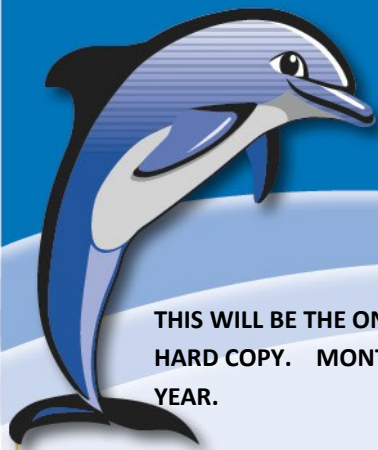




DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
September 2026

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY HARD COPY GOING HOME THIS YEAR UNLESS YOU COMPLETE FORM ON P. 9 REQUESTING HARD COPY. MONTHLY DIAMOND MINE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for the 2026-2027 school year. September is filled with many new learning opportunities and fun activities for students to get to know their classmates and their teachers. During the first week of school we welcomed 630 students in grades preK-5 through the Diamond Elementary doors. During the first week of school, our teachers and students worked on establishing class routines, toured the school building, and established expectations to ensure academic success for all students. In addition, your children have been participating in a variety of team building activities in their classrooms to help build a sense of classroom community and getting to know more about their classmates and teachers.

Back to School Night for grades preK-5 will be held on **Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m.** Our goal for this event is to provide parents with specific information about the instructional program your child will receive this year. Information will include grade-level instructional topics, classroom routines, and you will have to meet your child's teachers.

The PTA is sponsoring the Back To School Social on Friday, September 25th to welcome all Diamond ES families and staff to a new school year. The event will occur from 4:30-6:30 PM at Diamond ES on the blacktop/playground area in the back of the building.

The Diamond Mine newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of each month electronically via Parent Square throughout the school year. The September newsletter will be the only hard copy being sent home to all families. If you prefer to have a hard copy of the monthly newsletter sent home to you each month, please complete the form on page 14 requesting a hard copy each month.

Thank you for all your support in helping to make our first three weeks of school a great success!

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, September 7: No School-Holiday Schools and Offices are Closed

Thursday, September 10th
Back-To-School Night for grades PreK-5
(Parent only meeting) from 6:00-7:30 PM

Thursday, September 17th: Flyer distribution day

Friday, September 18th: Early Release Day- student dismissal begins at 1:20 PM

Monday, September 21st: Holiday—No school for students and staff

Friday, September 25th: PTA Back-to-School Social 4:30-6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Morning Line-Up Procedures: Morning line-up for students in grades K-5 beginning at 9:05 am will be lining up outside of their classrooms waiting for the 9:05 am bell. On inclement weather days, morning line-up will occur in the main hallway. Students can begin arriving to school no earlier than 9:05 am. The late bell rings at 9:25 am, and students are expected to be in their classrooms at that time. If your child is a car-rider in grades K-5, you may drop your child off in the parking lot at the designated student drop off area for car-riders and school staff will direct your child to proceed to morning lineup. Cars are not permitted in the bus circle during arrival as this driveway is for Diamond staff members and MCPS buses only. Marquis Drive becomes very congested during arrival. Consider using the designated car drop off location instead of parking along Marquis Drive. No parking is permitted during school hours along the bus lane or car drop off lanes in front of the school. Signs are posted from Montgomery County with a \$250 fine if parked in this area). For your child's safety, please do not leave your child unattended in front of the school building prior to 9:05 am., when Diamond staff coverage is not on duty. When children are lining up for arrival, children are not permitted to play in the playground area or walk around. They must stay in their assigned grade level lines. Students who arrive to school at 9:25 am. or later, are considered tardy, and their parent/guardian must sign them in the main office and students must get a late pass.

Dismissal Procedures: Students are dismissed at 3:50 pm. each day. For Students In Grades K-5. If you are carpooling, please meet your child at the designated car-rider pick-up location. Cars are not permitted in the bus circle during dismissal as this driveway is for MCPS buses only and Diamond staff. Marquis Drive becomes very congested during dismissal. Consider using the designated car drop-off location, rather than parking on Marquis Drive. For student walkers in grades K-5 we request that the parents wait for their child(ren) outside in front of the main entrance. Please do not use the main foyer as a meeting place due to the small space and busy traffic of dismissal. We request that once you reunite with your child, please leave the outside main entrance area so that the bus-riders can proceed to their buses in a timely fashion. If you forgot to send a note in the morning to change dismissal procedure, or in the event of last minute changes to a student's dismissal plans, please call the main office prior to 3:15 pm. Any adults who come to pick up a child will be asked to show documentation to verify identification and ensure student safety.

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 at the beginning of the school year. If a student's plans require a change from their normal dismissal (play date, child care changes, after school club, etc), all changes must be made in writing to the school. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation/change in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a signed note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. 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 no later than 3:15 pm. Any adults who come to pick up a child will be asked to show documentation to verify identification and ensure student safety.

Meet Our Health Room Team:

Ms. Nicole Eyman Community Health Nurse (SCHN)

Ms. Sandra Honour, School Health Room Technician (SHRT)

The health room direct phone line is 240-740-2122. Any health questions, please contact the health room staff or visit the link for more information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/about/healthroom.aspx>

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Lunch Account: The Board of Education set meal prices for the 2026-2027 school year. School lunch prices for the paying student has changed to \$2.85 per lunch meal. Eligible low-income students will continue to receive meals that are either free or reduced price. Applications for free and reduced priced lunches were sent home to all students the first week of school. YOU MUST REAPPLY EVERY YEAR. Applications can be done online. It is not necessary to return a paper copy of your application to the office, if you have applied online. If you do not receive an application, please call the main office by September 15th to let us know. Menus for the upcoming month will also be sent home with students. You will receive a Cafeteria Lunch Account Statement when your child's lunch account is \$20.00 or lower, to ensure parents have time to make an additional payment. When payments are made to your child's account, the money will be first applied to the negative account. MCPS is providing a service, mySchoolBucks.com, which allows parents to make prepayments to their child's cafeteria account with a credit/debit card using the internet. Once the account is established, you can check balances, view student purchases, set up recurring payments, and receive low balance e-mail notification. Prepayments will generally be available at the school the next day. Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and click on "enroll now." If you choose not to use mySchoolBucks services, you can still send checks into school for any particular amount. Please make sure to put your child's name and student id on the check. Returned checks are subject to recovery for the face value and Maryland State allowed fee of \$25 through an electronic debit or paper draft to the same account. Any questions concerning the MCPS check acceptance policy, please call CHECKredi at 1-800-1222.

If you have any questions about your child's lunch account, please contact Mrs. Sonia Umanzor, Diamond ES Cafeteria Manager at (240) 740-2124.

Forgotten Homework/Lunch/Instrument Policy: When parents/guardians bring in a forgotten item (instrument, lunch, homework), please bring it to the main office. There is a table the main office to place forgotten lunch items, instruments, homework. We prefer not to interrupt the instructional periods, so we will have your child pick up the forgotten item at the earliest transitional time during the day.

Contacting Teachers: In order to maximize instructional time, teachers will only be available to speak by telephone before or after the student day. Calls for teachers should be made between 8:45 am.- 9:00 am. and 3:50 pm.- 4:15 pm. In addition, teacher email addresses may be found on the Diamond ES website. We will do our best to return all phone or email messages within 24-48 hours. All requested meetings with your child's teachers should be scheduled in advance. Just a reminder, teachers have limited access to their emails and phone calls during the school day since they are in the classroom working with students.

Early Dismissal/Late Arrival Policy: If you plan to sign your child out of school early or arrive late, (especially during long-weekends, holiday breaks, doctor appointments), please send a note to your child's teacher and to the main office in advance.

Student Birthday Celebrations: Birthday treats are not permitted at school for students in grades preK-5. Birthdays in grades preK-5 are recognized on the morning announcements on the day of the child's birthday, and they receive a birthday pencil. An alternative arrangement is made for students whose birthdays fall on weekends, holidays, and during the summer so they can be recognized during the school year. Families are not permitted to send in snacks/treats to share with other students for their kids birthdays. If distributing birthday party invitations at school, there must be a party invitation for every child in the classroom.

Pet/Dog Policy: Should you choose to walk your dog/pet to school when walking or picking up your child, the dog/pet must be on a leash, under close control as per Montgomery County Policy. For the safety of all people, especially the students and your dog/pet, you may not walk/carry the dog/pet in major traffic areas including the front main entrance of the school building during arrival. To accommodate our friendly companions, you may wait with your dog on the sidewalk area of Diamond Elementary School and Marquis Drive or by the bike rack located on the right side of the front of the school building. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Visitors: Starting at 9:00 am. each day all visitors must enter the building through the main entrance, stop at the main office to sign in, and wear a visitor's badge while in the school. For the safety and security of all individuals, we need to be aware of the presence and location of all visitors in the building. Any individuals without a visitor's badge will be asked to report to the main office. Please help us keep all students in our school safe by following this important procedure! We ask for your support in maximizing the instructional time for students.

Student Absences: Parents have a number of options available to report a student's absence, travel plans, tardiness, appointment, or early/change in dismissal plans:

- Go to the Diamond Elementary website, click on "**Report a Student Absence,**" and fill out the form with the specific details, including the reason for the absence (We'll forward a copy to his/her teacher.)
- Send an email to the teacher (please copy Mrs. Chimera, school secretary);
- Call the Attendance Secretary, at 240-740-2121, on the day of the absence/appointment;
- Write a note and put it in your student's backpack to take to his/her teacher.

****This is a convenient, quick way to notify the school. You don't need to take the time to call, write a note, or send an e-mail. You can fill in all the details under "Anything else?" Here is the link:**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/about/absenceform.aspx>

If we do not hear from you, you will get an automated message reporting your child's absence. Parents should keep children at home when illness is suspected, a communicable disease has been diagnosed or lice nits have been found. After five consecutive days of absence, or chronic absences during the school year a physician's note will be required.

Absence Policy

AM absent, if a student arrives more than 2 hours late

PM absent, if a student leaves more than 2 hours early

If a student is absent for more than any 2 hours during the school day, it is considered a half day absence.

If a student is present for less than 2 hours of the entire school day, it is considered a full day absence.

Access Control Security System: The access control system (ACS) consists of a surveillance camera installed at the school's main entrance. Signs will direct a visitor to push a button to communicate with main office staff. A remote locking system, controlled by the main office staff, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' arrival and dismissal. When a visitor arrives to the school, they will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. All visitors will be instructed to report to the main office to sign in and use their ID/driver license. Thank you for your understanding with this important safety measure.

*The following items are due from every student on **September 30, 2026**:*

Parent/Child Emergency Information and Reunification Authorization Form: (Release of a student to an adult other than the parent/guardian) Your children will only be released to the names listed on this form. The information included on this form is required as part of our School Emergency/Crisis Plan. Please be sure to include as many contact names/numbers as possible, and indicate who is authorized to pick up your child in the event of an emergency. This form will be sent home during the first week of school.

Diamond Behavior Discipline Policy: During the beginning of the school year, your child has been learning the expectations and routines of his/her classroom and of Diamond Elementary School. At this time, we would ask you to review the attached school-wide behavior expectations, standards for behavior and behavior consequences policy of Diamond Elementary School. The staff at Diamond Elementary is focused on working with students and their families to promote positive behavior in all school settings. We have three school expectations which are reinforced daily: **BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BE SAFE**

When school expectations are followed, individual students and classes are recognized for their efforts through Blue Dolphin Student Awards. When school expectations are not followed, consequences occur based on the student's inappropriate behavior.

Here is the link to the **Diamond ES Behavior Policy Plan:** <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/elementary-schools/d-g/diamondes/diamond-behavior-policy-letter-2026.pdf> . Please discuss this policy with your child by asking your child to tell you about the school rules and ask your child to discuss examples of ways that he or she can use these expectations to learn and participate at school in a positive way. After reviewing the Diamond ES Behavior Policy Plan with you child, please complete the electronic google form to confirm you and your child have reviewed this document. Please complete the **Diamond Behavior Plan Form** <https://forms.gle/q4fkLEfss4m1KNAy8> **by Friday, September 30, 2026.** Revisions to this document will be made as necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school's main office. As always, by working together, we can ensure a safe and positive learning environment for all.

*(Optional) If you choose to complete the following items, please return them no later than **September 30, 2026**:*

Applications for Free/Reduced Lunch: Complete online or return paper application immediately. See the eligibility chart on the back page of the form and if your family does not qualify, discard the information. New applications must be completed every year. Please review the form to see if your child is eligible for free and/or reduced meals. If your child was eligible last year, you must still complete the form for the 2026-2027 school year. Only one form per family is needed.

Request for Withholding Directory Information: This form was distributed with the first week of school information. Return this form only if you do not want directory information released through the county and the PTA. If you want your information included in the PTA directory but choose to withhold information from the county you must check the box "Release for PTA Directory" in order for the PTA to include your information in the PTA Directory.

Monthly School Newsletter Preference: The Diamond Mine monthly school newsletters will be sent electronically via email each month based on the email addresses you provided on your student's yellow emergency card. September is the only month we send home a hard-copy of the newsletter to all Diamond families. Please complete the attached form on page 9 and return to school by September 30th if you prefer to receive a paper copy of the monthly school newsletter starting in October.

The following items will be sent via email for information purposes only:

- Pest Management Notice
- Annual Notification of Asbestos Management Plan Availability

2026-2027 A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities: The 2026-2027 Students Guide to Rights and Responsibilities is available electronically. This guide is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/students/rights/studentrightsandresponsibilities_english.pdf

2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct: The 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct is available electronically. This guide is an overview for students, staff, and parents/guardians to create orderly and safe learning environments in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/students/rights/2026-27-student-code.pdf>

Chromebooks for Home Use: Diamond ES is using a classroom cart model for chromebooks which means students use an assigned chromebook while in school but do not bring their chromebook home each night for use. If your child does not have access to a personal or home device to use at home, a parent or guardian can complete a form to request a MCPS chromebook be provided. The device will be checked out to your student and will be kept at home for the school year. The device will need to be returned at the end of the school year or sooner if your student is leaving MCPS for any reason. To request a MCPS chromebook for home use, please complete this form: [Chromebook Form to Distribute to Families](#). Requesting the device implies consent of use in accordance with MCPS policy (IGT-RA) and acknowledgement that the chromebook, software, and issued peripherals are owned by MCPS.

Links:

[At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer \(English\)](#)

[At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

Diamond ES Student Chromebook User Agreement-Due September 25 : Your child will have opportunities to use a student Chromebook at school during the school day. This chromebook will remain at school at all times. Please review the agreement document below with your child, and complete the Chromebook User Agreement Form **by Friday, September 25th**. The Chromebook User Agreement document shares specific MCPS regulations apply while using any MCPS Chromebook device. Please note, any device that connects to the MCPS wireless network is subject to MCPS regulations. The document will review Responsible Use of Technology and Student Responsibilities. Please review the

School Communication: There are several ways Diamond Elementary School staff communicate with our parent community on a regular basis.

- **Weekly Update Automated Phone and Email Message:** Every Sunday at 6:30 p.m., every Diamond family will receive a connect-ed automated phone message and email from Diamond Elementary School with a weekly update message about what is going on in the building for that particular week.
- **Grade-level weekly update emails:** Every week, parents should receive a weekly update email from their child's classroom teacher about what is going on in their child's classroom for that particular week with a description for each content area.
- **Diamond Mine Monthly Newsletters:** at the beginning of every month, parents will receive a connect-ed email with a link to our monthly newsletter. The monthly newsletter will identify important information and upcoming events for that specific month. The newsletters are also posted on our school website.
- **Diamond Elementary Website:** Parents can access our school website for school information including calendar of events, media center, newsletters, parent information, health room, PTA information, staff directory, reporting a student absence, etc. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/index.aspx>
- **Diamond Elementary Twitter:** pictures and announcements will be posted on the Diamond Twitter page @DiamondElementary.

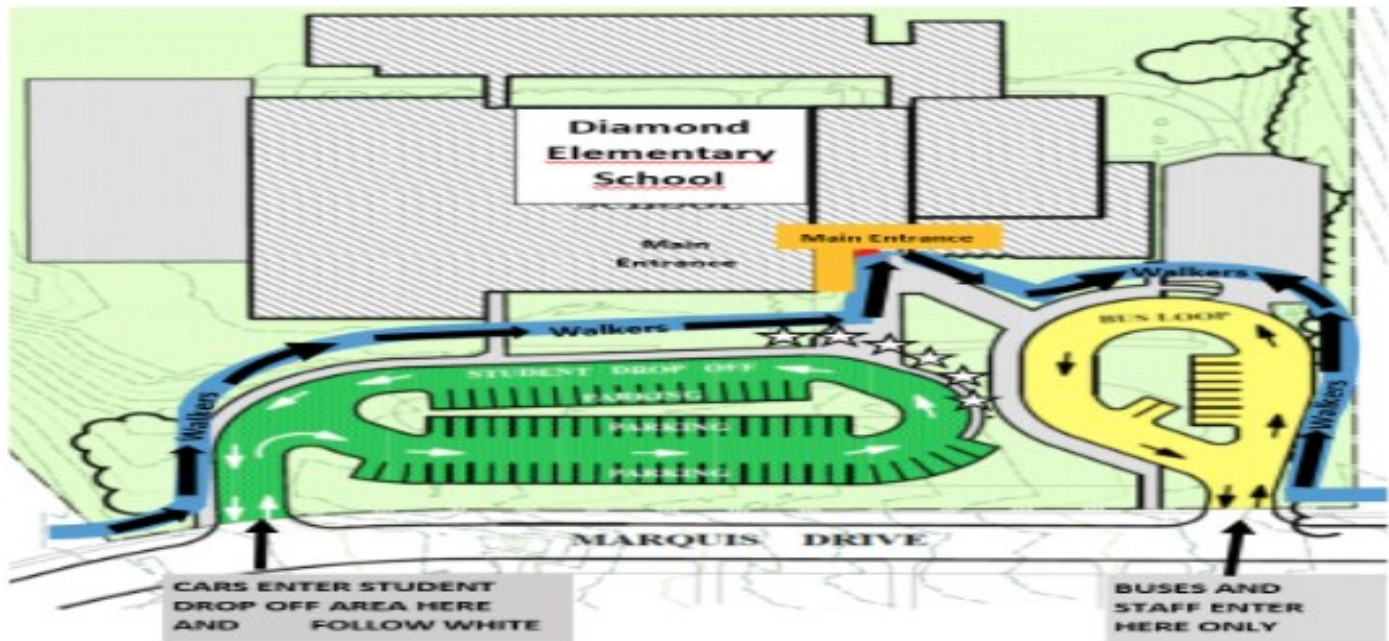
What You Should Know About Riding An MCPS Bus: Please review the information on the link below and discuss with your child about riding the MCPS school bus.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gwG_snuEGndin5ih53Hk-DUzaY1RaFHYAPfZQ7L61BI/edit?usp=sharing

Diamond Elementary School Drop-Off/Pick-up Procedures 2026: Diamond Elementary School Drop-Off/Pick-up Procedures August 2026 For Bus-riders, Walkers, Bicyclists and Carpoolers

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kBKLah9pNRyCZdMsXEmBk51BecppzpJP4J90YgDrG0I/edit>

TRAFFIC FLOW FOR ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL



- The student drop-off and pick-up area is designated in green. The flow of traffic is one-way and is indicated by the white arrows. The white stars indicate the location where students should be let out of the car (using the back passenger side to enter/exit cars via the sidewalk).
- The bus loop is designated in yellow. Cars should NOT enter the bus loop during arrival or dismissal.
- Walkers should follow the sidewalks and use the route indicated in blue, following the direction of the black arrows. Students should never walk through the parking lot or bus loop.
- Limit your speed to 5 MPH while driving in the parking lot and car loop.
- Drive within the traffic cones during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal. Please do not attempt to circumvent the cones and pass other vehicle unless directed to do so by school staff members.
- Pull up to the drop-off/pick up sign adjacent to the brick retaining wall. Vehicles that stop short prevent the smooth flow of drop-off and pick-up traffic through the car loop.
- Avoid exiting your vehicle during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up. This only further slows down the smooth flow of traffic. School staff is available to assist students in and out of vehicles.

Bus Safety Reminders, Expectations and Procedures: One of our commitments to the school community is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff members, and families the moment children step onto the school bus and then arrive to school to when they step off of the school bus in the afternoon at their bus stop. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children on the way to the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the way home from the bus stop. The information below from MCPS Bus Transportation Office will help in reminding families of some of the bus rules and what to do if you want to make sure your child is supervised by an adult while walking home from the afternoon bus stop. Please take the time to read this information very closely as it contains important and helpful information. **Bus Safety Reminders, Expectations and Procedures:** <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/elementary-schools/d-g/diamondes/bus-safety-reminders.pdf>

Student School Supplies: Students will not be asked to pay for or provide textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationary items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building or office materials needed to operate schools.

Students may be asked to pay for materials of instruction that primarily fit into three categories as follows:

- Items eaten by the student as part of the course (example: bread baking ingredients).
- Component parts of a product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay).
- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the school property of the student (example: recorder)

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies from home. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include fees for special grade-level assemblies, etc. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a field trip and not in advance as a school fee.

We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense, or with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, or our counselor.

Parent donations of items that enhance the classroom experience are still welcomed, either as donations from individual parents or organized by class parents or the PTA. They are not required donations and no student will be expected to provide these items, but if you care to contribute, it will be appreciated.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROCESS

Diamond Elementary School and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) values the volunteers who work in our schools to enrich our students' experiences. As a community, we all are mindful of our shared responsibility to create safe, nurturing environments for our students. In order to be a regular volunteer at Diamond Elementary School, all parents, guardians, and community members must complete the Diamond Elementary School Volunteer Training, MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect training, and providing Proof of Vaccination. Now is a great time to complete the Volunteer Training requirements before the school year begins. Here is more information on who needs to complete the required training.

- If MCPS records reflect that an individual completed MCPS training offered in the 2025, 2026 or 2027 school year, the individual does not have to undergo additional training in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Any volunteer who completed the online Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training in the 2023-2024 school year or prior, will need to renew their training certification in 2026-2027 by completing the Diamond ES Volunteer Training, the MCPS Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training, The Diamond Elementary Volunteer training reviews school procedures and school expectations regarding volunteering in the school building. This online training takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. The Montgomery County Board of Education has revised its child abuse policy, and MCPS has engaged in a comprehensive effort to implement practices and protocols to ensure all of our students have a safe learning environment. MCPS has developed training for all volunteers in the district to learn about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. This online training takes about 30-45 minutes to complete and can be accessed through your *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/> or through the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org by searching volunteer training.

All Diamond Elementary parents, guardians, and community members who wish to volunteer at Diamond Elementary School by helping in the classroom, media center, grade-level field trips, lunch and/or recess, PTA must complete the two-step volunteer training process which includes the Diamond Elementary Volunteering Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training before volunteering can begin at the school.

Volunteer Training 2 Step Process:

Step 1: Complete the Diamond Elementary On-line Volunteer Training: <https://goo.gl/forms/wpkTGnASgoY4un6f2>

Step 2: Complete the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training: via your parent *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* account: https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True, or you can access the training at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

First, click on the section titled **Online Training for Volunteers and Contractors**. Second, click on either the red box titled **On-line Training for Non-Parents (Contractors, Volunteer Coaches, Community Members)** or click on the red box titled **Online Training for Parents/Guardians**.

More Information about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training

The online child abuse and neglect training provides information about:

- Types of abuse;
- Grooming behaviors that may make our children vulnerable; and
- The MCPS procedures and state law requirements for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

While we encourage all community members to engage in this important, informative training, currently we only require individuals who **regularly** support schools to complete the Child Abuse and Neglect training. Infrequent or occasional volunteers who support large events or assist at one-time events under the supervision of school staff members are not required to complete the training at this time.

Below are examples of the types of activities that do not require completion of the volunteer training:

- Guest readers and speakers in classrooms where they will be supervised by a MCPS employee;
- High school/college recruiters and volunteers at job and college fairs;
- Parents/guardians or other relatives who are observing or supporting a celebration (e.g., a parade) or helping with a class party; and
- Parents/guardians staffing concession and ticket booths at large events.

We have the option of using the online child abuse and neglect training module as a resource to provide individual or small group training sessions for their volunteers, especially if accommodations, such as language interpretation, are needed. The online training is available in Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Parents/guardians will not be barred from participation in their schools due to the need for accommodations.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training are posted on the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect webpage www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect. Just a reminder, you must complete both the Diamond ES Volunteer Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training before you begin volunteering at the school. If you last completed the volunteer training in 2023-2024 or earlier, you will need to redo the volunteer training this year since it has been more than 3 years. We are grateful for your commitment and partnership to ensure the safety of students. Your continued support will help to keep our school a safe and wonderful place of learning for all students.

Any questions regarding the volunteering training process, please contact Mrs. Christine Chimera, school secretary at [Christine M Chimera@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Christine_M_Chimera@mcpsmd.org) or call the school's main office at 240-740-2120.

Personal Mobile Device Policy for Students:

As stated by Montgomery County Public Schools policy and Diamond Elementary School Policy, Elementary school students are not permitted to use Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs) during the student school day: 9:05am-4:10pm. This includes in the school building, classroom, during lunch and recess, specials classes, on school buses, etc. Elementary school students may use PMDs before and after the student day. If students have PMDs in their possession at school, the PMDS must be turned off and kept in their backpacks during the entire student school day. MCPS monitors and reserves the right to investigate all PMDs and PMD activity on the MCPS network. PMDs may be confiscated by school staff members if they are used in a manner inconsistent with Montgomery County Board of Education policies or MCPS regulations or rules. Any student who violates this regulation will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct in MCPS. MCPS and Diamond ES will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of any such PMD.

What is a personal mobile device (PMD)? A personal mobile device (PMD) refers to any non-MCPS-issued device used to send or receive data via voice, video, or text. Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, smart watches, or other devices equipped with microphones, headphones, speakers, and/or cameras are all considered PMDs.

In accordance to the Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation COG-RA, students must abide by the following conditions:

- Students may not use personal mobile devices on MCPS or commercially chartered buses used for school-sponsored activities during the official student day 9:05 am to 4:10 pm.
- Students may not use a personal mobile devices on any MCPS property in a manner that is illegal, profane, indecent, obscene, constitutes an invasion of privacy, or violates MCPS regulations regarding academic integrity. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, phone calls, photographs or text messages.
- Cell phones, i-watches/smart watches, etc, must be turned off and kept in student back pack during the student school day (9:00 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.). Personal mobile devices may be used **only** before arrival (prior to 9:00 am) to school and after school dismissal (4:10 pm).
- Personal mobile devices are not shared with other students
- Students may get permission to use the main office telephones during the school day, before, and after school whenever they need to communicate with a parent or guardian. Calls about medical concerns are made through the Health Room. Social calls are not allowed. Students cannot contact their parent during the school with a cell-phone, i-watch, smart watch, etc.

Any student who violates the conditions to the cell phone/communication device contract will be subject to disciplinary actions. Depending on circumstances, the disciplinary action could include, but not be limited to, conference, confiscation of the device, loss of privileges, detention, or possibly suspension. Failure to agree to these conditions will result in any/all of the following consequences:

- First Offense: confiscation of the personal mobile device by school staff member. **Only** a parent may pick-up a student's communication device. **The personal mobile devices will not be returned to students.**
- Second Offense: confiscation of the personal mobile device by school staff member. Administration will schedule a conference with the student and his/her parent/guardian. The communication device will be returned to the parent/guardian following this conference.
- Third Offense: Permission to have a personal mobile device at school is revoked for the remainder of the school year and possibility of detention/suspension.

Responsibility/Liability

- MCPS and Diamond ES will assume no responsibility or liability for the loss, theft, or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of any such PMD.

Here is a link to this document. [Personal Mobile Device Student Policy](#) It will be posted on our school website as well.

Personal Body Safety Lessons:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education. MCPS implements Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSLs) with grade-level, age appropriate content for students in every grade from Pre-K to 12. These lessons were developed with input from national stakeholders and County partners, and are designed to empower students to recognize and report suspected cases of abuse without fear of reprisal. The Chief of the State's Attorney's Office—Special Victims Division has commended MCPS on the PBSLs and shared publicly that these lessons are making a difference in children reporting incidents of abuse and neglect. In addition, embedded in the MCPS elementary and secondary health curriculum are age-appropriate lessons on safety and injury prevention, family life and human sexuality, cyberbullying and social media, healthy relationships, harassment and intimidation.

During the months of October, November and December, our school counselors and classroom teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect with all grade levels Kindergarten through Grade 5. The lessons are known as Personal Body Safety Lessons and their purpose is to help students to:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

Parent Resources:

Ensuring Student Safety- Personal Body Safety Lessons Website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/personal-body-safety-lessons.aspx>. This webpage provides an overview of the lesson objectives for each grade level.

Elementary Personal Body Safety Lessons Overview and Resources for Parents: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/Parent%20Elementary%20Personal%20Body%20Safety%20Lessons%20Overview%20and%20Resources.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact your child's classroom teacher, or our school counselors, Mrs. Meuer and Mrs. Kuzmiakas.

MCPS UPDATES:

How to Receive Emergency Information from MCPS: MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools and stay informed in times of emergencies.

Stay Connected to MCPS

- **VISIT** the [MCPS homepage](#).
- **CALL** 240-740-3000. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish (240-740-2845). Visit the [AskMCPS website](#).
- **READ** news and information sent via email and text message and on the [MCPS News](#) page.
- **FOLLOW** the MCPS social media pages: [x.com/mcps](#) / [facebook.com/mcpsmd](#) / [instagram.com/mcps_md](#) [facebook.com/mcpsespanol](#) / [x.com/MCPSEspanol](#) / [instagram.com/mcpsenespanol](#)
- **SIGN UP** for [emails and text alerts](#) and make sure your [ParentVue](#) information is up to date.
- **WATCH** the MCPS cable channels Comcast 34 (1071 HD), Verizon 36 or RCN 89

Quick Answers for Families, All in One Place: Looking for clear, easy-to-use information about MCPS? Visit our **Quick Guides for Families**, a one-stop resource designed to help families find answers, understand important school information and support their students throughout the year. The guides cover topics families ask about most, including **ParentVUE and digital tools, transportation, grading and assessments, study skills, school safety, mental health, student conduct, social media and personal mobile devices**. Many resources are available in **eight languages**, making important information easier for families across our community to access.

Bookmark the page and come back throughout the school year as new resources are added.

[Explore the MCPS Quick Guides for Families](#)

Share Your Feedback for Next Year's School Year Calendar: MCPS is seeking your input as it works to develop the 2027-2028 AND 2028-2029 school calendar. Please complete [this survey](#) by Sept. 20 to share your input. Your feedback is critical to the process. MCPS will consider educational interests, operational needs, mandated school closures by state law, compliance with minimum instructional days and credit hour requirements, inclement weather and other emergencies, staff professional days and early release days, and assessment schedules aligned to MCPS Board Policy IDA, *School Year Calendar*. [Take the survey](#).

New this year: Amplify Desmos Math: This school year, students in Pre-K through Algebra 1 will use Amplify Desmos Math, MCPS' new mathematics curriculum. The curriculum is designed to help students not only learn how to do math but also understand why it works and how to use it to solve problems. Students will explore math through engaging problems, discussion and collaboration, real-world connections, and opportunities to explain their thinking. Teachers will provide support when students need it and enrichment and advanced learning when they are ready for more challenges. The goal is for every student to build strong math skills, deepen their understanding, and grow as a confident and capable math learner. Families are important partners in that learning. At home, simple questions like "What did you learn in math today?" "How did you figure that out?" or "How do you know your answer makes sense?" can help students strengthen their thinking. Throughout the year, families will also find resources in the [Caregiver HUB](#) that explain what students are learning and offer easy ways to support math learning at home.

Visit the Parent Hub in English: <https://mcpsmd.info/ParentHubEnglish>

Visite el Centro para Padres en español: <https://mcpsmd.info/ParentHubEspañol>

A Safe Walk to School Starts With a Few Simple Habits: Walking to school is a great way for students to start the day, but staying alert and making safe choices is essential. Families can help by reviewing a few simple pedestrian safety habits with students:

- **Use sidewalks and designated crosswalks** whenever possible.
- **Stop, look left, right and left again** before crossing—and keep looking while crossing.
- **Make eye contact with drivers** and never assume a vehicle will stop.
- **Put phones and headphones away** when crossing streets or walking near traffic.
- **Follow crossing guards and traffic signals** at all times.
- **Be especially careful around buses and school parking lots**, where vehicles may be turning, backing up or stopping unexpectedly.

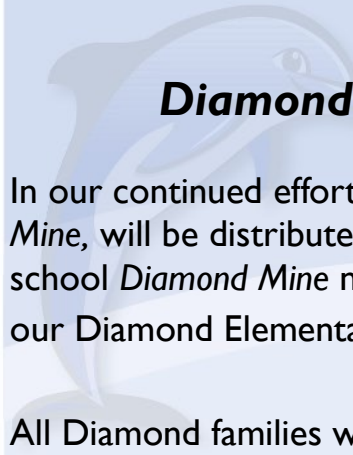
Drivers also play an important role: slow down, stay alert and watch carefully for students, especially during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. A few extra seconds of attention can make a big difference.

Now You Know — Immunizations: MCPS has immunization requirements for students in kindergarten, Grades 7 and 9, as well as students who are new to MCPS. Check your child's medical records with your pediatrician and make sure your child is up to date on immunizations. If you need a vaccination, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services offers free vaccination clinics for school-aged children. [Find a clinic](#). Your child must have proof of vaccination — or a vaccination appointment scheduled — within 20 calendar days of the first day of school to remain in school.

Learn more: [English](#) | [español](#) | [中文](#) | [français](#) | [Português](#) | [한국어](#) | [tiếng Việt](#) | [አማርኛ](#)

MCPS Reminders:

- **Monday, Sept. 7** – Labor Day; all schools and offices closed
- [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): A one-page, easy-to-read overview of the written curriculum for the first quarter of 2026-2027 is available. This simple look at what K–12 students will learn each marking period includes major topics, themes and texts.
- **FARMS Applications**: Apply today! A new FARMS application must be completed every school year, even if your children qualified the previous year. Access is based on household income. Submit the online FARMS application through [MySchoolApps](#) (translations are available). Only one application is needed per household. [More information](#).
- [Saturday School](#): Build student confidence and academic success! Programs run from 8:30-11 a.m. on Saturdays for students in grades K–12, focusing on reading, math, test prep and STEM enrichment, such as coding and robotics. Learn more at the opening ceremony on Sept. 19. Tutoring begins at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 26. Cost is \$100 for the year (\$50 for FARMS). Free transportation to center sites.
- **Shop for Gear; Do Good**: All proceeds from the sale of MCPS-branded merchandise help pay down student meal debt. Products will change regularly. [Check out the MCPS shop](#)
- **Facility Advisory Committee**: MCPS is seeking community members to serve for the 2026-2027 school year. Committee members will share their knowledge, experience and perspectives to help inform long-term planning for MCPS school facilities. [Applications](#) are due **Friday, Sept. 4**.



DIAMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

***Diamond Mine* Monthly School Newsletter Preference**

In our continued efforts to support a “green environment”, our school newsletter, *The Diamond Mine*, will be distributed electronically to each family at the beginning of each month. All monthly school *Diamond Mine* newsletters for the 2026-2027 school year will be posted electronically on our Diamond Elementary School website as well for parents to access.

All Diamond families will receive a connect-ed email at the beginning of each month with a link to the newsletter. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter each month, please fill out the form below and have your child return it to the main office, or send an email to Mrs. Christine Chimera, attendance secretary, Christine_Chimera@mcpsmd.org.

Diamond Elementary School

Diamond Mine Monthly School Newsletter Preference Form

If you would like a paper copy of the monthly school newsletter sent home to you each month, please complete this form and return it to the main office by September 30th. Please print legibly.

Please send me a paper copy of the school *Diamond Mine* newsletter each month.

Student's Name: _____

Grade Level: (circle one) **PreK** **K** **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

Teacher's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____