A Message From Gayle Starr, Principal

This is an important friendly reminder for the safety of our students. We are finding more students coming to school earlier than 8:30 a.m. which could cause a big safety issue. The school doors open at 8:30 a.m. for all students. Prior to that time, there is no adult supervision available at Kiss and Ride and in the gymnasium to greet your students. Please keep this in mind when bringing your child to school prior to 8:30 a.m. (8:20 a.m. if you are eating breakfast or an indoor patrol) Thank you.

Next year, school start times will look different for all schools in MCPS. This is the letter that the president of the Board of Education sent to MCPS employees on Tuesday. It contains valuable information. Please read below.

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I’m writing to inform you that the Montgomery County Board of Education voted this afternoon to change school starting and ending times in order to allow our students—especially those who are teenagers—to get some extra sleep in the morning. The option approved by the Board in a 5-to-3 vote will move the starting and ending times for middle and high schools 20 minutes later. The starting time for elementary schools will move 10 minutes later and the elementary school day will be extended by 10 minutes, with that time being used to extend lunch or recess. This option, which goes into effect next school year, will have no impact on the operating budget and will cause minimal disruption to the operations of our district.

Beginning next school year, the starting and ending times for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LENGTH OF DAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>6 hours, 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.–3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6 hours, 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Tier 1</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.–3:25 p.m.</td>
<td>6 hours, 25 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Tier 2</td>
<td>9:25 a.m.–3:50 p.m.</td>
<td>6 hours, 25 minutes</td>
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The Board gave this issue a tremendous amount of thought and deliberation, and we heard from thousands of people across the district, including the teachers, administrators, and support staff of MCPS. In the end, we had to balance the desire of some to move start times later with the fiscal realities we are facing. Other options we were considering had an annual cost between $2 million and $6 million. A majority of the Board did not feel they could support any option that would add to our budget at a time when the state and the county are facing fiscal challenges. There was no single option that was going to make everyone happy, but I believe we reached an acceptable compromise.
I know that you will receive additional information about these changes in the coming weeks and that our staff will work closely with our employee associations to minimize the impact this change will have on you and your colleagues.

Thank you for everything you do for our students, our families, and our community.

Sincerely,

Patricia B. O’Neill, president

PARCC

In order to measure mastery of new Common Core Standards, the state of Maryland will implement new tests for our students in Grades 3-5. The PARCC- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers will take the place of the MSA- Maryland State Assessment. During the month of March our students will spend multiple days taking the new assessments that "look at different content and use an entirely new grading system." (MSDE). It is imperative that ALL students are in attendance during the testing sessions for their grade level. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the dates listed below. Students will take the tests in the morning, but may need to be moved to the afternoon if there are circumstances beyond our control. Therefore, please make sure your child attends school for full days during their testing week.

Grade 5- March 2-6
Grade 4- March 9, 10, 18, 19, 20
Grade 3- March 11, 12, 13, 16, 17
Make-up Testing can continue March 23-26
(Please make sure that your child is at school and on time when he or she is scheduled for testing.)

Make-up testing can be given for any unit after it is missed. We will try to administer the make-up testing as soon as possible after the missed unit.

Testing will occur again in April and May. Those dates will follow soon. Please visit the MCPS website at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/parcc/ for more information about the PARCC. Also, please check your child's folder frequently for more information, as we approach the testing window.

Our staff is dedicated to implementing the MCPS 2.0 curriculum, which is aligned to the Common Core and new PARCC assessments. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Will your child attend Woodfield next year?

Since the level of staffing allocated at Woodfield is based on projected enrollment, it is important for us to have information regarding your plans for the 2015-2016 school year. Please call the office at (301) 253-7085, if there is a possibility that your child will not be returning to Woodfield, for the coming school year!

Principal of the Day
Being the principal was very fun and exhausting. I liked walking around and checking on the classes. I saw people who were working good. Mrs. Starr had to leave because she was sick and I had to be the real principal. It was hard to be a real principal but it was also a fun job!

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation for children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2015, will be held at Woodfield Elementary on Friday, April 24th, 2015. Please contact the office at (301) 253-7085 to schedule a time, or if you have any questions. Note that on this day, there will be no school for our current kindergarten students.

What is Kindergarten Orientation?
Kindergarten orientation is designed to help parents enroll their children, including the completion of health forms, and to assist students in becoming acquainted with future friends and the school environment. At orientation, parents and students will meet the school principal, kindergarten teachers, and other school staff members. There will be fun activities for children and an opportunity for parents to ask questions about the school’s procedures and programs. Kindergarten orientation is primarily an opportunity for children to look forward to coming to school in August and to begin to build an important partnership between home and school.

Who should attend?
Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2015, and their parents. An Early Entrance to Kindergarten application process is available to serve children who will reach five years old between September 2 and October 15, 2015. Parents who seek early entrance consideration for their children should inquire at our school office.

How do I register my child for Kindergarten?
Please call the office to provide the school with your child’s information. If you know of families who do not have students currently at Woodfield, but have children who will be in kindergarten next year, please share this information with them.
3rd choice on Menu

Grilled cheese is the 3rd choice every day on the menu

Damascus Library – Reading Therapy Dog

Certified reading-therapy dog Zachy will be at the Damascus Library on Tuesday afternoons, January 20 through May 19, 2015, from 4:00-4:45 p.m., lending his ear to children who would benefit from practicing their read-aloud skills in semi-private sessions. Zachy is a patient, non-judgmental listener. Children who read to him can gain confidence, build self-esteem, and improve their reading skills. Plus, reading aloud to Zachy is fun! Dixie, another reading-therapy dog, is at Damascus Library from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

READ TO A DOG!
Who: School-age children, especially beginners learning to read, English-learners, and all those who just want to improve their confidence in reading skills
What: Practice reading aloud in semi-private sessions with a calm and patient Wags For Hope certified therapy dog, like rescued greyhound Zachy, or cocker spaniel Dixie.
Why: Improve reading skills, gain confidence, and discover that reading is fun!
When: Every Tuesday from 4:00-4:45 pm, January 20-May 19, 2015. (Zachy)
When: Third Saturday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m., 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16/2015. (Dixie)
Where: Damascus Library, 9701 Main Street, Damascus MD, 20872.
How: First-come, first-served. No registration required; no younger siblings, please.
FREE. Call 240-773-9444 for more information.

Amy K Alapati
Head of Children's Services, Damascus Library
9701 Main Street, Damascus MD 20872
240-773-9444
Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries
Children's Steering Committee Member
amelia.alapati@montgomerycountymd.gov

Thank you to Mr. Gillenwater for the wonderful string and advanced band concerts that were presented by our cluster instrumental band students. As always, we are very proud of our students’ excellent performances.

ES/MS/HS Choral Cluster Concert at DHS
Thursday, February 12   7:00 p.m.
On Thursday, February 12, the Woodfield Chorus will join together with the choruses of Damascus High School, Baker Middle School, Damascus Elementary School, Clearspring Elementary School, and Rockwell Elementary School to present a Cluster Concert. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear other choruses perform, to perform in front of a large audience, and to perform in combination with other schools with other conductors. We have already begun preparing music for this special concert. This concert will be held at Damascus High School on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Students will need to arrive at the DHS auditorium at 6:00 p.m. to rehearse for this performance with the other schools. Chorus members should wear their uniform (white shirts or blouses, black pants or skirts, black shoes). This is the only opportunity that we have to rehearse as a whole, and it is very important that all students arrive on time. The doors will open for parents and families at 6:45 p.m.

“Due to the evening rehearsal and concert, there will be NO after school rehearsal on that day.”

Mrs. Vinson

Counselor’s Corner
February 12, 2015

It’s National School Counseling Week! (actually, we are a week behind) School counselors, to me, are invaluable and I believe our work with students is a critical piece of helping students with academic success! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, staff, and parents who provide such a welcoming community here at Woodfield! I am truly blessed to be working with such a caring, dedicated group of individuals. The community’s support of my role as an advocate for our students is the cornerstone of my drive and commitment to helping all of our students with social and emotional learning. It is my goal to build character and prepare our future society with college and career readiness. Thank you for your support of our School Counseling program at Woodfield ES! In honor of School Counseling Week, I have embedded some Acts of Kindness activities into our classroom guidance lessons.

The time has come for me to go on a brief leave of absence. Thank you for the sincere, well wishes as my family and I welcome our third son into the world. During my absence, please feel free to contact my substitute, April Tegeler, with any concerns regarding your child’s academic, social, & or emotional needs. Mrs. Tegeler will continue with classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling, & she will provide individual counseling, as needed. You can reach Mrs. Tegeler by calling the main office at 301.253.7085 or by email at April_L_Tegeler@mcpsmd.org.

Our PBIS Committee is looking for donations. If you would like to help, please consider contributing new prizes for our next Pep Rally. We are in need of new sports items such as footballs, basketballs, four square balls, hula hoops, and jump ropes. These were popular with all of the students. We could also use items specifically for the younger students such as stuffed animals, arts/crafts, and games. Please keep in mind that these items must be new. Thank you for your continued support with our PBIS program at Woodfield!

Attention Parents of Grade 2 Students:
Our school is in the process of gathering information about students to plan for the upcoming school year, including screening for gifted and talented programming. Please be on the lookout for the Parent Input form coming home during the week of March 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Please complete the form and return it to your child’s teacher to help us with this screening process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or Mrs. Dougherty.

**Distinguished Service Awards**

**Coming Soon: 18th Annual Distinguished Service to Public Education Awards**

Do you know any individuals (including students), groups, and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to public education in Montgomery County? If so, consider nominating them for a Distinguished Service to Public Education Award! The Montgomery County Board of Education established the awards, now in it’s 18\textsuperscript{th} year, to recognize and show appreciation for exemplary contributions to public education and to MCPS. Nomination forms will be available online at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/). Completed nomination forms will be due in February.

*Every Friday is School Spirit Day – Wear your Woodfield clothing or blue and white.*

*Soar High Woodfield!!*

**Monday, February 16**
- Holiday – Presidents’ Day
- Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.

**Friday, February 27**
- Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.

**2014 - 2015 Important Dates**

- **Monday, January 5** - Friday, Feb. 27
- **Thursday, February 12**
- **Friday, February 13**
- **Monday, February 16**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17 – Friday, Feb. 27**
- **Friday, February 27**
- **Monday, March 2**
- **Monday, March 2 – Fri., March 27**
- **Wednesday, March 4**
- **Wednesday, March 4**
- **Wednesday, March 4**
- **Wednesday, March 4**
- **Sunday, March 8**
- **Friday, March 13**
- **Saturday, March 14**
- **Tuesday, March 17**
- **Thursday, March 26**

**Monday, March 2**
- Access for ELLS (make-up)
- Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.
- Read Across America – Dr. Seuss Day
- PARCC PBA ELA/Literacy, Math Testing Gr. 3-5
- PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Woodfield 3:15 – 8:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 2 – Fri., March 27**
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade Field Trip – Kraushaar Auditorium
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Grade Field Trip – DHS – Mary Poppins
- KG Field Trip – DHS – Mary Poppins

**Wednesday, March 4**
- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Baker 3:30 – 10 p.m.
- PTA Talent Show – Baker MS 7 p.m.
- St. Patrick’s Day

**3\textsuperscript{rd} marking period ends**

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**MAP-R, MAP-M, MAP-P Testing**
- ES/MS/HS Choral Cluster Concert at DHS 7:00 p.m.
- Valentine’s Day - Parties @ 2:00 p.m.
- Holiday – Presidents’ Day Offices & schools closed
- ACCESS for ELLS (make-up)
- Early release – Planning/grading 12:35 p.m.
- Read Across America – Dr. Seuss Day
- PARCC PBA ELA/Literacy, Math Testing Gr. 3-5
- PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Woodfield 3:15 – 8:00 p.m.
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade Field Trip – Kraushaar Auditorium
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Grade Field Trip – DHS – Mary Poppins
- KG Field Trip – DHS – Mary Poppins
- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- PTA Talent Show Rehearsal at Baker 3:30 – 10 p.m.
- PTA Talent Show – Baker MS 7 p.m.
- St. Patrick’s Day
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} marking period ends
The Woodfield Eagle

Friday, March 27
Friday, March 27
Saturday, March 28
Monday, March 30 – Wed., June 10
Tuesday, March 31

Fri., April 3 - Friday, April 10
Monday, April 13 – Friday, May 1
Tuesday, April 14
Tuesday, April 14
Friday, April 17
Monday, April 20 – Friday, May 15
Monday, April 20 – Friday, April 24
Tuesday, April 21 – Sunday, April 26

Wednesday, April 22
Thursday, April 23
Friday, April 24
Monday, April 27 – Tues., April 28
Tuesday, April 28
Friday, May 1
Friday, May 1
Monday, May 4– Friday, May 8
Tuesday, May 5
Tuesday, May 5
Monday, May 11
Tuesday, May 12
Friday, May 15
Monday, May 18

Monday, May 18
Tuesday, May 19

Thursday, May 21

Monday, May 25
Tuesday, May 26
Tuesday, June 2
Wednesday, June 3
Friday, June 12
Monday, June 15
Tuesday, June 23

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Professional day for teachers – No school for students
PTA Talent Show Rehearsal Snow Date @ Baker 3:30 p.m.
PTA Talent Show snow date @ Baker 7 p.m.
MAP-R, MAP M, MAP-P Testing
Lifetouch Spring portraits

Spring Break – No school for students or teachers
MSA – Science Online Grade 5
Flyer distribution day
Report cards distributed
4th Grade Field Trip – Living Classrooms
PARCC EOY ELA/Literacy, Math Testing Gr. 3-5
MSA Science Paper Grade 5
2015 MCPS Elementary and Middle School Arts Fair @ Lakeforest Mall

Earth Day
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
Kindergarten Orientation – No School for Kindergarten
Hearing and Vision Screening
Donuts with Dad
Woodfield Art Show
Spring PTA Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
PTA Staff Appreciation Week
5th grade picture – 1:45 p.m.
1st Grade Field Trip – Rose Hill Manor
Muffins for Mom A – M 8 a.m.
Muffins for Mom N – Z 8 a.m.
Patrol Picnic 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hearing and Vision Re-Screening

Science Fair
3rd Grade Field Trip – Baltimore Museum
Woodfield ES Choral and Instrumental Concert @ Baker MS 7:00 p.m.

Holiday – Memorial Day Offices and School closed
K Field Trip – Maryland Zoo
Career Day
Volunteer Luncheon – Media Center 11:30 – 1:30
Last day of school for students – Early release 12:35 p.m.
Professional day for teachers
Report cards mailed

Note: Dates that have been added this week are in bold