

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

This past week, we held our monthly meet-up to celebrate students who demonstrated the three S's: **Safe, Synergic, and Studious**. It's always inspiring to recognize students who are making positive choices and contributing to our school community.

A big thank-you to the caregivers who joined us last Monday to learn about critical thinking and participate in classroom read-alouds. We appreciate your time and partnership in supporting our students' learning!

As part of Bullying Awareness Month, students learned about the importance of kindness, inclusion, and standing up for others. To show our support, we're asking all students to wear orange on Wednesday, October 22 for Unity Day.

Finally, as more students are riding to school, we ask families to remind children to wear helmets and to walk their bikes or scooters while on school property to help keep everyone safe.

Trunk or Treat on 10/24

We are less than one week away from Snowden Farm's **Trunk or Treat!**

As a reminder, Trunk or Treat is taking place this Friday, October 24th from 5:30-7:00pm (rain date is Monday, 10/27). The parking lot (closest to the front entrance) will be available starting at 4:45pm for setup. Costumes are welcome and we hope to see you there!

If you would still like to enter a decorated vehicle or donate candy to the event, please use the [Sign-Up Genius](#) to register.

New: Fall Book Fair and Volunteers are Needed!

Our Fall Book Fair is right around the corner! Kicking off Monday, November 10th (Preview Day) - Tuesday, November 18th, our school is excited to promote the love of reading.

- Please click on the <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48A8A629A2F49-59721111-sfes#/> for Volunteer Slots being offered every day of the Book Fair; 8am-10am, 10am-12pm, 3-5pm, and a few special late night slots from 5-7pm.
- E-Wallet information will be forthcoming!

New: Lost and Found

Our **Lost and Found** is very full again! Please have your students stop by and claim any items they are missing. **Lost and Found** items will be donated on Friday, October 31.

Chinese Language Class for 4th and 5th Grade

The Chinese After School Program offers twenty-five students in 4th and 5th grade a fun and creative way to explore the Chinese language and culture through art, storytelling, and hands-on activities. Students will have the opportunity to color and design their own Chinese-themed artwork, helping them develop creativity while gaining a deeper appreciation of Chinese traditions and aesthetics. In addition to art and crafts, students will engage in interactive language learning - practicing speaking and listening through songs, games, and conversations, while also learning to read and write simple Chinese characters. Through storytelling, they will discover fascinating Chinese folktales and bring them to life through drawings, crafts, and performances. This program aims to build cultural awareness, inspire imagination, and foster confidence in language learning in a joyful and supportive environment. Students from Clarksburg High School and Hallie Wells Middle School will be leading the program. The Chinese teacher from these schools, Ms. Karen He will sponsor the program.

- Please complete the parent permission slip here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ec3payTvRr4FrO64HYrVKUUeMLEEB-Ppp1MU8KLmxqs/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.7tpnns64p19r>

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@sfespta.org
 - Individual Membership \$20
 - Family Membership \$40
 - Staff Membership \$15

New: Important Information from MCPS

New: MCPS Staff Provided Update on Secondary Program Analysis and Regions Model

Montgomery County Public Schools understands that any change can feel uncertain. This past Thursday, MCPS presented an update to the Board of Education about the work on the Secondary Academic Programs Analysis, a plan focused on adding opportunities, not taking any

away. This initiative represents a fundamental shift toward equity: ensuring every student, regardless of zip code, has genuine access to rigorous and engaging programs. [Learn more.](#)

New: Here's How to See Your Student's Interim Progress Report; Report Cards Coming Nov. 7

Interim progress reports are generated four times a year at the mid-point of each marking period, on the following dates: Oct. 3, Dec. 19, March 6, 2026, May 12, 2026 (for high school seniors) and May 22, 2026 (all other students). These reports are available for parents/caregivers to see in [ParentVue](#). [Here are the step-by-step directions for accessing these reports on ParentVue.](#)

Report cards are sent home via backpack with all students for the first three marking periods. The final report card of the year is mailed to students' homes.

Report cards are mailed home for families who do not have a ParentVue account.

Recognizing our Hard Truth and Setting a Course for the Future

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), a recommendation presented by Superintendent Thomas Taylor during the Board of Education meeting on Oct. 14, requests \$2.7 billion over six years. However, it represents only about half of what district facilities actually need. [Read more.](#)

Hear more from the superintendent and join us in-person on Oct. 21 (DCPS Warehouse, 580 N. Stone Street Ave, Rockville, MD) and virtually on Oct. 22 ([Zoom](#)).

Full 2027-2032 Recommended [Capital Improvements Plan](#)

New: Employee Background Checks and Badging Update

Background checks, fingerprinting and badging are moving forward as MCPS continues to prioritize the safety of all students and staff. Last week, our team visited the Kennedy cluster of schools and MCPS remains on track to complete the process by mid-December. Below is an update on our progress to date, reflecting the number of employees who have already been rescreened.

Metric	Value
TOTAL STAFF RE-SCREENED TO DATE	3,891
% of School-Based Staff Completed	37%
# of Schools Completed	88/211

New: Meetings Set to Preview Second Quarter Instructional Materials, Math Policy

MCPS is hosting three community meetings next week for parents/guardians to preview instructional materials for the second quarter. Earlier this year, MCPS rolled out the initiative to make curriculum more transparent and family-friendly. The “Refrigerator Curriculum” provides a one-page overview of the main themes and texts students will study each marking period.

- Secondary curriculum will be previewed Thursday, Oct. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. at Tilden Middle School, 6300 Tilden Lane, Rockville
- Elementary curriculum will be previewed Thursday, Oct. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. at Farmland Elementary School, 7000 Old Gate Road, Rockville
- [MSDE Math policy](#) will be previewed Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd., Gaithersburg

[Regulation IFD-RA, Curriculum Transparency and Requests to be Excused from Instruction](#)

New: Game Changer Conference Set for Oct. 25

Male students in Grades 4-12 are invited to attend the [2025 Fall Game Changer Conference for Young Males](#). This event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. noon, at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus. [Register](#).

The goal of the conference is to craft an experience that reignites and builds the social-emotional wellness, confidence and values of young males. Some of the sessions include life skills stations, panel conversations, STEM exposure, an essay contest and a parent advocacy workshop. [More information](#).

New: Marking Remembrance and Reconciliation Month

For the fourth year, MCPS is observing Remembrance and Reconciliation Month with opportunities for students to learn about local African American history and support local Emancipation Day celebrations.

Secondary students are able to earn two Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for attending an [online changemaker workshop](#) on making a difference in your community from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6. The keynote speaker will be Maryland Delegate Greg Wims. [Learn more.](#)

Students are also invited to a free [Emancipation Day celebration](#) from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Button Farm's Living History Center, 16820 Black Rock Road in Germantown. Students can earn up to three SSL hours.

Additional Information

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- [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.
 - [Register for Saturday School. The tutoring sessions are available to students in K-12 in math and English/Language Arts and have in-person and virtual options.](#)
 - [MCPS welcomes volunteers! Here's how to do it.](#)
- 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

- 10/20- Non-Instructional Day
- 10/22- Unity Day/ Wear Orange and 5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore
- 10/24- Trunk or Treat
- 10/29- Kindergarten Field Trip to Butlers Orchard

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe and caring school environment for all students.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal