

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
APRIL 2023



Dear Diamond Families,

Spring has finally arrived and hopefully we can say good bye to the winter weather. April marks the beginning of the fourth marking period. We are very proud of the hard work that all of our students have exhibited during the past three marking periods and especially under this very unique and challenging learning conditions. We look forward to a wonderful fourth quarter as we near the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Friday, March 31st marks the end of the third marking period. The third marking period report cards will be mailed home for all students in grades K-5 on **Tuesday, April 18th**. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

As we begin to plan for the 2023-2024 school year, we need to get some information from our current K-4 parents. On page 3 is the Student Profile Form for 2023-2024 for Current K-4 Students. This is an optional form for parents to complete to provide information for consideration for class placement for next year. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher requests. Any specific teacher requests will not be honored.

APRIL 2023 CALENDAR

Monday, April 3-Monday, April 10
Spring Break- No School for Students and Staff

Tuesday, April 11: PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 12: 3rd Grade Field Trip to Imagination Stage

Thursday, April 13: Hearing and Vision Screening
5th Grade Art Open House- 5:30-7:00 pm

Friday, April 14: Hearing and Vision Screening

Monday, April 17: Hearing and Vision Screening

Tuesday, April 18: 3rd Marking Period Report Cards Distributed.
Cultural Arts Assembly- K-3

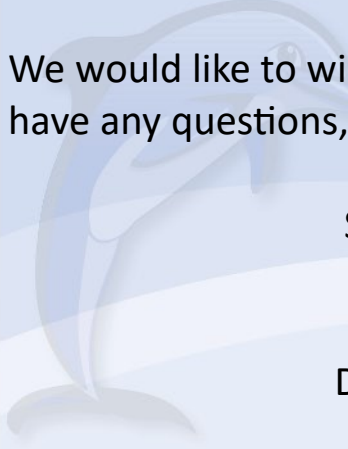
Wednesday, April 19: Mad Science in school workshop with 3rd Grade

Thursday, April 20: Mad Science in school workshop with 3rd Grade

Friday, April 21: No School for Students- Professional Day for teachers.

Thursday, April 27: Take Your Child to Work Day

Friday, April 28: PTA Sponsored International Night, 7:00-9:00 pm



We would like to wish all of our Diamond families a wonderful spring break! If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (240) 740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

Student Safety Reminders: If your child walks to/from school, please review safety rules with them accordingly. Students should only cross a street at a stop sign, designated crossing area, traffic light, or where a crossing guard is posted. Car-riders driving through the Diamond community should adhere to speed limit postings and drive with caution.

End of Day Plan Policy- Changes to Normal Dismissal Plans: Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated by the parent with the school. If a student's plans require a change from their normal dismissal, all changes must be made in writing by note or email to the school. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, or in the event of last minute changes to a student's dismissal plans, please call the main office prior to 3:00 p.m. Any adults who come to pick up a child will be asked to show documentation to verify identification and ensure student safety. Students cannot ride home on friend's school buses for playdates.

Take Your Child to Work Day: Thursday, April 27, 2023 is *Take Your Child to Work Day*. If you plan to take your child to work for all or part of that day, you must notify the school **no later than Wednesday, April 26, 2023.** If your child will not participate in *Take Your Child To Work Day*, disregard this message. You have the following options available to report this excused absence: If you plan to have your child participate in Take Your Child to Work Day, please click on the link to fill out the **Take Your Child To Work Day Form:** <https://forms.gle/bZNikozoMhqq8Es57>. If you prefer, you may complete the hard copy form and send it to your child's teacher. The **deadline** for submitting your request is **Wednesday, April 26, 2023.** We trust you and your child will have a wonderful, educational workday experience together.

MCAP Assessment for Grades 3-5: The state of Maryland MCAP assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which serve as the foundation for MCPS Curriculum 2.0. The MCAP assessments are computer based and are administered during the month of April/May. The students in grades 3-5 will complete four sessions in English/Language Arts and four sessions in Mathematics. Student results of the MCAP assessment are mailed home to parents in August/September. For our school, the MCAP testing days are listed below.

Parents can assist in the following ways which include:

- Ensure your child is reading independently every night. Reading can vary from fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Ask your child comprehension questions to ensure they understand what they are reading.
- Review basic math facts: multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
- Make sure your child is in attendance each day for the state assessments (please see assessment chart below)
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest the night before and a healthy breakfast.
- Communicate to your child that they should do their best and “stick with it.”
- Please do not schedule doctor appointments or family events during the MCAP testing schedule for your child’s respective grade level.

MCAP Grade Level Testing Dates

| Testing | Date/Time |
|--|---|
| <p align="center">MCAP English Language Arts (Literacy)</p> | <p>Grade 3 – Mornings (AM) on April 24, 25, 26, 28 Grade 4 – Afternoons (PM) on May 1, 2, 4, 5 Grade 5– Mornings (AM) on April 24, 25, 26, 28</p> |
| <p align="center">MCAP Math</p> | <p>Grade 3 – Mornings (AM) on May 1, 2, 5, 8 Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on April 17, 18, 19, 20 Grade 5 – Mornings (AM) on May 1, 2, 5, 8</p> |

Morning (AM) testing time usually ranges from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Afternoon (PM) testing time usually ranges from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information about the MCAP assessments, visit the MCPS website <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/mcap/>. For more information about the MCAP assessments, please contact the school, your child's teacher, or our school testing coordinators Mr. Neuman-Sunshine and Ms. Schwindaman.

Student Plans and Input for the 2023-2024 School Year

School Enrollment Plans for 2023-2024 (For Families currently in grades K-4): As we begin to plan for the 2022-2023 school year, we need identify our actual enrollment which then has an impact on the number of staff allocated to our school. Please complete this form by March 30, 2023 to indicate if your child will be returning to Diamond ES or not returning. Complete one form per child. Only fill this form out for students currently in grades K-4. If your child is in 5th grade and moving to middle school next year, this form should not be completed. **School Enrollment Plans Form for 2023-2024:** <https://forms.gle/evZaU98XgxfB49Qj9>. Please complete this survey form by April 20, 2023. Thank you for providing us with this information as we plan for the next school year.

Diamond ES Parent Input on Student Profile Form for 2023-2024 School Year For Families Currently in Grades K-4: With the end of the current school year quickly approaching, thoughts turn to planning for placement of students in classes for the next school year, 2023-2024. Your child's current teacher will advocate all she/he knows about your child's individual needs and capabilities for the placement decision, as we complete a thorough articulation process for each and every student. Parental input is also valued in the decision making process and the online form below can be used to provide the school with such information. In addition, this optional input form will be passed on to your child's new teacher in the fall. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher request. (teacher requests will not be honored).

The process for composing classes for the upcoming year is a task that we take very seriously through careful and thoughtful consideration as we all want the best for all of the children at Diamond. It is important to ensure a productive classroom learning environment for your child as well as for all children at Diamond. The Diamond staff wants you to know that we are committed to providing classrooms in which each child will have the opportunity for learning and personal growth. When making class placements we consider the following variables as we aim towards creating a well-balanced, productive learning environment for all students:

- Relationships among individual children
- Compatibility between the individual child's learning styles/needs and the classroom environment.
- Heterogeneous placements of student's academic achievement levels
- A balance in terms of gender, ethnicity, and race
- The varying degrees of adult assistance needed by children for successful learning

If you are interested in providing this information to be considered as decisions are made for class placement for next year, please complete the electronic profile form as soon as possible and no later than March 30, 2023. If you provide this form to the school after March 30th, there is no guarantee this information will be used in the class placement process.

DES Student Profile Form: <https://forms.gle/C1JUjpvNzcyjLc6>- **Due April 20th.**

Please complete an individual form for each child in your family that will be attending Diamond ES for the 2023-2024 school year. It should be noted that this form is not to be used for specific teacher requests. Such requests will not be honored. Diamond Elementary values parental input and precludes specific teacher request in our process for class placement. This optional form is a way of offering opportunity for those of you who wish to provide parental input. Further confidential concerns about student class placement for 2023-2024 may be addressed in writing to the principal, Mr. Daniel Walder via email: Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org.

We expect that parents will trust and respect the judgment of the Diamond staff in making placement decisions. We appreciate your support in our efforts to best serve the instructional needs of your child. Diamond Elementary staff members work together to draft initial groupings and class lists in May/June, but these are not finalized until late in the summer when we have the most up-to-date enrollment information. You and your child will be notified between August 21st-25th of the class placement decisions. The first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year is Monday, August 28, 2023.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program April Newsletter

What is going on in **ART** class during April?

Kindergarten – Students will be creating artwork out of a color wheel.

Grade 1 – Students will be creating a jungle scene using paint.

Grade 2 – Students will complete their mini art galleries.

Grade 3 – Students will be creating clay animal pinch pots.

Grade 4 – Students will glaze their coil pots and reflect.

Grade 5 – Students will complete stained glass inspired artwork.

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

Kindergarten students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will use pictures and/or symbols to represent long/short and high/low sounds. Students will produce appropriate sounds in response to picture symbols representing long/short and high/low sounds. Students will maintain the steady beat on instruments using locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Students will create movement and sounds appropriate to accompany dramatic poetry and fables.

1st grade students will be working on reading and notating simple rhythm and pitch patterns. Students will write or place notes in spaces and on lines. Students will match pitch within a limited vocal range for simple melodies and songs. Students will arrange and create sounds to ostinato patterns. Students will dramatize simple stories or poems.

2nd grade students will be working on notating the pentatonic scale as well as half notes, half rests and dotted half notes. Students will continue singing within a limited range. Students will identify various musical symbols to facilitate notating the music they hear or compose. Students will create simple speech or melodic ostinato to accompany songs. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

3rd grade students will notate simple rhythm and/or pitch patterns. Students will use the voice to improvise phrases that answer given melodic phrases in the same style. Students will continue to read and identify traditional music notation and symbols. Students will learn dances from various cultures.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

April Newsletter

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

4th grade students will conduct music with meter in three and four. Students will compose and notate simple melodies using a given rhythm. Students will read a variety of melodies and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

5th grade students will read and perform a simple melody on the treble staff in different keys using solfeggio or a comparable system. Students will compose and notate a short melody or rhythm using original pitches and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

What is going on in **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** class during April?

Kindergarten students will be able to demonstrate an underhand strike with hand.

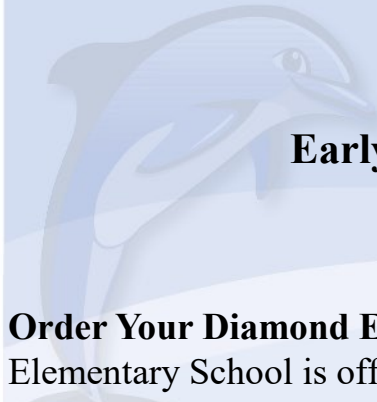
1st grade students will be able to demonstrate striking with various body parts.

2nd grade students will be able to demonstrate striking with short-handled implements.

3rd grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a forehand stroke.

4th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a backhand stroke.

5th grade students will be able to demonstrate striking a gently tossed ball over a low level line with a forehand and backhand stroke.



**Order Your Diamond ES Yearbook Now-
Early-Bird Yearbook Price Ends Friday, April 15th**

Order Your Diamond ES Yearbook Now: In conjunction with Classic Photography, Diamond Elementary School is offering yearbooks for the 2022-2023 school year. Pre-orders start in January and will continue through April 15, 2022, with delivery expected on or about early June. Early-bird price of yearbook is \$25.00 ends on Saturday, April 15. Yearbook Orders after April 15th will now cost \$28.00. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in June 2023. To order a School Yearbook, follow these 2 easy steps:

Step 1: Please complete this DES Yearbook Order Form. DES Yearbook Order Form:
<https://forms.gle/6RkyU5Q3Jr2ZBrK26> This indicates your interest in purchasing a school yearbook.

Step 2: Submit your payment for the DES Yearbook. (There are 3 options for payment)

Payment Option 1: Purchase yearbook online through Online School Payment:

<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

Payment Option 2: Purchase yearbook with check payable to “Diamond Elementary School” and submit to school’s main office.

Payment Option 3: Purchase yearbook with cash payment (exact payment only: \$25.00) and submit in an envelope addressed to Diamond ES Yearbook to the school’s main office.

We prefer online payments: <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>. As mentioned before, we also accept checks made payable to “Diamond E.S.” or cash payment (exact change only). Any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact Mr. Desai @ Rahul_G_Desai@mcpsmd.org.

Diamond Elementary Yearbook 2023 order

Only return this tear-off form if you are submitting cash or check payment.

Student's Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Quantity: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____