

**Flora M. Singer
Elementary School**

S e a T u r t l e s

The Sea Turtle Times

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| Flora M. Singer Elementary School 2600 Hayden Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902 Phone: 240-740-0330 |
| Kyle Heatwole, Principal Kyle_J_Heatwole@mcpdmd.org Aaron McKinley, Assistant Principal Aaron_A_Mckinley@mcpsmd.org |

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| This week | 9/2 Schools Closed | 9/3 Safe at School Week PTA Parent Meeting -7:00 pm | 9/4 Safe at School Week | 9/5 Safe at School Week | 9/6 Safe at School Week |
| Next week | 9/9 | 9/10 Primary Back to School Night 6:30 to 8:00 pm | 9/11 | 9/12 | 9/13 |

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Safe at School Week

Next week we will hold Safe at School Week. Every year we practice a number of security drills to ensure that staff and students know how to stay safe at school. We will hold a fire drill the first week of school. The second week of school is Safe at School Week. Every day students will learn about safety procedures and practice an individual safety drill. We will conduct four total drills next week including a lock down drill, and earthquake drill, a reverse evacuation, and shelter drill. By working together we can ensure that all of our students are safe at school!

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Student Information Google Form

Please complete this google form. The information will be shared with your child's teacher. Please complete it individually for each student if you have multiple students coming to Singer. Here is the link:<https://forms.gle/e5bW9JxaWjAqS4rLA>

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Welcome Back!

As we approach the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you. I trust that you are having an enriched summer filled

with fun, sun, relaxation, and reading. It is nearly time for us to return to school and begin another year together.

I look forward to the new school year with excitement and anticipation. Over the past twelve years, the staff and I have worked together to build a special place for students to learn and grow. We continue to strive towards implementing anti-racist practices that create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We are focused on making continued progress academically, socially, and emotionally through daily instruction.

This is also a year of change, as we welcome many new staff members:

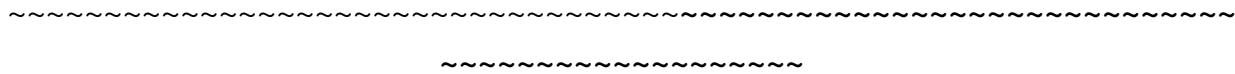
- Emily Ancona, Third Grade Teacher
- Mario Andalla, Building Service Manager
- Mary Christensen, Learning Center Teacher
- Skye Garrett, Part-time Music Teacher
- Emily Mooney, Kindergarten Teacher
- Margaret Norris, Home School Model Teacher
- Kylie Sheapp, Learning Center Teacher
- Carly Wirth, Third Grade Teacher

We also have some staff members taking on new roles:

- Lindsay Benjamin is moving to Third Grade
- Nikki Stiger is moving to Kindergarten
- Katie Tanenbaum is moving to Fifth Grade

We extend a very special thank you to our PTA and its new leadership. We will also have several PTA parent meetings that I believe you will find helpful and informative. If you are not an active member of the PTA, I strongly encourage you to get involved.


I look forward to seeing you all soon. If there is ever anything that I can do to help you or your child, please feel free to call me.



Directory Withholding Form

Every year, we work with the PTA to create a student directory. We also use student images and information for other things like the yearbook. Some parents prefer that their child's image and information is not included in things like this. If you do not want

your child's information in the directory, please complete this form:

 Directory Withholding Form.pdf The form is due back to school on September 12, 2024. If you do not return the form then it is assumed that you are comfortable with your child's information being used.

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Back to School Nights

We will have two Back-to-School Nights. Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Third Grade, Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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Spirit Wear Store

Our Spirit Wear store is now open!

It's time to make sure get your Sea Turtle (or yourself) geared up! Check out a new t-shirt design in kid and adult sizes in the online [Singer Store](#). This Flash Sale runs through September 16th, and orders will be delivered to kid backpacks by mid-October. All purchases from the Flash Sale will have free shipping to the school. Following the flash sale, an "on-demand" store will open with more items that can be shipped to your home. Every purchase raises funds for the PTA.

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PTA Parent Meeting

Please join us for the first 2024-25 PTA meeting tomorrow, 03 September, at 7pm in the Media Center. We will be reviewing the budget and introducing the PTA. This will be a hybrid meeting, so please join either in-person or via Zoom (link to follow).

Some key details:

- 6:30pm: Come early and join us for dinner!
- KAH will be providing childcare during the meeting


- To vote on PTA issues, you must be a member. Please [join here](#) to make sure your voice can be heard.

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Supply List and Bus Routes

Here is a link to our student supply list:


 FMS ES - School Supply List - FY 24-25 - ENGLISH.pdf


 FMS ES - Lista de Útiles Escolares - FY 24-25 - SPANISH.pdf

A limited number of supplies and backpacks have been donated by local organizations and the PTA. If your Flora Singer student is in need of school supplies or a backpack, please complete the following form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoDVIRxsvns60Te4RXEAINQolCpjbEXeM5LHfSOS27cmtaEw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Here is a link to the general education bus routes:

 SINGER ES - 770 - REG ARR.pdf


 SINGER ES - 770 - REG DEP.pdf

Other information from the Transportation Department:

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool English.pdf

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool SPANISH.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus SPANISH.pdf

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Breakfast and Lunch

Meal prices will be \$2.55 for lunch. Our breakfast program is free to all students and available in the classroom every morning.

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch. Families can apply online now so that benefits will be in place when school starts. Families can access the online application by visiting www.myschoolapps.com/. Please remember a new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

You can visit the the website to see all the options for paying for a school lunch: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/meal-payments/#How>

You can use My School Bucks to set up payment for school lunch online: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain.action?clientKey=&requestAction=home>

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Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival begins at 9:00 am. Students may enter the building at that time and go to line up. **Do not drop your child off prior to 9:00 a.m. They will be unsupervised.** Dismissal begins at 3:50. You may arrive prior to 3:50 to wait for dismissal. **Parents must contact the main office before 3:00 p.m. with any dismissal changes for the day.**

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Communication

We maintain open lines of communication with parents and community members throughout the school year. The phone number for the school is 240-740-0330. Please call us at any time. You may also email Mr. Heatwole at kyle_j_heatwole@mcpsmd.org or Mr. McKinley at aaron_a_mckinley@mcpsmd.org. We also email this weekly newsletter every Friday to keep you informed of school events and announcements.

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Immunizations and Medications

It is very important that your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations. If you are not sure, please check with your doctor. The state law mandates that children not be admitted to school without the proper immunizations. Medications must be brought to school in the original container by an adult along with [MCPS Form 525-13](#) (Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication) completed by your physician. Medication will not be administered without proper authorization. Please contact our Health Technician if you have any questions.

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School Cash Online

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school.

Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

SchoolCash Online also offers a 24/7 customer support desk that can be reached by online inquiry or by calling 1-866-961-1803.

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Important First Quarter Dates:

- Tuesday, August 20
pm on Zoom
- Virtual Town Hall for Kindergarten Parents-7:00

- Friday, August 23 Open House 9:00 am for Kindergarten, 10:00 am for 1st-5th
- Monday, August 26 First Day of School for students (9:25 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.)
- Monday, September 2 Labor Day – No school for students
- Tuesday, September 3 PTA Meeting (Food at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00pm)
 - Don't forget that you must be a [PTA member](#) to vote!
- Tuesday, September 10 Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17 Intermediate (3, 4, and 5) Back-to-School Night 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 27 Early Release-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.
- Thursday, October 3 No School for Students
- Tuesday, October 8 Fall Picture Day – Individual Portraits Only
- Friday, October 18 Professional Day-No school for students
- Tuesday, October 31 Fall Festival Parade and Parties starting at 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1 End of First Marking Period
- Monday, November 4 No School for Students
- Tuesday, November 5 Election Day-No School for Students
- Monday, November 25 Half Day- Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- Tuesday, November 26 Half Day-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- November 27, 28 & 29 Thanksgiving - No School for Students

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Volunteering at School

If you are interested in being a volunteer in any capacity this school year we would love to have you! Please access the link to learn about the requirements of volunteering in MCPS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. McKinley.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer>

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Contact the Department of Transportation

If you ever have any questions or concerning regarding the buses or transportation of students, you may now call their customer service hotline. They can be reached at: 240-740-7790.

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