

Dear Snowden Farm Families,

Last week our students enjoyed a fantastic Hispanic Heritage Assembly, where we celebrated Hispanic culture and traditions. A special thank you to our PTA for bringing this experience to our students!

Looking ahead, our Fall Parties will take place on Thursday, October 15. Please see the information below for additional details. As a reminder, there will be no school for students on Friday, October 16, due to a professional day for staff.

We look forward to another great week ahead!

New: Fall Parties on 10/15

We are excited to welcome caregivers to our upcoming Fall Parties! To ensure enough space in classrooms, we kindly ask that each student have no more than **two caregivers and/or parents** and that **no other siblings** join the event.

Please remember that **all caregivers and/or parents must bring a photo ID** to check in at the main office and receive a visitor badge before entering classrooms.

- K/1st- 12:30-1:30
- 2nd- 12:00-1:00
- 3rd- 11:15-12:15
- 4th/5th- 2:00-3:00

New: Being on Time is IMPORTANT!

Doors open daily at 8:45 AM. Students should be in their classrooms ready to learn at 9:00 AM. If your student arrives after the doors close at 9:00 AM, please walk them into the main office and sign them in. Tardies are recorded on the report card at all grade levels.

We have resources to help so please reach out if you are having difficulties getting to school on time.

New: Math Challenge

It is time to introduce the **MATH CHALLENGE** for the year! This is an optional at home math enrichment challenge that students can engage with to enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. If you are looking for a way to extend your child's critical thinking, math

reasoning, and enrich their learning, this is it! 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: [Challenge Directions](#)
- Use this **calendar** to see challenge release dates and due dates: [CALENDAR](#)
- Use this **Google form** to submit your child's answers before the deadline: [FORM](#) *Select **CHALLENGE 1!**
- This challenge is live **NOW** and is due by Thursday 10/22 at 8 pm. Visit [CURRENT CHALLENGE](#) to get the challenge now!

New: Happy October Stallion Writers!

For our writing challenge this month, we are asking you to read and write about the story *Stellahuna*. If you're in kindergarten, first, or second grade, you'll be using *because*, *but*, *so* to expand a sentence. Students in grades 3-5 will identify key details to support a topic sentence.

- Parents, please use the [slideshow](#) to guide your students through the activities.
- Reach out to our Reading Specialist, Emily Pinegar at Emily_Pinegar@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

New: PBSL

During the month of November, our school counselors will be presenting Personal Body Safety Lessons, which aim to prevent child abuse and neglect. Please see the attached letter for more information and reach out if you have any questions.

Digital Citizenship Week is 10/19-10/23

This year, Digital Citizenship Week is from October 19th -23rd. Common Sense Media and MCPS work together to teach students how to use technology safely, responsibly, and effectively in both school and everyday life. Families can go to <https://www.common sense media.org/> for technology webinars, family activities, and tip sheets.

CHS Cluster Night on 10/23

Let's Come together and show our Clarksburg spirit at the 4th Annual Cluster night on Friday the 23rd at Coyote Canyon (Clarksburg High School Football Stadium).

- Please sign-up under your respective cluster school and submit your student's name in the comment box.
- Families should arrive starting at 5:30 PM for check-in for parade to begin at 5:50 PM.
- Each school will march in the parade as a group with a school banner leading the way!
- Where your school colors or gear!
- Each student will get one pom-pom and a spirit bracelet (while supplies last)
- [Clarksburg Cluster: Clarksburg Cluster Night 2026](#)

Trunk or Treat/ Add blurb and Flyer

Snowden Farm's Trunk or Treat is scheduled for **Friday, October 30th** from 5:30-7:00pm! The parking lot (closest to the front entrance) will be available starting at 4:45pm for setup.

- Please sign-up for a parking space for your decorated vehicle. Spaces will be assigned when you arrive and volunteers will be on-site to assist.
- We will also provide participants with a numbered sign to enter the "Best Trunk" contest to display on your vehicle.
- Unfortunately, we do not have access to power outlets in the parking lot so please provide your own power (if needed for your setup).
- If you are not able to host a trunk but are interested in donating candy for the Trunk or Treat, please drop off candy at the front office by 3pm on October 29th. This is a popular event and we always run out of candy so please consider signing-up for *Candy Donations in the Sign-Up Genius* and indicate how many bags you plan on donating.

- *Sign-Up Genius Link:*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48A8A629A2F49-66401295-sfes>

MCPS Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy

To support classroom learning, your child will be issued a Chromebook for use during the school day. We ask that you review the MCPS Chromebook Acceptable Use Guidelines and the FY2027 Chromebook Repair and Replacement Cost Information with your child to ensure a clear understanding of proper device use and care.

- [Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy](#)

Join the PTA for the 2026-2027 School Year

Become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience. Fill out the membership form, pay online. Our next meeting will be on 1/27/27 (BINGO Night).

- <https://sfepta.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/145130>
- Individual Membership \$20
- Family Membership \$40
- Staff Membership \$15

New from MCPS:

New: Board Moves School Calendar Proposals Forward for Public Comment

The Board of Education received a presentation on Oct. 8 outlining proposed school calendars for **2027–2028 and 2028–2029** and moved the proposals forward for public comment and feedback. A key feature of the discussion was a two-year calendar approach, designed to give families and staff greater ability to plan ahead by establishing major calendar dates earlier.

Under the approach, the Board would adopt the next school year's calendar while tentatively setting major dates, such as the first and last days of school and winter and spring breaks, for the following year. The community will now have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed calendars, with final adoption scheduled for **Nov. 19**.

- See the video of the presentation [here](#)
- See the slide deck [here](#)

New: Board of Education Receives Update on School Closure and Consolidation Study

On Thursday, Oct. 8, MCPS updated the Board of Education on the elementary and middle school closure and consolidation study, including why the work is necessary, how the process will unfold and how the community can participate.

Important: No schools have been selected for closure, no recommendations have been made and there is no predetermined outcome. Community engagement begins Oct. 19—months before the superintendent is expected to present recommendations to the Board.

- Read [the full story](#) for engagement dates, what to expect, the decision-making timeline and the facts families should know.
- See the project website [here https://mcpsstudy.org](https://mcpsstudy.org)
- See the presentation video [here](#)
- See the presentation slides [here](#)

New: Middle School Program Changes Delayed One Year

MCPS is delaying any changes to the middle school Program of Study until the next school year, allowing additional time for review, engagement and thoughtful implementation. The proposals under consideration include 60-minute core classes and more consistent elective offerings across middle schools. No changes will be implemented this school year.

Why it's happening: After testing several scheduling scenarios, MCPS determined that implementing the changes next school year would present significant logistical and operational challenges, particularly across schools of different sizes. Current budget considerations are also a factor. Delaying implementation gives MCPS time to better understand final Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requirements, continue working through scheduling and staffing implications, and make a more informed decision before moving forward.

See the presentation video [here](#).

See the presentation [slides here](#).

New: Explore What Your Child Is Learning at MCPS Curriculum Day, Oct. 19

MCPS is hosting Curriculum Preview Day, an opportunity for families to explore instructional materials, learn more about what students are learning and discover resources available to support learning at home. This event is open to K–12 families for all MCPS courses. Join us for our drop-in sessions, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or 5-7 p.m. in the Carver Educational Services Center cafeteria on Monday, Oct. 19. Families can connect with MCPS instructional specialists, ask questions, explore curriculum materials and receive support accessing digital learning resources.

New: Getting the Most from ParentVue

Are you getting the most out of [ParentVUE](#)? It's one of the easiest ways to stay connected to your student's school experience. Families can monitor grades and assignments, check attendance, find bus information, access report cards and assessment results, complete online registrations and communicate directly with teachers.

Be sure to [download the new ParentVUE app](#), customize your Gradebook and favorite shortcuts, and check ParentVUE regularly. You can even schedule parent-teacher conferences directly through the app. And remember: each parent or guardian should use their own ParentVUE account and password.

Learn more: [English](#) / [español](#) / [中文](#) / [français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [tiếng Việt](#) / [አማርኛ](#)

New: Now You Know — Stay Connected

Want to make sure you don't miss important information from MCPS?

Sign up for ParentSquare, the district's mass communication and direct messaging platform for parents, high school students and staff. Download the app from the App Store or Google Play,

and log in with the phone number or personal email on file with MCPS. You can also follow MCPS on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and X, or visit montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Learn more: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Amharic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Korean](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

New: Center Programs 101: Get the Details on EdTalk

On the newest episode of EdTalk, join host Board of Education President Grace Rivera-Oven and guests Anjali Wells, coordinator in the Department of Academic Programs, and Jeannie Franklin, director in the Department of Consortia and Application Program Services, as they discuss the new MCPS Center Programs. Learn how 8th grade families can apply to a variety of four-year academic high school Center Programs in their region. [Watch](#).

Mental Health Matters: Save the Date to Join Us on Nov. 14

The Division of Specialized Support Services and the Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association are co-hosting [2026 Mental Health Awareness Week \(MHAW\)](#) from Nov. 9-14. **The Mental Health and Wellness Fair will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 at James Hubert Blake High School**, 300 Norwood Road in Silver Spring. Open to staff, students and families, this free event will include workshops, community partners sharing information about mental health and wellness, and a student forum. Students can earn four Service Learning hours for their participation in the fair. [Learn more](#).

Additional Back to School Forms and Information

- [Saturday School](#): Tutoring sessions begin THIS SATURDAY, Sept. 26, from 8:30-11 a.m.! **But it is never too late to join.** Programs run on Saturday mornings for students in grades K–12, focusing on reading, language arts, math, test prep and STEM enrichment, such as coding and robotics. The cost is \$100/year (\$50 for FARMS recipients) and MCPS buses are available to center sites.
- Share Your Vision for America: Students in Grades 5–12 can write and perform a presidential speech and win prizes up to \$1,000. Make Your Speech calls on students to imagine they've just been elected president and are delivering their inaugural address in a 2-3 minute video. [Learn more](#). Deadline: Friday, Oct. 30
- Capital Weather invites K-8 kids to submit original artwork inspired by weather, seasons, climate or nature to its Kids Art Showcase. [Learn more](#).
- [Learn more and register.](#) [Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

- Thursday, October 15th- Fall Parties
- Friday, October 16th- No School/ Professional Development
- Monday, October 19th- Stallion Meet-up

- Thursday, October 22nd- 5th Grade Trip to Strathmore/ 1st Grade In-House Field Trip
- Friday, October 23rd- Cluster Night for CHS and Fall Picture Day

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to a great week of learning!

Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strong Stallions!