

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

It was another great week of learning at our school! This week, our second graders participated in CoGAT testing, and our third graders enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Imagination Stage. Thank you to our students, staff, and chaperones for helping make the trip a smooth and successful experience.

We are also incredibly proud of our musicians who performed in both the in-school and evening winter concerts this week. Their hard work and talent truly shined, and it was a joy to celebrate their accomplishments. Special shout-out to Ms. Jackson and Mr. Spitzberg for their hard work preparing students!

Please check out [December's Enrichment Choice Board here](#) for family enrichment opportunities!

Our Winter Countdown continues next week with some fun spirit days:

- **Wednesday the 17th: Sparkle and Shine Day (wear something that sparkles and shines)**
- **Thursday the 18th: Winter Flannel Day**
- **Friday the 19th: National Ugly Sweater Day**

New: Early Dismissal

For safety, the main office can call down your students once you have arrived in the office and signed them out. We are not able to call students down prior to your arrival in the office.

If your student will be missing days around the winter break, please send an email to Mrs. Cardea so she can properly mark attendance. Sherrie_H_Cardea@mcpsmd.org

SFES Heritage Night "Around the World in One Night" on 12/17

We are excited to invite our school community to celebrate the incredible diversity that makes our families so special! Heritage Night is an annual tradition where families host tables that highlight their culture, traditions, and heritage.

Please check out the signup genius to indicate whether your family/student would like to...

Do a Cultural Dance/Instrumental Performance 🦁 🥁

- 3-5 minute MAX dance/musical performance that REPRESENTS your culture

Host a table display of your culture:

- Traditional foods or recipes 🍲 (add a card with a list of main ingredients)
- Clothing 👗
- Photos, artifacts, crafts, or games 🎨
- Fun facts about your country or region 🌍

Heritage Night Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA9AF2EA1F8C43-59548611-sfes>

Overdue Books:

As we prepare for the upcoming winter break, the Media Center is working to ensure all students have access to great books for the holiday season. At this time, our school has **226 overdue library books**.

I kindly ask for your help in locating and returning any school library books your child has finished reading. Returning overdue books allows students to check out new titles before the break and keeps our collection available for everyone.

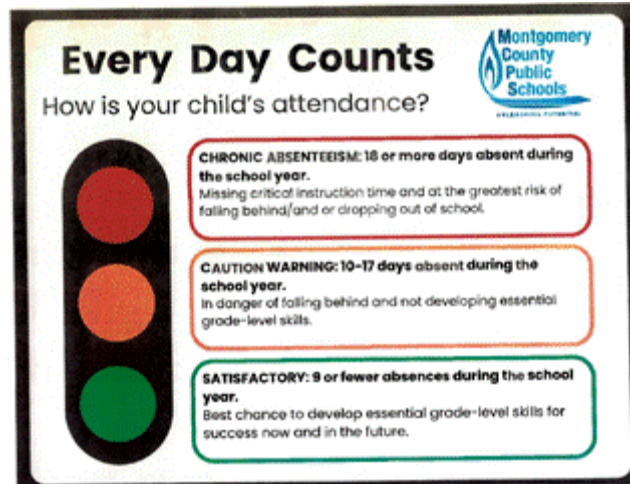
Please take a few minutes this week to look around for any books with our school's barcode or library labels.

Thank you for your support in helping all students continue to read, explore, and enjoy our library resources!

Attendance Matters

For absences of ten or more days, MCPS policy states students must be unenrolled from school. Upon return, families need to submit proof of residency to the main office (Property Tax Bill or Current Lease). Every effort will be made to return the student to the classroom they left from, but enrollment is based on classroom numbers, and we cannot guarantee they'll be returned to their current classroom.

While unenrolled, students miss important class instruction. Work missed while unenrolled cannot be made up and grades will be affected. When students lose instructional time, it affects their ability to excel in school and being present in the classroom is imperative to their educational growth.



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: BOE Approves 2026–2027 School Calendar

The Montgomery County Board of Education approved the traditional and innovative school year calendars for the 2026-2027 school year at yesterday's (Dec. 11) meeting.

Traditional Calendar Overview:

- Includes a total of 181 instructional days, including four contingency days.
- Student Transition Day, a non-instructional day: Monday, Aug. 24, 2026.
- First day of school: Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026.
- Last day of school: Wednesday, June 16, 2027.
- Winter break is Dec. 23, 2026–Jan. 3, 2027. Spring break is March 26, 2027–April 4, 2027.

- Key holidays and breaks align with state requirements, including Labor Day, Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks, and other observances.

New: Middle and High School Student Grading: An Update for Families

All first marking period report cards are now available in [ParentVue](#). Please check ParentVue to review grades and check for updates to your child's current second marking period progress. The second marking period ends Friday, Jan. 23, 2026. Interim grades for the second marking period will be available on ParentVue on Friday, Dec. 19. [Read more](#).

New: Debunking Myths about the Regional Programs

MCPS remains committed to ensuring that every student in every community has access to high-quality academic programs that match their interests and ambitions, without barriers of distance or opportunity. The work the district is doing is an important step toward a more equitable system.

We know that families may still have questions about this work. Here are three myths we have been hearing, and the [truth](#). [Read more](#).

New: Check Out Additional Boundary Study Options and Share Your Feedback

A reminder that families should check out the additional options on the Woodward/Northwood and Crown/Damascus boundary studies. These options (added on Dec. 1, 2025) are in addition to the current options A–D available on the boundary study webpages, so please take a look and share your feedback on a survey by Friday, Jan. 9.

- [Options on Woodward/Northwood](#)
- [Woodward/Northwood Boundary Study Survey](#)
- [Options on Crown/Damascus](#)
- [Crown/Damascus Boundary Study Survey](#)

[Boundary Study Webpage](#)

New: Parent Academy Workshops Jan. 6 and Jan. 14

Parents are encouraged to check out two virtual [Parent Academy To Go workshops](#) coming in January. Parent Academy *TO GO* informs and empowers families as advocates and partners in their children's education. Upcoming sessions are:

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6-7 p.m., Saturday School Spotlight: Boosting Skills, Building Confidence
- Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6-7 p.m., Nature as Classroom: Inside the Smith Environmental Experience

If you are unable to join a Parent Academy workshop, visit the [MCPS YouTube channel](#) for recorded sessions. [Learn more.](#)

New: A Reminder of the New Safety Protocols

Safety is a priority in MCPS, and we all share responsibility for knowing and communicating what to do during a serious incident. Since the start of this school year, MCPS has been using a new [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#) for emergency situations. You've probably seen the new posters in classrooms, offices and throughout all MCPS buildings. The new posters clearly communicate the five SRP actions: HOLD, SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE and SHELTER. [Read more about these actions.](#)

New: Save the Date: FY27 Operating Budget Presentation Dec. 17

Superintendent Thomas Taylor will deliver his Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Join us virtually by watching [online](#) and on MCPS TV on cable (Comcast 34, Verizon 36 and RCN 88). The superintendent has heard from staff, parents and community members during listening sessions. Attendees have raised important questions and shared honest feedback. [Read more.](#)

Additional Information

- [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- Food Assistance: Call Manna's main office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, at (301) 424-1130.
- [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

- Monday, December 15th- Stallion Meet Ups
- Wednesday, December 17th- Sparkle and Shine Day (wear something that sparkles and shines)
 - 1st Grade Culture Day at 9:30 AM
 - PTA meeting at 6:00 PM
 - Heritage Night at 6:30 PM
- Thursday, December 18th- Winter Flannel Day
- Friday, December 19th- National Ugly Sweater Day

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. We look forward to another great week together.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal