

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BACK TO SCHOOL

August 2023

Dear Rock Creek Valley Families,

Welcome back to another great year of learning at RCV! The summer always seems to go so quickly with new adventures and days spent doing things we enjoy. We are prepared to begin another year of learning where we prioritize our foundational rocks: instruction, communication, relationships, and equity.

We are excited about the plans we have in place for upgraded instructional practices to meet the needs of each student at RCV. We are asking families to partner with us by ensuring regular school attendance for your child. As a staff, we will focus on attendance this school year, as it is essential to student success.

This letter provides you with information about the opening days of school, Montgomery County Public School's calendar, some important policies, and the bus schedules. Please note there were significant changes to the bus routes, so we changed the colors for this year. Keep it handy, as it will answer many of the questions you may have as the school year begins.

We are all anxiously awaiting the opening of school. If you are new to Rock Creek Valley Elementary School, we welcome you and your family to our community; if you are returning, we look forward to working with you and your child again this year. Enjoy your last days of summer!

We will see you at the **Open House on Friday, August 25th from 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Kimberly Henriquez, Principal

Mrs. Catherine (Katie) Guenther, Assistant Principal

RCV Staff Changes for the Upcoming Year



Eagles Joining the Nest:

We are excited to welcome several new and experienced staff members who will join the RCV Family!

Third Grade:

Cara Tellier

Counselor (part-time):

Nicole Bamberger

Paraeducators:

Diani Perera

Magdalena Faberova

Fifth Grade:

Ellen Vause

Instrumental Music:

Isabela Rey

D/HOH Pre-K

Carley Saster

ESOL (part-time):

Jennifer Neukam

Eagles Who Have Left the Nest:

We wish them the best for the upcoming school year.

Jeffrey Johns

Shannon Zlotnik



Eagles Who Have



Changed Positions and Grade Levels

Liz Maloy-Grade 4 to Grade 3

Stephanie Iraheta- Grade 3 to Focus Teacher

Carson Pursifull-D/HOOH Pre-K to D/HOH Cued Speech



**Rock Creek Valley's Open House will be held on
Friday, August 25th
3:00-4:00 p.m.**

All parents and students are invited to come meet their teacher and visit the classroom. Students must be accompanied by an adult.

Class lists will not be posted at RCV this year. You will receive a post card in the mail AND an email from your child's teacher by Wednesday, August 23rd.



**The first day of school for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 is
Monday, August 28th**

The instructional day for students begins at 9:25 a.m. and ends at 3:50 p.m. Students arriving after the 9:25 a.m. bell are considered tardy and must be signed in by an adult at the front office. In the morning, students are admitted to classrooms at 9:15 a.m. Students should not be dropped off at school before 9:10 a.m. There will be no supervision for students before that time.

Students in Grades 1-5:

When students come to school on Monday, August 28, they should report directly to their classroom. There will be extra staff in the hallways to help direct students.

Students in Kindergarten:

The first week of school, staff members will greet the children attending kindergarten at all entrance doors and take them to the gym. Kindergarten teachers will then walk the students to the classroom. Your child will be given a name tag to wear each day the first week. Please help us by putting it on at home each morning. To allow for the establishment of routines, parents will not be permitted into the gym or classrooms the first day of school.

Save The Date



Join our incoming Kindergarten families for a playdate on August 26th at 4:00 p.m. on the RCV playground. You will have a chance to meet other families and make connections before school begins. Thank you to the RCV PTA for putting together this event!



Back to School Night Information

KINDERGARTEN BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night for families of students in Kindergarten is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. This is a great opportunity to learn about the expectations for Kindergarten and meet the 2023-2024 Kindergarten teachers. RCV Families will also have the opportunity to meet members of the PTA Board and receive information about PTA membership and upcoming events. This event is intended for adults only. Students are invited to attend Open House with their families on Friday, August 25th from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

GRADES 1-5 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night for families of students in Grades 1-5 is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. During this time, parents and guardians will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, hear about the plans for the year from your child's teacher, and meet other parents in your child's class. RCV Families will also have the opportunity to meet members of the PTA Board and receive information about PTA membership and upcoming school events.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION—PTA

The Rock Creek Valley Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) welcomes all RCV families to join us in supporting our students, staff, school and community! The PTA sponsors classroom materials requested by teachers, in-school cultural arts



assemblies, after-school enrichment programs, book fairs, events for family and community bonding, and prepares the student directory and school yearbook. We hope every RCV family will join us to help with this important work. You can become a PTA member by signing up at the PTA table at Open House, Back-to-School Night, online (<https://www.RCVPTA.com>), or at other RCV events. **The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the RCV Media Center.**

Important Dates to Remember

2023–2024 Traditional School Calendar⁺

Montgomery County Public Schools

2023

July 4	Independence Day—Schools and offices closed
August 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	Professional days for teachers
August 28	First day of school for students
September 4	Labor Day—Schools and offices closed
September 22	Early release day for students
September 25	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
October 9	Professional day for all staff; no school for students
November 1*	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
November 20 and 21	Early release days for students
November 22	Systemwide Closure—Schools and offices closed
November 23 and 24	Thanksgiving—Schools and offices closed
December 25	Holiday—Schools and offices closed
December 26, 27, 28, 29	Winter Break—No school for students and teachers
December 28 and 29	Systemwide Closures—Schools and offices closed

2024

January 1	New Year's Day—Schools and offices closed
January 2	Non-Instructional Day—No school for students and teachers
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Schools and offices closed
January 29*	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
February 19	Presidents' Day—Schools and offices closed
March 1	Early release day for students
March 25*, 26*, 27, 28	Spring Break—No school for students and teachers
March 27 and 28	Systemwide Closure—Schools and offices closed
March 29 and April 1	Holidays—Schools and offices closed
April 10*	Grading and Planning for the end of term; no school for students
April 22*	Professional day for teachers; no school for students
May 14	Primary Election Day—School and offices closed
May 27	Memorial Day—Schools and offices closed
June 13	Last day of school for students; early release day for students
June 14*	Grading and Planning for the end of term
June 19	Systemwide Closure—Schools and offices closed

*If the school year is disrupted by emergencies and schools are closed three or more days, dates identified as possible make-up instructional days include: November 1, 2023; January 29, March 25-26, April 10, April 22, June 14 and June 17-18, 2024.

+This list of dates does not apply to Arcola and Roscoe R. Nix elementary schools, which will follow the 2023–2024 Innovative School Year Calendar.

ROCK CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School Supply List 2023-2024

Kindergarten

- 1 backpack, big enough to fit a folder
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pack non-toxic purple glue sticks
- Headphones for personal computer

First Grade

- 1 backpack, no wheels
- Primary-style composition book
- 2 regular boxes of crayons
- 4 pack of large, latex free erasers
- 12 Non-toxic purple glue sticks
- Headphones for personal computer
- 8 pack of markers
- Dry erase markers, various colors
- 1 blunt-tip pair of scissors
- Pencils
- Pack of colored pencils

Second Grade

- 1 backpack, no wheels
- 1 regular box of crayons (24 pack)
- Non-toxic purple glue sticks
- Headphones for personal use
- Highlighters, various colors
- 1 box of #2 pencils
- 1 pair of blunt-tip scissors
- Black dry erase markers

Third Grade

- 1 backpack, no wheels
- 1 hardcover composition book
- 1 box of regular crayons
- Large erasers and eraser caps
- Non-toxic purple glue sticks
- Headphones for personal computer
- Dry erase markers, various colors
- Box of markers
- 1 box of #2 pencils
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 pair of blunt-tip scissors

Fourth Grade

- backpack, no wheels
- 3-ring, clear view, 2-inch binder
- 2 hard cover composition books
- 1 regular box of crayons
- Notebook dividers, 1/5 cut, clear tabs
- 2 pocket folders, 3 hole punched
- Personal headphones for chromebook
- Highlighters, various colors
- Box of markers
- Box of dry erase markers, various colors
- Blunt tip scissors
- Box of #2 pencils
- Colored pencils

Fifth Grade

- backpack, no wheels
- Hard cover composition book
- 5 pocket folders, 3 hole punched
- Personal headphones for chromebook
- Box of dry erase markers, various colors
- Box of #2 pencils
- Box of blue pens
- Box of red pens
- Pair of blunt scissors

Donations Please

Voluntary Parent donations are welcome throughout the school year:

Zippered bags, plastic, gallon
Zippered bags, plastic, sandwich
Liquid hand soap
Tissues
Paper towels
Hand sanitizer
Antibacterial wipes
Shorts and pants, size 4-12 for Health Room

AM ARRIVAL BUS ROUTES



Route: 5202 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES
First Stop Time: 9:08 A.M.

5202—Purple Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	EADES ST AND ORIENTAL ST (NEAR ARCTIC AVE)
2	EADES ST AND CAMELOT ST
3	ARCTIC AVE AND ARCTIC CT
9:15 A.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 5203 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES
First Stop Time: 9:13 A.M.

5203—Pink Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	ORIENTAL ST AND EADES ST - SOUTH SIDE
2	IRIS ST AND GRENOBLE DR
3	GLASGOW DR AND ARBUTUS AVE
9:20 A.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 5204 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES
First Stop Time: 9:06 A.M.

5204—Brown Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	LISTRA RD AND TALLAHASSEE AVE
2	ARBUTUS AVE AND PAYSON ST
9:15 A.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 5209 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES
First Stop Time: 9:06 A.M.

5209—Gray Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	5014 BALTIC AVE 20853 - AT ASPEN HILL PARK ENT
2	ADRIAN ST AND MCCALL ST
3	ADRIAN ST AND MARGOT DR
4	MARGOT DR AND MC CALL ST
5	ELOISE AVE AND ARBUTUS AVE
6	ARCTIC AVE AND MC CALL ST
9:20 A.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL

PM DEPARTURE BUS ROUTES



Route: 5202 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES PM

5202—Purple Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
4:05 P.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	EADES ST AND ORIENTAL ST (NEAR ARCTIC AVE)
2	EADES ST AND CAMELOT ST
3	ARCTIC AVE AND ARCTIC CT

Route: 5203 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES PM

5203—Pink Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:57 P.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	ORIENTAL ST AND EADES ST - SOUTH SIDE
2	IRIS ST AND GRENOBLE DR
3	GLASGOW DR AND ARBUTUS AVE

Route: 5204 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES PM

5204—Brown Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:57 P.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	LISTRA RD AND TALLAHASSEE AVE
2	ARBUTUS AVE AND PAYSON ST

Route: 5209 - ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES PM

5209—Gray Bus

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:57 P.M.	ROCK CREEK VALLEY ES 5121 RUSSETT RD, ROCKVILLE, MD 20853 819 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	5014 BALTIC AVE 20853 - AT ASPEN HILL PARK ENT
2	ADRIAN ST AND MCCALL ST
3	ADRIAN ST AND MARGOT DR
4	MARGOT DR AND MC CALL ST
5	ELOISE AVE AND ARBUTUS AVE
6	ARCTIC AVE AND MC CALL ST

Rock Creek Valley Parent Handbook

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

The Maryland State Department of Education has clarified that ALL school absences MUST be accounted for with a written note or else be counted as unexcused. Parents are requested to call the school in the morning if their child is not going to attend school that day and follow up with a note when the student returns to school. When you call to report an absence, please leave your child's name, his/her teacher, and the reason for the absence. You can also use the link on our website: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rcvalleyes/about/attendance-form/>

** Students are not permitted in school with fevers of 100° or higher. Students must be fever – free and vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Students will be permitted, to the extent possible and at the discretion of the teacher, to make up work missed during the period of an **excused** absence.

Attendance at school is extremely important. Research shows that there is a significant relationship between consistent attendance and academic achievement. The Maryland State Department of Education has established standards for school attendance, including both lawful and unlawful absences. As part of the Maryland School Assessment Program, all schools in the state of Maryland are monitored and evaluated on their attendance records. Students are expected to attend school regularly and be punctual.

- Students will be recorded as *a.m. absent* if they arrive at school more than two hours late.
- Students will be recorded as *p.m. absent* if they leave school more than two hours early.
- Students will be recorded as either *a.m. absent* or *p.m. absent* if they are absent from school for more than two hours, but less than four hours during the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day absent* if they are present for less than two hours of the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day present* if they are present for more than four hours of the school day.

If your child is absent, tardy or needs to be dismissed early, please send a note explaining the reason. This information is necessary for attendance coding purposes. Vacation trips are not considered excused or “lawful” absences. According to State regulations, the following is a listing of “lawful” absences for elementary students:

- Death in the immediate family
- Illness of the student
- Court summons
- Hazardous weather conditions
- Observance of a religious holiday
- State emergency
- Suspension
- Lack of authorized transportation
- Other emergencies

BICYCLES ETC



Students may ride a bicycle to school if written permission letter is sent to the office. A lock is needed in order to properly secure the bike to our rack. The school cannot assume responsibility for damaged or stole bicycles. It is important that parents review bicycle safety and etiquette. Bicycles are to be “walked” on school property. Please remember that Montgomery County law requires that all children 18 years of age or younger wear bicycle helmets.

BIRTHDAYS

Student birthdays at Rock Creek Valley will be called on the morning announcements. Each student will receive a birthday pencil from the main office. Birthday balloons, food (cupcakes, cake, etc.), and parties will not be permitted due to allergy concerns and the impact on the instructional program. If you would like to send in invitations to birthday parties, outside of the school day, we ask that you send in enough for all students in the class.



BUS SCHEDULE



Please read the enclosed schedule to determine the best (safest) stop for your child. For the first few days, it is wise to be prepared for minor delays as the new routes are established. If there is a safety question, please call us. We will have a crossing guard at the crosswalk immediately in front of Rock Creek Valley from 8:55-9:25 a.m. and 3:40-4:10 p.m.

CELL PHONES/SMART WATCHES

Rock Creek Valley students are discouraged from bringing portable communication devices on school grounds during the instructional day. Any cell phones or other portable devices brought to school must remain in the student’s backpack throughout the day. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged phones. If a cell phone or other device becomes a distraction, a parent or guardian will be notified and will need to collect the device from the main office.



CLASS PARTIES

Class parties are held twice during the school year for special celebrations: Fall Festival and Valentine's Day. Parents who do not wish for their child to participate in these or other celebrations, should notify the classroom teacher of their preference. Please do not send in ANY food items for these parties, including valentines.



DISCIPLINE POLICY

A Student Discipline Policy will be sent home with each child. Parents are asked to read and discuss this policy with their child so that students can continue to work in a safe and comfortable learning environment.

DISMISSAL

Students who walk home dismiss from the main front doors by the atrium. Parents should make a line by the intercom to give their number, and then move back by the flagpole. If your child in grades 3-5 will be an independent walker, please send a note to their teacher. Please remind any older children picking up siblings that ball playing, tag, and other games are not safe in front of our building during dismissal.

Students who are car riders will dismiss from the APR. If you already have a car rider number, it will remain the same for this year. If you are a new family, or now require a number for another reason, Mrs. Velasquez will be assigning numbers during Open House on August 25. You can also contact her by email or phone the week of August 21-25, if you will not be present at Open House.

DROPPING STUDENTS OFF AT SCHOOL



The parent drop-off area has been provided just outside of the school's side entrance. Parents who drop their child off at school or pick their child up in the afternoon should do so in that area. No cars are allowed in the bus circle (directly in front of the school) during arrival and dismissal. We request that all drivers remain with their vehicles unless parked in marked spaces and that no car be left to block the free flow of traffic entering the parking and drop off area. If a student is late, an adult must walk the student into the main office and sign them in.

EARLY DISMISSALS

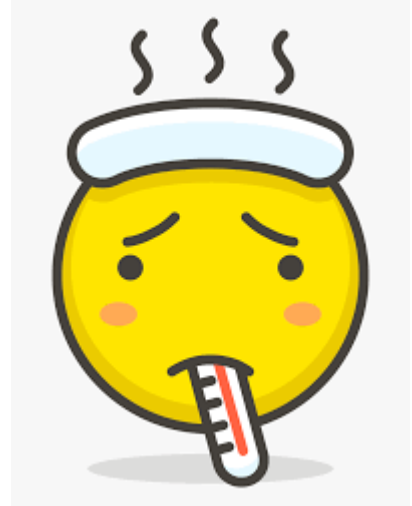
School is occasionally dismissed early due to adverse weather conditions, or mechanical failure (electricity, water) at the school. Please discuss with your child how they will go home in the event of an early dismissal to eliminate the need for them to have to call home. Early dismissals are announced on local media stations. Planned early release days are listed in the school calendar.

FOOD POLICY

As a result of the number of students with food allergies and sensitivities, Rock Creek Valley will adjust our food policy for the 2023-2024 school year. Our PTA will continue to provide goody bags with pre-approved snacks, drink, and activities for our two parties. We are asking that parents do not send in ANY food items. This includes with valentines or for any other event.

HEALTH ROOM

A health technician is on duty from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each school day. It is important for us to have every child's emergency information on file so that we may contact parents quickly if necessary. If your home, cell, or work telephone number changes, please let us know. Students who become ill at school may be picked up in the Health Room connected to the Main Office. [Please feel free to contact Ms. Buxton, RCV's Health Technician, at 240.740.1240.](#)



LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found area is located outside of the All Purpose Room for items that have been misplaced by students. Twice a year unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Parents and students will be reminded and encouraged to check for missing items before the donation date.

MEALS

You can apply now online for Free and Reduced Priced Meals (FARMS) at www.MySchoolApps.com. The online application is quick and easy, and must be done each school year. Beginning school year 2022-2023, students who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged that cost - meaning that **reduced-price students will eat for free!**

Full price meal cost:

Breakfast- \$1.30

Lunch- \$2.55



APPLY
HERE!



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MEDICATIONS

Parents are encouraged to administer medications to their children at home whenever possible. No medication will be administered in school or during school-sponsored activities without written authorization from the parent/guardian and a physician's written order. Any prescribed medication that needs to be administered at school must be in the original bottle and must be accompanied by MCPS form 525-13 (Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication). All medications must be hand delivered to the school by a parent. Under no circumstances will school personnel administer medications brought to school by a student. Over-the-counter medications must be accompanied by a physician's note to be administered by the health technician. Please do not send cough drops, throat drops, vitamins, etc. to school with your child. [Please feel free to contact Ms. Buxton, RCV's Health Technician, directly at 240.740.1240.](mailto:Ms. Buxton)



OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm each school day. An answering machine will take messages during non-school hours.

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

Regular communications from the school should be expected to arrive home with the students in the orange communication folder. These will include teachers' notices and announcements as appropriate. A bilingual email message will be sent to parents weekly, on Sunday evenings, through our Connect Ed system.

PICKING STUDENTS UP FROM SCHOOL



Once students have arrived at school, they will be released only to their parents, guardians or other adults authorized in advance. All students leaving school before the end of the school day, must be signed out from the main office. If parents want their child to be picked up at school at any time by anyone else, including siblings and grandparents, the parents must send a note to the school stating their wishes and the name of the person who will pick up the child. The person picking up the child must present picture identification to the school office.

In order to maintain safety at the end of the instructional day, please avoid picking up students for early dismissal after 3:30 p.m.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. (Please note that the new payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts)

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school. **Parents/guardians can register now at** - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

SCHOOL HOURS

The instructional day for students begins at 9:25 am and ends at 3:50 pm. Students arriving after the 9:25 am bell are considered tardy and must be signed in by an adult at the front office. In the morning, students are admitted to classrooms at 9:10 am. To ensure safety, students should not be dropped off at school before 9:10 am. There will be no supervision for students before that time.



TOYS



We request that students NOT bring their personal toys, balls, stuffed animals, trading cards, electronic games etc. to school. We cannot be responsible for these items and they are not needed for the instructional program or recess.

VISITORS



MCPS Policy requires that all visitors, without exception, must check in with the Front Office staff before proceeding into the building. This policy is enforced for the safety of the students. Visitors sign in and obtain a sticker from the visitor Management System (VMS). Parents bringing items for their child (lunch, band instruments, homework, etc.) will be asked to leave the items with front office personnel so that instructional time remains uninterrupted. We, at RCV, have an open door policy, as long as current health and safety protocols allow for classroom visitors. We encourage families to notify the teacher of your desire to visit in order to promote the smooth flow of the instructional program.