

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
JUNE 2024



Dear Diamond Parents,

We did it! We have completed another successful school year. This school year is coming to an end! We have much to be thankful for and to appreciate. Our school year has been successful due to the wonderful, collaborative partnerships between students, staff members, and parents. Our students are meeting high standards of performance due to the excellent teaching from our wonderful staff and the support from our parents.

A big thank you to our wonderful teachers and paraeducators on working extremely hard throughout the year to provide your children with a strong educational program. Thank you to the wonderful building service team have done an extraordinary job in keeping the building clean and sanitized each and every day, and teachers and paraeducators for providing students with a wonderful learning program. Thank you to the main office staff for their hard work in coordinating the enrollment, attendance, parent sign-out procedures, and volunteer procedures. Thank you to the Health Room Team for their support through all of the health room related procedures and visits.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTA and executive board and Mrs. Candace Brown, PTA president for providing excellent leadership and support to the PTA committees, the school staff and administration, and most importantly to the students at Diamond ES during this past year, which were very unique and challenging. However, we were able to bring back some of our traditional events such as International Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, assemblies for all grade levels, Movie Night, and Finn-Go Night. Thank you to all parents on the PTA executive board and various committees for your endless contributions and dedicating a great deal of time to provide beneficial activities, Programs, events and support to our school.

If your student has teachers or other staff members who are especially meaningful to them, this season of the year is a perfect time for you to send an e-mail to the teacher/staff member praising his/her work. In casual conversations, many of you speak to a school administrator about teachers or staff members whom you and your student think are outstanding, but staff members do not often hear those words of praise directly. If you choose to do so, you may send a copy to me via email to Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org and I will print it out to add to individual staff member's file.

MCPS 2024-2025 School Year Calendar: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/calendar/2024/2024-calendar.pdf>

JUNE/JULY 2024 CALENDAR

Report Cards Available on Synergy on Friday, June 21st. Report Cards Mailed Home in Monday, June 24th.

AUGUST 2024 CALENDAR

August 1-4: Diamond ES Summer Welcome Back Packet will be sent via email and posted on school website.

Tuesday, August 20th-Wednesday, August 21st: Student post cards should arrive via US-mail to home address stating child's assigned teacher.

Friday, August 23rd: Sneak Peek from 2:00-3:00 pm. All K-5 students and families are invited.

Monday, August 26th – 1st Day of School- students arrive between 9:05-9:25 am. Late bell is 9:25 am.

We have already started the planning and preparations for the 2024-2025 school year. One of the planning areas is to ensure our staff exemplifies the very best of educators who demonstrate a passion for teaching and learning. Unfortunately, we will be saying farewell to some of our staff members at the end of the school year, who will be moving onto new endeavors. We would like to thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to our students during their time at Diamond ES. First, we would like to acknowledge a staff member who will be retiring on June 30, 2024: *Mr. Damaska, 4th Grade Teacher*, will be retiring after 30 years in education and all 30 years at Diamond Elementary as a third, fourth and fifth grade teacher.

The following staff members are moving on to other schools/experiences:

- *Mrs. Maybach*, special education teacher moving to Baltimore county schools.
- *Mrs. Churchill*, part-time music teacher, moving to another MCPS school.
- *Mr. Kearney*, third grade teacher, moving to another MCPS school.
- *Ms. Dailey*, second grade teacher, moving to another MCPS school.

On behalf of the Diamond staff and school community, I would like to wish *Mr. Damaska, Mrs. Maybach, Mrs. Churchill, Mr. Kearney, and Ms. Dailey* the very best in their future endeavors. As we say farewell to great staff members, we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to our school community.

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members to Diamond Elementary School:

- ♦ *Ms. Mary Garner*, our new special education teacher. She is currently working at another elementary school in Germantown, MD.

We have a few staff assignment changes within the school building:

- ♦ *Mrs. Taugher*, currently 5th grade teacher, will be joining the 4th grade team for next year.

Diamond Elementary School will be getting a new program starting in the fall of the 2024-2025 school year. The program is called Preschool Education Program (PEP). The PEP program offers pre-K classes and services for children with disabilities ages 3–5. PEP serves children with delays in multiple developmental domains that impact the child’s ability to learn. The continuum of services includes an itinerant model for children in community-based child care settings and preschools, an inclusive model in selected MCPS general education pre-K classes, and self-contained classes. Classes are provided for children who need a comprehensive approach to their learning. We will have a total of 2 classes of the PEP program: 1 class will have an AM session and then a PM session. The 2nd class will be a full-day program. We are excited to welcome new staff members, students and families to the Diamond community.

During the summer 2024, Diamond Elementary will not be hosting any summer school programs or summer camps due to construction projects. Diamond Elementary will be undergoing a roof renovation project throughout the summer. The main office will remain open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm throughout the summer.

As we look towards the new school year of 2024-2025, we will hold our annual Sneak Peek event on Friday, August 23rd starting at 2:00 p.m. The Sneak Peek is an opportunity for all students and parents to visit the child’s classroom and meet the child’s new teacher. Also, the Safety Patrol students will have a meeting with Mr. Golden before the Sneak Peek from 1:30-2:00 p.m. in the gym.

We will keep you informed of any summer staff changes or any new additions to the Diamond staff with our summer newsletter in August 2024. Once again, we would like to thank you all for a wonderful school year and we wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and exciting summer break!

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

School Volunteer Training Process:

As we begin to prepare for the upcoming school year, we are looking at opportunities next year for our grade levels to have regular school activities and events, including participating in field trips. This means we will have opportunities for volunteers for some of these school events. In order to permit school volunteers, we need to make sure all volunteers are properly trained and cleared before volunteering can begin in school. Currently, all volunteers/contractors must complete the vCAN (Volunteer Child Abuse/Neglect) module. In addition, depending on the level of volunteering, some are required to be fingerprinted, per the vCAN FAQ- [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/FY22%20CAN%20Volunteer%20FAQs_211129\(1\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/FY22%20CAN%20Volunteer%20FAQs_211129(1).pdf). Fingerprinting requirements are not being changed for field trip events where we travel to another state.

Diamond Elementary School and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) values the volunteers who work in our schools to enrich our students' experiences. As a community, we all are mindful of our shared responsibility to create safe, nurturing environments for our students. In order to be a regular volunteer at Diamond Elementary School, all parents, guardians, and community members must complete the Diamond Elementary School Volunteer Training and MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect training. Here is more information on who needs to complete the required training.

- If MCPS records reflect that an individual completed MCPS training offered in the 2022-2023 school year, the individual **does not have to undergo additional training** for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Any volunteer who completed the online Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training in the 2021-2022 school year or prior, **will need to renew their training certification** in 2024-2025 by completing the Diamond ES Volunteer Training and the MCPS Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training.

The Diamond Elementary Volunteer training reviews school procedures and school expectations regarding volunteering in the school building. This online training takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. The Montgomery County Board of Education has revised its child abuse policy, and MCPS has engaged in a comprehensive effort to implement practices and protocols to ensure all of our students have a safe learning environment. MCPS has developed training for all volunteers in the district to learn about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. This online training takes about 30-45 minutes to complete and can be accessed through your *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/> or through the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org by searching volunteer training.

All Diamond Elementary parents, guardians, and community members who wish to volunteer at Diamond Elementary School by helping in the classroom, media center, grade-level field trips, lunch and/or recess, **MUST COMPLETE** the two-step volunteer training process which includes the Diamond Elementary Volunteering Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training before volunteering can begin at the school.

Volunteer Training 2 Step Process:

Step 1: Complete the Diamond Elementary On-line Volunteer Training: <https://goo.gl/forms/wpkTGnASgoY4un6f2>

Step 2: Complete the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training: via your parent *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* account: https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True, or you can access the training at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

More Information about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training

The online child abuse and neglect training provides information about:

- Types of abuse;
- Grooming behaviors that may make our children vulnerable; and
- The MCPS procedures and state law requirements for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

While we encourage all community members to engage in this important, informative training, currently we only require individuals who **regularly** support schools to complete the Child Abuse and Neglect training. Infrequent or occasional volunteers who support large events or assist at one-time events under the supervision of school staff members are not required to complete the training at this time.

Below are examples of the types of activities that do not require completion of the volunteer training:

- Guest readers and speakers in classrooms where they will be supervised by a MCPS employee;
- High school/college recruiters and volunteers at job and college fairs;
- Parents/guardians or other relatives who are observing or supporting a celebration (e.g., a parade) or helping with a class party; and
- Parents/guardians staffing concession and ticket booths at large events.

We have the option of using the online child abuse and neglect training module as a resource to provide individual or small group training sessions for their volunteers, especially if accommodations, such as language interpretation, are needed. The online training is available in Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Parents/guardians will not be barred from participation in their schools due to the need for accommodations.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training are posted on the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect webpage www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect

Just a reminder, you must complete both the Diamond ES Volunteer Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training before you begin volunteering at the school. If you have completed the training in the past 3 school years, you will need to redo the volunteer training this year since it has been more than 2 years. We are grateful for your commitment and partnership to ensure the safety of students. Your continued support will help to keep our school a safe and wonderful place of learning for all students.

Elementary Student Supplies and Fees: Students will not be asked to pay for or provide textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationery items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building/office materials needed to operate schools. Students may be asked to pay for materials of instruction that primarily fit into three categories as follows:

- Items eaten by the student as a part of the course (example: bread-baking ingredients).
- Component parts of a product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay).
- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the property of the student (example: recorder).

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies from home. Please see the 2024-2025 student supply list on page 5. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include fees for class snacks, special grade-level assemblies, etc. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a trip and not in advance as a school fee. We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense or with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, our counselor, our assistant principal, or the principal.

Parent donations of items that enhance the classroom experience are still welcomed, either as donations from individual parents or organized by class parents or by the PTA. A list of these items is also attached to this letter and titled, Voluntary Parent Donations. They are not required donations, and no student will be expected to provide these items, but if you care to contribute, it will be appreciated.

Diamond Elementary School Student Supply List 2024-2025

Kindergarten	1 st grade
Crayons, large box (2) Glue sticks, non-toxic, purple (2) Headphones, for individual computer use Highlighters, yellow Pencils, #2 box Stickers, various	Crayons, large box Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear (4) Headphones, for individual computer use 2- Highlighters, yellow Pencil box Pencils, #2 (box) Scissors, blue tip
2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade
Crayons, regular box (no boxes with sharpeners) Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear (2) Headphones, for individual computer use Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Pencil box Pencils, #2 (2 boxes) Scissors, blue tip	Composition book, hard cover Crayons, regular (box, no boxes with sharpeners) Headphones, for individual computer use Highlighters, various colors Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Pencils, #2 (2 boxes) Ruler 12", millimeters/inches Scissors, blue tip
4 th Grade	5 th Grade
Composition book, hard cover Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear (2) Highlighters, various colors Headphones, for individual computer use Pencils, #2 (2 boxes) Pouch, zippered for binder use Sticky Notes, 1.5"x2" (pack) Sticky Notes, 3"x5" (pack)	Composition book, hard cover Crayons, regular (box, no boxes with sharpeners) Erasers, large, latex free & Eraser Caps Folders, pocket, 3-hole punched Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear (3) Headphones, for individual computer use Highlighters, various colors including yellow (5) Markers, non-toxic, various colors, regular box Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Pencil box Pencils, #2 (3 boxes) Pencils, colored (box) Scissors, pointed Sticky Notes, 3"x5" (pack)

- We recommend, but do not require, that students bring the following individual organizational tools and personal supplies to school on the first day of class. Students may need to replenish as needed throughout the school year.
- Grade levels have also included requests for donations. These items are not required but would be greatly appreciated. This list has been revised under guidelines regarding MCPS Course-Related Fees.

Items to consider for donation at all grade levels

These items are not required, but would be greatly appreciated: liquid soap, hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, gallon and quart-sized plastic zip-lock bags, tennis balls.