



DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School

APRIL 2025

Dear Diamond Families,

April marks the beginning of the fourth marking period. We are very proud of the hard work that all of our students have exhibited during the past three marking periods. We look forward to a wonderful fourth quarter as we near the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Friday, March 28th marked the end of the third marking period. The third marking period report cards will be mailed home for all students in grades K-5 on **April 8th**. Please review your child's report card with your child. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

In April, we have Spring Break from **April 14th through April 21st**. Then we end April with Take Your Child to Work Day on **April 24th**.

As we begin to plan for the 2025-2026 school year, we need to get some information from our current K-4 parents. On page 3 is the Student Profile Form for 2025-2026 for Current K-4 Students. This is an optional form for parents to complete to provide information for consideration for class placement for next year. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher requests. Any specific teacher requests will not be honored.

We would like to wish all of our Diamond families a wonderful spring break! If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (240) 740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

APRIL 2025 CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 1: Beginning of Fourth Marking Period

Wednesday, April 2: PTA Meeting-- 6:30 PM in the media center.

Tuesday, April 8th: 3rd Marking Period Report Cards Distributed

Monday, April 14-Monday, April 21
Spring Break- No School for Students and Staff

Thursday, April 24: Take Your Child to Work Day

Student Spring Picture Day, Friday, April 4th: Student Spring Picture Day is Friday, April 4th at Diamond Elementary School: Only Students who pre-order online or complete an order form will be photographed will participate in individual spring pictures. All Students will participate in a class picture. Skip the order form and save. Pre-order online by clicking on the link below: www.Vando.imagequix.com/J9FRB96. Online Code: diamond25. Free Shipping on all pre-orders. Pre-order gallery expires at 6:00am on April 4th. Picture Questions, please call Classic Photography at (800) 869-9515 x112

New Prekindergarten Program Opening at Diamond Elementary for 2025-2026 School Year:

“Exciting News! Diamond Elementary is looking forward to opening a full-day Prekindergarten classroom for 4-year old students in September! Families who are interested in enrolling their child must reside in Montgomery County, as well as meet age-eligibility and income-eligibility qualifications. Please consider reviewing details on the attached flyer and via the [MCPS Prekindergarten and Head Start webpage](#). Applications are currently being reviewed centrally for the 2025-2026 school year online via ParentVUE.

Student Safety Reminders: If your child walks to/from school, please review safety rules with them accordingly. Students should only cross a street at a stop sign, designated crossing area, traffic light, or where a crossing guard is posted. Car-riders driving through the Diamond community should adhere to speed limit postings and drive with caution.

End of Day Plan Policy- Changes to Normal Dismissal Plans: Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated by the parent with the school. If a student’s plans require a change from their normal dismissal, all changes must be made in writing by note or email to the school. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, or in the event of last minute changes to a student’s dismissal plans, please call the main office prior to 3:00 p.m. Any adults who come to pick up a child will be asked to show documentation to verify identification and ensure student safety. Students cannot ride home on friend’s school buses for playdates.

Take Your Child to Work Day: Thursday, April 24, 2025 is *Take Your Child to Work Day*. If you plan to take your child to work for all or part of that day, you must notify the school **no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. If your child will not participate in *Take Your Child To Work Day*, disregard this message. You have the following options available to report this excused absence: If you plan to have your child participate in Take Your Child to Work Day, please click on the link to fill out the [Take Your Child To Work Day Form](#). If you prefer, you may complete the hard copy form and send it to your child’s teacher. The **deadline** for submitting your request is **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. We trust you and your child will have a wonderful, educational workday experience together.

Student Toys Not Permitted at School: We request that students do not bring personal toys, balls, cards (game cards, Pokemon cards, trading cards, etc), or electronics to school from home. Unfortunately, these items tend to cause disruption with other students or become lost or stolen items. The school provides all necessary recess equipment for student use. If students are bringing personal items for after school events such as a playdate or sleep-over, these items must remain in the student’s back-pack and not be used or removed from the back-pack during the school day. The only exception would be if a teacher permits students to bring a personal item from home for show and tell purposes. Any items deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment will be confiscated by school personnel and parents will be notified.

MCAP Assessment for Grades 3-5: The state of Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which serve as the foundation for all MCPS Curriculum. The MCAP assessments are computer based and are divided into administered during the month of April/May. The students in grades 3-5 will complete four sessions in English/ Language Arts and four sessions in Mathematics. Student results of the MCAP assessment are mailed home to parents in August/September. For our school, the MCAP testing days are listed below.

Parents can assist in the following ways which include:

- Ensure your child is reading independently every night. Reading can vary from fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Ask your child comprehension questions to ensure they understand what they are reading.
- Review basic math facts: multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
- Make sure your child is in attendance each day for the state assessments (please see assessment chart below)
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest the night before and a healthy breakfast.
- Communicate to your child that they should do their best and “stick with it.”
- Please do not schedule doctor appointments or family events during the MCAP testing schedule for your child’s respective grade level.

Testing	Date/Time
MCAP English Language Arts (Literacy)	Grade 3 – Mornings (AM) on April 28, 29, May 1, 2 Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on April 7, 8, 9, 10 Grade 5– Mornings (AM) on April 28, 29, May 1, 2
MCAP Math	Grade 3 – Afternoons (PM) on May 5, 6, 8, 9 Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on May 5, 6, 8, 9 Grade 5 – Mornings (AM) on May 5, 6

Morning (AM) testing time usually ranges from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Afternoon (PM) testing time usually ranges from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information about the MCAP assessments, visit the MCPS website <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/mcap/> or contact the school, your child's teacher, or our school testing coordinators Mr. Neuman-Sunshine and Mrs. Hageman.

Student Plans and Input for the 2025-2026 School Year

School Enrollment Plans for 2025-2026 (For Families currently in grades K-4): As we begin to plan for the 2025-2026 school year, we need identify our actual enrollment which then has an impact on the number of staff allocated to our school. Please complete this form by April 15, 2025 to indicate if your child will be returning to Diamond ES or not returning. Complete one form per child. Only fill this form out for students currently in grades K-4. If your child is in 5th grade and moving to middle school next year, this form should not be completed. **School Enrollment Plans Form for 2025-2026:** <https://forms.gle/MPTitWbgY5GK3Aoe8>
Please complete this survey form **by April 15, 2025**. Thank you for providing us with this information as we plan for the next school year.

Diamond ES Parent Input on Student Profile Form for 2025-2026 School Year For Families Currently in Grades K-4: With the end of the current school year quickly approaching, thoughts turn to planning for placement of students in classes for the next school year, 2025-2026. Your child's current teacher will advocate all she/he knows about your child's individual needs and capabilities for the placement decision, as we complete a thorough articulation process for each and every student. Parental input is also valued in the decision making process and the online form below can be used to provide the school with such information. In addition, this optional input form will be passed on to your child's new teacher in the fall. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher request. (teacher requests will not be honored).

The process for composing classes for the upcoming year is a task that we take very seriously through careful and thoughtful consideration as we all want the best for all of the children at Diamond. It is important to ensure a productive classroom learning environment for your child as well as for all children at Diamond. The Diamond staff wants you to know that we are committed to providing classrooms in which each child will have the opportunity for learning and personal growth. When making class placements we consider the following variables as we aim towards creating a well-balanced, productive learning environment for all students:

- Relationships among individual children
- Compatibility between the individual child's learning styles/needs and the classroom environment.
- Heterogeneous placements of student's academic achievement levels
- A balance in terms of gender, ethnicity, and race
- The varying degrees of adult assistance needed by children for successful learning

If you are interested in providing this information to be considered as decisions are made for class placement for next year, please complete the electronic profile form as soon as possible and **no later than April 15, 2025**. If you provide this form to the school **after April 15th**, there is no guarantee this information will be used in the class placement process. **DES Student Profile Form:** <https://forms.gle/n4jqUPmD1QLZDxTo6> - **Due April 15th.**

Please complete an individual form for each child in your family that will be attending Diamond ES for the 2025-2026 school year. It should be noted that this form is not to be used for specific teacher requests. Such requests will not be honored. Diamond Elementary values parental input and precludes specific teacher request in our process for class placement. This optional form is a way of offering opportunity for those of you who wish to provide parental input. Further confidential concerns about student class placement for 2025-2026 may be addressed in writing to the principal, Mr. Daniel Walder via email: Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org.

We expect that parents will trust and respect the judgment of the Diamond staff in making placement decisions. We appreciate your support in our efforts to best serve the instructional needs of your child. Diamond Elementary staff members work together to draft initial groupings and class lists in May/June, but these are not finalized until late in the summer when we have the most up-to-date enrollment information. You and your child will be notified between August 19th-22nd of the class placement decisions. The first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year is Tuesday, August 26, 2025.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

April Newsletter

What is going on in **ART** class during April?

Kindergarten – Students will be creating artwork out of a color wheel.

Grade 1 – Students will be creating a jungle scene using paint.

Grade 2 – Students will complete their mini art galleries.

Grade 3 – Students will be creating clay animal pinch pots.

Grade 4 – Students will glaze their coil pots and reflect.

Grade 5 – Students will complete stained glass inspired artwork.

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

Kindergarten students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will use pictures and/or symbols to represent long/short and high/low sounds. Students will produce appropriate sounds in response to picture symbols representing long/short and high/low sounds. Students will maintain the steady beat on instruments using locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Students will create movement and sounds appropriate to accompany dramatic poetry and fables.

1st grade students will be working on reading and notating simple rhythm and pitch patterns. Students will write or place notes in spaces and on lines. Students will match pitch within a limited vocal range for simple melodies and songs. Students will arrange and create sounds to ostinato patterns. Students will dramatize simple stories or poems.

2nd grade students will be working on notating the pentatonic scale as well as half notes, half rests and dotted half notes. Students will continue singing within a limited range. Students will identify various musical symbols to facilitate notating the music they hear or compose. Students will create simple speech or melodic ostinato to accompany songs. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

3rd grade students will notate simple rhythm and/or pitch patterns. Students will use the voice to improvise phrases that answer given melodic phrases in the same style. Students will continue to read and identify traditional music notation and symbols. Students will learn dances from various cultures.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

April Newsletter

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

4th grade students will conduct music with meter in three and four. Students will compose and notate simple melodies using a given rhythm. Students will read a variety of melodies and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

5th grade students will read and perform a simple melody on the treble staff in different keys using solfeggio or a comparable system. Students will compose and notate a short melody or rhythm using original pitches and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

What is going on in **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** class during April?

Kindergarten students will be able to demonstrate an underhand strike with hand.

1st grade students will be able to demonstrate striking with various body parts.

2nd grade students will be able to demonstrate striking with short-handled implements.

3rd grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a forehand stroke.

4th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a backhand stroke.

5th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a gently tossed ball over a low level line with a forehand and backhand stroke.

Diamond Elementary Yearbooks

Order Your Diamond ES Yearbook Now

Diamond Elementary School is offering yearbooks for the 2024-2025 school year. Pre-orders started in January and will continue through April 19, 2025, with delivery expected on or about early June. Early-bird price of yearbook is \$25.00 from January 1-April 19. Yearbook Orders after April 19th will cost \$28.00. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in June 2025 before the last day of school.

To order a School Yearbook, follow these 2 easy steps:

- Step 1: Please complete this DES Yearbook Order Form. DES Yearbook Order Form: [DES School Yearbook Order Form](#)
- Step 2: Submit your payment for the DES Yearbook. (There are 3 options for payment)



Option 1: Purchase yearbook online through School Cash Online:

<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

Option 2: Purchase yearbook with check payable to “Diamond Elementary School” and submit to school’s main office.

Option 3: Purchase yearbook with cash payment (exact payment only: \$25.00) and submit in an envelope addressed to Diamond ES Yearbook to the school’s main office.

We prefer online payments through School Cash Online: <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

As mentioned before, we also accept checks made payable to “Diamond E.S.” or cash payment (exact change only). You can use this [SchoolCash Online](#) document for procedures on setting up an online account.

Any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact Mr. Desai @ Rahul_G_Desai@mcpsmd.org.

Diamond Elementary Yearbook 2025 order

Only return this tear-off form if you are submitting cash or check payment to order a DES yearbook.

Student’s Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Quantity: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$25 per yearbook)

School Cash Online

Diamond Elementary School offers SchoolCash Online for making online payments for field trips and other school orders and fees like school yearbook, etc. SchoolCash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school-related fees.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. It 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 system puts all 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.

How to register

- Go to <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/> and click **Register**. Then, click the Green button **“Use your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account”**
- Sign in with your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account login. If you haven't registered with it yet, follow these steps:
 - Click “Sign Up now”
 - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
 - Click the “Send verification code” button
 - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
 - Create your password for the account.
 - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
 - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
 - Click the “Send verification code” button
 - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
 - Create your password for the account.
 - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
 - Click the “Create” button
 - Go back to https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com and sign in with the email address on file and the password you created
 - Answer “Yes” to receive email notifications of new school-related fees assigned to your student.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's main office team.