Dear Snowden Farm Families,

We had another busy and exciting week at Snowden Farm! We kicked off the week with our Stallion Meet-Ups, where students had an opportunity to connect and build relationships across grade levels. Our first graders enjoyed a special in-house field trip with the Reptile Man, and our fifth graders had a wonderful experience visiting Strathmore!

We have another fun-filled week ahead! Monday is Walk to School Day, and we encourage families to walk to school with their children instead of driving, if possible. This is a great opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, get moving, and spend time together as a school community!

We are also excited for our first Spirit Week of the school year! We hope all of our Stallions will join in the fun and show their school spirit throughout the week. Please see the spirit day themes below so your child can participate.

- October 26 - Music Monday- Wear something from a band, concert, or musical event
- October 27 - Two Shoes Tuesday - Wear two different shoes
- October 28 - Workout Wednesday - Wear your favorite workout or athletic clothes
- October 29 - Think Pink – Wear pink to show your support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October 30 – Fairytale Friday - Dress as your favorite character (can be from a movie, book, TV show, etc.)

We will wrap up the week with our PTA-sponsored Trunk or Treat on Friday! We look forward to seeing our families come together for a fun evening of costumes, treats, and community!

New: Walk to School Community Event on 10/26!

Our **Walk to School Community Event** is happening on **Monday, October 26th!**
We hope to see lots of our Stallions joining in the fun as we kick off the day with a healthy walk to school! It's a wonderful way to get moving, connect with friends, and start the day with smiles!

- Lace up those sneakers, bring your family spirit, and let's make it a great morning together!

We can't wait to see our Stallions there!

Trunk or Treat on 10/30

Snowden Farm's Trunk or Treat is scheduled for **Friday, October 30th** from 5:30-7:00pm! The parking lot (closest to the front entrance) will be available starting at 4:45pm for setup.

- Please sign-up for a parking space for your decorated vehicle. Spaces will be assigned when you arrive and volunteers will be on-site to assist.
- We will also provide participants with a numbered sign to enter the "Best Trunk" contest to display on your vehicle.
- Unfortunately, we do not have access to power outlets in the parking lot so please provide your own power (if needed for your setup).
- If you are not able to host a trunk but are interested in donating candy for the Trunk or Treat, please drop off candy at the front office by 3pm on October 29th. This is a popular event and we always run out of candy so please consider signing-up for Candy *Donations in the Sign-Up Genius and indicate how many bags you plan on donating.*
- *Sign-Up Genius Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48A8A629A2F49-66401295-sfes*

New: JSSA Therapy Services

Snowden Farm ES is partnered with JSSA to provide short-term, solution-focused treatment for students. Families who feel their child could benefit from individual therapy or student success services may use **THIS LINK TO SELF-REFER**. JSSA will work with families with and without insurance.

New: Virtual Learning Device Request

To meet Maryland State Department of Education requirements and ensure 180 days of instruction, MCPS has a virtual learning plan for extended school closures due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

If your child needs an MCPS device for virtual learning at home, please complete this form. Devices currently used in the classroom will not be sent home, so a separate at-home device will be provided to families who request one.

Once you receive the device, we recommend testing it to make sure your child can access their teacher's online resources.
Thank you for your support!

New: Calling All Grade 3–5 Science Enthusiasts: Join the SFES Science Olympiad Team!

SFES students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are invited to join our parent-coordinated Science Olympiad Division A team. This program introduces elementary students to STEM competition through team events covering earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Students can explore their interests while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills.

- Coaching sessions: Fridays, 5:00–6:00 p.m., from November 2026 through early April 2027. Sessions will be held virtually via Zoom or Google Meet, with meeting links sent to participating families in advance.
- Competition: The in-person tournament is expected to take place on a Saturday in late April or early May 2027, near Clarksville, Maryland. The official date and venue have not yet been announced; details will be shared once confirmed.
- Interested in participating? A parent or guardian must complete the Science Olympiad Interest Form for their student.
- Parent volunteers interested in helping with coaching or team coordination are also welcome!

Join the PTA for the 2026-2027 School Year

Become an integral part of your child's elementary school experience. Fill out the membership form, pay online. Our next meeting will be on 1/27/27 (BINGO Night).

- https://sfepta.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/145130
  - Individual Membership $20
  - Family Membership $40
  - Staff Membership $15

New from MCPS:

New: The Conversation Is Underway. Your Questions, Concerns and Ideas Matter.

Why is MCPS studying school closures and consolidations? What does the data tell us? How will decisions be made? These are important questions, and they're exactly why we're bringing our community together. Our engagement sessions are underway, providing families, staff and community members opportunities to learn about the challenges facing our schools, ask questions and share what matters most to them. No schools



have been selected for closure, no recommendations have been made and no decisions have been predetermined. You don't need to have all the answers, or even know all the questions, to participate. This is a process of learning, listening and planning together, and there's still time to be involved. Read the full story here.

- Also visit MCPSStudy.org
  Watch the Videos
- English = https://youtu.be/vtn_QeqKZ2Q
- Spanish = https://youtu.be/h2PJYSelS1c

New: Inside MCPS: The Realities of Our Aging Facilities

Leaking roofs. Failing heating and cooling systems. Aging buildings. Rising construction costs. The hard truth is that MCPS has significant facility needs, and waiting to address them only makes the problems more expensive.
In a new video series, "The Hard Truth," MCPS takes you inside schools and support facilities to show the real facilities challenges facing our district.
The Hard Truth: Doing nothing is not an option.
Watch the Video Series

New: Be Sure to Weigh In on the 2027-2028 School Calendar

As MCPS continues to develop the 2027-2028 school calendar, the district is seeking more input from you!
Complete this second survey to share input on the proposed draft calendar for the 2027-2028 school year. The survey will close on Friday, Nov. 6. Take the survey.

Board Seeking Public Comment on Two Policies

The Board of Education is seeking public comment on proposed amendments to two policies — Policy IPD: *Travel Study Programs, Field Trips and Student Organization Trips* and Policy BLB: *Rules of Procedures in Appeals and Hearings*.

- The comment period for Policy IPD closes Friday, Nov. 6. Submit comments on Policy IPD.
- The comment period for Policy BLB closes Friday, Nov. 6. Submit comments on Policy BLB.

Policies for Public Comment

New: Now You Know — Career & Technical Education Program Changes

Important changes are coming to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Starting in fall 2027, MCPS will move from 51 to 37 state-approved CTE programs of study. Some will be phased out; others will be combined or updated. These changes provide great opportunities for students to explore new, integrated and modernized pathways that prepare them for high-wage,

high-demand careers.
So, what does this mean? Some CTE programs will be integrated into our new six-region high school model, helping expand access to high-demand programs across the county. The programs will also align with Maryland's new 14-career-cluster model.
If your student is already enrolled in a CTE program, there's no disruption. They'll be able to complete their existing program and earn their intended credentials.
Learn more: English | Spanish | Amharic | Chinese | French | Korean | Portuguese | Vietnamese

Additional Information

- **Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy**
- **Parent Webinar Powered by AT&T on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 12:00 P.M. PT / 3:00 P.M. ET**
    - Description: Gaming is no longer just entertainment, it's a multibillion-dollar social ecosystem. And for many kids, it's a primary community and even a career path. In this session, we'll break down what modern gaming actually looks like, from in-game chats to microtransactions and livestream play, as well as the psychological design behind "endless play." We'll move beyond the old screen-time debate to share practical strategies for setting boundaries, managing in-game spending, and staying connected to your kid's digital world so you can support smart choices without shutting the game down. Click the link to register, **Share with parents and caregivers**
- Saturday School: Tutoring sessions begin THIS SATURDAY, Sept. 26, from 8:30-11 a.m.! **But it is never too late to join.** Programs run on Saturday mornings for students in grades K–12, focusing on reading, language arts, math, test prep and STEM enrichment, such as coding and robotics. The cost is $100/year ($50 for FARMS recipients) and MCPS buses are available to center sites.
- Share Your Vision for America: Students in Grades 5–12 can write and perform a presidential speech and win prizes up to $1,000. Make Your Speech calls on students to imagine they've just been elected president and are delivering their inaugural address in a 2-3 minute video. Learn more. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 30
- Learn more and register.Annual MCPS Pest Management Notice
- Annual MCPS Asbestos Notice
- Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting

Upcoming Important Dates

- Monday, October 26th- Friday, October 30th- Spirit Week

- Monday, October 26th- Walk to School Day, we encourage caregivers to walk their students to school
- Tuesday, October 27th- Bus Evacuation
- Friday, October 30th- Trunk or Treat/ End of Marking Period

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another great week of learning, celebrations, and fun!

Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strong Stallions!