

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary School

Family Newsletter — Final Summer Edition | 2026–2027

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe next week will be the start of the **2026–2027 school year!** We are so excited to hear student laughter back in our building. Our staff is eager to welcome new students and our incoming Kindergarteners on **Monday, August 24**, and all returning students on **Tuesday, August 25**.

We invite everyone to attend our K–5 Sneak Peek / Open House on **Thursday, August 20 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** to meet teachers and visit classrooms before school begins.

Our staff members will be available on the first day of school and throughout the first week to help students find their way. We look forward to seeing everyone between 9:05 a.m. and no later than **9:25 a.m. on Monday, August 24** (Transition Day) and **Tuesday, August 25** (First Official Day).

This newsletter serves as our final summer update. You can review our previous [August 7th newsletter](#) for good-to-know school information and the official school supply list. Please also remember to review the district's "[No Cell Bell to Bell](#)" policy and [additional flyers](#) sent home.

Throughout the year, we look forward to meeting new community members and reconnecting with returning families. We encourage our families to get to know one another, build new friendships, and support each other as the need arises.

IMPORTANT: First Day Folders & Action Required

On your child's first day of school, they will bring home a **First Day Folder**. This folder contains critical information and essential documents regarding school policies, emergency contact verification, student privacy forms, and health records.

Family Action Item: Please thoroughly review the contents of this folder on the very first evening. Kindly complete, sign, and **return all required signature forms** with your child the following morning. Promptly returning these forms ensures we have accurate emergency contact details and required authorizations on file for your child's safety and support.

Bus & Transportation Information

Bus information from the Transportation Office is linked here: [AM Link](#) and [PM Link](#). Be sure you and your child know your child's assigned route number and bus color.

- **Arrival at Stop:** As a general rule, children should be at their bus stop **10 minutes before** and remain there at least **10 minutes after** the time the bus is scheduled to arrive. If the bus does not arrive within this time and you have no other way of getting your child to school, please call the school office at **240-740-6830** or contact **Clarksburg Transportation at 301-353-0955**.
- **Eligibility:** Only students who live more than one mile from the school, as determined by MCPS, are permitted to ride the county school buses.
- **Bus Rules & Supervision:** Staff will review bus safety rules and proper behavior with students. Students who violate bus rules may have their bus riding privileges denied temporarily or permanently. **Please note that parents are responsible for supervising their own children at the bus stop in the morning.** Patrols are not responsible for morning bus stop supervision.
- **Occasional Bus Riders:** Students who do not regularly ride the bus but need to ride on a specific day must bring a written note from a parent to the child's homeroom teacher to receive permission.

Bus Drop-Off & Safety

To ensure your child's safe return from school on the bus, please meet them at the bus stop. We stress the critical importance of a parent, or other responsible adult, being at the stop to receive the child or making other safe arrangements. Please establish a contingency plan in case you are running late.

Important DOT Policy: According to the Department of Transportation, bus operators will let all children off at the bus stop, including pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, even if there is no adult present to greet them. When the bus arrives and many students exit, there is no one-to-one matching of students to parents. Safe student transportation is a joint responsibility. Please remind your child to look for you before leaving the bus.

Any problems with the bus itself, the driver, or bus stops should be directed to the **Division of Transportation (301-353-0955)**. Please also maintain contingency plans for early closings and late openings so your child knows where to go and whom to call.

Arrival, Dismissal & Change of Routine Procedures

Changing Dismissal Plans

If a student's plans require a change from their normal dismissal routine (e.g., play dates, childcare changes), **the change must be made in writing** to the homeroom teacher and front office. Please include:

1. Your child's full name
2. The name of the individual they should be dismissed with
3. The date the change is occurring
4. Parent/Guardian signature

For last-minute emergency changes, please call the main office **prior to 3:00 p.m.** All students will be dismissed via their normal plan unless we have been notified in writing or via office approval. Please keep dismissal arrangements as consistent as possible, as daily changes can be confusing for young learners.

- **Student Calls:** Students are not permitted to call home from school to make after-school social plans.
- **Early Pick-Up Verification:** Any adult picking up a child early will be asked to present government-issued photo identification to verify identity and ensure student safety.
- **Quiet Hours:** The front office maintains **Quiet Hours between 3:30 p.m. and 3:50 p.m.** Students will not be called down for early dismissal during this window so that staff can manage safe building-wide dismissal.

Special Note for Kindergarten & First Grade Families

Please send your child to school wearing a **name tag each day for the first week of school**. Be sure to clearly list:

- Your child's First & Last Name
- Teacher's Name & Room Number
- Dismissal Method (e.g., Walker + name of adult picking up, OR Bus Rider + Bus Number/Color, OR Bar-T)

Health Room & Medication Guidelines

If your child requires medication during the school day, please follow these legal guidelines:

- **Authorization Required:** The school is prohibited by law from administering medications without a parent's/guardian's written authorization **AND** a licensed physician's signed statement.
- **Self-Administration:** Students are **not permitted** to carry or self-administer medication at school.
- **Short-Term Medication:** If your child requires short-term medication, a parent/guardian should arrange to come to school to administer it.
- **Long-Term Medication:** Request **MCPS Form 525-13** (*Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication*) from the main office or download it via the [MCPS Form 525-13 Link](#).
- **Delivery:** A parent/guardian must bring the medication directly to the school office in its original, pharmacy-labeled container matching the physician's order. The first day's dosage of any new prescription **must** be given at home.
- **Review:** All physician orders will be reviewed by the Public Health Nurse and School Medical Advisor before administration can begin.

Illness Guidelines

Healthy students are expected to attend school every day, but please keep your child home if they are unwell:

- **Fever Policy:** Students running a fever of **100.4°F or higher** must stay home. They must be fever-free for **24 hours without fever-reducing medication** before returning. Common runny noses, mild allergies, and minor tummy aches usually do not require missing school.
- **Illness at School:** If your child becomes ill at school, our Health Technician will assess them in the Health Room. Parents will be contacted immediately for fever, vomiting, extreme pain, or head injuries to arrange prompt pick-up.

Student Attendance Procedures

If your child is going to be absent or late, please call the main office at **240-740-6830** as early as possible.

Absences

- **Notes Required:** Keep children home for suspected illness, diagnosed communicable disease, or active lice/nits. A signed parent note explaining the reason must accompany the student upon return.
- **Physician Note:** A medical note from a physician is required for absences of **five consecutive days or more**.

- **10-Day Unenrollment Rule (Important Change):** In accordance with updated district guidelines, students will be **unenrolled after 10 consecutive unexcused missed school days**. This is an updated change from the previous 15-day policy.

Tardies & Late Arrivals

Students not inside their classroom by **9:25 a.m.** are marked tardy. **All tardy students must be accompanied into the main office by an ADULT** who will sign them in and receive a late pass for the classroom. Please do not drop off late students at the curb without walking them inside.

Important Dates & Reminders

Back-to-School Countdown

- **Sneak Peek / Open House:** Thursday, Aug. 20, 2026 (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- **Regional Back-to-School Fair:** Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 at Seneca Valley High School (3:00-6:00)
- **Transition Day:** Monday, Aug. 24, 2026 (Full day)
- **First Official Day of School (All K–5 Students):** Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026

Start Strong: Transition Day is Aug. 24

Transition Day (**Monday, Aug. 24**) is the first full day of school for students entering kindergarten (as well as students entering 6th and 9th grade, and students new to MCPS). This full-day non-instructional experience eases transitions by letting students meet teachers, practice daily routines, tour the building, and meet classmates before returning alongside all K–5 peers on **Tuesday, Aug. 25**.

Saturday School Registration Is Now Open

Taught by certified teachers, Saturday School provides K–12 academic support programs in Math and English/Language Arts, with both in-person and virtual options.

- **Tutoring Begins:** Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026
- **Note:** Registration fees increase on **Sept. 1**, so register early!

Have You Submitted Your FARMS Application?

Apply today! A new **Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS)** application must be completed every school year, even if your children qualified previously. Submit online

via **MySchoolApps** (translations available). Only one application is needed per household.

Immunizations

Please ensure immunization records are up to date. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is holding clinics throughout August and September, and MCPS will offer immunizations on-site at the regional Back-to-School Fair on **Saturday, Aug. 22** at Seneca Valley High School.

Stay Connected to MCPS

- **MCPS Website:** Visit the [MCPS Homepage](#).
- **Phone Support:** Call **240-740-3000** (English) or **240-740-2845** (Spanish) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Ask MCPS:** Visit the AskMCPS website for quick answers.
- **Social Media:**
 - **English:** [x.com/mcps](#) | [facebook.com/mcpsmd](#) | [instagram.com/mcps_md](#)
 - **Español:** [facebook.com/mcpsespanol](#) | [x.com/MCPSEspanol](#) | [instagram.com/mcpsenespanol](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us by email or by calling our main office at **240-740-6830**.

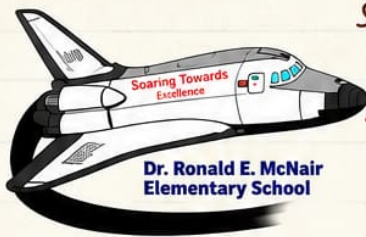
- **Mrs. Veneth Waters:** Veneth_C_Waters@mcpsmd.org
- **Mrs. Rebecca Mason:** Rebecca_Mason@mcpsmd.org

Sincerely,

Principal & Assistant Principal

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary School

The Dr. REMES PTA webpage link is [here](#).



Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary School PTA

Parents and guardians, you are cordially invited to

Tears and Cheers

outside of the school at 9:05 am on August 25th

You might be sniffing,
teary-eyed and blue,
or maybe you're cheering,
"yay, summer's through!"

Whatever you're feeling,
please stop and say hi -
we'll be there to greet you
and kiss summer goodbye!

*Please join us for free refreshments outside of the main
entrance after morning drop-off.*

Tissues will be provided!

**This event is sponsored and hosted by the PTA -
ask us how you can get involved!**



You're Invited!

KINDERGARTEN PLAY DATES!

Incoming Kindergarten Families

PLAY. CONNECT. BELONG.

Join us for a relaxed and fun evening to meet other Kindergarten parents, meet some of our PTA Board Members, and learn more about the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Community!



THURSDAY

8/13

5:30 – 6:30 PM



FRIDAY

8/21

5:30 – 6:30 PM



MEET NEW
KINDERGARTEN
PARENTS



MEET SOME
PTA BOARD
MEMBERS



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE DR. RONALD E.
MCNAIR COMMUNITY



HAPPENING AT
Leaman Park

Bring the kids to play!

We can't
wait to see
you there!



TOGETHER, WE MAKE McNAIR AMAZING!






DR. RONALD E. MCNAIR

PTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

BE THE DIFFERENCE. HELP OUR COMMUNITY SOAR!

Our PTA thrives because of amazing volunteers like **YOU!**
 Whether you have a little time or a lot,
 there's a place for **YOU** on our team.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR:



PTA BOARD POSITIONS

- VP of Community Engagement
- MCCPTA Delegate

*Lead with purpose.
Make a lasting impact.*



PTA CHAIRS

- Trunk or Treat Chair
- STEM Night Chair
- International Night Chair
- Family Fun Night Chair
- Staff Appreciation Chair
- Room Parent Coordinator
- Staff Snack Cart & Student Snack
- Pantry Coordinator
- Spelling Bee Coordinator and more!

*Host exciting events.
Build lasting memories.*

WHY VOLUNTEER?



Support our students and staff



Connect with other parents and families



Develop new skills and leadership



Make our school community stronger



**Together,
WE CAN
ACHIEVE MORE!**

INTERESTED?

We'd love to hear from you!
 Email us to get involved or learn more.
 rmespta20874@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR **CHALLENGERS** REACH FOR THE STARS!