JACKSON ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
900 Jackson Road
Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904
240-740-0800 (Office) (Fax)301-879-1054

August 9, 2026

Welcome Back, Roadrunner Families!

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a summer filled with joy, relaxation, family time, and wonderful memories. As we begin another exciting school year at Jackson Road Elementary School, our entire staff is energized and ready to welcome our Roadrunners back to school!

This year, we remain deeply committed to creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their fullest potential. Our teachers and staff have been working diligently to prepare classrooms, plan meaningful learning experiences, and create opportunities that will challenge, inspire, and celebrate every learner.
At Jackson Road, we know that student success is a shared responsibility. Our partnership with families is an essential part of helping our students thrive. Throughout the year, we encourage you to stay connected with your child's teacher, participate in school activities and events, ask questions, and celebrate your child's growth and accomplishments. When families and schools work together, our students are better positioned to succeed.

As we begin this new chapter, let us continue to build a school community rooted in belonging, high expectations, kindness, and excellence. I am excited about all that we will accomplish together and look forward to making the 2026–2027 school year a year filled with learning, growth, joy, and unforgettable memories.

Welcome back, Roadrunners! We are so excited to have you here!

Communication
Communication between school and home is a key component to our success. There are many ways in which you can communicate with the school. We hope you'll take some time to explore some of the ways we like to share our great work with you!

- Our school website: https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/jacksonroades/
- X: @velasquez_mcps @JacksonRoadAP
- Sunday Messages: messages are sent via ParentSquare to your email and phone numbers listed in ParentVue
- Monthly Teacher Newsletters
- Thursday Folder Communication each week
- Teacher ParentSquare Messages

Equally important is how we communicate with each other. As a school, we are dedicated to being respectful, responsible and safe. We strive to do the same as adults! We ask that if you have any concerns, that you please share them with your child's teacher first. They will provide you with their email at our "Meet the Teacher" event scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026, from 1:45-2:45 (details below), and the best way to communicate with them.

Please know that you can also communicate with the school administration:

Rosario P. Velasquez, Principal
Rosario_Velasquez@mcpsmd.org

Jason Reinke, Assistant Principal
Jason_R_Reinke@mcpsmd.org

We will continue to use ParentSquare to communicate with families and students. Messages will go directly to your emails and/or sent via text to your cell phones. Please do not opt out of receiving these messages as this will be the main means of communication.

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, August 20- Kindergarten Playdate at MLK Jr. Park 4-6 PM
- Monday, August 24- Student Transition Day (see below for more details)
- Tuesday, August 25- First Day of School for All Students
- September 2- PTA Meeting 6:30-7:30 PM
- September 7-Labor Day: Systemwide Closure
- September 8-Back-to-School Night PEP/PREK-Grade 2
    - 6:00-7:30
- September 9- Back-to-School Night Grades 3-5
    - 6:00-7:30
- September 18-Early Release Day: Students Dismissed at 12:55 p.m.
- September 21- Non-Instructional Day: No School for Students
- October 14- Principal and Parent Workshop 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Meet-The-Teacher

Our Meet-The-Teacher event formerly known as Open House is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026 from 1:45-2:45 p.m. This is an opportunity to visit your children's classrooms, meet their teachers and navigate the school. Class assignments will be mailed to your home via postcard. You will also get an email from the teachers with your child's assignment in case the postcards don't make it to your mailbox in time. The postcards should arrive by Friday, August 21, 2026. Please check your mailbox! If you cannot attend the event, our staff will be available to help them find their classes. **The first day of school for ALL students in on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.**

Transition Day

On Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, MCPS will hold Student Transition Day, an all-day, non-instructional school experience designed to ease the transition for students entering new school levels or buildings. It is a day for all Kindergarten and students new to JRES to try out our school routine and get prepared before all students return to school. Please see the attached schedule for more details. You can also click on the link below to learn more about Transition Day. If you have any questions, you may call the main office at 240-740-0800.

Learn more

Arrival and Dismissal

Our first day of school is August 25, 2026 and it will be a regular full day of school for Kindergarten through Grade 5 students. Buses will begin their regular routes. Our school hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. daily. Students should arrive no earlier than 8:40 a.m. Students who arrive earlier than 8:40 a.m. will need to remain with their parents/guardians since staff are not available to supervise students until 8:40 a.m. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. Parents/Caregivers must come into the school and sign in their student. This is an MCPS expectation and not just a Jackson Road ES expectation.

All students will report to their classrooms upon arrival at school. Parents will not be permitted to escort their children to their classes.

Bus Routes and Information

School Bus Route Info Coming Aug. 14: Bus routes for the 2026–2027 school year are expected to be available starting Friday, Aug. 14. Visit the **Division of Transportation Services website** to find your route

and get set for the first day of school! Please remember that buses may run late due to traffic, arrival and dismissal congestion, student support, etc. Be sure to have your student's ID, route number and school ready when calling the bus depot assigned to your child(ren). Questions? **Find your transportation manager.**

Route numbers, not bus numbers, will continue to be used this year and will be displayed in the second window on both sides of all buses. JRES will be served by many different MCPS buses for school-age students in addition to numerous buses for Prekindergarten/PEP students and several daycare/aftercare vans. We assign each route number a color to help students remember their assigned bus. Parents should also be aware that road construction, poor weather conditions, accidents and general traffic are a challenge, so buses may be delayed when picking up students in the morning and at dismissal. We recommend that you arrive with your student to the bus stop 10 minutes early to allow for weather or traffic related issues. Please review bus behavior with your child. Students are expected to line up in an orderly manner when waiting for the school bus. All Kindergarten and Pre-K students must be supervised by an adult while waiting for pick up and when buses return the students at the end of the school day. The rules on the bus are exactly the same as in the classroom. ***Respectful, responsible and safe behavior is expected at all times.*** A child may lose privileges if behavior is unsafe and disruptive. Finally, changing buses or last-minute changes to your child's end-of-day routine are difficult for students and staff. Any changes to your child's day need to be in writing for the classroom teacher and also communicated with the main office. Changes to that day's dismissal cannot be honored after 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please call the transportation office at 240-740-1851.

Car Loop

If your child will be a car rider, please make sure to stay in your vehicle when picking up your child. You may not leave your vehicle unattended while in the car loop, as it causes a delay in moving the vehicles along the car loop. Car rider dismissal procedures will be different than last year. We will no longer use number cards for car riders. Instead, all car riders will be dismissed at 3:25, right after walkers.

There is only one car loop. The parking lot next to the cafeteria is NOT a place where families can pick up their child. These are for backdoor walkers ONLY. Please refrain from using this parking lot as a car pick up/drop off as this parking lot is only for use by JRES staff members. Adherence to this policy is greatly appreciated by all JRES staff.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2026-2027 school year

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be providing free breakfast and lunch at Jackson Road ES in the 2026-20267 school year. Households do NOT need to complete Free And Reduced-price Meal (FARMS) applications in order to receive free meal benefits at our school*. We encourage students to enjoy breakfast and lunch at school, please check out menus here. Breakfast will be served in the classroom at 8:40 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

*Households with students at other MCPS schools should check directly with those schools to determine if a FARM application is needed.

Supply List

Please see the attachment. The supply list is also available on our main school website at https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/jacksonroades/. This is a recommended list of school supplies. Please note that all students are eligible to receive a backpack with basic supplies at the Mee-The-Teacher event. Most school supplies are provided by the school for students.

Synergy/ParentVUE

The parent portal, Synergy ParentVue, will serve as the primary tool for all schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling and more. Returning students should already have an account. Parents of new students will receive an activation email or letter in the mail soon. Please enroll so we can share important school and community information in a secure way. If necessary, you will be able to

update your contact information in the portal. If you need assistance signing up, please contact the main office at 240-740-0800 and ask for Ms. Giovanna Raffo, our Parent Community Coordinator, or Lindsay Dankmyer, our Community Schools Liaison.

Technology Information

All students will continue to have access to Chromebooks for classroom instruction. Chromebooks will not go home with students. Please note that students are responsible for their Chromebooks. Students will be financially responsible for any damages incurred beyond the normal wear and tear.

PTA

We have a wonderful partnership with our PTA. They support our students and teachers in various ways. They also plan events throughout the year that our school community enjoys. Please consider joining the PTA. Our President is Kristi Maeng and she can be reached at jacksonroadelempta@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

I am truly excited about the year ahead and all the possibilities it holds for our students. With your continued partnership and support, I am confident that together we will make the 2026–2027 school year a year filled with growth, achievement, joy, and lasting memories for every child. Thank you for being such an important part of our Jackson Road Elementary School community. I look forward to working alongside you to make this a successful, meaningful, and inspiring year for all of our Roadrunners!

Sincerely,

Rosario Paola Velasquez
Principal