



Welcome Kindergarten Families

2020-2021
School Year

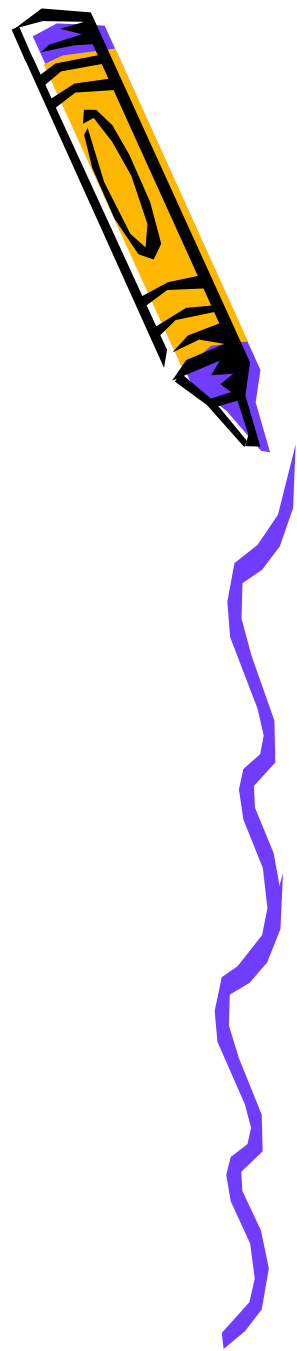


Our K Teaching Team



Mrs. Griffith

Ms. Yoo



Support Team Members

Mrs. Wilson, Principal



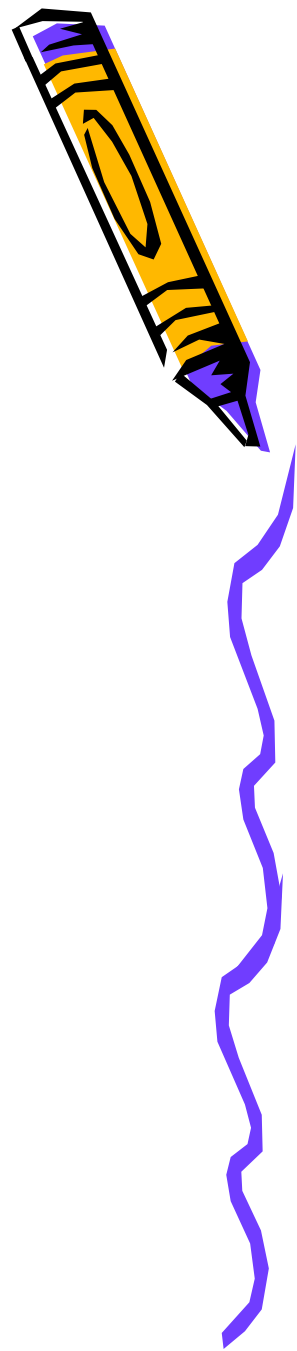
Mrs. Miranda, ESOL



Mrs. Cave, School Counselor

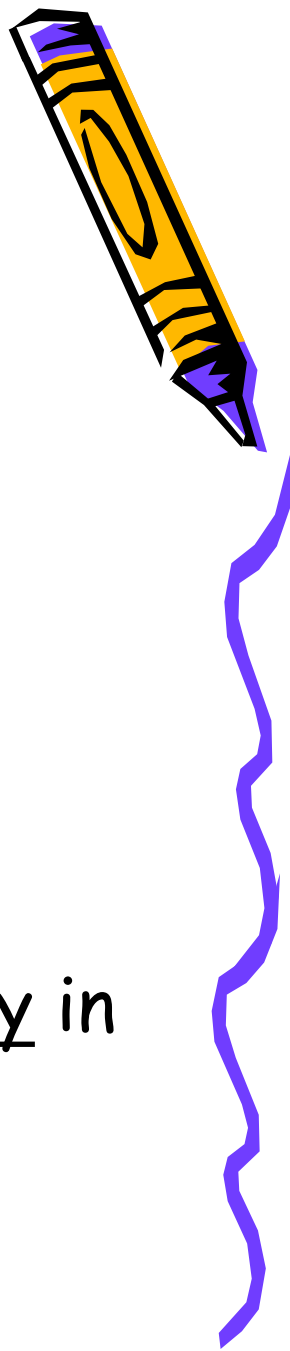


Mrs. Doherty, HSM Resource
Ms. Royster, HSM Resource
Mrs. Patel, Reading Specialist



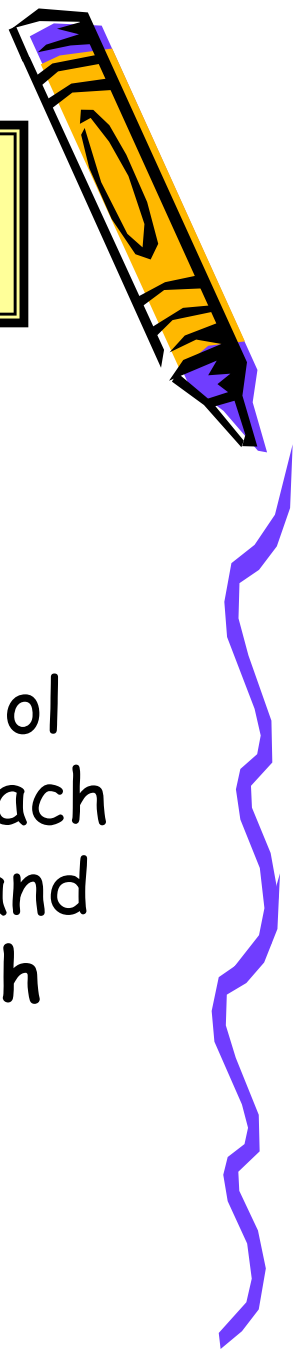
The First Day

- The first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 31st. We look forward to meeting and greeting your child.
- Should we be back in our buildings, during arrival that first morning, parents of kindergartners are welcome to join the principal and others for Tea and Sympathy in the Media Center.



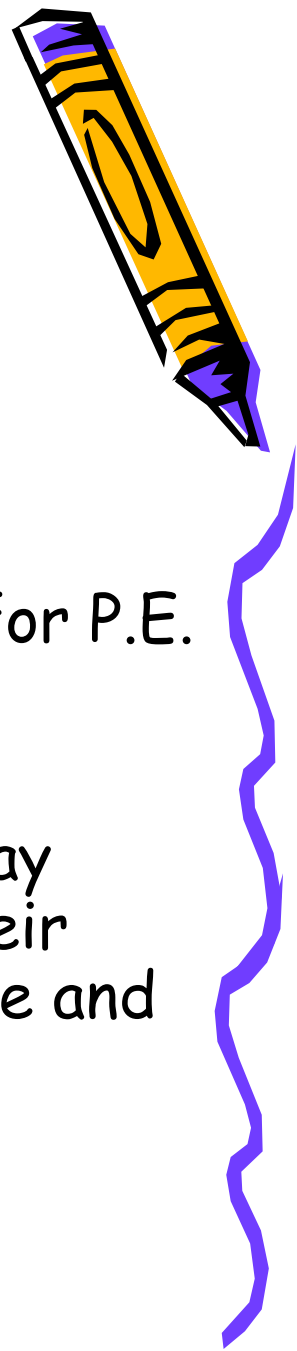
Backpacks

- Your child should have a BACKPACK with his/her name on it. It should be large enough to hold standard pocket sized folders. Your child will have a home/school communication folder in their backpack each day with important notices, newsletters and homework. **Please empty the folder each day and send it back the following day.**



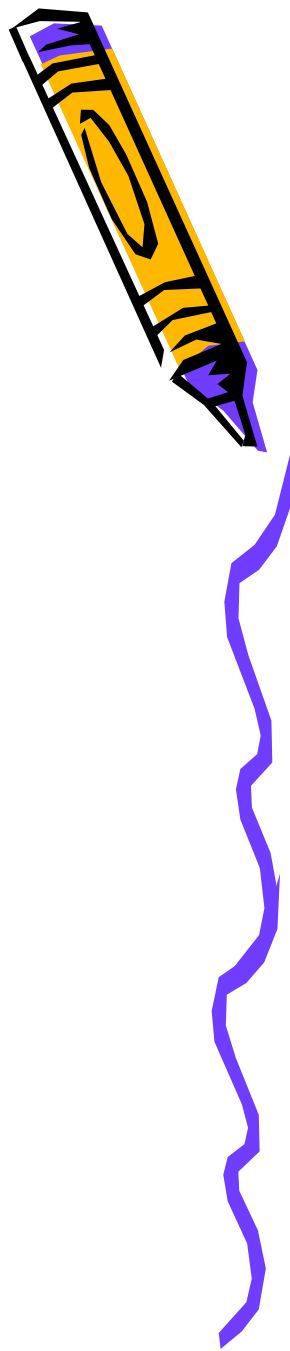
Dress

- Please dress your child casually and comfortably. Kindergartners use paint, glue and markers.
- Sneakers are safer for active play and required for P.E.
- The health tech has some spare clothes for the occasional emergency, however kindergartners may keep a set of clothes in a sealed plastic bag in their cubbies. Please keep it up to date in terms of size and season. 😊



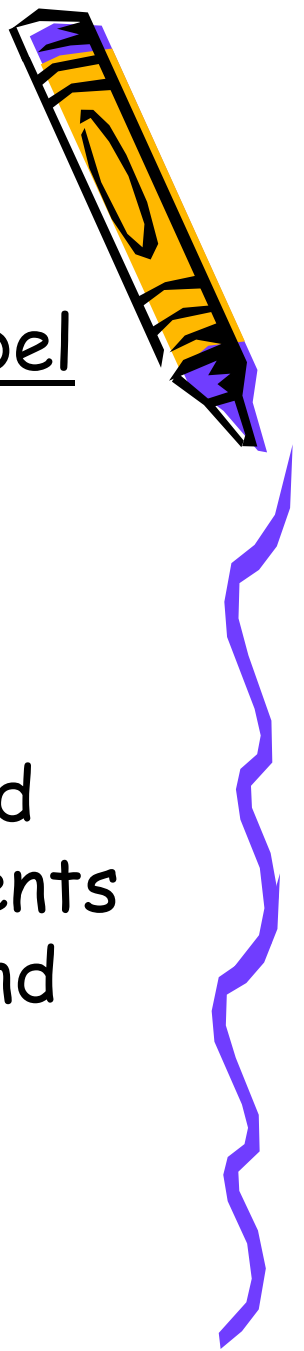
Specials

- Art
- Music
- PE - Physical Education
- Media-Book Exchange

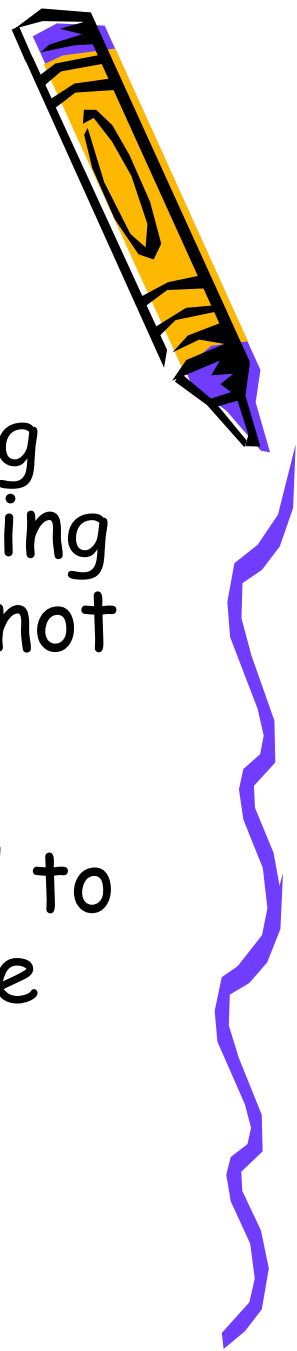


Lost and Found

- To help prevent lost belongings, please label your child's possessions, including clothing (especially coats, jackets, sweaters, and vests).
- Lost items are placed in the lost and found box located in the All Purpose Room. Parents are encouraged to check the lost and found box at anytime. 😊



Items to Keep at Home

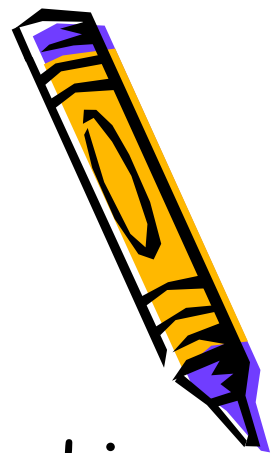


- All toys, electronic devices, trading cards, cell phones, candy and chewing gum should stay home. These are not allowed in school.
- Confiscated items will be returned to the child's parent at the end of the school year.





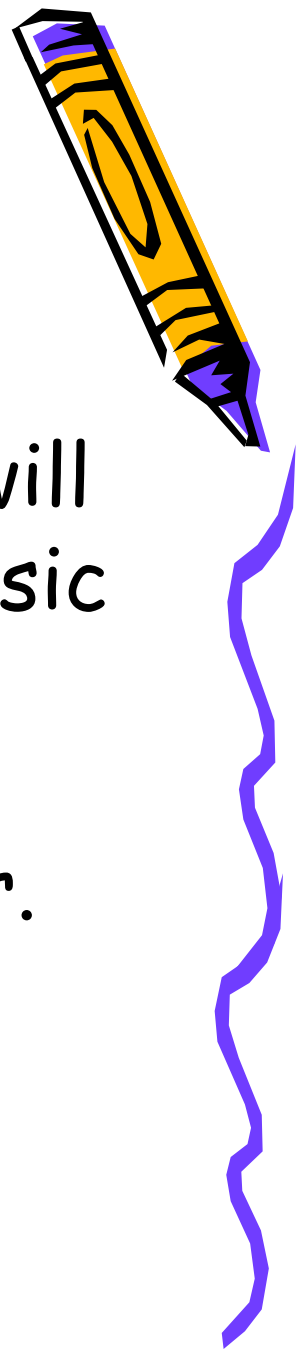
Homework



- MCPS policy states that homework is for reinforcing and practicing concepts learned in school.
- Kindergartners will receive new math homework daily (w/ a parent helper guide), and will write one journal entry a week to be shared with the class on Fridays.
 - Keep your child engaged at home. Kindergartners should work approximately 10 minutes per night to work on the objectives being taught in class to reinforce those skills.



Home Supplies

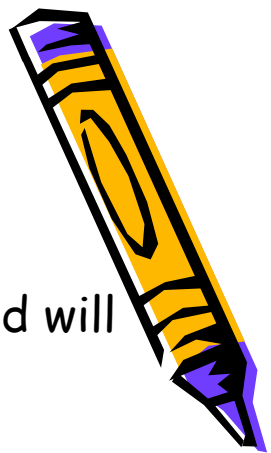


- To complete homework, students will need a place at home with some basic supplies: scissors, (*Kindergarten-safety scissors*) crayons/colored pencils, glue, tape, and extra paper.



Buses

- If you do not live within walking distance to the school your child will ride a school bus.
- Each bus has designated routes and bus stops that correlate to addresses.
- Each bus is referred to by number, not color.
- On the first day of school please have your child ride the bus to school because he/she will get a sticker denoting which bus they ride. 😊
- 5th grade patrols ride the bus with students.
- Teachers will meet students at line up for the first week and patrols will bring walkers and bus riders to dismissal locations for the first month of school.
- ALWAYS communicate with the teacher when there are any changes in the departure routine.
 - You will receive a copy of the arrival and departure bus schedule in the summer. If you have any specific questions regarding bus stops and routes, you can contact our Department of Transportation at 301.879.1059.



Lunch



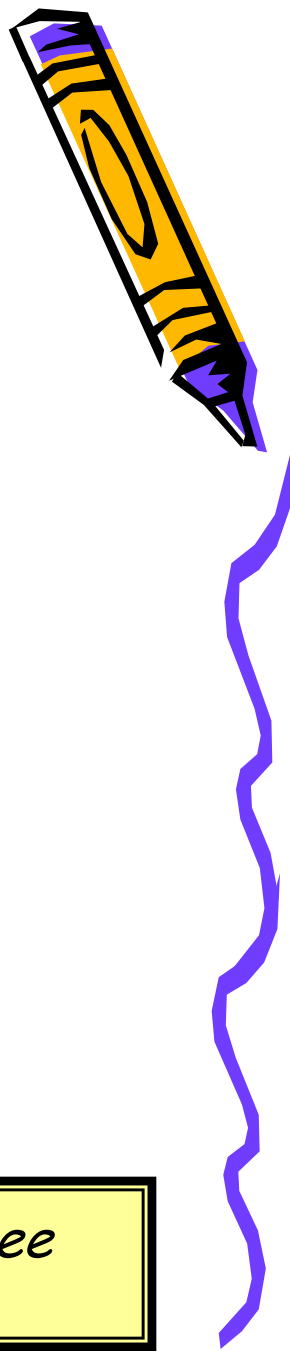
- We offer hot lunch at school everyday.
 - There are 4 offerings daily---students may choose from 2 hot lunch selections, or bagel w/ cream cheese, or peanut butter and jelly.
- Students may choose to bring a lunch from home. Please note there is no access to a refrigerator or a microwave.
- Printed menus are sent home monthly. Lunch menus are also posted on this website:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/menus/>
- Each student is issued a four digit pin number that allows them to access their account. Students buying lunch will have cards with pin numbers on them until they memorize their numbers.
 - Please make sure that you are monitoring your child's lunch account balance. You should deposit money into your child's account first thing in the morning or you can send money in with students and it will be put into their account before lunch.
- You can use the computerized/prepayment system @ www.mylunchmoney.com/
- Students must have money in their account in order to buy hot lunch.
 - Lunch Prices: Breakfast - \$1.30 / Lunch - \$2.55



For Example...

- Café Burger w/ Sweet Potato Fries
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Oven Baked Tatar Tots
- Bagel w/ Cream Cheese
- Peanut Butter and Jelly

Milk Choices: White, Fat Free White, Fat Free Chocolate



Allergies



- If your child has any allergies (food or otherwise) please notify your child's teacher and the health room in writing.
- Since children will be eating a snack daily in the classroom it is even more important that we are aware of all allergies.

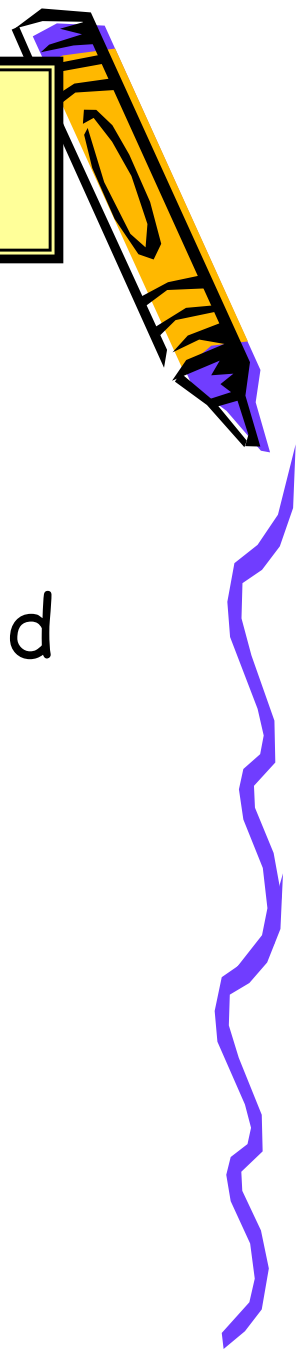




- Your child will have a daily afternoon snack in kindergarten.
- Please provide your child with **1 healthy, dry snack** each day. Teachers *will not* provide snacks.
- Examples of healthy, dry snacks are: one piece of fruit, one granola bar or one **snack** sized baggie of dry cereal.



Report Cards/Conferences



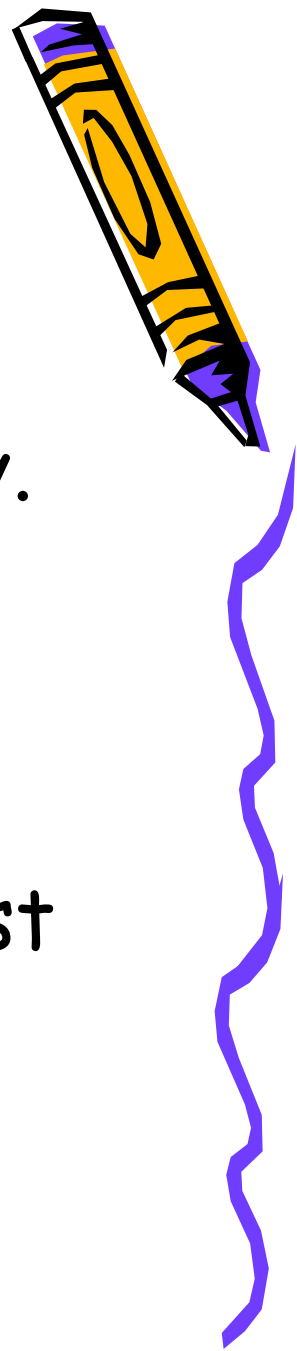
- The parent conferences will be held in November. Sign up sheets for appointments will be shared by teachers.



Birthdays

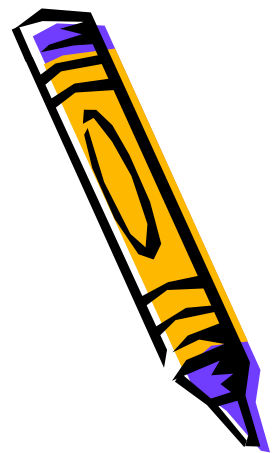


- Birthdays can be celebrated with a simple snack provided by the family.
- Celebrations must be pre-arranged with the classroom teacher and be scheduled at lunch or during the last 15 minutes of the day.





Parties



- We have two class parties each year -
 - Halloween and Valentine's Day
- Room parents help organize the classroom parties. ALL parents are welcome to volunteer! Please coordinate with the room parent.
- There is an alternative Harvest Festival option if your child does not celebrate Halloween. Please inform the classroom teacher if your child will not participate in the party.

Note:

- All snacks/food **MUST** be store-bought!
- Please work with the teacher on specific treats/food items as we have many students with allergies.



Half-Days



- Dismissal is at 1:20 pm. It is very important your child's teacher knows where your child is going on half-days. Please provide a note to the teacher if your child is not going to leave school the way they do for a normal dismissal.
- Please make sure your paperwork in the office is updated because your child can not be released to anyone that you have not given permission to on the release form.



Attendance

- Student success in school is directly tied to daily attendance. Students needing to leave school early need a note from their parent or guardian. For security reasons, you **MUST** always sign your child in and out of the school building when arriving or departing at a time other than the scheduled arrival and dismissal times.
- When your child is absent, please call the office at 301-989-5676 by 10:00 a.m. to let us know, or complete the absence form located on our website.
- When a child returns to school following an absence, s/he must always bring a dated note from a parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence.



Daily Arrival Routines



- School doors open at **9:05 a.m.** and kindergarten students must sit in their designated lines outside their classroom until the first bell. Students may not enter the school prior to 9:05 a.m.
- The first bell rings at **9:20 a.m.** and students may enter the classrooms.
- The second bell rings at **9:25 a.m.** and morning announcements begin.
- If students arrive **after 9:25 a.m.** they are considered **TARDY**. The child must stop by the office, be signed in by a parent and get a late pass. It is essential to the instructional program that all students are on time for school each day.
 - When visiting or volunteering, always check in with an ID and wear a visitor sticker.



Daily Dismissal Routines



Please send a note granting permission for any schedule changes, including:

- Child to go home with grandparent or another adult, per your request.
- Child to go home with a friend on another bus or via other modes of transportation - **BOTH children MUST have a note.**
- Play-dates should be scheduled in advance of the school day.
- CHILDREN MUST HAVE A NOTE AND GIVE IT TO THE TEACHER FIRST THING IN THE MORNING OR THEY MUST GO HOME PER THE REGULAR ROUTE!
- Please refrain from sending emails during the day to inform the teacher of a change in a dismissal routine. In case of an emergency, contact the office so the teacher is notified immediately. It is always best to copy the office, Josie Marinucci or Debbie Hill, on these emails to ensure that the teacher receives the message:

Josephine_Marinucci@mcpsmd.org or Debbie_A_Hill@mcpsmd.org



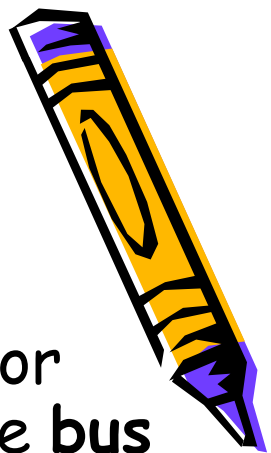
Walkers



- Please instruct your children to use a walking route that ensures safety. Walking students who are met by adults will meet in the designated drop-off/pick-up area—the primary playground. Please make sure you are there promptly for pick-up; supervision is available **ONLY** until 4:05 p.m. and then students will be sent to the office to call home for immediate pick up.
- Please discuss weather emergency procedures with your child.



Parking

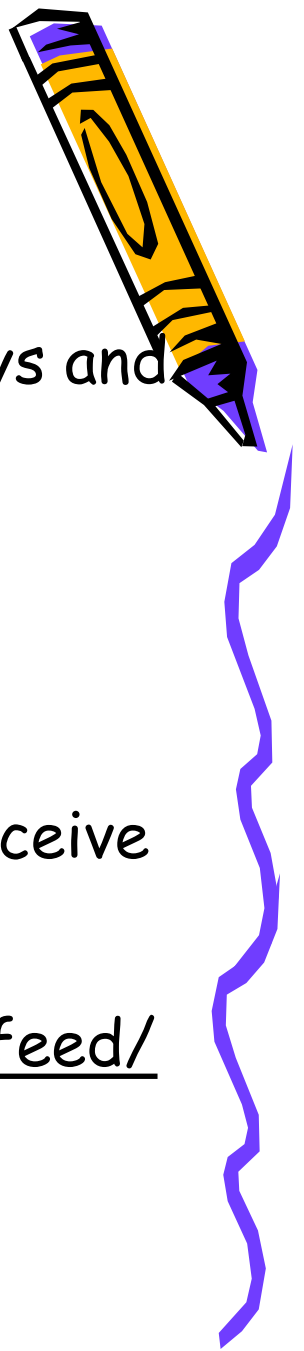


- Westover has limited parking and one entrance for buses. To protect the safety of the students, the bus lane is closed to auto traffic from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Only buses may enter to drop-off or pick-up.
- The car loop on the side of the building should be used to drop-off and to pick-up **ONLY**. **NO PARKING IS ALLOWED**. Please have children ready to exit the vehicle when dropping off, as traffic backs up quickly.

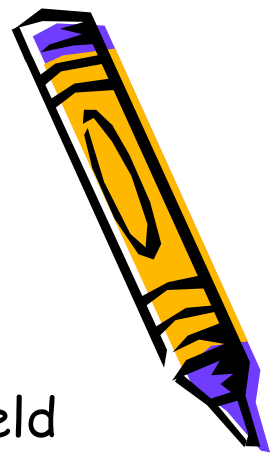


Weather Delays

- Please listen to the radio or TV for weather delays and school closings.
- MCPS also posts the announcement online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/>
- Email Alerts: Subscribe to MCPS Newsfeed to receive alerts to your computer about early dismissals, emergencies, and other news.
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/newsfeed/>



Field Trips



- Field trips are an important part of the instructional program of each class. Students will go on different field trips throughout the year.
- When a field trip approaches, teachers will send home a permission slip form and ask for chaperones. Written permission from a parent or guardian is required for a child to attend. Parent chaperones aid the teacher with supervision on these outings; however, regulations prohibit siblings from attending.
- There is usually a fee for bus transportation; often there is also an admission fee. Financial assistance is offered by the PTO through our counselor, for those children in need; please contact our counselor directly.



Benchmark Literacy and Eureka Math



Our school will be implementing new reading curriculum, Benchmark Literacy, for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as the Eureka Math Curriculum. Both are based on the Common Core State Standards and includes a high level of rigor.

<http://benchmarkadvance.com/>
<https://greatminds.org/math>





KidsAfterHours



Kids After Hours is Westover's on-site before and after care program! We create an environment where your child is ready to learn, enjoy arts and crafts activities, STEM projects, organized sports, a variety of monthly clubs and much more!

Morning Hours: 7:00 am - Start of school

Afternoon Hours: School dismissal - 6:00 pm

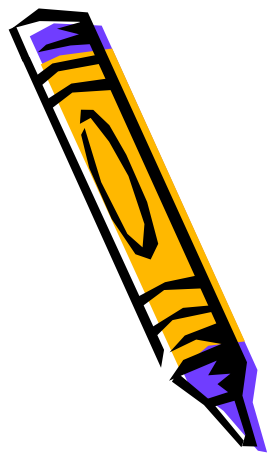


For more information on registration and tuition, go to: Kidsafterhours.com

Westover Elementary School - Doin' it the Westover Way!

- Differentiated instruction that meets student needs
- 90 minute Reading/Language Arts block that includes daily, guided reading
- Formal writing process instruction
- Junior Great Books instruction, Grades K-5
- William and Mary Reading Program, Grades 2-5
- 65-70 minute math block with opportunities for acceleration and re-teaching
- Consistent instruction in science and social studies
- Positive behavioral interventions, including Peace Day program,, behavior card system, and recognition "Wallaby Tickets"
- School-wide character education program and in-class counseling lessons that support the Westover Way
- Consistent use of data models to drive instruction and monitor student progress

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/westoveres/>



Summer Steps

- COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS
- Begin discussing the fun and excitement that awaits your child!
- Review the literacy activities provided.
- In August, begin establishing bedtime and morning routines.
- Look for the Summer Packet to arrive in August via US Mail. In it, you will find all the updated information you'll need to start the year off right!
- Plan for a formal Kindergarten Orientation at the end of August.
- Come to Open House *tentatively scheduled for August 28th from 2:00-3:00 pm* with your child! You will have an opportunity to briefly meet the teacher and to see the classroom!



Summer Literacy Resources

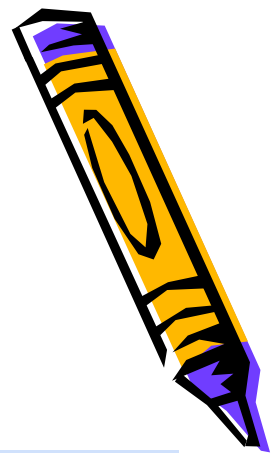


Please visit the following link for a Google folder containing a variety of literacy activities:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p2q8iMmoTdZ7DFtvmHB-_CMJzDOCwlf0/view?usp=sharing



STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION



Step One

Complete the MCPS Registration Survey.

Online, starting with this Registration Survey

Over the phone by calling 240-740-5999

By paper forms. Complete the Registration Survey or call 240-740-5999 to request forms to be mailed to your home.



MCPS Registration Survey

* Required

Student Family Information

If registering multiple children please complete a survey for each child.

Email address *

This email will be used for the majority of the communication and will serve as a temporary identifier.
(Sample@provider.com)

Your answer

Child's LEGAL FIRST Name (what appears on the birth certificate) *

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STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION



Step Two and Three

Complete the Enrollment Requirements

- New Student Enrollment Form
- Student Emergency Information
- MSDE Prekindergarten Experience Survey

Gather Your Documents

- Proof of Student Age and Identity
- Proof of Identity of Parent/Guardianship
- Proof of Residency



WHAT IS REQUIRED LATER IN THE PROCESS



Due to COVID-19, the following documents are required but can be turned in within 20 days of schools reopening.

Immunizations (A computer form generated by a physician or health clinic or [MDH Form 896](#))

[MCPS Form 525-17, Dental Health Form](#)

[SR-6, Maryland Schools Record of Physical Examination](#)

- Additional required form for prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students only

[DHMH Form 4620, Lead Testing Certificate](#)



****PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOSEPHINE MARINUCCI AT
JOSEPHINE_MARINUCCI@MCPSMD.ORG FOR ANY
QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRIATION.