Dear Snowden Farm Families,

We had a short, but wonderful week of learning at Snowden Farm! In addition to the great instruction taking place in our classrooms, students participated in our bus evacuation drills, practicing important safety procedures to help ensure they know what to do in the event of an emergency.

New: Looking Ahead: Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week (November 9th–13th)

Next week, we are excited to celebrate **Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week!** Throughout the week, students and staff will focus on the importance of mental health, wellness, kindness, and building positive connections. We will celebrate with fun spirit days, classroom activities, and a special **Family Zumba Night on Monday, November 9, from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the gym!** We hope you will join us for an evening of movement, music, and family fun!

Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week Schedule:

- **Monday, 11/9 – Mindful Mellow Monday:** Wear pajamas or bring a small stuffed animal to help wind down and practice mindfulness. **Family Zumba Night: 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the gym!**
- **Tuesday, 11/10 – Twin Tuesday:** Match with a friend or wear a class color to celebrate friendship and community!
- **Wednesday, 11/11 – Wild Wednesday:** Wear fun clothes, colors, or hairstyles to express your unique personality and celebrate what makes you special!
- **Thursday, 11/12 – Super-Tummy Thursday:** Dress like a "superhero of health" and focus on nourishing your body with healthy foods!
- **Friday, 11/13 – Friday Funday:** Wear bright, colorful, or neon clothing to spread positivity and end the week with smiles!

New:Fall Book Fair

The Book Fair starts tomorrow! As a reminder, Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 10th are Preview Days. Sales will begin on Wednesday, and will run through Tuesday, November 17th.

- If you'd like to set-up E-Wallet for your child, please click here and follow the instructions.

- ***The PTA will be awarding all adult volunteers a $25 Scholastic Voucher*** Please click here for a time slot: Sign-Up Genius

New:Grandparents/Special Friends Day

Please join us on either Thursday, November 12th or Friday, November 13th from 8:00 AM-8:45AM to enjoy a sweet treat and coffee! It's also a great time to visit our Scholastic Book Fair before school opens. We are hosting this event across two days since it's a popular event.

- Please only sign up for ONE of the mornings.

New: Math Challenge #3

Here is your reminder to encourage your child to complete the MATH CHALLENGE this week! This is an optional at home math enrichment challenge that students can engage with to enhance their critical thinking and problem solving skills. It is an easy way to make sure your student is challenged and learn about their methods of math reasoning. 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 3!**
- This challenge is live **NOW** and is due by Thursday 11/19 at 8 pm. Visit CURRENT CHALLENGE to get the challenge now!

New: MCPS District Culture and Climate Survey

Your voice matters to us! Your feedback helps guide our efforts to strengthen programs, services, and support for all students. **The survey is open from November 8, 2026 through November 20, 2026.** Please look out for the upcoming climate survey in your email. It will be sent to the primary email address linked to your child's student profile.

- In addition, our Student Survey will take place on Tuesday, November 10.

New: *Heritage Night- December 16th*

Heritage Night is coming up, and we can't wait to celebrate the many cultures, traditions, and experiences that make our school community so special! This is a wonderful opportunity to come together to share what makes us unique. Please keep a look out for a sign-up in a couple of

weeks for families interested in hosting a table and sharing their heritage. We hope you'll consider joining us for this special evening!

New: Federal Impact Aid Survey

This survey is critical for the district to apply for and receive Federal Impact Aid grant funding. Families can now submit an electronic version of the survey through ParentVUE. Families continue to have the option to complete a paper submission using MCPS Form 280-4, Federal Impact Aid Survey.

- Superintendent's letter and survey instructions
- Click here to access a list of FAQs
- Please send any questions about the information in the survey to impactaid@mcpsmd.org

New: MD READS Training

MCCPTA has partnered with the non-profit Maryland READS' Parent Action Center initiative to connect families to free training aimed at advocating for and supporting their children's reading growth in and out of the classroom.

- The first hour-long virtual training session is on 11/12. The flyer is below.
- MD READS Training Flyer (MCCPTA)

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

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**

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.

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: ICYMI: Winter Weather Is Coming! Are You Ready?

Snow days, delays and early dismissals—oh my! Winter weather is just around the corner, and MCPS wants families to be ready. In case you missed it, MCPS shared important information about its weather-related color codes, how decisions are made and where to find the latest school operating status updates. Be sure to review the winter weather message and make your family's winter weather plan now.
And for a little fun, grab some popcorn and enjoy the world premiere of our Snow Day Trailer! Winter is coming, and we're ready!
English /**español** /中文 /**français** /**Português** /한국어 /**tiếng Việt** /**አማርኛ**

New: MCPS Invites Multilingual Families to Special Events

MCPS is bringing families together for a series of six Regional Family Engagement Events designed for Emerging Multilingual Learners (EMLs) and their families.
These free events are an opportunity for families to connect with school staff, learn about MCPS programs and community resources, ask questions and meet other families. Whether your child is in elementary, middle or high school, there's something for everyone!
All families of Emerging Multilingual Learners are welcome! Each event celebrates the languages, cultures and experiences that make our school communities special.
To make participation easier, materials will be available in eight languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Amharic, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. Free childcare will also be provided at every event.

Upcoming Events:

- (Previously) Wednesday, Nov. 4: Paint Branch High School, 5–8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 11: Gaithersburg High School, 5–8 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 16: Seneca Valley High School, 5–8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 17: Wheaton High School, 5–8 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 21: Montgomery Blair High School, 9 a.m.–noon
- Wednesday, Dec. 2: Richard Montgomery High School, 5–8 p.m.

Families are welcome to attend one or more events, regardless of which school their children attend.
Come connect, learn and celebrate with us! We look forward to welcoming you and helping every family feel connected, supported and empowered to help their children thrive.
View Event Flyers and Details

New: Deadline Extended: MCPS 8th Grade Center Programs & Middle School Magnet Consortium Applications

We know choosing the right path for high school is a big decision for your family! To give you extra time to explore options, dig into specific offerings and complete your application, the

deadline to submit applications for 8th Grade Center Programs — and the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) process — has been extended.
New Deadline: Friday, November 13
Learn more on the Center Programs website, your central place to explore how regional and thematic programs are structured across MCPS, access resources to dive deeper into specialized career paths and get your questions answered with the FAQs. Families interested in the Middle School Magnet Consortium can find details on the MSMC website

- Need help? Contact your middle school counselor or send an email
- What's a Center Program? (English | Spanish**)**

New: The Hard Truth Video Series Continues: 75% of Older MCPS Schools Need Repair

The numbers tell a story we can't ignore. Many MCPS school buildings are aging, and the cost of maintaining and repairing them continues to grow. In the latest installment of **The Hard Truth**, MCPS takes a closer look at the challenges facing our school facilities, why these repairs matter and what it will take to provide safe, modern learning environments for every student.
The hard truth? Our schools need attention, and the needs are real. Watch the video, learn about the challenges and join the conversation about the future of our schools.
Watch The Hard Truth: 75% of Older Schools Need Repair
Watch the Video Series

New: Firearm Safety Starts at Home

MCPS reminds families that secure firearm storage can save lives. Firearms should always be unloaded, locked and stored separately from ammunition. Families should also ask about firearm storage in homes their children visit.
Please talk with your children about firearm safety, remind them that weapons are prohibited at school and encourage them to “See Something, Say Something” if they become aware of a weapon or threat.

- Learn more: Parent's Guide to Firearm Storage.
- Read the community message sent to families this week

New: Learn More about the Amplify Desmos Math Curriculum at Nov. 9 Zoom Webinar

Interested in learning more about your student’s new Amplify Desmos Math curriculum? MCPS is hosting a webinar for elementary school families from 6-7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9 via Zoom.

The webinar will explore the daily lesson structure, including access to enrichment as well as Caregiver Hub resources for families, and homework. The webinar will be available in English,

with live interpretation available in Spanish, French, Amharic, Chinese, Portuguese and American Sign Language.

Can’t make it? A recording will be posted on the MCPS website after the event.

New: Join Us for the Mental Health and Wellness Fair on Nov. 14

Be sure to join us for the Mental Health & Wellness Fair on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 at James Hubert Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road in Silver Spring. Free and open to staff, students and families, this event will feature workshops, a student-led forum and community partners sharing information about mental health and wellness. Participating students can earn four Student Service Learning hours.

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**
- Learn more and register.Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice
- Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice
- Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting

Upcoming Important Dates

- Monday, November 9th- Mindful Mellow Monday- Wear pjs and bring a stuffie to wind down, Book Fair Preview
    - Family Zumba Night 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, November 10th- Twin Tuesday- Match with a friend or your class to connect with your community and Book Fair Preview

- Wednesday, November 11th- Wild Wednesday- Wear clothes, colors, or hairstyles to express your unique personality and Book Fair
- Thursday, November 12th- Super Tummy Thursday- Dress like a superhero of health and eat healthy food to nourish your body, Grandparent and Special Friend Day, and Book Fair
- Friday, November 13th- Friday Funday- Dress in colorful, neon, happy clothing to radiate positivity, Grandparent and Special Friend Day, and Book Fair

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our Stallions. We look forward to a fun-filled week celebrating wellness and the importance of taking care of ourselves and one another!

Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strong Stallions!