

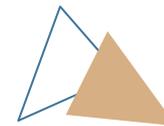
WELCOME TO ROCK CREEK FOREST

ROCK CREEK FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8330



AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome and Introductions
- ▶ Our Vision and Mission
- ▶ Our instructional program
- ▶ An overview of our Spanish immersion program
- ▶ The MCPS Immersion Program Application Process
- ▶ Next steps and Commonly Asked Questions



ROCK CREEK FOREST

Our vision:

At Rock Creek Forest, we expect, inspire, and nurture ALL students to continuously achieve academic excellence and contribute to our global community.

Our mission:

Every student will have the academic, creative problem solving, and social emotional skills to be successful members of our community and achieve success in college and career.



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS



**EUREKA
MATH®**

- Eureka Math*
 - Arriba la Lectura/CKLA
 - Science/Social Studies
 - Art/Music/P.E./Media
 - Peace of Mind
 - Student enrichment opportunities including TNN!
- *Resources in Spanish and English*

OUR SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM



- ▶ The Spanish Immersion Program follows the MCPS Program of studies at all grade levels.
- ▶ Most children in the immersion program not only learn the second language, but they also achieve skills appropriate to their grade level.



CLASS CAPACITY



GRADE	CLASS SIZE
Kindergarten	24 students
Grade 1	25 students
Grade 2	25 students
Grade 3	26 students
Grade 4	28 students
Grade 5	28 students

There are 2 sections per grade level.

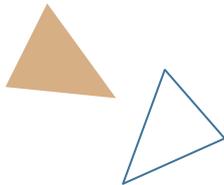
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Kindergarten	All Spanish, all of the time
1 st	
2 nd	
3 rd	
4 th	90 minutes of English per week (2 nd semester)
5 th	3 hours of English per week
*Art, Media, Music and P.E. instruction is given in English at all grades.	



PRESENTATION FROM CONSORTIUM OFFICE

Carla Malozowski





Montgomery County Public Schools

**Elementary Immersion Programs
for Students
Entering in the
2026-2027 School Year**

Department of Consortia and

Application Program Services (DCAPS)

Facilitating the Outreach and School Assignment Processes for the

Consortia, Application, and Elementary Immersion Programs

MCPS Future Ready



Elementary Immersion Application Process

Step #1

Complete & submit an *Immersion Interest Form* (online)

- MCPS ID # is required
- Contact your home elementary school to acquire an ID # after February 2, 2026
- Confirmation will be sent via email to the address provided on the submission form

It is very important that families check the accuracy of the immersion interest confirmation email (i.e. grade level, birthdate, address, etc.)

An Immersion Interest Form must be submitted for each student participating in the immersion process.

Step #2

Immersion forms are run through a computerized lottery process.

Step #3

Immersion notification letters will be emailed in mid-May.

Factors which may impact the lottery (school assignment) process:

***School capacity (space availability)**

***Sibling Link –**

Younger siblings of students that entered an immersion program prior to the 2018-2019 school year in Grades 1-4 have preference to the same immersion program

***Sibling Factor –**

Students who entered an immersion program after the 2018-2019 school year will receive sibling factor for younger siblings.

***Eligibility**

***Selection area priority** (based on home address)

***Host schools without preference**

***Number of applicants**

What is sibling link in the immersion admission process?

Sibling link in the admission process preplaces the younger sibling into the same immersion program of the older sibling

- who started the program in 2017-2018 or earlier,
- submitted an immersion interest form,
- and both siblings will attend the same program in the same year.

Students that entered an immersion program prior to and including the school year 2017-2018 in grades 1-4 may give sibling link to their younger sibling in the same immersion program permitting they are in the program together in the same year.

What is sibling factor?

- Sibling factor provides the younger sibling an additional chance to be invited to same program that the older sibling (K-4) attends by having their name entered twice in the lottery for that school only.
- **This will increase their chances of being invited but it is not a guarantee of an invitation. Students with sibling factor are not pre-placed into the program.**
- Students that entered an immersion program during the 2019-2020 school year and after will provide sibling factor for younger siblings that enter the immersion lottery in the future.

What immersion programs are offered by MCPS?

MCPS offers seven elementary world language immersion programs:

- **Two Chinese - Potomac ES & Bayard Rustin ES**
- **Two French - Sligo Creek ES & Maryvale ES**
- **Three Spanish - Burnt Mills ES, W.T. Page ES & Rock Creek Forest ES**
- The two French programs and three Spanish programs are full immersion. Both Chinese programs are partial immersion.
- In full immersion, all core subjects, including reading/language arts are taught in the target language.
- In partial immersion, some core subjects are taught in the target language.

What are some frequently asked questions?

- **How many students entered the lottery last year?**
 - 948 students
 - 564 of these students applied for a Kindergarten slot
- **How many seats are available?**
 - Kindergarten – 264 seats
 - Grades 1 – 5 – Seats vary from year to year

How will I know if my student is selected?

Parents will be emailed a letter in mid-May. This letter will include:

- The program/s that their student has been invited to
and/or
- A number indicating their rank order on the waitlist for the programs that they selected on the *Immersion Interest Form*.

How can I find out more information about the lottery process and programs?

Visit the website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion and/or attend a virtual Immersion Interest Meeting for each program.

Is transportation available?

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) provides transportation from central stops for elementary school language immersion students for the areas served by the program.

Transportation may be provided for many of the special programs to and from central stops (usually at MCPS schools) determined by the MCPS Department of Transportation.

- Stops may be several miles from the student's home.
- **Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from central stops.**
- Bus trips are usually significantly longer than local school transportation and may vary by program or location.
- **It is important to carefully consider transportation options and responsibilities.**

Can my student participate in multiple lotteries?

Yes, students may participate in one to all seven lotteries. Lotteries are all run independently.

Can my student continue in a middle school immersion program after elementary school?

Yes, students can continue into the middle school program. Parents will receive a Notice of Intent form from DCAPS and must return by the deadline.

Montgomery County Public Schools
Elementary Language Immersion Programs At-A-Glance 2026-2027

Elementary School (ES)	Language	Eligibility/ Selection Area Priority	Program Type*	Middle School (MS) Continuation Grades 6-8*****	Transportation
Bayard Rustin ES 332 W. Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20852 240-740-4320	Chinese	Countywide	Partial	Herbert Hoover MS	<p>Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) provides transportation from central stops for elementary school language immersion students from the areas served by the program.</p> <p>Transportation may be provided for many of the special programs to and from central stops (usually at MCPS schools) determined by the MCPS Department of Transportation. Stops may be several miles from the student's home. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from central stops. Bus trips are usually significantly longer than local school transportation and may vary by program or location. It is important to carefully consider transportation options and responsibilities.</p> <p>The continuation of transportation for the 2026-2027 school year for regional and countywide immersion programs is subject to budget approval.</p>
Potomac ES 10311 River Road Potomac, MD 20854 240-740-4360	Chinese	Local, then countywide	Partial	Herbert Hoover MS	
Maryvale ES 1010 First Street Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-4330	French	Regional**	Full	Gaithersburg MS	
Sligo Creek ES 500 Schuyler Road Silver Spring, MD 20910 240-740-2800	French	Regional***	Full	Silver Spring International (SSI) MS	
Burnt Mills ES 415 Prelude Drive Silver Spring, MD 20901 240-740-7320	Spanish	Local, then elementary schools that feed into Francis Scott Key MS, then countywide	Full	White Oak MS	
Rock Creek Forest ES 8330 Grubb Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815 240-839-3201	Spanish	Countywide	Full	Westland MS SSI MS *****	
William Tyler Page ES 13400 Tamarack Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 240-740-7560	Spanish	Local, then countywide	Full	White Oak MS	

Full immersion programs: The core curriculum (reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science) is taught in the second language. Partial immersion programs: A portion of the curriculum is taught in the second language

** The following high school clusters: Winston Churchill, Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Richard Montgomery, Northwest, Poolesville, Rockville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Sherwood, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, Thomas S. Woolton, and the Northeast Consortium-North (Residences north of Fairland and Randolph roads)

*** The following high school clusters: Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Walter Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Walt Whitman, and the Northeast Consortium-South (Residences south of Fairland and Randolph roads)

**** To participate in a middle school continuation, parents must complete a Notice of Intent form by the January deadline.

^ Rock Creek Forest Elementary Immersion students who have a home middle school of Silver Spring International MS may elect to continue with the immersion program at that location.

Special programs are placed at schools based on school system needs and may be relocated to another site deemed by the Superintendent at any time.

Timeline

Immersion Interest Meetings

January through April (varies per school)

For more information, visit each immersion school's website.

Interest Forms Available	February 2, 2026
Interest Form Deadline	April 10, 2026
Parent/Guardian Notification	Mid-May

For more information, visit each immersion school's website.

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Department of Consortia and Application Program Services
(DCAPS)**

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Laura Johnson 240-740-7802

[Laura M Johnson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Laura.M.Johnson@mcpsmd.org)

**Department of Consortia and Application Program Services
DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org**

**For information about the immersion program and to review Frequently
Asked Questions**

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion

or visit each school's website



NEXT STEPS



1. Pre-enroll your child in their **neighborhood elementary school**. This process will give them a **student ID** which they will need to fill out and submit the immersion interest form.
2. Fill out and submit the immersion interest form that will be available **February 2, 2026**. Please make sure that when you are filling out this form, that you verify the spelling of names and that you enter the correct information (i.e. age, contact information, etc.).
3. In **May**, you will receive a **message from the consortia office (DCAPS)** with either an invitation or your child's number on the waitlist.
4. You will have **5 days to respond**. If you choose to accept the invitation, fill out all of the necessary sections and send it back to the consortia office.
5. Once you have accepted the seat and we have received confirmation, Mrs. Dominique Butters, our attendance secretary at Rock Creek Forest ES will contact you to complete the enrollment process.

You will then need the following **documentation**:

- New Student Information (560-24)
- Student Emergency (565-1)
- PreK experience (345-17)
- Birth Certificate/ Passport of child
- Parent ID or passport
- Proof of residency (lease or property tax bill)
- Copy of current immunization records



SCHOOL TOUR



<https://app.lapentor.com/sphere/rcf-es-1710446499>

GRACIAS





COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS



DO I HAVE TO SPEAK SPANISH FOR MY CHILD TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

No. This program was developed for speakers of other languages. Through research, we know that every child can be in an immersion program and the more a child practices the language, the stronger that child's language skills will be.

HOW WILL I HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

The purpose of homework is to review what has already been taught. The teacher will review the homework with the students before it is sent home. If your child has trouble with the homework, they can reach out to the teacher or a friend for help. If the problem persists, you should contact the teacher to work on strategies to improve or resolve the challenge.

WILL MY YOUNGER CHILDREN GET IN TO THE PROGRAM AUTOMATICALLY?

- Sibling factor (if the older child started the program in 2018-19, family will have sibling factor applied which is entering the child's name in the lottery again)
- Sibling link (if the older child was in the program in 2017-2018 or earlier, and will be in program the same year the younger will be placed in the program)

WILL MY CHILD LEARN ENGLISH?

Yes. Research shows, that if students have a solid foundation in their maternal language, their second language acquisition is very fluid. Then, without any English instruction in the first four years of immersion, their English reading level will be the same, if not stronger, than their second language reading level (assuming there are no learning challenges, otherwise the reading trajectory is different).

WHERE WILL MY CHILD FIND SPANISH BOOKS TO READ AT HOME?

Our media center has a large selection of Spanish books for check out. Also, every classroom has a library from which students can borrow books throughout the year, as well as access to an array of online sites with leveled books. Our Arriba la Lectura curriculum and online platform offers a wide selection of books for the students to read.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO SPEAK SPANISH THE FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN OR IN 1ST GRADE SPANISH IMMERSION?

No. We understand and expect our students in K to have no Spanish language background and we will help them build their language by modeling, singing, playing, repeating and reading. In kindergarten and the first few of months of 1st grade, the students can respond in English.

WILL I GET TRANSPORTATION?

* As of now, the county will provide transportation. However, typically the bus stop is at a central location. For example, your home elementary school, a nearby community center or another location. The transportation department creates the routes during the summer after they have received the majority of the enrollment. Questions about the bus routes should be directed to the transportation department.

MAY I VOLUNTEER IN MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM IF I DON'T SPEAK SPANISH?

Absolutely! We only ask that you do not speak English in the classroom. We need and love parent help.