

2023-2024

Prekindergarten/ Head Start Calendar



Child's Name: _____

Prekindergarten (Pre-K)/Head Start Family
Service Worker assigned to child's class: _____

Phone: **240-740-4530**

Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023–2024 Pre-K/Head Start Calendar

2023	
August 21-25	Professional days for teachers
August 28	First day of school for students (K-12)
Aug. 28-Sept. 1	Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students
September 4	Labor Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
September 5 and 6	Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students
September 7	First day for all Head Start / Pre-K students
September 22	Early release day for all students
September 25	No School for all students
October 5	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
October 6	Head Start Parent Orientations End
October 9	No School for all students
October 18	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
October 19	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
October 25	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
October 31	Prekindergarten Orientations End
November 1	No school for all students; end of quarter planning
November 2	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
November 9	Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
November 16	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
November 20 and 21	Parent-Teacher Conferences—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students
November 22, 23 and 24	Thanksgiving— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
December 4-7	National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA
December 6	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
December 7	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
December 13	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
December 15	Winter Lights Event
December 21	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
December 25-29	Winter Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed December 25 and Jan 1

2024	
January 1	Winter Break— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
January 2	Winter Break— No school for students and teachers
January 3	Classes resume
January 4	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 11	Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 15	Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
January 18	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
January 29	No school for all students; end of quarter planning
January 30- February 2	Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Head Start students
February 1	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
February 7	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)
February 15	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
February 19	Presidents’ Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
February 22	Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)
March 1	Early release day for all students
March 7	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 14	Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 21	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
March 25-April 1	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed March 27 – April 1
April 4	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
April 10	No school for all students
April 15-18	National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR
April 18	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
April 22	No school for all students
May 2	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 14	Primary Election Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
May 16	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
May 27	Memorial Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED
June 6	Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom
June 12	Last day of school for Prekindergarten/Head Start Students
June 13	Last Day of School (K-12)
June 14	Professional Day for Teachers
June 19	Juneteenth -- SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED

JULY 2023

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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AUGUST 2023

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P R O F E S S I O N A L D A Y S F O R T E A C H E R S [TRADITIONAL CALENDAR SCHOOLS ONLY]													
27		28		29		30		31					
		First Day of School for Students (K-12) Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students		Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students		Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students		Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students					

Read and share good books/visit the county fair.

Pre-K/Head Start Staff

ADMINISTRATION 240-740-4530

Jessica Blasic Supervisor, Pre-K/HS
Michelle Esema Coordinator
Valerie Ashton Head Start Program Manager
Gloria Diaz Accountant
Kevin Shim Data Systems Operator
Elsa Rios Data Systems Operator
Jocelyn Joya Administrative Secretary
Jeannette Zepeda Escobar Administrative Secretary
Joanna Vasquez Registrar
Flor Martinez Registrar

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH SERVICES— EDUCATION STAFF 240-740-4530

Rhonda Amisshah Instructional Specialist
Kelly Barrett Instructional Specialist
Stephanie Brink Instructional Specialist
Deirdra Fuller Instructional Specialist
Jiji Olds Instructional Specialist
Louise Tolin Instructional Specialist
Shalini Komal Pre-K Central Office Teacher
Shona Weaver Pre-K Central Office Teacher
Susan Dowling Program Support Teacher
Sonali Motha Program Support Teacher
Maree Nicoll Program Support Teacher
Gabriella Estevez Psychologist
Sara McKeen Psychologist
Marissa Senese Psychologist
Julie Shields Psychologist
Victoria Willingham Psychologist
Joe Ann Robinson Speech/Language Pathologist
Lynne Teoman Speech/Language Pathologist

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) 240-777-1553

Beka Urgessa Health Services Manager
Lesley Konigsburg Dental Hygienist
Teresa Soodak Dental Hygienist
Wond Workalemahu Eligibility Specialist
Norma Davis Health Aide
Terri Hock Health Aide
Cheryl Pyle Health Aide
Mina Aliabadi Nurse
Pamela Gambon Nurse
Renee McNevin Nurse
Kimberly Muhammed Nurse
Nomvuyo Qubeka Nurse
Simone Roberts Nurse
Patricia Winters Nurse
Nina Munck Nurse

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF 240-740-4530

Lisa Conlon Social Services Specialist
Terry Fisher Thompson Social Worker
Renee Foster Social Worker
Annette Harris Social Worker
Traci Powell Social Worker
Jose Roberto Flores Parent Engagement/Volunteer Specialist
Maral Abkarian Family Service Worker
Kiara Austin Family Service Worker
Jazmina Begazo Family Service Worker
Elsi Bonilla Family Service Worker
Cachet Carter Family Service Worker
Jocelyn Chica Valdez Family Service Worker
Lestine Colbert Family Service Worker
Sandra Cruz Family Service Worker
Teresa Delgadillo Family Service Worker
Damara Dockery Family Service Worker
Michelle Dove Family Service Worker
Reyna Escamilla Family Service Worker
Esperanza Flores Family Service Worker
Deborah Garcia Family Service Worker
Sonia Granados Family Service Worker
Vianka Hardy Family Service Worker
Terri Harris Family Service Worker
Vicki Johnson Family Service Worker
Nuha Khalaf Family Service Worker
Patty Marroquin Family Service Worker
Leida Martinez Family Service Worker
Ruth Meininger Family Service Worker
Sorangel Peralta Family Service Worker
Myrna Perez Family Service Worker
Tania Quintanilla Family Service Worker
Amabilia Reyes Family Service Worker
Daniela Rodriguez Family Service Worker
Traci Stevens Family Service Worker
Renee Teneyck Family Service Worker
Rosy Turcios Family Service Worker
Cesiah Ventura Family Service Worker



AUGUST 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
										1		2			
										Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students					
3		4		5		6		7		8		9			
		LABOR DAY— Schools and offices closed		Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students		Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students		First day for all Head Start and Pre-K students							
10		11		12		13		14		15		16			
17		18		19		20		21		22		23			
										Early release day for all students					
24		25		26		27		28		29		30			
No School for all students															

Draw a picture of something you liked about school.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings

- Elementary schools—First Tuesday evening of the month. Check your local school's website to determine the meeting time and location, or call the school office.
- Middle schools—Second Tuesday evening of the month.

Board of Education meetings

The Montgomery County Board of Education currently conducts two business meetings each month: A day business meeting that usually starts at 2:00 p.m.; and an evening meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m. The meetings are held at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. If you have any questions about upcoming Board meetings, contact the Board office at 240-740-3030 or e-mail: boe@mcpsmd.org

Montgomery County Council meetings

Meetings are held at the Werner County Office Building at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. Call to confirm the meetings scheduled at 240-777-7900, or e-mail: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Community Action Board meetings

Fourth Tuesday evening of each month on Zoom or at 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

Policy Council meetings

See the calendars in this booklet for dates, times, and locations of the monthly Policy Council meetings.

Service Areas of the Pre-K/Head Start Program

Program Design and Management

Administration

The administrative service area provides total program coordination, budget preparation, and linkages within the school system and the community: Mrs. Jessica Blasic, supervisor.

Policy Council

To make decisions about the program, Pre-K/Head Start has a Policy Council (PC) whose members are parents/guardians elected from each Pre-K/Head Start school. Former parents/guardians, and other community representatives, also serve on the Policy Council. The Council meets at 6:00 p.m. every third Thursday of the month on Zoom.

In October, the Policy Council representatives receive the proposed program budget for the next year and decide how the Parent Activity funds will be spent. Not all parents/guardians are voting members of the Policy Council; however, all parents/guardians are welcome at all meetings. Your input is needed. Election of new Policy Council officers occurs at the December meeting. Be sure your school is represented. January is budget month for the school system. Watch for an announcement of when the Policy Council representative will give testimony before the Board of Education about the budget for Pre-K/Head Start. Show your support by attending the meeting. Help spread the good word about Pre-K/Head Start. The recruitment committee plans ways to reach new eligible

families, recommends guidelines, and plans the recruitment for next year's children. For more information, call Mr. Roberto Flores, parent engagement/volunteer specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

Social Services

This service area recruits and enrolls families and helps link families to community services and resources. A family service worker is assigned to each class and provides support and resource assistance to families. See the front cover of this calendar for the name and phone number of your child's family service worker. If there are any further questions, contact Ms. Lisa Conlon, social services specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Parent Engagement

Each class has Parent/Guardian Center meetings for parents/guardians to become acquainted with each other, to visit the classroom and teaching team, and to share information about child development, reading and mathematics literacy, nutrition, safety, health, arts and crafts, as well as learning about how the program operates. You may ride the school bus with your child, and Head Start parents/guardians may have lunch. All meetings are planned and run by parents/guardians, with support from family service workers. You may sign up to organize meetings on the Parent/Guardian Volunteer Questionnaire. Head Start younger siblings also may come. Questions? Call your family service worker at 240-740-4530.

Children gain more from the instructional program when their parents/guardians are involved. Pre-K/Head Start has many ways parents/guardians can participate: volunteering in the classroom, making decisions about how Pre-K/Head Start operates, using learning activities at home with children, and working with staff and other parents/guardians to plan activities and to develop parent/guardian education programs. Parents/guardians meet monthly, and each class elects representatives to the countywide Policy Council. Call your family service worker, the Policy Council chairperson, or the parent engagement/volunteer specialist, Mr. Roberto Flores, at 240-740-4530.

Career Development

Opportunities are available for Pre-K/Head Start parents/guardians to be employed as paraeducators or as substitutes. You may make arrangements for completing your education or any other career goals by calling the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Community Resources

Pre-K/Head Start has prepared and will distribute a Community Resource Guide that lists helpful community services. The guide includes phone numbers for food assistance, health clinics, housing, and area clothing centers where good used clothing may be secured. Ask your family service worker for a copy of the resource guide, if you have not received one.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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NOVEMBER 2023

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OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	6 Head Start Parent Orientations End	7
8	9 No School for all students	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)	19 Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 PM—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	20	21
22	23	24	25 Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)	26	27	28
29	30	31 Prekindergarten Orientations End				

Find leaves from different trees, put like ones together, and trace them with sidewalk chalk.

Important Information

Early Head Start

Early Head Start is an exciting program for families with children from birth to 3 years old. The program provides many of the same services as Head Start, and some that are special to Early Head Start. To apply, families must be pregnant or have children 26 months or younger. Here's how to get more information about the program: In the Gaithersburg and Upcounty areas: Call Family Services, Inc., Early Head Start at 301-840-3272. In the Silver Spring and Rockville areas: Call The Reginald S. Lourie Center, Early Head Start at 301-891-1900. In the Langley Park/Silver Spring areas: Call CentroNia, Early Head Start at 301-543-8040.

Child Care

Parents/guardians who need a child care provider can call LOCATE: Child Care at 1-877-261-0060, or ChildLink 240-777-3997 for free assistance with finding a licensed child care provider, school-age program, summer camp, preschool, and/or nursery school program. LOCATE identifies providers based on each family's individual needs, such as hours of care, location, number and ages of children, and child care cost. This service may be accessed in multiple languages. LOCATE can identify providers located in or near the school's service area. In addition, counselors will provide tips on how to identify good-quality programs and easy-to-follow tips to help parents/guardians choose the right program for their child.

LOCATE: Child Care identifies both family child care providers and child care centers that have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care. Parents/guardians should look for high-quality programs that exhibit the following characteristics: the staff understands the developmental needs of the children; the program has a variety of educational materials, supplies, and games geared to the ages served; parents/guardians are welcomed and involved; and staff works with school personnel regarding schedules, policies, procedures, and programming. State and county laws require that children under the age of 8 be supervised at all times by a parent/guardian, child care provider, or babysitter who is at least 13 years old. Parents/guardians also can search for child care information online at www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

You may apply for financial assistance to pay for child care through Montgomery County Health and Human Services: Working Parents Assistance (WPA) call 240-777-1177. A recording provides general information including how to determine if you are eligible. The Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program offers assistance with the cost of child care to eligible working families; call 1-877-227-0125.



Early Childhood Development and Health Services

Children with Disabilities

Head Start is a federally funded program. It mandates that children with disabilities occupy 10 percent of the program enrollment slots. Children with disabilities share Pre-K/Head Start classrooms with those who have no disabilities (inclusion model) and receive all services and privileges enjoyed by all Pre-K/Head Start children. Classroom activities and experiences are adapted to accommodate children with disabilities whenever and wherever needed.

Parents/guardians, educators, and children enjoy the inclusion model, as it is a time when all children learn and grow together. Staff members answer questions parents/guardians have about their child's development. Also, staff members provide parents/guardians with at-home activities that assist their child with a particular area of need. Children receive screenings in various areas of development (educational, speech/language, vision, dental, and hearing.) If, through the screenings, an educational disability is suspected, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team (e.g., teachers, parents/guardians and school psychologist, special educator, speech pathologist, nurse, etc.) meet to determine the need for further assessments. If further assessments are recommended, the school must obtain parent/guardian consent for the recommended assessments.

Once the assessments and evaluations have been completed, the IEP team must determine if an educational disability is present and, if so, which one of the federal educational disability codes best describes the student's disability. Once the existence of the educational disability has been determined and the IEP team has determined that the disability impacts the student's learning, appropriate goals and special education services will be discussed.

Services needed may be provided through the Pre-K/Head Start program or other MCPS programs. If your child needs more special education services than what can be provided in the Pre-K/Head Start classroom or services other than those provided by MCPS, Pre-K/Head Start staff will help parents/guardians locate the recommended services.

Things to look for in your child's development:

- **Speech and Language:** Is your child able to speak clearly and understand language?
- **Cognitive:** Is your child learning and developing in the same way as other children their age?
- **Gross and Fine Motor:** Is your child "clumsy" or does your child have trouble using their hands to play with blocks or scribble on paper?
- **Social/Emotional:** Does your child get along with other children and adults?
- **Attention:** Does your child have more difficulty sitting still or paying attention than other children their age?
- **Hearing or vision:** Does your child squint when looking at books or watching TV? Does your child respond appropriately to sounds in their environment?

Notify your teacher if you have concerns about your child's development, or call the Pre-K/Head Start Unit at 240-740-4530.

OCTOBER 2023

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NOVEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 2023

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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
						1	No school for all students; end of quarter planning	2	Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	3		4	
5		6		7		8		9	Fatherhood Activity—6:30 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	10		11	
12		13		14		15		16	Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	17		18	
19		20	Parent-Teacher Conferences—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	21	Parent-Teacher Conferences—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students	22	THANKSGIVING— Schools and offices closed	23	THANKSGIVING— Schools and offices closed	24	THANKSGIVING— Schools and offices closed	25	
26		27		28		29		30					

Go on a scavenger hunt and line up all items in ABC order.

Education

Programs are designed to meet the needs of each individual child and to share ideas with parents/guardians for assisting their children at home. Our centers provide the children with learning environments and varied experiences that support them in developing socially, intellectually, physically, and emotionally. When necessary, Pre-K/Head Start has speech pathologists and psychologists to work with you and your child. The education services specialist can be contacted at 240-740-4530. Parents/guardians are invited and urged to visit, volunteer, go on field trips, help with parties, and/or help at home. To volunteer, call Mr. Roberto Flores in the Pre-K/Head Start office, at 240-740-4530 for more information.

Emergencies

IMPORTANT! Please be sure the school and the Pre-K/Head Start office have an emergency phone number where someone can be reached if you are not at home. If you change your phone number or address, let the school and the Pre-K/Head Start office know your new number and address by calling 240-740-4530.

Health

Children receive medical screenings such as blood tests, vision and hearing, and dental. Dental services include teeth cleaning and dental treatment, if necessary, at no cost to you. The health services manager is Mr. Beka Urgessa, at 240-777-1553.

Health Clinics

Call the Health Care Eligibility Unit, (OESS), for information, assistance, and health resources: Rockville Health Center, 240-777-3120; Silver Spring Health Center, 240-777-3066; and Germantown Health Center, 240-777-3591.

Sick Care

For children and youth under 21, you can call Community Clinic for sick care at 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 1200, Silver Spring, 301-585-1250; 7676 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 301-431-2972; or 200 Girard Street, Suite 212, Gaithersburg, 301-216-0880. You must call to make an appointment and bring proof of income.

Permission Slips

If you want your child to have the Pre-K/Head Start health screenings and dental services, you must sign and return the permission slips!

Nutrition

Pre-K/Head Start has the same lunch program that serves the public schools. Educational opportunities in nutrition are provided available for parents/guardians and children. Nutrition information is available by calling the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Program Self-Assessment

A committee of parents and staff complete the annual program evaluation for Head Start. For information or to join the committee, call Mr. Roberto Flores at 240-740-4530.

Health Services

As a requirement for Pre-K/Head Start, all students must have a physical examination, state and federal required immunizations, blood lead testing, and a dental examination. If your child does not have a source of health care to receive the physical examination and immunizations, please let your child's teacher, family service worker, or the school nurse know so that we may assist you in getting these services. You may be financially eligible for state or local health and nutrition programs for your family, which are available at the following Office of Eligibility and Support Services (OESS) locations:

12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874 . . . 240-777-3591
1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. 240-777-3120
8630 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910 240-777-3066
4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852 240-740-4430

All immunizations given at Montgomery County health centers and the MCPS Health Services Center at Rocking Horse Road Center (4910 Macon Road, Rockville) are offered at low cost to families. Please keep a record of the immunizations your child receives.

During the school year, your child will receive screenings for dental, hearing, vision, height, and weight.

Medications

If your child will need any medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) during the school day, you must provide the school with an authorized prescriber's order and complete MCPS Form 525-13, *Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication* (available at your child's school and on the MCPS website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-13.pdf). Prescription medication must be labeled properly by a pharmacist and brought to school in its original container. Nonprescription over-the-counter medication must be in the manufacturer's original container with the seal intact. MCPS Form 525-14, *Emergency Care for the Management of a Student with a Diagnosis of Anaphylaxis*, is the preferred authorized prescriber's order form for epinephrine auto-injectors (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf). All medications MUST be hand-delivered to school by the parent or guardian. If your child has any health problems, particularly those that may require emergency action, such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or an allergy to insect stings or food, please notify the principal and school nurse.



NOVEMBER 2023

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JANUARY 2024

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DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
												1	2
3	4 National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA		5 National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA		6 National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)		7 National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom		8		9		
10	11		12		13 Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)		14		15 Winter Lights Event		16		
17	18		19		20		21 Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom		22		23		
24	25		26		27		28		29		30		
31	W I N T E R B R E A K NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS; OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 25 AND JAN 1												

Bake cookies with a friend, measure and count, talk about the experience.

Illness

If your child has a fever, a bad cough, or does not feel well, please keep them at home. Your child cannot enjoy school when ill. If your child has been ill (measles, chicken pox, etc.), continue to keep them home until your doctor says it is okay to return to class.

Transportation

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children on the way to the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the way home from the bus stop. Please bring your child to the bus each morning and meet the bus each afternoon. Bus schedules are approximate and may vary due to weather, traffic, and student changes. It is best to be present at the bus stop at least five minutes ahead of the normal arrival time. If you are unable to meet the bus and you have chosen another responsible adult to do so (e.g., child care provider, grandparent), please notify your child's teacher or paraeducator in writing. Keep the school phone number in your cell phone or other convenient place in case of emergency.

If you or your designee fail to meet your child, they will be returned to school. If you or your designee fail to meet the bus three times, you must meet with the family service worker. If problems continue, transportation privileges may be terminated. Also, behavior problems on the bus can result in termination of bus privileges.

Clothes

Because all Pre-K/Head Start children go outside every day, weather permitting, please dress your child appropriately for play and for all types of weather. In the fall and spring, be sure to send along a light jacket or a sweater. For winter, your child needs mittens or gloves, a warm hat, boots, and a heavy coat. Also, send a change of clothing that can be kept at school. (For example, an old pair of pants and a top.) To prevent mix-ups, put your child's name on all clothing. If you need help with clothing, call your family service worker.

Messages

You will be receiving many notices from Pre-K/Head Start, and we count on your child to be the message carrier. Tell your child how important this job is and that we all count on them to get messages to and from home and school. Reminder: You need to check their backpack each day.

Volunteers

Parent/guardian participation in Pre-K/Head Start is extremely important and is encouraged. Parents/guardians support their children and Pre-K/Head Start by visiting, observing, and helping in the classroom. Also, parents/guardians help by going on field trips, making suggestions to improve the program, and preparing classroom materials at home. If you can help as a regular volunteer, talk with your child's teacher and schedule the day of the week when you are available to volunteer in the class. If daytime hours are limited, you can discuss other ways you can help at home. Call the Pre-K/Head Start Unit at 240-740-4530 for more information.

All volunteers who regularly support schools and students and those who attend field trips, must complete an on-line training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect." The training is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Vietnamese on the MCPS website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org. When you complete the training, you should print the certificate of completion and give it to your child's school. Remember that all volunteers need to sign in and out of the school building using the Visitor Management System (VMS), at the beginning and end of each volunteer activity and wear a volunteer identification name tag at all times.

You are recommended to have a tuberculosis (TB) test before volunteering in the classroom. To get a TB test, please call the school nurse at your child's school.

Emergency Closings

In case of bad weather or other emergencies, MCPS schools may be closed for the entire day or school opening may be delayed for two hours.

- If school opening is delayed for two hours, Pre-K/Head Start morning classes will not meet. Afternoon classes will meet as usual.
- If schools close early because of inclement weather, Pre-K/Head Start children in the morning classes may be returned home early; afternoon Pre-K/Head Start classes will not meet.
- If school is closed all day, or if there is an early closing of school, all evening activities will be canceled automatically, and there will be no Policy Council meeting or adult education classes.

School-closing information is broadcast on local radio and television stations, the MCPS cable channels (Channel 34 on Comcast, 36 on Verizon, and 89 on RCN cable), and the MCPS website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org). You also can get information on the MCPS Twitter account (twitter.com/MCPS); the MCPS Facebook account (www.facebook.com/mcpsmd/); and MCPS also will send out messages via Connect-ED (a recorded phone and e-mail messaging system that uses emergency contact numbers and e-mail addresses supplied by parents/guardians). Also, you can sign up to receive text and e-mail messages through Montgomery County's alert system (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx).

Attendance

It is important that students attend school every day and arrive on time. Regular attendance is necessary in order for each child to receive the most benefit from the Pre-K/Head Start experience. Going to school regularly and being on time are important factors in the attitude your child will develop about school. A positive attitude about school and regular attendance will pay off in the years to come.

When children arrive to school on time, they have a better educational and social experience in Pre-K/Head Start. If your child is sick, call the school and leave a message for the teacher. When your child is able to return, send a note with the child to explain the absence. Please keep your child's teacher or your family service worker informed of any illness or emergency. If your child is absent 10 days or more in a month, follow-up with the family service worker will be conducted, whether the days are consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Pre-K/Head Start TOTLINE

If you have questions about your child's behavior or development, call 240-740-4580; weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

HOTLINE

For adults, telephone crisis-intervention, informal counseling, information, and referral services are available. There is 24-hour professional assistance available to help with problems. Call 301-738-2255 or 988.

DECEMBER 2023

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FEBRUARY 2024

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JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 WINTER BREAK— Schools and offices closed	2 WINTER BREAK— No school for students and teachers	3 Classes resume	4 Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Fatherhood Activity—6:30 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	12	13
14	15 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY— Schools and offices closed	16	17	18 Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 No school for all students; end of quarter planning	30 Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students	31 Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Head Start students			

Make a snow angel—measure your height and the width of your wings.

Simple and Inexpensive Activities for Preschoolers

Imaginative Play:

- Use dress-up clothes (hats, caps, ties, dresses).
- Use cardboard boxes for pulling, pushing, climbing in and out; tunnels for climbing under and through.
- Make a hideout: drape a blanket over a chair or small table. Give the child a flashlight and some favorite belongings.

Play Store

Use canned goods, empty food containers, boxes, pans, and cartons. Make play money.

Play Dough

In a pan, combine 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 cup of water, and 1 tablespoon of salad oil. Add a little food coloring, if you wish. Heat and stir mixture over moderate heat until it pulls away from the pan. Cook about 2 or 3 minutes; knead until desired consistency. Keep in the refrigerator when not in use.

Blowing Bubbles

Add some dishwashing detergent to a bowl or glass of water. Give the kids a straw and let them blow!

Crafts

Use up old paper bags by letting the kids paste pictures on them (artists call them collages) bits of lace, buttons, seeds, toothpicks, colored magazine pictures, and ribbons.

Parents Build Literacy Skills

Consult the local library for a wide selection of age-appropriate books for children. The children's librarian can help families make good book selections. The child's teacher also can help with book selections. There may be a classroom lending library. Students check out books from the school library/media center to read in the classroom.

Always read the books yourself before you read them with your child. Be familiar with the story for appropriate content. It is more fun for you and your child if you like the book too.

Begin by reading the title and author of the book.

Be enthusiastic before, during, and after reading any book.

- Be excited about the story.
- Point to the pictures as you are reading the story and talk about what is happening.
- Talk about the story when you are done.

Be dramatic when you read.

- Change the tone of your voice.
- Use different voices for different characters.
- Bring the story to life.

Interact with and involve your child in the story.

- Read with, rather than to, your child.
- Show the pictures while you read.
- Have your child point to the pictures.
- React positively to children's comments with verbal and nonverbal responses.

Ask questions such as—

- What do you think will happen next?
- What would you do if you were...?
- How do you feel about this story?

This encourages the development of both language and critical thinking skills.

Helping With Cooking:

Let your children help while you are cooking. Here are some examples:

- Rolling out cookies
- Rolling out pie dough
- Helping with tortillas
- Mixing dry and wet ingredients
- Counting raisins and nuts

Parents'/Guardians' Questions

If you have a specific question about your child or the classroom, call your child's teacher. If you have a question about the bus route, call the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530. If you need special assistance or community services, call your family service worker or the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Encourage a friend or family member to apply for the Pre-K/Head Start Programs

If you know the parent/guardian of a child who will be four 4 years old by September 1, please encourage them to apply for Pre-K/Head Start. Registration is ongoing for the current school year and registration for fall starts in March. Important information about registration is available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of the Pre-K/Head Start program and provide a wide variety of experiences for your child. If you want your child to participate, you must sign a permission slip at the beginning of the year. Each semester, the teacher will send you a list of individual field trips. You will need to sign that permission slip, too. Of course, you and Head Start younger siblings are welcome to come along. Let the teaching staff know about any nearby trips your family has enjoyed. They can then include these as possible class outings. Parents who attend field trips must complete an online training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect." Ask your family service worker for more details.



JANUARY 2024						
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MARCH 2024						
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FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
								1 Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Head Start students Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom		2 Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Head Start students		3	
4		5		6		7 Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)		8		9		10	
11		12		13		14		15 Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom		16		17	
18		19 PRESIDENTS' DAY— Schools and offices closed		20		21		22 Pre-K and Head Start Teachers' Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)		23		24	
25		26		27		28		29					

Make a tent with a friend, have lunch, and cozy up to tell stories.

Finger Plays

I Had a Little Turtle

I had a little turtle, (cup hands together)
that lived in a box.

He swam in the water (swimming motion)
and climbed on the rocks. (fingers walking on hands)

He snapped at a mosquito (clap hands)
He snapped at a flea! (clap hands)

He snapped at a fly (clap hands)
and he snapped at me! (clap hands)

He caught the mosquito. (catching motion)
He caught the flea. (catching motion)

He caught the fly. (catching motion)

But he didn't catch me! (Shake head and hold hands open.)

Good for playing while waiting in line or at an office or the clinic!

Story Time

Five-minute stories are great. Next time you read or tell a story to your child, you might try one of the following:

1. Substitute their name for the name of the child in the story.
2. Make the sounds of the animals, cars, or babies.
3. Find something round, square, long, or short to include in the story.

Using Old Newspapers

Painting or drawing on newspaper will aid in large muscle development. Find a place where your child's designs and pictures can be put up for all to see, perhaps on the wall or refrigerator.

Crumpling paper into a ball is good for improving finger muscles. Newspaper balls can be used inside for tossing, throwing into wastebaskets, and as "snowballs."

Outside Games and Activities

Chalking on the sidewalk is fun and washes off easily. The difference in texture adds interest. You can use colored chalk on wet paper too.

Give your child an old large paint brush, a bucket of water, and let them paint the side of the house, the hall, the sidewalk, or any available surface that water will not hurt. Call it magic writing—it disappears as it dries.



FEBRUARY 2024

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APRIL 2024

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MARCH 2024

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
										1		2	
										Early release day for all students			
3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
										Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom			
10		11		12		13		14		15		16	
										Fatherhood Activity—6:30 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom			
17		18		19		20		21		22		23	
										Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom			
24		25		26		27		28		29		30	
31		SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS; OFFICES CLOSED MARCH 27—APRIL 1											

Make and fly a kite, tell a friend about the adventure.

The ABC's of Family Involvement

- A**ctively listen to children
- B**elieve in each other
- C**heck backpacks daily
- D**elight in specific successes
- E**njoy children's enthusiasm
- F**ind space for children to keep special treasures and supplies
- G**ive a gift from the heart; make one together
- H**ug your child every day
- I**nvolve family in activities: hike, sing, read, and start collections
- J**ump with children just for fun
- K**eep a list of words to share
- L**augh together
- M**ark your calendars for family times
- N**otice acts of kindness
- O**pen the door to independence
- P**lay games as a family
- Q**uest and Question together
- R**ead aloud together, often
- S**hare a smile
- T**reat children to the public library
- U**nderstand the many ways that children learn
- V**alue children's schoolwork and school
- W**alk and wonder together
- eX**tend a helping hand
- Y**ield to the family's need to be together
- Z**ap into positive thinking

Transition to Kindergarten

Moving on to kindergarten is easier for Pre-K/Head Start children because they have been attending school, riding the bus, participating in the classroom with other children, and receiving health screenings. To smooth the way, teachers introduce the children to the kindergarten teacher, visit the kindergarten classroom, and transfer the child's records. Parents/guardians are invited to Kindergarten Orientation meetings in April and May.





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MAY 2024						
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APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 SPRING BREAK— Schools and offices closed	2	3	4 Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	5	6
7	8	9	10 No school for all students	11	12	13
14	15 National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR	16 National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR	17 National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR	18 National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom	19	20
21	22 No school for all students	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Play ball with a friend, keep score, and write a story about the fun you had.

Montgomery County Public Schools Pre-K/Head Start Classes

Arcola ES	301-287-8585	Maryvale ES	240-740-4330
Beall ES	240-740-1220	S. Christa McAuliffe ES	301-353-0910
Bel Pre ES	301-287-8870	Ronald E. McNair ES	301-353-0854
Bells Mill ES	240-740-0480	Mill Creek Towne ES	240-740-1820
Brooke Grove ES	240-722-1800	Montgomery Knolls ES	240-740-0840
Brookhaven ES	240-740-0500	New Hampshire Estates ES	240-740-1580
Brown Station ES	240-740-0260	Roscoe R. Nix ES	301-422-5070
Burnt Mills ES	301-649-8192	Oakland Terrace ES	301-929-2161
Rachel Carson ES	240-740-1840	William Tyler Page ES	301-989-5672
Cabin Branch ES	240-740-7670	Judith A. Resnik ES	240-740-3240
Cashell ES	240-740-0560	Dr. Sally K. Ride ES	301-353-0994
Clearspring ES	240-740-2580	Rock Creek Forest ES	240-839-3201
Clopper Mill ES	240-740-2180	Rock View ES	240-740-0920
College Gardens ES	301-279-8470	Lois Rockwell ES.	240-740-5180
Capt. James E. Daly ES	240-740-0600	Rolling Terrace ES	240-740-1950
Dr. Charles R. Drew ES	301-989-6030	Rosemary Hills ES	301-920-9990
East Silver Spring ES	240-740-0620	Rosemont ES	301-840-7123
Fairland ES	240-740-0640	Sargent Shriver ES	301-929-4426
Fields Road ES	301-840-7131	Flora M. Singer ES	240-740-0330
Flower Hill ES	301-840-7161	South Lake ES	301-337-3450
Forest Knolls ES	240-740-1640	Stedwick ES	301-840-7187
Fox Chapel ES	240-740-0680	Strawberry Knoll ES	301-840-7112
Gaithersburg ES	301-840-7136	Stonegate ES	240-740-7340
Galway ES	301-595-2930	Summit Hall ES	301-284-4150
Georgian Forest ES	240-740-0720	Takoma Park ES	240-740-0980
William B. Gibbs, Jr. ES	240-740-0740	Harriet R. Tubman ES	240-740-6770
Glenallan ES	240-740-0760	Twinbrook ES	240-740-3450
Glen Haven ES	301-649-8051	Upcounty Early Childhood Center at Emory Grove	240-740-5960
Greencastle ES	240-740-1420	Viers Mill ES	240-740-1000
Harmony Hills ES	240-740-0780	Washington Grove ES	240-740-0300
Highland ES	240-740-1770	Watkins Mill ES	301-840-7181
Jackson Road ES	240-740-0800	Weller Road ES	301-287-8601
Kemp Mill ES	301-649-8046	Wheaton Woods ES	240-740-0220
Lake Seneca ES	240-740-0280	Whetstone ES	240-740-1060
JoAnn Leleck ES at Broad Acres	240-740-1900		
MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center	240-740-5150		

Let Your Child Know You Love Them

By showing:

- Winking, Smiling
- Whistling, Laughing
- Holding Child, Patting
- Nodding, Kissing
- Playing Together, Hugging
- Walking, Clapping

By telling them in different ways:

- “Good”
- “You make me happy”
- “Show your father”
- “Good for you”
- “Excellent”
- “Thank you”
- “You did just right”



*Have a
Great Summer!*

APRIL 2024

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MAY 2024

JUNE 2024

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SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
						1		2		3		4	
								Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom					
5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
12		13		14		15		16		17		18	
				PRIMARY ELECTION DAY— Schools and offices closed				Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom					
19		20		21		22		23		24		25	
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	MEMORIAL DAY— Schools and offices closed												

Take a walk and talk about the colors of all the flowers you see. Count the different kinds.



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JULY 2024

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JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <small>Policy Council Monthly Meeting—6:00 P.M.—Virtual Meeting/Zoom</small>	7	8
9	10	11	12 <small>Last day of school for Prekindergarten/Head Start Students</small>	13 <small>Last Day of School (K-12)</small>	14 <small>Professional Day for Teachers</small>	15
16	17	18	19 <small>JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY— Schools and offices closed</small>	20	21	22
23 <small>30</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29

Read or tell a story every night.

MCPs NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community's long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency. This Policy affirms the Board's belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.**

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students*	For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff*
Director of Student Welfare and Compliance Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 SWC@mcpsmd.org	Human Resource Compliance Officer Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For student requests for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	For staff requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 Coordinator Office of School Support and Well-being Office of Well-being, Learning and Achievement 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 257, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-5630 504@mcpsmd.org	ADA Compliance Coordinator Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff*	
Title IX Coordinator Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 TitleIX@mcpsmd.org	

*Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mccr@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.

**This notification complies with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.

This document is available, upon request, in languages other than English and in an alternate format under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837, 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay), or PIO@mcpsmd.org. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact the MCPS Office of Interpreting Services at 240-740-1800, 301-637-2958 (VP) mcpsinterpretingservices@mcpsmd.org, or MCPsInterpretingServices@mcpsmd.org.

July 2023

Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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