

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

We had a wonderful week of learning together in our classrooms! In addition to diving into academics, students have been reviewing our expectations for lunch and recess to help ensure a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for everyone.

This week, we are looking forward to our Stallion Meet-Ups where our school community will gather to sing our school song, our monthly cultural celebration, and celebrate students who demonstrate what it means to be safe, studious, and synergistic.

Thank you to all who joined us for Back-to-School Night! Your support and partnership mean so much to our staff and students. If you missed the some of the presentations, please take a look at the slides,  Back to School Night 9.11.25 and  Specials BTSN 2025

If you haven't had the chance yet, please take a few moments to complete our **feedback form**, <https://forms.gle/B1Ky5sWn4tzNUH1d7> so we can continue to improve and strengthen our school community.

New: The MATH CHALLENGE is back!

This is an optional at home math enrichment challenge that students can engage with to enhance their critical thinking and problem solving skills. It is an easy way to make sure your student is challenged, and learn about their methods of math reasoning. Working with your child on these problems will help them build a strong, positive math identity, and enrich your child's math problem solving approach for years to come.

Read the way the challenge works here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PxyZZijZYdr3ylnH6UG-1IE7WdRugWCDVmCUTPOvO2k/edit?usp=sharing>

Use this **calendar** to see challenge release dates and due dates:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DNzv5xf5hnY2NLKt0iu71XPR-wiSkDzD00qaZjBpjBU/e dit?usp=sharing>

Use this **Google form EVERY TWO WEEKS** (same form each time) to submit your child's answers before the deadline: <https://forms.gle/5PshFw9DuGYNTBSHA>

The first challenge is live **NOW** and is due by Thursday 9/25 at 8 pm. Visit <https://www.mathinaction.org/snowden-farm.html> to get the challenge now!

Spirit Fridays

We are excited to bring some spirit and fun to Snowden Farm! On Fridays of this month, we will have a *Fun Friday spirit day* with a theme each week. See below for the schedule:

- Friday, September 19th – School Spirit Day: Come wearing your Snowden Farm gear or purple and blue
- Friday, September 26th – Pajama Day: Come wearing your comfy pajamas for the early release day!

Join the PTA

Join the PTA to become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience.

- Fill out the membership form online,
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc98gaet2hNbdVBLPQMYyjdDemfgWNSvYCWmhazRDuDsSE-8w/viewform?usp=preview>
- Pay Dues
 - Pay online via Zelle: treasurer@sfspta.org
 - Individual Membership \$20
 - Family Membership \$40
 - Staff Membership \$15

New: Important Information from MCPS

New: Want to Volunteer in MCPS?

MCPS welcomes volunteers! MCPS schools are stronger because parents, caregivers, and community members step in to help. Whether it's chaperoning a trip, coaching, or lending a hand in the classroom, volunteers make a real difference for kids. At the same time, nothing matters more than keeping every child safe. That's why we require all volunteers to complete required training—and some volunteers must also complete a fingerprinted background check, including:

- Volunteer coaches
- Grade 6 Outdoor Education
- Overnight or extended day field trip chaperones (returning after 7:00 p.m. or out-of-area/state)
- Volunteers working 1:1 with students unsupervised
- For more information about being a volunteer with MCPS, visit these websites
 - [Volunteer Information](#)

- [Application Form](#)
- [Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#)
- [MCPS Background Screening Office](#) (for criminal background checks)

New: Stronger Background Checks, Fingerprinting and Badging Underway

The safety of our students and staff always comes first. The recent report from the Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General made clear that background check procedures had not been as strong or consistent as they needed to be. We agree with those findings, and we are acting quickly to correct these issues and catch up. This work has begun across the district. Here's what we're doing:

- **Re-Fingerprinting Staff Hired Before 2019:** All will be enrolled in RapBack, the FBI's continuous background monitoring system, ensuring ongoing safety checks, not just one-time clearances.
- **Clearing CPS Checks:** With support from MCPS and the Department of Health and Human Services, dedicated teams are processing any yet-to-be done Child Protective Services clearances quickly through a new electronic system.
- **Re-Badging Staff:** Updated badges are being issued through multiple mobile badging teams and printers.

Every employee, contractor and volunteer will receive a new badge displaying the "*Security Certified*" image. This visible marker will confirm that the individual has successfully completed the updated clearance process.

This work began Sept. 8 in the Paint Branch cluster, following the completion of all Special Needs schools last week. With 211 schools across MCPS, resources have been surged, including multiple fingerprinting stations and additional staff support, to complete this process by mid-December.

For the future, improvements in our processes will allow MCPS to keep pace with new hires, new volunteers and contractors so that everyone working with our students, and alongside each other, is "*MCPS Security Certified*."

It's important to know that every staff member, contractor and volunteer currently working with students has already passed a criminal background check. No one has unsupervised access to students without clearance.

MCPS will report progress on this work to the Board of Education at its business meeting in September, and again before the Montgomery County Council's Audit Committee on Sept. 26.

Next Round of Boundary Study Options Meetings Set for October

The MCPS community is invited to participate in upcoming public information meetings for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School boundary study and the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of the Damascus High School boundary study. In these sessions, the next round of proposed boundary options for the 2027-2028 school year will be presented, including accompanying maps, articulation patterns, data tables and an interactive map tool. MCPS will also share surveys for each boundary study so that attendees can provide meaningful feedback after exploring the options and accompanying resources. See the opportunities to attend a virtual or in-person session.

[See the opportunities to attend a virtual or in-person session.](#)

[MCPS Boundary Study webpage](#)

Help Shape Next Year's School Calendar—Share Your Input!

MCPS is seeking input as it works to develop the 2026-2027 school calendar. Please complete this [survey](#) to share your feedback. Your input represents an important component of the development process. The survey will close on Tuesday, Sept. 30. [Take it today!](#)

Have You Submitted Your Free and Reduced-price Meal (FARMS) Application Yet?

[Apply online for meal benefits today!](#) A new FARMS application must be completed every school year. MCPS encourages all families who may be eligible to apply. Please submit the online FARMS application through [MySchoolApps](#) (translations are available). Only one application is needed for all students in a household. For more information, visit the Division of Food and Nutrition Services [website](#).

Registration Now Open for Saturday School

Registration for the George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy, Inc., also known as [Saturday School](#), is open for the 2025–2026 school year. Saturday School provides K–12 academic support programs in math and English/Language Arts. There are in-person and virtual options. Saturday School’s opening session is Sept. 20; the first tutoring session is Sept. 27. The curriculum is aligned with MCPS and is taught by certified teachers.

The annual cost is \$85 and \$40 for families eligible for Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS).

[Registration and more](#)

Additional 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/>
- Maryland Anonymous Tip Line - 1-833-632-7233- Report threats or situations that put your safety, or others' safety, at risk.
- In Case You Missed It:
 - [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): See what your children will be learning each marking period.
 - [Enhanced Security Protocol](#): MCPS is using the [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#) to respond to emergencies and crisis situations. Schools will review safety procedures, share resources and conduct drills to ensure preparedness. Students will also see SRP posters displayed in school.
 - [Don't Forget Your Immunizations!](#): There are requirements for grades K, 7, 9 and students new to MCPS.
- More MCPS Resources
 - [School calendar](#)
 - [Parent resource page](#)
 - [Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE](#): What's the difference?
 - [Student Code of Conduct](#): [Read the revised document](#) and [watch the video](#).

Upcoming Important Dates

- Monday, September 15th- Stallion Meet Ups
- Wednesday, September 17th- Flannel and Flapjacks in 2nd grade
- Tuesday, September 23rd- Non-instructional Day for Staff and Students

- Wednesday, September 24th- 3rd Grade Tea Party
- Friday, September 26th- Early Release

We are excited for the learning and celebrations ahead and appreciate all that you do to support your child's success.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal