



The week ahead

Mon., Sept. 11

Tue., Sept. 12 **Back to School Night for Head Start and K-2, 7:00 pm**

Wed., Sept. 13 **Back to School Night for Gr. 3-5, Ms. Ventura's, Ms. Guthridge's classes, 7:00 pm**

Thur., Sept. 14

Fri., Sept. 15 **Back to School Picnic, 6:00-8:00 pm**

A Look Ahead

Sept. 21 **No School for Students and Teachers**

Oct. 6 **Early Release, 1:20 pm**

- **We have had a phenomenal first week of school!** Thanks to all families who had their children follow their normal arrival and dismissal routines and for helping us have such a smooth opening week. We appreciate your partnership in your child's education. Hopefully bus schedules are becoming more consistent.
- **Back to School Night for parents of Head Start and Gr. K-2 students is Tuesday evening, September 12, 2017.** This year we are trying something a little different. We are asking that you go directly to your child's classroom at 7:00 p.m. We will then do an electronic welcome message from the principal, assistant principal and the PTA President. Then you will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:00 – 7:55 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:00 until 8:35 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening.
- **Back to School Night for parents of Gr. 3-5, Ms. Ventura's and Ms. Guthridge's students is Wednesday evening, September 13, 2017.** This year we are trying something a little different. We are asking that you go directly to your child's classroom at 7:00 pm. We will then do an electronic welcome message from the principal, assistant principal and the PTA President. Then you will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:00 – 7:55 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:00 until 8:35 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening. Our Instrumental Music teacher, Mrs. Parenti, will be here that evening to speak to parents of children in grades 4 and 5 who are interested in participating in the Instrumental Music Program. She will be meeting with parents in the APR from 6:30 until 6:55 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening.

- **Adopt a School in Texas - Hurricane Harvey Help – SGA Community Project**

Many schools have been flooded and sustained damaged from hurricane Harvey. We know these teachers have poured love and effort into making their classroom a safe learning space for their students, and now many have lost all of that. While returning to school is far from many of these teachers' and students' minds, we know that they will need supplies when they are able to return to their classrooms. Some whose schools are extensively flooded will likely attend makeshift classrooms until their school can be reopened. **The SGA will be adopting a school in need. We will be collecting donations in the form of money and amazon gift cards to send to the school. We will be starting Hurricane Harvey Help on September 11th-22nd. Students can bring donations with them to school and SGA will be collecting these daily.**

- **Check backpacks for the *Bells Mill Discipline Policy* that was given to each student. Please review the policy with your child, sign the tear-off portion of the cover memo and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Keep the discipline policy for your information.**
- **MCPS policy requires that every student bring home a copy of MCPS Form 230-35: *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form*. This form is included in the *Bells Mill Discipline Policy* that was sent home in backpacks, as well as the *Bells Mill Parent Handbook* so that parents will be aware that procedures are in place to protect all students from bullying, harassment and intimidation.**
- **Check backpacks for important information regarding release of student information.** Each year we are required by law to inform parents of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* and the *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment*. **You may direct MCPS to withhold directory information by signing and returning the form that was sent home with students.** This form must be received by the school no later than **September 15**. **Forms received after September 15 will be returned to parents/guardians.**
- **The media center is seeking parent volunteers who are willing to commit to working one afternoon a week. Please contact Mrs. Floyd ([Joann H Floyd@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Joann_H_Floyd@mcpsmd.org)) in the Media Center if you are interested.**

MCPS News:

Raising Awareness: The Growing Problem of Opioid Drug Use and Addiction

Superintendent Jack Smith and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services have collaborated to share a Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding the opioid epidemic. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has said use, abuse, and addiction to opioids has reached "epidemic levels" and communities across the country are struggling to support those suffering from addictions. This video is being shared with you to help raise awareness about the warning signs and dangers of opioid use. The video features information about how to recognize use and overdose and where to seek help in the county. The video is posted online at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfqnbUIL8tQ.

Student Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

In order to ensure a safe, productive and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents, and staff understand school rules and regulations; the expectations for student conduct; and the possible consequences for violating the rules. *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. The documents are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/.

Learn What's New About Your Child's Report Card

MCPS has updated the elementary report cards based on feedback from parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators to provide you with a more accurate assessment of your child's progress. The changes are designed to clearly convey student learning and provide additional information about learning skills or work habits.

Changes to the report cards and grading scale include:

- A, B, C, D in Grades 2–5.
- Kindergarten students will get a report card four times (instead of twice) per year.
- Includes overall subject grade (in addition to the end-of-year average and measurement topics per marking period).
- Includes reporting of key learning skills.

For more information on report cards and the grading and reporting process, visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards.aspx>.

Saturday School Helps Students Succeed

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. kicks off its 2017–2018 season of Saturday School on Saturday, September 9th. Saturday School is a low-cost tutoring and mentoring program that provides a sixth day of learning and helps MCPS students enhance their mastery of core academic subjects. Students who are in need of additional academic support can attend sessions at one of 12 locations across Montgomery County. Registration is \$40 for students who receive Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services and \$70 for non-FARMS students.

Visit www.saturdayschool.org/ for more information.

Stay Informed with MCPS QuickNotes

MCPS QuickNotes is a bimonthly newsletter that provides MCPS families with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ to read the latest edition.

New Season of Homework Hotline Live!

For 32 years, *Homework Hotline Live* (HHL) has helped tens of thousands of students in kindergarten through Grade 12 by offering free after-school homework help from MCPS teachers. HHL uses the internet and cable TV to offer students live one-on-one homework help. When HHL is on TV, students can phone in questions and see and hear the teachers while working through problems together.

HHL kicked off its 2017–2018 season on September 6 by offering homework help online. *Homework Hotline Live* on TV will start Tuesday, September 26 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on MCPS-TV. Students can call HHL for help from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays or submit online questions from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays. During the TV broadcast, all questions will be answered on-air. Questions submitted at other times will receive an online response.

Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/ for more information.