

Good Evening Snowden Farm Families,

What an incredible week we've had at school! It has been filled with meaningful learning experiences, joyful celebrations, and wonderful moments that truly highlight the spirit of our community.

We held our Stallion Meet-Up, where we celebrated students who consistently demonstrate what it means to be safe, studious, and synergetic. We are so proud of these students for setting a positive example for their peers!

Our 1st grade students proudly showcased their learning during the Habitat Open House. We loved seeing the students' habitats and listening to them share what they had learned. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and support our young learners.

Our kindergarten team created a memorable hands-on bread-making experience for students. From start to finish, it was a wonderful way to bring learning to life, and the excitement (and delicious results!) made it even more special.

We are incredibly proud of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students for their focus and effort during MCAP testing this week. Students have taken their time and shown great care in answering each question. We truly appreciate your support at home in helping them get a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before school. It makes a meaningful difference!

Friday's Fun Run was a fantastic success! Students had a blast, and it was heartwarming to see so many families cheering them on. A huge thank you to our PTA and all of our families for supporting the Boosterthon. Your generosity and involvement make a tremendous difference. We are especially grateful to those who came out to volunteer and help mark laps—it truly takes a village, and we appreciate you!

As a reward from the Boosterthon, our 2nd grade students enjoyed watching a movie, and Ms. Thompson's class had free seating at lunch on Thursday this week.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and enthusiasm. It is because of our strong school community that weeks like this are possible.

**New: MCAP Assessments continue this Week and we need Snacks!**

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will continue taking the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) test this week on May 5th, 7th, and 8th.

- There will be four days of English/Language Arts testing and four days of Mathematics testing.
- Please help to ensure that students are ready for testing by getting a good night's rest, eating a nutritional breakfast and coming to school on time on those days.

- Please encourage your students to do their best and take their time!
- We like to provide snacks for students upon completion of each section of each assessment when possible to help encourage students to try their best.
  - We appreciate it if you are able to bring/send snacks to the main office clearly labeled TESTING.
  - Please see the sign up genius link for more information as well as places to sign up.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45AEA92BA7F5C70-62469545-misa>

### **Staff Appreciation Week on May 4th-May 8th**

As a part of Staff Appreciation Week at SFES, the PTA will be passing out \$15 gift cards to all of our staff. We are looking for families to help purchase these items.

- Please see the sign up [here](#) for the types of gift cards.
- If you sign up to purchase a card(s), please make sure to drop them off at the front office NO LATER THAN Wednesday, May 6th.

Thanks for making our team feel special!

### **New: Chinese Language and Culture After School Learning Program on Thursdays from 05/07-06/04**

The Chinese After School Program is specifically designed for elementary students, aiming to ignite their passion for Mandarin Chinese through a vibrant, immersive environment. We provide interactive language learning, and cultural arts & activities, focused on essential vocabulary & communication. We believe that learning a language is more than just mastering vocabulary; it is about opening a window to a diverse world.

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g7KfPuT4MZN3N48xZMQxV64MRYAIDDuj/view?usp=sharing>
- Please return permission slips to the main office.

### **New: Boostherthon**

Our Stallion Fun Run event was incredible! Thank you to our volunteers who made this a fun experience for our students.

We had a school-wide challenge to hit a goal of \$25,000 to go toward PTA and School Events including Cultural Assemblies that help strengthen our school community, but as a school, we would also be able to cheer on an EPIC Inflatable Costume Race with Staff. We didn't quite make it, but to see if we can still reach our goal, **the fundraising platform, MyBooster.com, will remain open for one more week!**

**You also have one more week to place your Reward Store order.** Get those orders tonight, before it closes on **May 8th!**

Thank you again for your support of our Stallion Fun Run fundraiser!

### **Spring BOGO Book Fair from 05/13-05/20**

The Scholastic BOGO (Buy One, Get One free) Book Fair will be coming back Wednesday, May 13 - Wednesday, May 20!

- We have [volunteer slots available](#) and older students may earn SSL hours if accompanied by an adult.

### **Cookies & Milk Event on 05/14**

Coinciding with the Spring Book Fair will be a new evening event called "Cookies & Milk." Taking place on Thursday, May 14th from 6-7:30pm, come join us for free treats, storybook readings from your favorite teachers, and shopping at the Book Fair! We can't wait to see you there!

### **Kindergarten Registration Now Open**

For the 2026-2027 school year, [kindergarten registration](#) is now open and being held online through the [ParentVUE portal](#). Children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2026 are eligible. If your family is new to MCPS, you will need to create a ParentVue account [here](#). After creating an account, you will be prompted to register when you first log in.

Registration sessions will be held in person beginning Monday, March 16. Schools will share further information about kindergarten registration with families. Early entrance to kindergarten and first grade opens on Monday, March 9.

### **Join the PTA**

Join the PTA to become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience.

- Fill out the membership form online, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc98gaet2hNbdVBLPQMYyjdDemfgWNSvYCWmhazRDuDsSE-8w/viewform?usp=preview>
- Pay Dues
  - Pay online via Zelle: [treasurer@sfespta.org](mailto:treasurer@sfespta.org)
  - Individual Membership \$20
  - Family Membership \$40
  - Staff Membership \$15

### **New: Important Information from MCPS**

#### **New: Board Approves Adjusted 2026–2027 School Calendar, Reflecting Community Input**

On Thursday, April 29, the Board of Education approved an adjusted calendar for the 2026–2027 school year, shaped by consistent and widespread feedback from families and staff. The survey to gather interest received more than 30,000 responses. Families and staff preferred to maintain stability where possible, including not starting the school year earlier in August and preserving the length of winter and spring breaks. Transition Day will be August 24 and the first day of school for all students will be Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026. [Read more](#).

#### **New: Don't keep scrolling — we need to hear from you.**

We Want to Hear About Your MCPS Experience! With less than 10 minutes of your time, share with us what's working well and where we can improve as a district, from academics and communication to the overall school and office climate. Your input does matter. This important annual survey is open until May 10.

- [Learn more](#) and [take the survey](#).
- Families: [Take the survey](#).
- Students: [Take the survey](#).
- \*NEW\* this year: No student ID required!
- Watch in [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Amharic](#) | [Korean](#) | [Portuguese](#)

#### **New: Super Important! MCAP Testing Underway: Supporting Student Success Through May**

State testing for the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) is now underway. Testing began April 28 and continues through May. These end-of-year assessments measure what students know, understand and can do after a full year of learning. The following strategies are taught and reinforced during instruction to support students' focus, problem-solving and confidence during test sessions. [Read more](#).

- Watch in [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Amharic](#) | [Korean](#) | [Portuguese](#)

#### **Resource Guide Links Families to Essential Support Services**

The MCPS Division of Specialized Support Services has produced a [Community Resource Guide for Families](#). The guide includes a comprehensive list of school and community resources on a range of topics, including access to healthcare and mental health services; assistance with

food, clothing, furniture, housing and utilities; youth development and mentorship; domestic violence; workforce; academic and technology; international families and more.

### **What's New in Special Education? Find Out at May 6 Webinar**

The Division of Specialized Support Services will hold a webinar for families from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, focused on what's new in special education services, staffing and supports — and why. MCPS special education leaders will provide context for what this means for schools and classrooms. The session will be held virtually, featuring a brief presentation followed by questions and answers. The Zoom link is available [here](#).

Also, don't miss the [Special Education Family Resource Fair](#) coming up from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Paint Branch High School. [Read more](#).

### **Other Student Opportunities**

- KID Museum is offering upcoming opportunities for students, including summer camps and a free Invent the Future Expo. [Summer camps](#) are available for K–8th grade students from June 22–Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Invent the Future Expo will be held from 10 a.m.-2p.m. on Sunday, May 31, at 3 Bethesda Metro Center. [Register](#).
- **Montgomery Can Code**: This free weeklong summer camp is open to MCPS rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.  
**Learn more:** [English](#) / [español](#) / [中文](#) / [français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [tiếng Việt](#) / [ភាសាខ្មែរ](#)

### **Additional Information**

- [At-Home Student Device Request](#)
- [Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting](#)
- Food Assistance: Call Manna's main office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, at (301) 424-1130.
- [Menus - Department of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD](#)
- School Cash Online- <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>
- Maryland Anonymous Tip Line - 1-833-632-7233- Report threats or situations that put your safety, or others' safety, at risk.
- In Case You Missed It:
  - [Refrigerator Curriculum](#): See what your children will be learning each marking period.

- More MCPS Resources
  - [School calendar](#)
  - [Parent resource page](#)
  - [Student Code of Conduct: Read the revised document and watch the video.](#)

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

#### Staff Appreciation Week

- Monday, May 4th- In School Concert for Grades K - 2
- Tuesday, May 5th- ELA Testing
- Wednesday, May 6th- In School Concert #2 for Grades 3-5 and Spring Concert at 6:00 PM at CHS
- Thursday, May 7th- Math Testing and 2nd grade to South Mountain Creamery
- Friday, May 8th- Math Testing and 1st Grade to Green Meadows

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Michelle Fortune, Principal