multisyllabic words. They will also learn how to orally produce two and three-sound words by blending sounds.

In Knowledge this month, we will be working on Domain 1. In this domain, students will be introduced to nursery rhymes and fables. By listening to nursery rhymes and repeating or reciting them, students learn vocabulary and build phonemic awareness.

Math ☆

This month, we will work on Module 1. In Topics A and B, classification activities allow students to analyze and observe their world and articulate their observations. Reasoning and dialogue begin immediately. In Topics C and D, students will order, count, and write up to ten objects to answer "how many?" questions. Please see pages 4-8 for ways you can work with your child at home to reinforce the skills that are being taught in school.

Science & Social Studies

In science, students will explore the practices of scientists and engineers, and make weather observations using their senses. In social studies, we will identify the importance of rules. We will describe roles, rights, and responsibilities of being a member of the family and school.

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KINDERGARTEN

Supply List

			
1 book bag (no wheels)	3 Primary Composition Books	2 boxes of Crayons	1 Box of Pencils
			
3 pack purple Glue Sticks	3 pack clear Glue Sticks	2 boxes Dry Erase Markers (black only)	1 pair of scissors
			
1 Pencil Box	2 pocket folders	1 Watercolor Set	1 Whiteboard, dry-erase, 9"x 12"
			
1 change of clothes (in bag with name)	1 box of markers	1 set of Headphones	
			
We ask that each family contributes a family size shareable snack for the class.			
			
Wipes & Hand Sanitizer *optional but appreciated!		Tissues & Soap *optional but appreciated!	

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2025–2026 Traditional School Calendar⁺

Montgomery County Public Schools

2025

July 4	Independence Day—Schools and offices closed
August 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	Professional days for teachers
August 25	Student Transition Day*
August 26	First day of school for students
September 1	Labor Day—Schools and offices closed
September 23	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
September 26	Early release day for students
October 2	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
October 17**	Professional Development Day for staff; no school for students
October 20	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
November 3**	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
November 24 and 25	Early release days for students
November 26	Systemwide Closure—Schools and offices closed
November 27 and 28	Thanksgiving—Schools and offices closed
December 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 31	Winter Break—No school for students and teachers
December 24 and 25	Holidays—Schools and offices closed
December 30 and 31	Systemwide Closures—Schools and offices closed

2026

January 1	New Year's Day—Schools and offices closed
January 1 and 2	Winter Break—No school for students and teachers
January 19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Schools and offices closed
January 26**	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
February 16	Presidents' Day—Schools and offices closed
February 17	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
February 27	Early release day for students
March 20**	Professional Development day for staff; no school for students
March 30, 31 and April 1, 2 3 and 6	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers
April 1 and 2	Systemwide Closures—Schools and offices closed
April 3 and 6	Holidays—Schools and offices closed
April 15**	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
May 25	Memorial Day—Schools and offices closed
May 27	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
June 17	Last day of school for students; early release day for students
June 18**	Grading and Planning for the end of term
June 19	Systemwide Closure—Schools and offices closed

*Student Transition Day is a non-instructional full day for students entering Grades K, 6, and 9; students entering Grade 3 in elementary schools that service only Grades 3-5; and students new to a school or MCPS.

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Amplify CKLA: Caregiver Hub

A one stop shop for resources and guides in both Spanish and English!



English



español

AmplifyCKLA

Scan the QR codes above to access the Caregiver Hub!

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**EUREKA
MATH™**

**PRESENTING EUREKA MATH FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Montgomery County parent,

We're introducing a new mathematics curriculum, called Eureka Math.

WHAT IS EUREKA

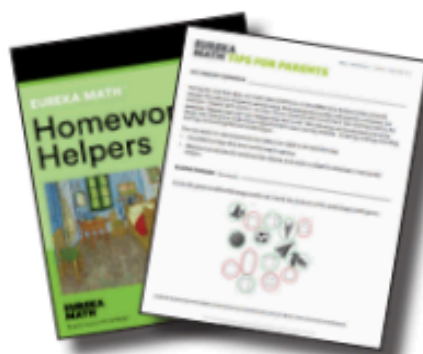
The Eureka Math curriculum was created by Great Minds, a nonprofit that brought together teachers and experts to craft a program based on the world's most successful math programs. Eureka was built around the core principle that students need to know more than just what works when solving a problem—they need to understand why it works.

The curriculum goes beyond facts and formulas, teaching students to think about math conceptually. This helps students become not merely literate, but fluent in mathematics.

PARENT RESOURCES

Your involvement in your child's education can have a significant impact on his or her success in school, that's why the teacher-writers who developed the curriculum, also created a suite of parent support resources that will help you support your child at homework time. These resources include:

- **Homework Helpers (K-12)** — A grade-level resource that provides step-by-step explanations of how to work problems similar to those found in Eureka Math homework assignments. There is a Homework Helper to go with every homework assignment in the curriculum.
- **Parent Tip Sheets (K-8)** — Topic-level tip sheets that explain math strategies and models, provide key vocabulary, sample problems, and links to useful videos. (Also available in Spanish.)



WHY EUREKA

Eureka has received high ratings from educators and reviewers nationwide. Schools and districts are seeing growth and impressive test scores after just one year of implementation.

Read more about Eureka Math success stories at schools and districts across the country at greatminds.org/data.

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EUREKA MATH™ TIPS FOR PARENTS

GRADE K | MODULE 1 | TOPIC A | LESSONS 1–3

KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next few days, our math class will classify, count, and sort objects. Students will match pairs of objects according to attributes such as color, size, purpose, pattern, and position. They will discover that some pairs of items are identical (“exactly the same”), while others are similar but have differences, too. For example, “Both of these balloons are red, but one balloon is big and one is small.”

You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Identify and color objects that are identical.
- Match objects that are similar, but have minor differences.
- Draw objects that are used together. For example: a sheet of paper and a pencil, or a baseball and a glove.

SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 3)

Circle the object that would be used with the paintbrush.



TERMS

Counting the Math Way: Counting from left to right, starting with the pinky of the left hand; used to set the foundation for adding “one more” and for using the number line.



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EUREKA MATH™ TIPS FOR PARENTS

GRADE K | MODULE 1 | TOPIC B | LESSONS 4–6

KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next few days, our math class will group items into categories. Students will count the items in each category and learn that the last number they reach when counting is the total number of items in that category.

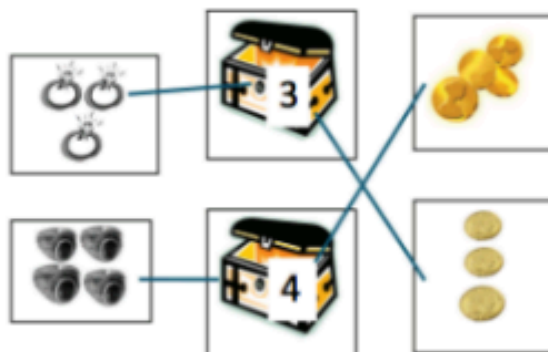
You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Create categories and identify things that belong in each category. For example: animals, food, and people.
- Count the number of things in each category and state the total.
- Sort things according to how many (2, 3, or 4). For example: “There are 4 birds and 3 squirrels.”



SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 6)

Draw lines to put the treasures in the boxes.



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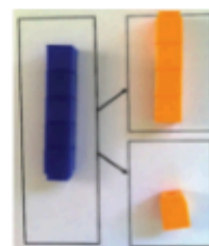
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EUREKA MATH™ TIPS FOR PARENTS

GRADE K | MODULE 1 | TOPIC C | LESSONS 7–11

KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next week, our math class will learn about numbers to 5 as students count objects arranged in different **counting configurations** and answer the question, “How many?” Students will break apart the numbers 3, 4, and 5 and find their **hidden partners**. For example, “I see 4 cubes and 1 cube hiding inside the 5-cube stick.” (See image.) Students will listen to simple number stories. (“There are 3 flowers. Two flowers are red, and 1 flower is yellow.”) Then students will determine a matching expression: $2 + 1$ or $1 + 2$.



You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Count objects up to 5 in linear configurations (**5-group**) and determine the total.
- Color objects to find hidden partners inside groupings of 3, 4, and 5. For example, “There are 3 circles. I see 2 shaded circles and 1 unshaded circle hiding inside 3.”



- Color shapes or draw lines to show an expression (e.g., $4 + 1$).

SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 10)

Color 2 stars to see the hidden partners.

Count the objects. Circle the total number.



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**EUREKA
MATH™ TIPS FOR PARENTS**

GRADE K | MODULE 1 | TOPIC D | LESSONS 12–16

KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

During the next week, our math class will continue to work with numbers 1–5, and use a handwriting box to write these numerals. Students will separate objects into groups of five and learn how to record number sentences. For example, “I see three things: one moon and two stars. I can tell about this picture with this number sentence: $3 = 1 + 2$.”

You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Count a set of 1 to 5 objects and use a handwriting box to write the matching numeral.
- Order numbers by filling in the missing number in a sequence.
- Solve simple addition stories connected with countable objects.

SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 14)

Color the picture to match the number sentence.



$$3 = 1 + 2$$

Write how many.

