Dear Snowden Farm Families,

Thank you to all of our families who were able to participate in **Walk to School Day** on Monday. It was great to see so many students and families walking to school together!

We also enjoyed celebrating our **first Spirit Week of the school year!** Thank you to all of our students and staff who participated and showed their Stallion spirit throughout the week.

We ended the week with our PTA-sponsored **Trunk or Treat!** It was wonderful to see so many families come together for this fun event. The costumes and decorated trunks were amazing! A special thank you to our PTA, families, and volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.

As a reminder, please note the following schedule changes for next week:

- **Monday, November 2:** No school for students (Professional Day).
- **Tuesday, November 3:** Schools and offices are closed for students and staff in observance of Election Day.

We look forward to welcoming our Stallions back on Wednesday, November 4!

New: Support Our 5th Graders at Villa Maya on 11/04!

Join us on Wednesday, November 4 for a Snowden Farm 5th Grade Promotion Fundraiser at Villa Maya! Whether you stop by for lunch, grab takeout, or enjoy dinner, your purchase will help support this year's 5th Grade Promotion activities.

Just mention Snowden Farm when ordering or at checkout so your purchase counts toward the fundraiser.

Thank you for supporting our 5th graders.

New: Chinese Language and Culture After-School Program 11/12-12/17

Discover the richness of the Chinese language and culture through our fun, engaging, and interactive Chinese After-School Program! Designed to spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and build confidence in using Chinese, this program introduces students to the language and culture

through playful activities, traditional arts, storytelling, and hands-on experiences in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Program Highlights

- **Interactive Language Learning:** Practice speaking and listening through fun conversations, games, and songs while exploring basic Chinese reading and writing, including foundational Chinese characters.
- **Hands-On Arts & Crafts:** Unleash creativity by making original Chinese-inspired artwork and crafts while discovering traditional Chinese art forms and cultural traditions.
- **Storytelling & Performance:** Explore fascinating Chinese folktales and bring timeless stories to life through illustrations, creative crafts, role-playing, and fun performances.

Leadership & Sponsorship

The program is organized and led by dedicated student leaders from Clarksburg High School and Hallie Wells Middle School, under the sponsorship and guidance of Chinese teacher Ms. Karen He.

Permission slip link with the modified dates:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ec3payTvRr4FrO64HYrVKUUeMLEEB-Ppp1MU8KLmxqs/edit?usp=sharing

New: After-School Korean Club starting in December!

We are excited to share that a new Korean Club will be starting at Snowden Farm! The club will kick off on **Tuesday, December 1, from 3:30–4:30 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore Korean language and culture in a fun and engaging environment.

Families interested in learning more or registering can use the links below:

- Register for Korean Club
- **https://canva.link/i97bqv9uvqxlyuc**

New:Remembrance and Reconciliation Month

In the month of November our students will have special history lessons that will help students learn about Montgomery County's African American history. This year, students will learn about the impact urban renewal had on African American communities throughout Montgomery

County. Lessons will be posted on the Montgomery County Public Schools Social Studies webpage. SFES classes will deliver 15-minute mini-lessons on November 23, 24, and 25.

JSSA Therapy Services

Snowden Farm ES is partnered with JSSA to provide short-term, solution-focused treatment for students. Families who feel their child could benefit from individual therapy or student success services may use **THIS LINK TO SELF-REFER**. JSSA will work with families with and without insurance.

Virtual Learning Device Request

To meet Maryland State Department of Education requirements and ensure 180 days of instruction, MCPS has a virtual learning plan for extended school closures due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

If your child needs an MCPS device for virtual learning at home, please complete this form. Devices currently used in the classroom will not be sent home, so a separate at-home device will be provided to families who request one.

Once you receive the device, we recommend testing it to make sure your child can access their teacher's online resources.
Thank you for your support!

Calling All Grade 3–5 Science Enthusiasts: Join the SFES Science Olympiad Team!

SFES students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are invited to join our parent-coordinated Science Olympiad Division A team. This program introduces elementary students to STEM competition through team events covering earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Students can explore their interests while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills.

- Coaching sessions: Fridays, 5:00–6:00 p.m., from November 2026 through early April 2027. Sessions will be held virtually via Zoom or Google Meet, with meeting links sent to participating families in advance.
- Competition: The in-person tournament is expected to take place on a Saturday in late April or early May 2027, near Clarksville, Maryland. The official date and venue have not yet been announced; details will be shared once confirmed.

- Interested in participating? A parent or guardian must complete the Science Olympiad Interest Form for their student.
- Parent volunteers interested in helping with coaching or team coordination are also welcome!

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: Turn Back Time This Weekend

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on this Sunday, Nov. 1, for daylight saving time. As we return to shorter days and earlier evenings, remember to stay alert on the roads, and be extra vigilant for pedestrians and cyclists.

Calendar Notes:

- Nov. 2 is Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
- Nov. 3 is Election Day - Schools and offices closed

New: MCPS Is on the Rise! More Schools Earn Top STAR Ratings

Big news worth celebrating! 134 MCPS schools, nearly 69%, earned 4 or 5 STAR ratings on the 2026 Maryland School Report Card. Fifty-six schools improved their STAR ratings, including 50 that reached four or five STARs. Even better, ZERO MCPS schools received a 1-STAR rating! These results reflect the hard work of our students, educators and school communities, with important gains in reading and math across the district.

Read the Press Release | Read the Information One-Pager | Watch the Event Video

New: School Closure and Consolidation Study: Last Round One Virtual Session; Nov. 2

MCPS is wrapping up the first phase of community engagement sessions on the elementary and middle school closure and consolidation study. The final opportunity to provide feedback in a virtual meeting is: Join on Zoom — **Mon, Nov. 2, 6-7 p.m.**

If you've already attended one of our sessions, please take the time to share your perspective on our feedback form. Your valuable input will be reflected in our updated FAQs, which will be available in the coming weeks. **The form is open through Wednesday, Nov. 4**.

A second round of engagement sessions will be held in late November and early December. Visit mcpsstudy.org to review study information, explore frequently asked questions, learn about the process and find opportunities to share your feedback. Learn more.

New: Inside MCPS: The Realities of Our Aging Facilities

Leaking roofs. Failing heating and cooling systems. Aging buildings. Rising construction costs. The hard truth is that MCPS has significant facility needs, and waiting to address them only makes the problems more expensive.

In a new video series, "The Hard Truth," MCPS takes you inside schools and support facilities to show the real facilities challenges facing our district.

The Hard Truth: Doing nothing is not an option.

Watch the Video Series

New: The Latest EdTalk: Supporting Multilingual Students and Families

On the newest episode of EdTalk, hear from host Board of Education President Grace Rivera-Oven and principals Alicia Deeny (Richard Montgomery High School) and Isabelle Mensah (Rolling Terrace Elementary School) about how their schools create welcoming environments, engage students and maximize family involvement for multilingual students and families. Watch EdTalk | Vea Educación al Día

You can now listen to all the EdTalk and Educación al Día episodes on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

Be Sure to Weigh In on the 2027-2028 School Calendar

As MCPS continues to develop the 2027-2028 school calendar, the district is seeking more input from you!

Complete this second survey to share input on the proposed draft calendar for the 2027-2028 school year. The survey will close on Friday, Nov. 6. Take the survey.

Additional Information

- **Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy**
- **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, November 2nd- No school for students
- Tuesday, November 3rd- No school for students and staff
- Wednesday, November 4th- Villa Maya SFES 5th Grade Spirit Night
- Monday, November 9th- Friday, November 13th- Mental Health and Spirit Week
    - 11/9- Mindful Mellow Monday- Wear pjs and bring a stuffie to wind down.
    - 11/10- Twin Tuesday- Match with a friend or your class to connect with your community!
    - 11/11- Wild Wednesday- Wear clothes, colors, or hairstyles to express your unique personality!
    - 11/12- Super Tummy Thursday- Dress like a superhero of health and eat healthy food to nourish your body!
    - 11/13- Friday Funday- Dress in colorful, neon, happy clothing to radiate positivity!
- Monday, November 9th- Family Zumba Night 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thank you for your continued support of our Snowden Farm community. Have a wonderful weekend! **Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strong Stallions!**