



Work hard. Be kind. Be safe.
Dream BIG!

Dear RICA Families and Students,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to step into this position of Acting Principal. The students and families at RICA deserve compassionate leadership and committed professionals that are skilled in providing world class education. I look forward to partnering with each and every one of you to make this dream a reality.

Ms. Khadija Mitchell

Acting Principal

RICA

Save the Dates:

Back to School Night: September 10th - 5:00-8:00pm

School Pictures: November 5th, 2026

Prom: May 14th, 2027

Graduation: June 9th, 2027 at 6:00pm

8th grade promotion: (TBD)

Join Us for Back to School Night!

RICA students and families are invited to join us for Back to School Night on Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Come meet our staff, learn more about your student's classes and supports, and connect with the RICA community as we begin a successful school year together.

We look forward to seeing you!



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RICA ROYAL'S
BACK TO
SCHOOL NIGHT
CARNIVAL

Come out and learn more about your child's classes and have some fun!

Please bring cash to purchase tickets and food at the carnival. The money will go to support activities for RICA students.

SEPTEMBER 10TH
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
CARNIVAL
STARTS AT 6:30 PM

More Information
301-251-6900

ROYALS

ATSI Designation

Members of the RICA Community- Please read the following letter regarding our schools ATSI status.

[RICA ATSI Community Letter](#)





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MCPS Information-

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Important Information to Share with Families!

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](#)

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 Free Opportunity for Grade 8 Students to Learn More About Their Strengths and Prepare for High School

Following many years of interest and requests from families and advocates, MCPS is



pleased to be able to offer all 8th grade students the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9 during the school day at no cost to families. Student registration is not required. MCPS will take care of registering students for the assessment.

The PSAT 8/9 provides students, families and schools with helpful information about each student's academic progress, including areas of strength and skills that may need additional development. Results can help students understand their progress toward college and career readiness and identify areas to focus on as they prepare for high school.

Most importantly, the results give students, families and schools more information to help make decisions about what comes next, in specialized pathways or in engaging local high school course selections. While the results will be considered as one of the criteria for admission to criteria-based high school programs for which Grade 8 students may apply (with the exception of arts programs), this is only one of many admissions factors for criteria-based programs.

Schools will provide families with additional information about the testing schedule and what students should expect as the testing date approaches. In some cases, parent permission is required for students to receive testing accommodations. Requests for accommodation will continue to be accepted; information about student testing accommodations can be found [here](#).

Additional information related to the PSAT can be found on the College Board website linked [here](#) and by reviewing this [overview document](#).

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](#).

Keep Earning: September SSL Opportunities Are Here!

All MCPS students need 75 [Student Service Learning \(SSL\)](#) hours to graduate. Be sure to check out [September's list of SSL opportunities](#). MCPS has updated its SSL forms; see the new forms below:



- [MCPS Form 560-51](#) (**SSL Activity Verification Form**)
- [MCPS Form 560-50](#) (**Individual SSL Request**): Required for students to complete service with any community organization that is not listed as an MCPS SSL organization on the [Montgomery County Volunteer Center website](#).

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.

Additional, but Good to Share

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](#) | [အဗူငါး](#)



Youth Town Hall Offers Students a Seat at the Table

The Montgomery County Council will host its annual Youth Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29 (a pizza reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.) Join Montgomery County Councilmembers and MCPS student leaders as they discuss important youth-centric issues, in person at the Council Office Building, Third Floor, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville, or on Zoom. Student attendees will be able to share their questions and concerns, and participate in a conversation with county leadership. Students may earn two SSL hours for attending and participating. [Register to attend](#).

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.
- **Outdoor Ed Open House**: for middle school families from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the Lathrop E. Smith Center. Staff will share an overview of the Smith Center's programming, provide tours of the campus, and share information and experiences about the sixth grade Outdoor Education program. The Smith Center is located at 5110 Meadowside Lane in Rockville. [Learn more](#) and [register to attend](#).
- **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.**

Info Worth Repeating

Updated RICA Bell Schedule

Please review the updated Bell Schedule for 26-27.

 	
Period	Time
Teacher Planning	8:30 - 9:15
AM Homeroom	9:15 - 9:30
1	9:32 - 10:14
2	10:16 - 10:58
3	11:00 - 11:42
LUNCH A	LUNCH B
Lunch A 11:44 - 12:14	RISE 11:44 - 12:14
RISE 12:17 - 12:47	Lunch B 12:17 - 12:47
4	12:49 - 1:31
5	1:33 - 2:15
6	2:17 - 2:59
7	3:01 - 3:45
Student Dismissal	3:45 - 4:00

Early Release Schedule	
Period	Time
Teacher Planning	8:30 - 9:15
AM Homeroom	9:15 - 9:30
1 or 4	9:32 - 10:14
2 or 5	10:16 - 10:58
3 or 6	11:00 - 11:42
LUNCH A	LUNCH B
Lunch A 11:44 - 12:14	RISE 11:44 - 12:14
RISE 12:17 - 12:47	Lunch B 12:17 - 12:47
7	12:49 - 1:30
Student Dismissal	1:20 - 1:30

Delayed Opening Schedule	
Period	Time
Teacher Planning	10:30 - 11:15
AM Homeroom	11:15 - 11:30
3	11:32 - 11:42
LUNCH A	LUNCH B
Lunch A 11:44 - 12:14	RISE 11:44 - 12:14
RISE 12:17 - 12:47	Lunch B 12:17 - 12:47
4	12:49 - 1:31
5	1:33 - 2:15
6	2:17 - 2:59
7	3:01 - 3:45
Student Dismissal	3:45 - 4:00



Hate Bias Protocols

Remind your child that if something doesn't feel right, they should tell a trusted adult. [Learn more about MCPS hate/bias protocols.](#)

Student Code of Conduct 26-27 (Please Read)

Review the Student Code of Conduct. [This document](#) helps us create schools that are welcoming, respectful, orderly and safe.

MCPS Grading and Reporting Website

[Grading and Reporting Information Website](#)

Purpose: To provide updated information about the revisions to Regulation IKA-RA.

Website Resources:

- [Grading and Reporting FAQs](#)
- [Grading and Reporting Revisions Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Revised Middle School Report Card Mock-Up](#)
- [Revised High School Report Card Mock-Up](#)

The website also includes links to centrally created community messages and the [Board of Education Presentation](#) on June 4, 2026.

No Cell, Bell to Bell

This school year all Montgomery County Public Schools will be restricting the use of cell phones during school hours. These restrictions are in alignment with the [Maryland Phone-Free School Act \(HB 525\)](#). Effective the first day of school, August 24, 2026, all students are not permitted to utilize personal mobile devices (cell phones, tablets, e-readers, personal laptops, smart watches, smart glasses, and anything with a microphone, camera, speaker, or headphones/earbuds (including AirPods) during the instructional day. This includes during lunch and in the hallways as students transition to class.



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NO CELL, BELL TO BELL
Family & Student Guide
Learning First. Every Student. Every Day.
Personal Mobile Devices Stay Put Away
THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC DAY.

WHY

Phones and other personal devices can be a major distraction during the school day. **Keeping devices away helps students focus on learning, connect with one another, and supports a safer, healthier school environment.**

Maryland has also passed the Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free School Act, requiring school districts to limit student device use beginning in 2027-2028. MCPS is starting the transition this year so students, staff and families have time to adjust.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Students may bring a phone or personal mobile device to school – but it must be put away and unused for the entire Academic Day.
That means devices stay away during:

Class • Hallways • Passing Periods • Lunch • Recess • Restrooms

DO

- ✓ Put your device away before the school day begins.
- ✓ Keep it away until the dismissal bell.
- ✓ Follow staff directions.
- ✓ Use school-issued technology when directed by your teacher.

Don't

- ✗ Text, call or use social media.
- ✗ Take photos, video or audio recordings.
- ✗ Use AirPods, earbuds or headphones connected to a personal device.
- ✗ Use a smartwatch or other personal device during the Academic Day.

Before school? / After school? / During the Academic Day? Put it away.

WHAT HAPPENS IF...?

- Unauthorized use will result in discipline aligned with the MCPS Student Code of Conduct and will include your device being taken away and secured until the end of the school day.
- Repeated violations may result in additional consequences, including not being permitted to bring the device to school.

IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS: Some students may use a device when specifically authorized for an IEP, 504 Plan, medical or other approved accommodation, emergency or caregiving need, language translation, or another permitted school purpose. MCPS is not responsible for personal devices that are lost, stolen or damaged at school.

Montgomery County Public Schools 2025

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

More MCPS Resources

- [School calendar](#)
- [Parent resource page](#)
- [News and Information page](#) / [Noticias en Español](#)
- [Latest photo galleries](#)
- [MCPS TV videos](#)
- [MCPS TV español](#)