

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
JUNE 2023



Dear Diamond Parents,

We did it! We are at the end of another successful school year. This school year is coming to an end! We have much to be thankful for and to appreciate. Our school year has been successful due to the wonderful, collaborative partnerships between students, staff members, and parents. Our students are meeting high standards of performance due to the excellent teaching from our wonderful staff and the support from our parents.

A big thank you to our wonderful teachers and paraeducators on working extremely hard throughout the year to provide your children with a strong educational program. Thank you to the wonderful building service team have done an extraordinary job in keeping the building clean and sanitized each and every day, Teachers and paraeducators for providing students with a wonderful learning program. Thank you to the main office staff for their hard work in coordinating the enrollment, attendance, parent sign-out procedures, and volunteer procedures. Thank you to the Health Room Team for their support through all of the health room related procedures and visits.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTA and executive board and Mrs. Candace Brown, PTA president and for providing excellent leadership and support to the PTA committees, the school staff and administration, and most importantly to the students at Diamond ES during this past year, which were very unique and challenging. However, we were able to bring back some of our traditional events such as International Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, assemblies for all grade levels, Movie Night, and Finn-Go Night. Thank you to all parents on the PTA executive board and various committees for your endless contributions and dedicating a great deal of time to provide beneficial activities, programs and events to our school. We are especially thankful to all Diamond parents for your patience, understanding, and flexibility over the past school year as staff, students and families became re-adjusted to learning within the school building and health safety protocols.

Please join me in congratulating Diamond staff members on personal celebrations during the school year: Mrs. Siegrist, Mrs. Chang, Mr. Golden, Mrs. Risher, Mrs. Miller and their families as they all welcomed new babies to their families during the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Bothwell, second grade teacher, and his wife on their winter wedding.

JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

Thursday, June 1: Kindergarten Orientation– No School for Current Kindergarten Students

Friday, June 2: Kindergarten Orientation– No School for Current Kindergarten Students

Tuesday, June 6: Musical Extravaganza– Instrumental Music Concert– Grades 4-5 and Grade 4 Chorus @ 6:30 PM at Quince Orchard HS.

Friday, June 9: 5th Grade Picnic 9:30-3:30 @ Diamond Farms Park. Kindergarten field trip to Butler's Orchard.

Thursday, June 15: 5th Grade Clap-Out and Promotion Ceremony 10:00AM-12:00PM.

Friday, June 16: Last Day of School— Early Release Day– 1:20 p.m. End of 4th Marking Period

Report Cards Mailed Home in Late June.

August 1-4: Diamond ES Summer Welcome Back Packet will be sent via email and posted on school website.

Tuesday, August 22nd: Teacher Post Cards will be Mailed Home

Thursday, August 24th: Kindergarten Parent Meeting– Back To School Night @6:30 PM

Friday, August 25th: Sneak Peek from 2:00-3:00 pm. All K-5 students and families are invited.

We have already started the planning and preparations for the 2023-2024 school year. One of the planning areas is to ensure our staff exemplifies the very best of educators who demonstrate a passion for teaching and learning. Unfortunately, we will be saying farewell to some of our staff members at the end of the school year, who will be moving onto new endeavors. We would like to thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to our students during their time at Diamond ES. First, we would like to acknowledge a few staff members that will be retiring at the end of this school year. *Ms. Schwindaman*, Staff Development Teacher, will be retiring after 39 years in education and the past 26 years here at Diamond ES. *Mrs. Burney*, special education teacher, will be retiring after 32 years in education and the past 18 years here at Diamond ES. *Mrs. McFarland*, special education paraeducator, will be retiring after 43 years in education in MCPS and the past 24 years here at Diamond ES.

The following staff members are moving on to other schools/experiences:

- *Mrs. Brown*, school counselor
- *Mrs. Salabie*, third grade teacher
- *Mrs. Murphy*, Kindergarten teacher
- *Mrs. Robinson*, English Language Development teacher
- *Mrs. Chen*, paraeducator/lunch aide
- *Mr. Simpson*, third grade teacher

On behalf of the Diamond staff and school community, I would like to wish *Ms. Schwindaman*, *Mrs. Burney*, *Mrs. McFarland*, *Mrs. Brown*, *Mrs. Salabie*, *Mrs. Murphy*, *Mrs. Robinson*, *Mrs. Chen*, and *Mr. Simpson* the very best in their future endeavors. As we say farewell to great staff members, we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to our school community.

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members to Diamond Elementary School:

- ◆ *Ms. Danielle Lee*, our new 5th grade teacher. She is currently working at another elementary school in Gaithersburg, MD.
- ◆ *Mr. Andrew Bock*, our new full-time counselor. He is currently a school counselor in Damascus, MD.

We have a few staff assignment changes within the school building:

- ◆ *Mrs. Hageman*, currently 5th grade teacher, will become our new Staff Development Teacher.
- ◆ *Mrs. Dahlem*, currently 1st grade teacher, will be joining the 2nd grade team for next year.
- ◆ *Mrs. Casias*, currently 2nd grade teacher, will be joining the Kindergarten team for next year.

As we look towards the new school year of 2023-2024, we will hold our annual Sneak Peek event on Friday, August 25th at 2:00 p.m. The Sneak Peek is an opportunity for all students and parents to visit the child's classroom and meet the child's new teacher. Also, the Safety Patrol students will have a meeting with Mr. Golden before the Sneak Peek from 1:30-2:00 p.m. in the gym.

We will keep you informed of any summer staff changes or any new additions to the Diamond staff with our summer newsletter in August 2023. Once again, we would like to thank you all for a wonderful school year and we wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and exciting summer break!

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

Recognizing Teachers and Other Staff Members: If your student has teachers or other staff members who are especially meaningful to them, this season of the year is a perfect time for you to send an e-mail to the teacher/staff member praising his/her work. In casual conversations, many of you speak to a school administrator about teachers or staff members who you and your student think are outstanding, but staff members do not often hear those words of praise directly. If you choose to do so, you may send a copy to Mr. Walder at Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org and he will print it out to add to individual staff member's file.

Lost and Found: Our lost and found area has accumulated a lot of jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, water bottles, etc since January. Don't forget to check the lost and found section in the main lobby. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity on Tuesday, June 20th.

MCPS 2023-2024 School Year Calendar: Here is the 2023-2024 MCPS Calendar of School Days: https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/calendar/2023-24_TraditionalCalendar.pdf

MCPS Staff Gift Policy: MCPS Staff Ethics Policy related to accepting gifts: Gifts to staff are not expected nor solicited, however we recognize and appreciate the desire to celebrate our staff for their dedication and hard work. Occasionally, staff members will receive gifts from parents during the holiday season, at the end of the year, or for special occasions such as a wedding shower, a baby shower, etc. Please be aware of the ethics policy as you consider your recognition over the holidays and beyond. As a friendly reminder (or possibly new information for those new to the Montgomery County Public School System), the MCPS Ethics Policy states that staff may not accept gifts from parents/families exceeding \$20 in value or a series of gifts exceeding \$100 in value in a calendar year from any person or family. If parents/families decide to contribute to a class gift for the staff member, it must follow the MCPS policy and each parent/family contribution to the gift cannot exceed \$20 in value. For example, if 15 families contribute \$10 each to make the class gift value of \$150 or 10 families contribute \$20 each to make the class gift value \$200, then this will be in accordance with the MCPS gift policy.

Outstanding DES Obligations: This is a friendly reminder that all obligations should be cleared on or before Friday, June 16. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- Library books
- Cafeteria charges
- textbook replacement charges.
- Chromebooks and chargers.

We want all students to remain eligible for the end of year events. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Health Room Medication Pick-Up Process: If your student has a medication in the health room at Diamond Elementary School please make arrangements to pick up medications at the end of the school year. We are not able to send home the medication with students, an adult must pick up. *Health room staff will be available through June 12-16 for parents to pickup child's medicine between 9:00 am– 4:30 pm.* Medication that is not picked up by June 20 at 2pm will be destroyed. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call the health room at 240-740-2122.

Student Registration/Enrollment Process for 2023-2024

If you are registering your child for kindergarten or Grades 1-5 for the upcoming 2023-2024 School year, please follow the **4-Step Registration Process** below. If you already registered for Kindergarten, Thank You!

4-Step Registration Process

Kindergarten Registration Webpage: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/kindergarten.aspx>

STEP 1: Determine Eligibility

Children age 5 by September 1 on the first day of school are eligible for enrollment.

[Age and Attendance Requirements](#)

Contact International Admissions and Enrollment at 240-740-4500 to begin the enrollment process when:

- The student is age 7 or older by September 1 and has not attended school within the U.S. or a U.S. accredited school (i.e., Department of Defense school or an accredited American International school in a foreign country) within the past two years, or
- The student does not live with a parent or legal guardian.

STEP 2: How would you Like to Register?

- **Online**

You will need to create a ParentVue account [here](#).

If you have questions about online registration, here are helpful tips on how to [Get Started with Kindergarten Online Registration](#)

Kindergarten Registration Flyer: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/info/enroll/kindergarten/Kindergarten-Registration-2022-Interactive.pdf>

- **Paper Forms**

Please contact the Diamond ES main office directly. Mrs. Christine Chimera is the school secretary and Kindergarten registrar. You can determine which school is assigned to your address by using the [School Assignment Locator](#).

STEP 3: Important Documents

- Proof of Residency
- Identification
- Birth documents
- Health Forms

Parents registering their children for the first time in a Montgomery County public school must provide proof of county residency, identity, age and immunizations, unless homeless. Required immunizations must be completed within 20 days of registration.

Students who have previously attended school should bring their latest report card, if available. Students receiving special education services should bring a copy of the current Individualized Education Program (IEP).

School Volunteer Training Process:

As we begin to prepare for the upcoming school year, we are looking at opportunities next year for our grade levels to have regular school activities and events, including participating in field trips. This means we will have opportunities for volunteers for some of these school events. In order to permit school volunteers, we need to make sure all volunteers are properly trained and cleared before volunteering can begin in school. Currently, all volunteers/contractors must complete the vCAN (Volunteer Child Abuse/Neglect) module. In addition, depending on the level of volunteering, some are required to be fingerprinted, per the vCAN FAQ- [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/FY22%20CAN%20Volunteer%20FAQs_211129\(1\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/childabuseandneglect/FY22%20CAN%20Volunteer%20FAQs_211129(1).pdf). Fingerprinting requirements are not being changed for field trip events where we travel to another state.

Diamond Elementary School and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) values the volunteers who work in our schools to enrich our students' experiences. As a community, we all are mindful of our shared responsibility to create safe, nurturing environments for our students. In order to be a regular volunteer at Diamond Elementary School, all parents, guardians, and community members must complete the Diamond Elementary School Volunteer Training and MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect training. Here is more information on who needs to complete the required training.

- If MCPS records reflect that an individual completed MCPS training offered in the 2021-2022 school year, the individual does not have to undergo additional training for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Any volunteer who completed the online Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training in the 2020-2021 school year or prior, will need to renew their training certification in 2023-2024 by completing the Diamond ES Volunteer Training and the MCPS Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training.

The Diamond Elementary Volunteer training reviews school procedures and school expectations regarding volunteering in the school building. This online training takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. The Montgomery County Board of Education has revised its child abuse policy, and MCPS has engaged in a comprehensive effort to implement practices and protocols to ensure all of our students have a safe learning environment. MCPS has developed training for all volunteers in the district to learn about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. This online training takes about 30-45 minutes to complete and can be accessed through your *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/> or through the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org by searching volunteer training.

All Diamond Elementary parents, guardians, and community members who wish to volunteer at Diamond Elementary School by helping in the classroom, media center, grade-level field trips, lunch and/or recess, **MUST COMPLETE** the two-step volunteer training process which includes the Diamond Elementary Volunteering Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training before volunteering can begin at the school.

Volunteer Training 2 Step Process:

Step 1: Complete the Diamond Elementary On-line Volunteer Training: <https://goo.gl/forms/wpkTGnASgoY4un6f2>

Step 2: Complete the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training: via your parent *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* account: https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True, or you can access the training at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

More Information about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Training

The online child abuse and neglect training provides information about:

- Types of abuse;
- Grooming behaviors that may make our children vulnerable; and
- The MCPS procedures and state law requirements for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

While we encourage all community members to engage in this important, informative training, currently we only require individuals who **regularly** support schools to complete the Child Abuse and Neglect training. Infrequent or occasional volunteers who support large events or assist at one-time events under the supervision of school staff members are not required to complete the training at this time.

Below are examples of the types of activities that do not require completion of the volunteer training:

- Guest readers and speakers in classrooms where they will be supervised by a MCPS employee;
- High school/college recruiters and volunteers at job and college fairs;
- Parents/guardians or other relatives who are observing or supporting a celebration (e.g., a parade) or helping with a class party; and
- Parents/guardians staffing concession and ticket booths at large events.

We have the option of using the online child abuse and neglect training module as a resource to provide individual or small group training sessions for their volunteers, especially if accommodations, such as language interpretation, are needed. The online training is available in Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Parents/guardians will not be barred from participation in their schools due to the need for accommodations.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training are posted on the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect webpage www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect

Just a reminder, you must complete both the Diamond ES Volunteer Training and the MCPS Child Abuse and Neglect Volunteer Training before you begin volunteering at the school. If you have completed the training in the past 3 school years, you will need to redo the volunteer training this year since it has been more than 2 years. We are grateful for your commitment and partnership to ensure the safety of students. Your continued support will help to keep our school a safe and wonderful place of learning for all students.



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

June Newsletter

What is going on in Music class during June?

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 patterns and read notation for pitch patterns.

Students will use the voice, recorder or body percussion to improvise phrases that answer given melodic phrases in the same style. Students will read melodic notation on the treble staff and play on the recorder or virtual instrument

4th grade students will conduct or group beats in music with meter in two, three or four. Students will read simple rhythm patterns using quarter notes/rest, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. Students will compose and notate simple rhythms using their shaker/scraper and found sounds to enhance a song, story or poem.

5th grade students will read and perform simple rounds/canons, songs with a descant or partner songs to create harmony. Students will read simple rhythm patterns using quarter notes/rest, eighth notes and sixteenth notes. Students will compose and notate a short ostinato rhythm pattern to enhance a song using their shaker/scraper and found sounds.

What is going on in **Physical Education** class during June?

K-2: By the end of June kindergarten through 2nd grade students will be able to identify how body systems and physical activity effect the body.

3-5: By the end of June 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be able to explain the relationship between effort and improvement as well as design a realistic, achievable, and challenging short term physical activity goal.

What is going on in **Art Class** during June?

Kindergarten - Students will create ocean-themed art.

Grade 1 - Students will finish glazing their flower dishes.

Grade 2 - Students will explore weaving and craft wiggly creatures.

Grade 3 - Students will paint their pinch pot creatures.

Grade 4 - Students will finish glazing their coil pots.

Grade 5 - Students will complete their soft sculptures and reflect.

Diamond Elementary School Student Supply List 2023-2024

We recommend, but do not require, that students bring the following individual organizational tools and personal supplies to school on the first day of class. Students may need to replenish as needed throughout the school year.

Kindergarten	1 st grade
Crayons, 2 large boxes 2 Glue sticks, non-toxic, purple Headphones, for computer use Highlighters, yellow Pencils, #2 (box) Stickers, various	Crayons, regular (box, no boxes with sharpeners) 4- Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear Headphones, for computer use 2- Highlighters, yellow Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Pencil box Pencils, #2 (box) Scissors, blue-tip
2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade
Crayons, regular box, no boxes with sharpeners 2-Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear Headphones, for computer use Highlighters, yellow Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Pencil box Pencils, #2 (2 boxes) Scissors, blue-tip	Composition book, hard cover Crayons, regular (box, no boxes with sharpeners) Folders, pocket, 3-hole punched Headphones, for computer use Highlighters, various colors Markers, dry erase, various colors, box 2- Pencils, #2 (box) Pouch, zippered for binder use Ruler 12", millimeters/inches Scissors, blue-tip
4 th Grade	5 th Grade
Headphones, for computer use 2- Pencils, #2 (box) Pencils, colored (box) Pouch, zippered for binder use	Composition book, hard cover Crayons, regular (box, no boxes with sharpeners) Dividers, notebook, 1/5 cut, clear tabs Erasers, large, latex free & Eraser Caps 3- Glue sticks, non-toxic, clear Headphones, for computer use 5- Highlighters, various colors including yellow Markers, non-toxic, various colors, regular box Markers, dry erase, various colors, box Paper notebooks Pencil box 2-Pencils, #2 (box) Pencils, colored (box) Scissors, pointed Sticky Notes, 1.5"x2" (pack) Sticky Notes, 3"x5" (pack)

Grade levels have also included requests for donations. These items are not required, but would be greatly appreciated. This list has been revised under guidelines regarding MCPS Course-Related Fees.

Items to consider for donation at all grade levels

These items are not required, but would be greatly appreciated: liquid soap, hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, gallon and quart-sized plastic zip-lock bags, tennis balls.