

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary School

Family Newsletter — First Edition of the School Year | September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to another amazing school year! Over the past two weeks, it has been an absolute joy getting to know our students as I walk the halls, visit classrooms, chat with them in the cafeteria, and spend time with them out on the recess field. Seeing their energy, hearing their laughter, and watching them build friendships fills our building with so much life.

As your principal, I am committed to making this school year a warm, engaging, and memorable experience for every single child. We have so many exciting activities planned throughout the year to make learning truly fun, collaborative, and meaningful. Thank you for your support, partnership, and trust as we embark on this wonderful journey together!



Save the Date: Back to School Night!

Please join us for our annual **Back to School Night** on **Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with staff, learn about your child's daily routines, and explore our school community programs.

Evening Sessions & Highlights

- **Schoolwide & Community Info:** Learn more about our Standard Response Protocol, Student Code of Conduct, navigating Synergy & ParentVue, and completing FARMS applications.
- **Classroom Presentations:** Teachers will share classroom resources, daily schedules, and an overview of classroom routines.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Sign up early for your upcoming Parent-Teacher Conference.
- **Curriculum & Subject Stations:** Visit our dedicated ELA & Math Stations to explore our new curriculum materials firsthand!



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>

Transportation & Route Reminders

We kindly ask all families to exercise patience during these initial weeks of school as our bus drivers, attendants, and students adjust to their daily routes and bus stop schedules.

- **Bus Timing:** Please ensure your child is at their designated bus stop **10 minutes before** the scheduled arrival time.
- **Questions or Issues?** If you have route questions, please contact the main office at **240-740-6830** or the Clarksburg Transportation Depot at **301-353-0955**.

Academic & Curriculum Resources

Refrigerator Curriculum Overviews

[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.

[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.

District & Community Action Items

1. Share Your Input: 2027–2028 & 2028–2029 School Calendars

MCPS is seeking community feedback to develop future school year calendars. Please take a moment to complete the survey by **September 20, 2026**. Your input helps shape instructional days, holiday breaks, and operational planning.

2. Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

All MCPS students require 75 SSL hours to graduate. Check out September's list of SSL opportunities! Please note that MCPS has updated its official forms for this school year:

- **MCPS Form 560-51:** SSL Activity Verification Form
- **MCPS Form 560-50:** Individual SSL Request (*Required prior to completing service with organizations not listed on the Montgomery County Volunteer Center website*)

3. Annual FARMS Applications

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](#).

4. Shop MCPS Gear & Support Students

Did you know you can purchase official MCPS-branded gear while supporting local students? All proceeds from merchandise sales help pay down student meal debt across the district. Products update regularly—check out the [official MCPS shop online](#)!



Important Dates to Remember

- **Monday, September 7:** Labor Day — All Schools & Offices Closed
- **Thursday, September 17:** Back to School Night (6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- **Saturday, September 19:** Saturday School Opening Ceremonies (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- **Sunday, September 20:** MCPS Calendar Survey Deadline
- **Saturday, September 26:** Saturday School Tutoring Begins (8:30 a.m.)



Stay Connected

- **Dr. REMES PTA:** Connect with our wonderful PTA and stay involved by visiting the [Dr. REMES PTA Webpage](#).
- **MCPS Resources:**

- [MCPS District Calendar](#)
- [MCPS Parent Resource Page](#)
- [MCPS News & Information Page](#) | [Noticias en Español](#)

Thank you for a fantastic start to the school year!

Warmly,

Veneth Waters

Principal

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