
August 2024

Welcome back to school!

As we embark on this new academic year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all the wonderful experiences and learning opportunities that await us.

This year, our school community will place a special emphasis on building strong, positive relationships within our classroom and school community at large. Our goal is to create an environment where every person feels valued, respected, and supported. Here are a few ways we can achieve this together:

1. **Kindness and Respect:** Let's always treat each other with kindness and respect. A friendly smile or a kind word can make someone's day.
2. **Helping Each Other:** Whether it's sharing materials, working on group projects, or just being there for a friend in need, helping each other is key to a happy classroom.
3. **Listening and Communicating:** Good communication starts with listening. Let's make sure we listen to understand each other and express our thoughts and feelings clearly and respectfully.
4. **Celebrating Differences:** Our classroom is made up of unique individuals with different backgrounds, talents, and perspectives. Let's celebrate what makes each of us special and learn from one another.

Parents/guardians, your support is invaluable in fostering these relationships. Encourage your children to share their experiences, talk about their day, and practice kindness at home and school. We also would love your help volunteering in the class, at lunch/ recess, field trips, school events, PTSA meetings and PTSA leadership.

Together, we can make this school year a memorable and enriching one for all. We look forward to getting to know each of you better and working together to create a wonderful community of learners at Drew.

Sincerely,

Meredith A. Casper, Principal

Kerri Hennelly, Assistant Principal

Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School

1200 Swingingdale Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905
(240) 740-5670
Hours: 8:30 to 5:00

Key Points of Contact

- Meredith Casper, Principal
- Kerri Hennelly, Assistant Principal
- Aracelly Gonzalez, Admin Secretary
- Jessica Biagas, Reading Specialist
- Jackie Skandalis, Math Content Coach
- Sara Krauss, Counselor



School Hours:

- 9:05 - 3:50

Save the Date

- Sneak Peek: August 22 2 - 3 p.m.
- Kindergarten Family Welcome: August 22 3 - 4 p.m.
- First Day of School: August 26 9:05 a.m.
- 2024 Kick Off: Dynamic Dolphin Night September 11 6:30 - 8:30

Setting Families Up for Success: Back to School Resource List (all linked)

1. [MCPS Calendar](#)
2. Drew School Community Handbook (all the important information about our school in one place):
[English](#); [Spanish](#)
3. [School Supplies](#)
4. [School Supplies: SCB](#)
5. [Free and Reduced Meals Application](#)
 - Reminder: Drew is no longer a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools allowing everyone to eat for free. The cost of lunch will be \$2.55 unless waived through this application.
6. [Instrumental Music Information](#): Grade 4 and 5 only
7. [Chromebook \(home request\)](#)
 - Requests for student devices for home use are fulfilled centrally. Parents/guardians may request a device by completing this [form](#). Please note that student who lose their chargers will be billed \$25 and will responsible for personal damage.
8. Transportation
 - Local School: *See school website week of August 19th*
 - CES Program: *See school website week of August 19th*