

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

October 6, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Prekindergarten Instruction (08-24-2021-01-B)

During the Fall Return to School discussion, Board members requested the following information: Mrs. Smondrowski requested additional information regarding the process for the commencement of Prekindergarten live instruction.

Response

Prekindergarten and Head Start Program Annual Commencement

The Prekindergarten and Head Start program follows the Head Start Program Performance Standards, which require a family visit prior to the start of school. Family visits provide time to make home/school connections, build relationships, provide program information, and help families and children transition to school. Families are notified during the registration process that a family visit will occur prior to the start of the program. Teachers are provided class rosters and information about their students prior to the start of the school year. Teaching staff contact families to schedule these visits, which take place during the first week of the regular school year. This year, the visits were scheduled between August 30 and September 3, 2021. Due to the pandemic, teaching staff followed safety protocols and scheduled virtual visits, contacted families by phone, or scheduled meetings with individual families at school.

During the visits, teaching staff reviewed information with parents about the student's day and program information. Teachers provided families with helpful resources to assist in transitioning families and children into a smooth school year, including the TOT Line, a special phone line to assist parents when they have questions about their child's behavior or development. This visit established a relationship between the teacher, the child, and the family. Information from the family visit was documented to provide a record of the visit and any next steps.

Additionally, to help ease the transition to school and help students learn rules and routines, our Prekindergarten and Head Start students have a staggered opening. On the first day, half of the students in a class attend school. The following day, the first group remains at home

and the other half of the class attends school. On the third day, all students attend school together. This year, the staggered opening occurred on September 8 and 9, 2021. September 10, 2021, was the first day of the school year in Prekindergarten and Head Start programs.

MBM:RR:CLD:mec

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Ms. Webb