

Principal's Message on 01/07

Good Evening Stallion Families,

We had a fantastic week of learning! It was great to see everyone back at school but we want to remind everyone that instruction begins at 9:00 AM each morning.

- The walker and main entrance doors open at 8:45 AM each morning.
- We are asking that all students are in the building by the time the first bell rings at 8:55 AM to ensure they are in their classrooms by 9:00 AM.
- Our doors close and the late bell rings at 9:00 AM. At this time students must be signed in by a parent in the front office.
- Morning announcements and class meetings begin at 9:00 AM.

Thank you for your continued support!

New: Testing

Students will participate in a variety of midyear testing during the month of January. There is no need to study or prepare for these tests, but it will be helpful to ensure that all students receive a full night's sleep and a good breakfast, and arrive at school by 8:55 for the month of January to support their focus!

- **Grades 3-5: MAP R (reading) – week of 1/8-1/12**
- **Grades K-5: MAP M (math) – week of 1/16-1/19**
- **English Language Learners: ACCESS – 1/8- 2/16 (4 small subtests given over this time, students pulled out to separate classroom to test**
- **Grades K-2: DIBELS (reading)- month of January within classrooms during instruction**

If you have any questions, or if your child will be missing any days in January, please contact your child's teacher.

New: Summer Enrichment Programs at Johns Hopkins University

[CTY On-Campus Programs](#) for academically advanced learners in grades 2-12 are now enrolling for summer 2024. Finding a fun, exciting and challenging program for the summer can make a lifetime of difference for curious young students.

At the [Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth](#), students can enroll in 70+ rigorous, fresh, and fun in-person courses offered at 11 locations throughout the U.S. Day programs are offered for students in grades 2-6, and residential programs are available for students in grades 5-12. CTY's three-week courses give advanced learners the opportunity to delve into a topic they love. New this year: [Discovery Sampler](#) courses, which allow students the opportunity to sample three topics in one three-week course. [View all courses](#).

MCPS wants to highlight two important details:

1. This summer, Johns Hopkins is launching Discovery Sampler Courses which are multidisciplinary courses where students explore three different topics in one three-week summer session. They are open to all students, and test scores are not required.
2. Financial Aid is available for income eligible families that reside in the state of Maryland.
3. Space is limited and programs fill quickly. Families can register now and if plans change, may cancel before March 1, 2024, and receive a full tuition refund, minus the application fee according to CTY's no-risk refund policy.

Bowie Baysox Read and Hit a Homerun Jersey Design Contest!



Our school will participate in the Bowie Baysox Read and Hit a Homerun Reading Program, which will start after winter break. More information about how to track how much you are reading will come home in January.

The program will culminate with all students who complete the program earning TWO tickets to the Saturday, April 6, 2024 Bowie Baysox game!

We are gearing up for this program by holding a Jersey Design Contest from now until Wednesday, January 10! If a design created by a student from Snowden Farm is chosen, we will receive a donation to be used for literacy materials in our building! ***If you would like to participate, please complete the design template on the back of this form and turn it in to your teacher no later Tuesday, January 9.*** Your child's classroom teacher will put it in Mrs. Altuner's mailbox.

- All designs have to be scanned and submitted by January 10, so we request they are ALL turned in by January 9!!
- Email Mrs. Altuner, Snowden Farm's Reading Specialist, at Carolyn_R_Altuner@mcpsmd.org with any questions!

SFES Family Game Night Interest Form 🎮

Are you and your family interested in joining us for a Snowden Farm Family Game Night on January 25th from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM?

- Join us for a night of games, laughter, and food!
- Please take a moment to fill out [THIS](#) form if you are interested so we can plan accordingly.

Updates from the PTSA

Please consider joining the SFES PTA

- Visit the [PTA Webpage](#) for more information and link on how to sign up.
- We are also in need of a chairperson to lead the Spirit Wear and PTA Newsletter committees. Please email vp2@sfespta.org if you are interested in volunteering to lead one of these committees.

Upcoming Important Dates

- 01/10- Yearbook Groups and Candid Pictures
- 01/17- Hallie Wells 5th Grade Parent Night (In Person & Virtual at 6:15 PM)
- 01/25- Family Game Night
- 01/30- Parent coffee at 6:30 PM on Restorative practices and Social Emotional learning
- 02/01- Heritage Night

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school, 240-740-5800.

With Gratitude,
Michelle Fortune