

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Stedwick Elementary School**

10631 Stedwick Road • Montgomery Village, Maryland 20886 • Tel. 240-740-7190 • Fax. 301-548-7532

August 8, 2024

Dear Stedwick Parents, Caregivers, and Families:

It is with overwhelming joy that I welcome you to Stedwick Elementary School (SES) for the 2024-2025 school year!

As I embark on my inaugural year as the proud principal of SES, I would like to reiterate my commitment to the Stedwick community. As I stated in my initial communication, I look forward to developing genuine relationships and collaborating with all stakeholder groups as we work to create the conditions in which each and every student is able to grow and thrive. This summer I have had the opportunity to connect with staff and families and students through ELO, kindergarten meet and greets, and a number of other school and community events. Be on the lookout for a few more opportunities that we are working on in collaboration with our SES PTA!

As we get closer to the start of the new school year, you can expect to receive communication directly from your child's teacher. During the week of August 19th, as teacher's prepare to welcome your children, they will send each child a postcard via mail, welcoming them to the class. The postcard will contain pertinent information, including the teacher's name, classroom number, and information about Open House.

To that end, we invite you and your children to attend Open House from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2024. Open House is a wonderful opportunity for you and your children to meet their teachers, explore the building, practice walking to the classroom, and prepare mentally for the start of school. There will be a **special meeting for parents of kindergarten students from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.** During this meeting, parents of all kindergarten students will be given a general overview of the kindergarten program and have an opportunity to ask questions.

As is often the case, a number of staff members made the decision to retire or to pursue new opportunities at other schools and offices in MCPS. We were sad to say farewell to the following members of the Stedwick community:

Ms. Grecia Albarracin  
Ms. Madison Bertha  
Ms. Jenny Chen  
Ms. Brenda Delany  
Ms. Dimuthu Mack  
Ms. Anne Moran  
Mr. Jeremy Parnell  
Ms. Jill Pincus  
Ms. Britt Waterfield

Ms. Charlene Barry  
Ms. Tamara Bossler  
Ms. Chrysa Crickman  
Mr. David Harris  
Ms. Latechia Mitchell  
Ms. Melinda Nwoye  
Ms. Patricia Pritchard  
Ms. Nakeia Vines  
Ms. Galit Zolkower

I would also like to welcome our new staff members as well as those staff members who are returning in new positions:

Ms. Shannon Dorsey  
Ms. Britni Harsh

LFI Teacher  
LFI Teacher

Ms. Daniela Santana	Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Paula Teixeira	Kindergarten Teacher
Mr. Ajay Branch	Grade 3 Teacher
Ms. Bessy Canales Flores	Grade 4 Teacher
Ms. Michele Cirrincione	Grade 5 Teacher
Ms. Jennifer Johnson	Grade 5 Teacher
Ms. Cherine Roberts	Counselor
Ms. Kathy Thomas	Part Time Counselor
Mr. Christopher Callisto	Community Liaison
Ms. Nadiyah Ali	Reading Specialist
Ms. Alison Castel	SPED Home School Model
Ms. Christine Ohm	Primary Math Support
Ms. Amber Morton	Special Education Paraeducator

Additionally, the following staff will be taking on different roles this year:

Ms. Kristen Poole	Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Yenica Gutierrez	Grade 2 Teacher
Ms. Megan Barrow	ELD and Academic Intervention Teacher

At the moment we are still interviewing candidates for our part-time music teacher position. We are confident that by the time school opens, this position will be filled by a candidate who is “just right” for our Stedwick community.

Again, Stedwick staff members are excited to receive our students on the first day of school, Monday, August 26, 2024. As a reminder, the Stedwick Elementary School day begins at 9:25 a.m. and ends at 3:50 p.m. **Students should arrive no earlier than 9:10 a.m.**

When students arrive on the first day of school, they should enter through the main entrance. Once in the building, students from grades K-3 will be met by their teachers and escorted to their classrooms. Students in grades 4 and 5 will walk directly to their classrooms, where their teachers will be waiting to greet them. There will be plenty of staff members in the hallways to assist them in finding their way on the first day. When students arrive on the second day of school, they will come directly into the building and report to their classrooms. This will be the morning routine for the remainder of the school year, so we ask that you say your good-byes at the exterior door and allow your child to enter the building on their own. Once again, there will be staff members available to direct children to their classrooms, as needed.

Please note, students who will ordinarily ride the bus to and from school should ride the bus to school on the first day. Students will be greeted by a staff member at the bus and identified as a rider of that bus. The teacher will use this information to dismiss children.

Here is the link to our [Stedwick Elementary School website](#), where you can find the links to our bus schedules, school supply lists, and attendance reporting. Please discuss appropriate bus behavior with your children before the beginning of the school year. I encourage you to review [What You Should Know About Riding the Bus](#), a helpful guide provided by our colleagues in the transportation department. If you have any questions regarding the transportation schedule, please contact Ms. Angela Gosman at 240-740-6222.

If you will transport your child to school, please use the left lane, which is the car lane and follow the instructions of the staff members who will be directing traffic. **Do not drive in the right bus lane and do not drive beyond the cones.**

I am so excited and optimistic for what is to come. As we embark on this new school year, our theme is *One Band, One Sound, One Stedwick*. As a cohesive community, we will continue to celebrate the joy of learning, the power of growth, and the boundless potential that lies within each child.

Once again, welcome to the new year! We look forward to partnering with you and supporting you.

Sincerely,

*Natasha Davis Bolden*

Principal