



Woodlin Elementary
2101 Luzerne Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
240-740-2820



Craig Jackson, Principal
Cassandra Scott, Assistant Principal

August 11, 2020

Dear Woodlin Families,

I am excited to welcome you and your children to the 2020-2021 school year at Woodlin Elementary School.

While I am certainly aware of the challenges that confront us at the opening of this school year, I remain encouraged because I have witnessed how our school community repeatedly comes together in challenging situations to do what is right for all of our students and staff. With your support, I am confident that we will have a fantastic and successful school year.

Whether we teach and support our students through distance or school-based learning, we remain focused on the needs of all our students. All Woodlin students deserve a learning environment that supports not only their academic growth but also their social and emotional growth. We will continue to sustain a nurturing environment that meets every student where they are and supports them to reach every ounce of their potential. Our teachers, paraeducators, and staff are all dedicated to this.

In keeping with this, I am pleased to announce the addition of this year's new teachers, who are aligned with our Woodlin values and who are eager to become members of our community of Woodlin Wizards:

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| ➤ Tiauna Miller | Grade 1 |
| ➤ Yi-Hsuan Rei | LFI 2-3 |
| ➤ Jessie Hitchcock | Grade 4 |
| ➤ Jill Costa | Physical Education |

I am also pleased to share that Mrs. Alison Aughinbaugh will serve as our PTA president for the 2020-2021 school year. I appreciate her willingness to serve our community in some extremely challenging times. I look forward to continuing the great relationship between Woodlin and the PTA.

Thank you to Mrs. Emily Menashes for serving the past two school years as PTA president and leading the community through the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. I want to especially thank her for the positive and productive rapport that we shared.

I hope that all our parents will be engaged with our PTA this year. Your input on various aspects of school improvement and your activities to enrich the school experience for our students are invaluable. Please consider being a parent volunteer and supporting the work that Mrs. Aughinbaugh and our PTA executive committee will lead on behalf of our parent community.

The following updates address requests for information that we have received from parents as the start of this school year approaches.

Update #1: Open House (Virtual)

Grade-level teams will be creating presentations to welcome students and families to Woodlin, introduce the team, and outline the first few weeks of school. Grade-level presentations will be available on the Woodlin website on Thursday, **August 27**.

During the first week of school, teachers will also provide information with times and dates for live zoom sessions for parents. In the parent zoom sessions, your child’s teacher will discuss the myMCPS Classroom platform, student zoom expectations, and how you can support distance learning as a parent. Teachers will also answer your questions.

Update #2: Technology and Instructional Material Distribution

For the upcoming school year, your child can check out and use a new/close-to-new touch chromebook! If your child has an MCPS chromebook right now, you can swap it out for this newer device that will be faster, touch-enabled, and better able to support learning in the fall.

Woodlin also has instructional materials (consumables) to support instruction with Eureka math as well as Benchmark Advanced.

For both the chrome books and the instructional materials, we are planning to have an on-site (Woodlin) distribution on **August 20 and August 21**. Please bring your child’s MCPS Student ID #.

Here is the pickup schedule:

<u>Thursday, August 20</u> (Grades K,1,2)	<u>Friday, August 21</u> (Grades 3,4,5)
Kindergarten 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Grade 3 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Grade 1 11:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.	Grade 4 11:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.
Grade 2 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Grade 5 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Pick up by car will be in the lower parking lot. Families walking to the school will be accommodated in front of the main entrance to the building. There will be cones that will direct the flow of car and foot traffic.

- MCPS Staff will follow the CDC guidelines, will maintain social distancing, and will be wearing face coverings and gloves.
- Drivers and occupants are not permitted to exit their vehicles.

- We will accommodate walk-up persons as well, but we ask individuals to follow similar guidelines to those when you enter Montgomery County businesses.

We realize the schedule is very specific to a day and time for your pickup, but we ask that you do your best to meet your day and time on the schedule since MCPS and school staff will have to come to the school to handle the distribution of the chromebooks and instructional materials to parents. We hope that this advanced notice of over a week will enable you to reserve your assigned day and time on your calendar.

Should a particular hardship prevent you from coming to the school at your assigned day and time, please email Mr. Hazel.

Update #3: Daily Schedule

Your child's specific daily schedule will be finalized and pushed out to you by your child's homeroom teacher during **the week of August 24**. This is when you will be notified of who is your child's assigned teacher (Kindergarten through Grade 3) and who is your child's assigned homeroom teacher (Grades 4 – 5). Here is an outline of the basic schedule as it stands today.

9:00 a.m. (Start of the Day)

A typical school day for Woodlin students will begin at 9:00 a.m. with Morning Meeting. Morning Meeting supports our teachers and students in building of community amongst themselves and continues our work with Responsive Classroom. It is also the time when attendance will be taken.

9:00 – 11:45 a.m. (Morning Instruction)

- Grades Kindergarten - Grade 3 will have two, 75-minute instructional blocks for literacy and math.
- Grades 4 - 5 remain departmentalized and will have three 75-minute sessions to include literacy, math, and a combined science/social studies, and writing session.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Lunch)

- All Woodlin students and staff will break for a 75-minute lunch from 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Afternoon Instruction)

- Grades Kindergarten - Grade 3 will have social studies, science, and literacy follow-up during the afternoon instructional block. Special Subjects instruction (art, music, P.E.) will also be provided (three days per week) during the afternoon block.
- Grades 4 - 5 remain departmentalized and students may have literacy, math or science/social studies, and writing session. Special Subjects instruction (art, music, P.E.) will also be provided (three days per week) during the afternoon block.

Update #4: Synchronous Instruction and POD/Group Student Support by Parents

The daily schedules that will be communicated to you by your child's homeroom teacher the week of August 24 were developed with a priority on live and grade-level synchronous instruction. As a result, families who are considering working together to support their students can have a level of certainty that whole group instruction, instructional materials, class times, resources, and pacing will be consistent throughout the grade level. This will provide families an opportunity to support students in groups or pods without the necessity of students being in the same homeroom section.

Update #5: Instructional Focus

During the summer, our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has been meeting to make plans for the upcoming school year. Our primary focus during our summer work was to improve the Distance Learning experience for students and families. We used several data points collected through internal as well as systemwide surveys, student and teacher feedback, and online observational data to develop our 2020-2021 plan. Additionally, the team analyzed data and began the initial work on our school improvement plan (SIP). The SIP uses multiple data points to develop specific goals for various student groups in both reading and math.

This year, Woodlin will be utilizing Eureka math in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5 and Benchmark Advance/Adelante resources in grades Kindergarten through Grade 3 for elementary ELA (English Language Arts) instruction. Grades 4 - 5 will continue to use the Enriched Literacy Curriculum (ELC) this school year for ELA instruction. We will continue to identify strategies that enhance the critical thinking and academic skills of our students.

This being said, we will begin the 2020-2021 school year with a focus on building relationships and community with our students and teachers in a distance learning environment.

We are ready for an exciting school year, full of learning and growth for all of our students! Again, I value your thoughts and input as we continually work to improve outcomes for our students.

Feel free to contact our main office at 240-740-2820 for more information. While our school building remains closed and our staff is working remotely due to the COVID-19 situation, our phone messages and emails are checked throughout the day. Please continue to check the Woodlin and MCPS websites for updated information.

Until then, take care and be well.

Craig Jackson

Principal, Woodlin Elementary