

Family Newsletter — Second Edition of the School Year, October 2026

Veneth Waters • 4 days ago • Thursday, Oct 1 at 10:53 AM • **Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary**

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary School

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Dear Families,

Welcome to October! As we settle into the rhythm of the school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for our incredible school community. Over the past six weeks, I have had the privilege of spending time in our classrooms, chatting with students during lunch and recess, greeting them in the hallways, and connecting with so many of you through phone calls, emails, and school events.

These daily interactions are truly the highlight of my job. Being in the classrooms and hallways allows me to see firsthand the joy, curiosity, and growth happening across all grade levels. It helps me stay connected to our students' daily experiences, celebrate their progress, and ensure our school remains a safe, welcoming, and inspiring place to learn. Hearing your feedback and collaborating with parents and stakeholders ensures that we continue to build a strong partnership between home and school. Thank you for your continued support, open communication, and trust.

Below, you will find important updates, upcoming calendar dates, and helpful district resources for the month of October.



Important Dates to Remember

- **October 6:** PTA General Meeting
- **October 16: No School** for Students
- **November 2 & 3: No School** for Students

Holiday Season Family Support

As the holiday season approaches, we want to make sure our McNair families feel supported. If your family is experiencing a need this holiday season, please know that you are welcome to reach out to us. All information will be kept confidential.

Please contact **Rebecca Lavo** at Rebecca_K_Lavo@mcpsmd.org or **Mallory Wattiez** at Mallory_A_Wattiez@mcpsmd.org.

We are here to support our McNair families. ❤️

School & Classroom News

Back to School Night & PTA Blast Recap

It was an absolute pleasure seeing so many families at our **Back to School Night** on September 17th! If you couldn't attend or want to review the materials, classroom presentations are now posted on our school website. Thank you to everyone who filled out an evaluation—your feedback is invaluable as we celebrate what is working well and make continuous improvements.

I also had a blast at our **PTA Back to School Blast** on September 25th! The absolute highlight for me was seeing our students and families enjoying themselves and spending quality time together. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for organizing such a wonderful event!

Grade-Level Newsletters & Homework

October marks the official start of our homework program. Please keep an eye out for your child's October grade-level newsletter, which will be sent home soon with specific details and academic updates.

5th Grade Strathmore Concert

Attention 5th-grade families! Permission slips for the upcoming concert at **The Music Center at Strathmore** are coming home soon. Please review, sign, and return them with your child as soon as possible.

District Engagement & Enrichment Opportunities

MCPS Closure & Consolidation Engagement Meetings

MCPS will host engagement meetings across the county this fall to discuss potential school closures and consolidations. **No decisions have been made**, and community input is vital before any recommendations are formed.

- Sessions are offered both in-person and virtually across two rounds (sessions within each round cover identical information, so you only need to attend one per round).
- Language support and interpretation will be provided.
- We strongly encourage staff, students, families, and community members to participate.
- [Learn more and view the meeting schedule here.](#)

Accelerated & Enriched Instruction (AEI) Family Webinars

Families interested in learning more about enrichment, acceleration, and gifted education are invited to attend a four-part virtual webinar series this fall. Topics include CogAT testing, gifted and talented identification, and parent advocacy.

- Learn more: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Amharic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Korean](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Saturday School & Academic Support

Saturday School tutoring sessions focus on reading, math, test prep, and STEM enrichment (including coding and robotics) for students in grades K–12.

- **When:** Saturday mornings from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM
- **Cost:** 100/year (50 for FARMS recipients)
- **Transportation:** MCPS bus transportation is available to center sites. Registration remains open throughout the term! [Learn more and register here.](#)



Quick Tips for Families

- **Attendance Matters Every Day:** Being in school every day allows students to learn, build friendships, connect with trusted adults, and feel a strong sense of belonging. Thank you for helping your child arrive ready to learn each day! ([Watch the "Now You Know" Attendance Video Series](#))
- **Social Media — Think Before You Post:** Help your child make safe digital choices. Encourage them to pause before posting online by asking four simple questions: *Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it necessary? Would I be OK if everyone saw it?* Keep the dialogue open at home and remind them to block, report, save evidence, and inform a trusted adult if something feels wrong online. ([View the MCPS Family Quick Guide](#))



Useful MCPS Links & Resources

- [MCPS School Calendar](#)
- [Parent Resource Page](#)
- [News & Information Page](#) / [Noticias en Español](#)
- [MCPS TV Videos](#) | [MCPS TV Español](#)
- [Latest Photo Galleries](#)

Thank you for being such a wonderful community. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to support your child.

Warm regards,

Veneth Waters, Principal

Rebecca Mason, Assistant Principal