

Dear Snowden Farm Families,

Thank you to all of our families who were able to join us for our fall parties this week. It was great to see so many families celebrating with their children and helping make these events special for our students. We also appreciate our parent volunteers and staff for all their hard work in making the celebrations a success!

We have another exciting week ahead! On Monday, we look forward to our **Stallion Meet-Ups**, where we will review school wide expectations and celebrate students who are demonstrating our Stallion expectations. On Thursday our first graders will enjoy an in-house field trip, and our fifth graders will head to Strathmore for a special experience.

We will wrap up the week with **Cluster Night at Clarksburg High School on Friday!** We hope to see many of our Stallion families there showing their school spirit!

New: Amplify Math Zoom Learning Opportunity on 10/19

Parents: You are invited to a Zoom meeting to learn more about the new Amplify math curriculum on Monday, 10/19 at 6:30 pm.

The presentation will explain aspects of our new math curriculum, as well as review assessments embedded in the curriculum and how to interpret results. There will be general information shared on use of the online platform and curriculum, as well as information about math coursework options as students promote to middle and high school, followed by a question and answer portion pending time. Any questions that we are not able to answer due to time or knowledge constraints will be followed up on via email if an email address is provided. If you have any topics you'd like to see covered in the meeting, please email them to Erin_E_Kleinman@mcpsmd.org by Thursday 10/15 at noon. Hope to see you there!

Date: Monday October 19th

Time: 6:30 pm

Link: <https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/87088139833?pwd=JNT6PSCJ0tRYYEAb0ehxtfBbaMjY71.1>

New: Digital Citizenship Week starts Monday, October 19!

This [linked resource](#) provides families with conversation starters and activities to help children think critically about digital media, make safe and responsible online choices, and develop healthy technology habits together.

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 the 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](#)

New: Game Changer Conference for Boys in 4th and 5th Grade on 10/24

The conference objective is to equip parents and students with information and inspiration to navigate their academic journey. Equally Important, create successful pathways for young males (4TH-12 GRADERS), parents, and guardians to think more broadly about winning their future beyond high school. They will participate in life skills stations, interactive enrichment workshops, and hear from several speakers who are experts in their profession.

- WHAT: Back#2#School Game Changer Conference for Young males and their parents. guardians, grandparents to increase engagement.
- WHEN: SATURDAY, October 24th @ 8 a.m.
- WHO: 4th Graders to High School boys
- WHERE: Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, BioScience Center, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876
- Register at [**www.TheGameConference.org**](http://www.TheGameConference.org)

New: Spirit Week for 10/26-10/29

We are excited to have our first Spirit Week starting on October 26th. See below for our themes for each day. Let's see if everyone can participate and show their school spirit!

- October 26 - Music Monday- Wear something from a band, concert, or musical event
- October 27 - Two Shoes Tuesday - Wear two different shoes
- October 28 - Workout Wednesday - Wear your favorite workout or athletic clothes
- October 29 - Think Pink – Wear pink to show your support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- October 30 – Fairytale Friday - Dress as your favorite character (can be from a movie, book, TV show, etc.)

New: Media News

Calling all stallion secret agents, code breakers, and mystery lovers! Stuart Gibbs, the bestselling author behind the *Spy School*, *Space Case/Space Out*, and *FunJungle* series, is heading to the Washington, DC area this November. His tour kicks off at the International Spy Museum on November 11, with additional appearances scheduled throughout the region. Be sure to check out his [website](#) for a complete schedule of his appearances throughout our area.

Trunk or Treat on 10/30

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

New from MCPS:

New: School Closure and Consolidation Study: Community Conversations Begin

Your voice matters, and we want to hear from you! As MCPS continues its elementary and middle school closure and consolidation study, families, staff and community members are invited to upcoming engagement meetings to learn more, ask questions and share their perspectives.

Let's be clear: **No schools have been identified or recommended for closure or consolidation, and no decisions have been made.** These meetings are an important part of a thoughtful, transparent process that includes community input before any recommendations are developed or decisions are considered by the Board of Education.

Have questions? Start with the FAQs! Visit <https://mcpsstudy.org/#/faq> to explore the study website, review frequently asked questions, learn about the process and find information about upcoming meetings. The website is a great place to get answers and stay informed as the study moves forward.

A note about meeting locations: Meeting sites were selected to provide opportunities for participation across Montgomery County and reach as many families as possible. Hosting a meeting at a particular school or in a particular community does not mean that school or community is being considered for closure or consolidation.

We want everyone to be able to participate!

- Childcare: Families who need childcare during an engagement meeting are encouraged to complete



the [childcare request form](#) or scan the QR code below.

- Language access: Interpretation will be available in Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese, as well as American Sign Language (ASL).

As we've shared in previous updates, MCPS is facing sharply declining enrollment; this study is about planning responsibly for the future while considering other factors such as building conditions, educational opportunities and the needs of our communities. Community engagement is essential to that work.

We look forward to seeing you, hearing your questions and listening to your ideas. Your participation helps inform the process, and there is still much work to do before any decisions are made.

[Explore the Study, FAQs and Meeting Information](#)

New: Your Student's Spring 2026 MCAP Results Are Available

Your student's Spring 2026 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Individual Student Report (ISR) is now available electronically in Synergy for students who participated in **ELA, Mathematics, Science (Grades 5 & 8), LS MISA, Government, or Social Studies (Grade 8)**.

The ISR provides information about your student's performance and progress toward Maryland's academic standards. Please log in to Synergy to view the report.

Log in to ParentVUE in Synergy to view your child's report.

Need help understanding the results? Visit the [MCPS MCAP webpage](#) for family-friendly guides, or contact your child's school for assistance..

New: The Hard Truth: Aging Schools, Fewer Students and Rising Costs

MCPS is facing some difficult realities: aging school buildings, declining student enrollment and construction costs that continue to rise. During its Oct. 15 meeting, the Board of Education received an off-cycle update to the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), with only minor adjustments requested to the existing plan. But the presentation highlighted a much larger challenge: the need to make thoughtful, sometimes difficult decisions about how the district invests in its facilities.

With enrollment projected to decline further and many schools in need of significant repairs, MCPS must find new ways to provide safe, healthy and effective learning and

working environments. The proposed adjustments focus on critical infrastructure and exploring alternative approaches to future construction projects.

The hard truth is that doing nothing is not an option. Learn more about the challenges facing MCPS, the proposed adjustments and what comes next.

[Read the full story](#)

New: Cooling to Heating Changeover begins Monday

To prepare for the chilly weather ahead, MCPS will begin the changeover process from air conditioning to heating in all schools, facilities and office buildings on Oct. 19. This process takes time and can be complicated. It is not as simple as flipping a switch. Maintenance teams must gradually transition building systems, check equipment and make adjustments to ensure heating systems are operating properly and safely. Because the changeover happens across hundreds of buildings, temperatures may vary from building to building — and even from room to room — as the process gets underway

Keep an eye on [this HVAC Changeover Status website](#) for updates.

New: Have Your Say: Board Policies Open for Public Comment

MCPS invites families, staff and community members to share their feedback on proposed updates to Board of Education policies.

- Board of Education Policy IPD, Travel Study Programs, Field Trips and Student Organization Trips - [Provide feedback here](#) Deadline: Friday, November 6, 2026.
- Board of Education Policy BLB, Rules of Procedures in Appeals and Hearings - [Provide feedback here](#) Deadline: Friday, November 6, 2026.

Take a few minutes to review the proposals and share your thoughts.

[Review proposed policies and submit feedback](#)

New: Synergy Upgrade Completed: What You Need to Know

Synergy underwent a scheduled upgrade on Thursday, Oct. 15, to improve the user experience. The upgrade required system downtime from 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, until 6 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

As a result of the upgrade, older versions of the ParentVUE and StudentVUE apps for iOS and Android are no longer supported. **Families and students should download**

the new versions and delete the older apps. [Learn how to download the new ParentVUE app.](#)

Additional Information

- **Parent Webinar Powered by AT&T on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 12:00 P.M. PT / 3:00 P.M. ET**
 - Description: Gaming is no longer just entertainment, it's a multibillion-dollar social ecosystem. And for many kids, it's a primary community and even a career path. In this session, we'll break down what modern gaming actually looks like, from in-game chats to microtransactions and livestream play, as well as the psychological design behind "endless play." We'll move beyond the old screen-time debate to share practical strategies for setting boundaries, managing in-game spending, and staying connected to your kid's digital world so you can support smart choices without shutting the game down. Click the link to register, [Share with parents and caregivers](#)
- [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
- [Learn more and register.](#)[Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice](#)
- [Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

- 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
- Monday, October 26th- Walk to School Day, we encourage caregivers to walk their students to school
- Monday, October 26th- Friday, October 30th- Spirit Week

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another great week of learning, celebrations, and fun!

Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strong Stallions!