

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

We would like to take a moment to highlight and celebrate our amazing 1st grade team and students for their wonderful Culture Day celebration. Thank you to all the families and community members who visited, hosted tables, and helped make the event so meaningful. We are also incredibly proud of our students who performed during Heritage Night—your efforts truly made the evening special.

Last week, it was a joy to see so many students and staff participate in our Winter Break Spirit Week. The enthusiasm and school spirit on display brought warmth and smiles throughout the building.

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

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

- Monday, December 22nd-Holiday Hats/Gear Day
- Tuesday, December 23rd: Pajamas or Sweats Day

As a reminder, we will have **full school days on Monday and Tuesday prior to Winter Break**. School will then resume on **Monday, January 5th**.

New: Canned Foods Needed

Help us give back! Our food drive from Heritage Night has been extended until 12/23. We are collecting canned and non-perishable items to support Clarksburg CAN, which provides a free food pantry for families in the community. Let's work together to make a meaningful impact!

New: Health Room Updates

Students are not permitted to have prescription medications, over-the-counter medications (cough drops/candies), ointments, lotions, homeopathic pills, or home remedies in school without the appropriate form (see below) filled in by their doctor. Parents must bring the form and the medication to the health room. **FORMS AND MEDICATIONS SHOULD NOT BE SENT IN TO SCHOOL WITH THE STUDENT.**

This is the link for the form to have a medication kept in the school for daily or as-needed use:
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-13.pdf>

This is the link for the form to have an epipen kept in the school if the student has severe allergies:

- <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf>

New: The Spelling Bee

We are excited to announce our upcoming SFES Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. **Dates are as follows:**

- Kindergarten & 1st - 1/27/26
- 2nd & 3rd - 1/28/26
- 4th & 5th - 1/29/26

The top three spellers from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will advance to a school-level competition on February 4, and the winner of that round will go on to compete in the Scripps National Regional Spelling Bee.

Please be sure to carefully read the directions on the [SignUpGenius](#) when signing up your student. We look forward to cheering on all of our spellers!

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.

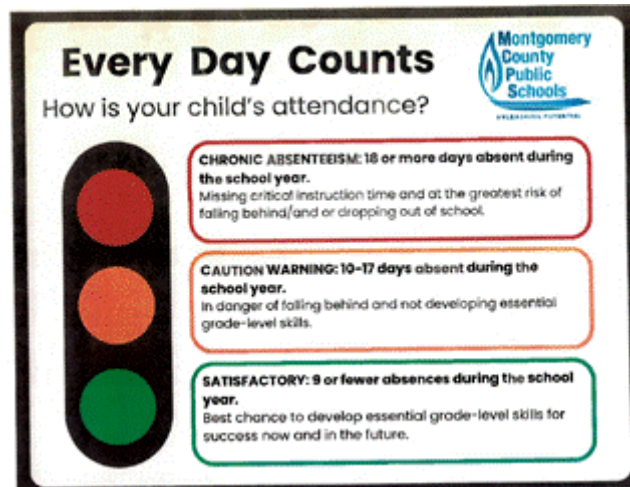
Please take a few minutes this week to look around for any books with our school's barcode or library labels.

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

New: Important Information from MCPS

New: MCPS Future-Ready Vision Takes Hold with Promising Quarter 1 Gains

MCPS presented the district's baseline data for all performance metrics defined in the [MCPS Future Ready: Fiscal Years 2025–2030 Strategic Plan](#) and Quarter 1 progress for the 2025–2026 school year to the Board of Education on Dec. 11. This year marks the first full implementation cycle of the strategic plan, which outlines the collective commitment to ensure that every MCPS student graduates prepared to thrive. [Read more.](#)

New: The 2024–2025 MCPS Annual Report

MCPS has published the [2024–2025 Annual Report](#), capturing a pivotal year of transition — one that included the development of the MCPS Future Ready Strategic Plan, which now drives and monitors our progress and sets the goals and objectives that guide our work.

New: Superintendent Proposes \$3.775 Billion Operating Budget

MCPS Superintendent Thomas W. Taylor presented his recommended Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget on Dec. 17, featuring people-first investments, smaller elementary class sizes amid declining enrollment, clear staffing standards that strengthen schools, and targeted instructional support in math and literacy. [Read more.](#)

New: Budget Materials

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Budget Summary Sheet](#)

Now You Know: Operating Budget — How You Can Provide Input

Superintendent Thomas Taylor has presented his Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget to the Board of Education, and we'll need your voice throughout the process. The Board and County Council will each hold work sessions and public hearings before its final approval. Your input and advocacy are a critical part of the process.

Watch in [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Amharic](#) | [Korean](#) | [Portuguese](#)

New: Four Months. Every School. MCPS Completes Security Rescreening

After nearly four months of hard work, MCPS has completed the background check, fingerprinting and badging process of all school-based staff and transportation staff.

Total School-Based Staff Rescreened	8,012
Total Non-School-Based Staff Rescreened	1,101

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](#)

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](#).

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 22nd- Stallion Meet Ups and Holiday Hats/Gear Day
- Tuesday, December 23rd: Pajamas or Sweats Day
- Wednesday, December 24th- Sunday, January 4th- Winter Break
- Monday, January 5th- School Resumes

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We wish all of our families a safe, restful, and joyful Winter Break.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal