

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

We are excited to welcome your children back to school this week! The first days of school are always full of energy, anticipation, and joy, and we look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth together.

I would like to take a moment to thank our amazing staff for their hard work and dedication over the past week as they prepared classrooms, lessons, and activities to ensure a smooth and welcoming start for our students. Their efforts truly make a difference in creating a positive and engaging environment for all children.

Thank you as well to the families who were able to join us for the Kindergarten Open House last week. It was a joy to meet so many of you and begin building those important connections that help make school a supportive community for our youngest learners.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and are grateful for your partnership as we begin this journey together.

Transition Day is Monday, August 25th for Kindergarten Students

On Monday, August 25th we will welcome our kindergarten students for transition day to help them get adjusted to a new school, routines, and expectations. This is a full day of school for our kindergarten students with a variety of activities planned for them. If you have a kindergarten student, please plan to send them lunch or have them buy lunch at school.

Transition Day is Monday, August 25th for Students New to SFES 1st-5th Grade at 1:30 PM

If your child is new to Snowden Farm but is not in kindergarten, please plan to bring them on Monday, August 25th at 1:30 to meet their grade level teachers and for a tour of the building!

Open House- Monday, August 25th at 2:00 PM

Open House is a time to visit the classrooms and meet teachers as well as classmates for the 2025-2026 school year. At that time, families will have the option of taking a tour of the building.

- Our Open House will be held on Monday, August 25th, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.
- At 3:00 PM we will welcome all students outside for a popsicle and to watch a quick game of kickball.
- If you are unable to come to the Open House, signs will be posted as well as staff members stationed throughout the building with class lists to ensure that students know where to go on the first day of school.

New: Who is Ready for Kickball on Monday, August 25th at 3:00 PM

We look forward to seeing everyone at Open House on Monday the 25th at 2:00 PM!

If you are a new family to Snowden Farm, we have a tradition where we have a staff vs. parents kickball game to kick off the school year. After coming in for our Open House, we will head outside to the field for the game at 3:00 PM.

If you are interested in playing, please complete the following form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBbBhnHmQ3zL1VRJrOFUKmDhHozTtyrg8kVUbqh4tG8Umqxg/viewform>

Family Preparation for the 1st Day of School-Tuesday, August 26th

- Please begin talking with your child(ren) about how they will go home after school (walk, bus, car rider, or BAR-T).
 - If your child typically takes the bus, please have them ride on the first day of school.
- Please label your child's supplies.
- If your child completed the summer enrichment activities, please have them return the cover sheet to their teacher during the first week of school.
- Please label any donations for the grade level with the teacher's name.

New: SFES Traffic Patterns



ALL walkers
and carpool
entrance



Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Applications Are Now Open

Every year, students must apply and be approved to receive FREE breakfast and/or lunch. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) is excited to provide regular meal services during the 2025-2026 school year.

- Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals! Breakfast: Regular Price: \$1.30; Reduced Price: No Cost, Lunch: Regular Price: \$2.55, Reduced Price: No Cost
- Apply before school starts. One application covers the entire HOUSEHOLD. Translations in other languages are available through the online application.
- Apply now at www.MySchoolApps.com or <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>
- Here is a video about how to apply:
 - English Video:  MySchoolApps Free Reduced Meals Tutorial
 - Video en Español:  Paso a paso - ¿Cómo completar la solicitud de Alimentos Gratis o a Precio ...

New From MCPS: Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE—What's the Difference? Here's What You Need to Know

Families often hear about different platforms for school communication, and it can get confusing. Here's a quick guide:

- **Remind & ParentSquare**

Both are messaging platforms used by MCPS schools, teachers, students, and parents. Over the next few months, schools will transition from Remind to ParentSquare (by January 2026) because ParentSquare has acquired Remind. Here at Snowden Farm we are currently using ParentSquare.
- **ParentVUE**

ParentVUE is the parent portal for MCPS. It's your secure window into important information about your child's education—attendance, class schedules, grades, report cards, enrollment, athletic registration, and more. ParentVUE also links to MyMCPSClassroom, where you can see class materials. Available online and as a mobile app, ParentVUE is the Parent Portal that serves as the primary home-to-school communication vehicle.

Remind Quick Guides	ParentSquare Quick Guides	ParentVUE Quick Guides
• English • Spanish • French • Korean • Chinese • Vietnamese • Portuguese • Amharic	• English • Spanish • French • Chinese • Vietnamese • Portuguese • Amharic • Korean	• English • Spanish • Korean • Chinese • Amharic • Portuguese • French • Vietnamese

New From MCPS: What’s New This Year and Why It’s Important

NEW–MCPS “Now You Know” Video Series

Quick videos with “just-in-time” info for our community. Perfect for social media and on the go and recorded in multiple languages.

- First up: How to Find Your Bus Route
- Next week: School Immunization Information

To Do: Take a look at the videos, share with your friends, and stay tuned—because now you know!

- Links to the Videos: [English](#) / [español](#) / [中文](#) / [français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [tiếng Việt](#) / [አማርኛ](#)

New From MCPS: Ensuring Students Feel Safe, Included and Supported at School

The [MCPS Student Code of Conduct](#) has been revised for the 2025–2026 school year. Changes include making behavior rules easier to understand and establishing a standard process across the district to investigate incidents. This document outlines expectations for student behavior and the consequences for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The focus is on helping students learn from mistakes, repair harm and rebuild trust.

- [Learn more.](#)
- [2025–2026 Code of Conduct One Pager](#)

New From MCPS: Student Safety Is Our Top Priority: Here’s What We Are Doing

Recent findings from the Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General identified areas for improvement in how background checks are processed and monitored for school-based

employees, contractors and volunteers. Your children are safe at school, and we are taking immediate and sustained action to make sure it stays that way.

- [Read more.](#)

New From MCPS: What is Your Child Learning in the Classroom?

MCPS is rolling out a new initiative to make the curriculum more transparent and family-friendly. Starting this school year, families will receive a simple, one-page overview of the main themes and texts students will study each marking period—nicknamed the “Refrigerator Curriculum” because it’s designed to be easy to post on the fridge at home.

- [Learn more.](#)

New From MCPS: All You Need to Know for Lunch

The [Free and Reduced-price Meals \(FARMS\) application](#) is available for the 2025–2026 school year. A new FARMS application must be completed every school year. Meals are free for students who qualify for the program. Only one application is needed for all students in a household.

- [Learn more.](#)
- Visit the Department of Food and Nutrition and Services webpage for information on [breakfast and lunch menus](#) and how to add money to your child’s account through [MySchoolBucks](#).

New From MCPS: Don’t Forget Your Immunizations!

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is offering free back-to-school vaccinations for Montgomery County school-aged children at county locations through September.

New From MCPS: Find Your Route! Bus Info Coming Aug. 15

Bus routes for the 2025–2026 school year will be available starting Aug. 15.

- Visit the [Division of Transportation Services website](#) to find your route and get set for the first day of school!

The link to your school bus routes will also be available on individual school websites.

Additional Back to School Information

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)

- [25-26 Supply List](#)
- [Menus - Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- School Cash Online- <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Monday, August 25th**
 - Transition Day for kindergarten all day
 - For Students New to Snowden Farm in Grades 1-5 at 1:30 PM
 - Open House for 1st-5th Grade from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM
 - Kickball Game and Popsicles from 3:00 PM-3:30 PM
- **Tuesday, August 26th-** 1st Day of School
- **Monday, September 1st-** No School
- **Thursday, September 11th-** Back to School Night

We hope to see you at Open House on August 25th and our 1st day of school on August 26th. We can't wait to embark on this incredible journey with you and your children. Here's to a fantastic year ahead at Snowden Farm Elementary School!

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal