

Dear Diamond Parents,

It is hard to believe we are beginning our second marking period. As we kickoff the second quarter, we will be having first quarter parent/teacher conferences which are scheduled for November 21st & 22nd. Many parents have already scheduled their conference date and time with their child's teacher. If you have not received a parent conference date and time, please contact your child's teacher. During your scheduled parent/teacher conference, you will hear specific information on your child's academic and social progress during the first marking period.

We would like to thank all parents who were able to attend the K-1 Open House, and the Halloween festivities. We would also like to thank all parents who helped organize the Halloween classroom parties. We have many things going on at Diamond Elementary this month. We will have Teacher Professional Day on Monday, November 7 for end of the marking period, followed by our Open House for Parents in Grades 2-3 on Thursday, November 17 from 9:05-11:00AM and Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22 are Early Release Days due to the Parent-Teacher Conferences. Early Dismissal begins at 1:20 p.m.

Please join me in welcoming new staff members to Diamond Elementary:

- ◆ Mr. Matthew Hall, our new building service worker.
- ◆ Ms. Gila Roth, our new part-time Speech/Language Pathologist.

As we get closer to the Thanksgiving holiday, we would like to wish you and your children a safe and healthy month and a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family! During this holiday, as families and individuals share their thanks, We would like to...

- ◆ Thank all the parents who will attend the parent-teacher conferences! We are hoping to achieve our goal of 100% participation, so if you have not yet scheduled a meeting, please contact your child's teacher.
- ◆ Thank you to the Diamond families who have already joined our Parent-Teacher Association, please consider doing so. Our PTA supports our students, staff and school-wide programs in endless ways, big and small.
- ◆ Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who share their time with students and staff to benefit our instructional program.
- ◆ Thank you to all families who donated winter coats during the Mrs. Andrea Virga Annual Coat Drive. We collected many winter coats that were donated to Linkages to Learning program. Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped organized, collect, and wash the donated coats.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 1

7:00 PM PTA Meeting- Media Center

Friday, November 4

End of Marking Period 1

Monday, November 7

No School for Students-
Professional Day for Teachers

Tuesday, November 8

Schools and Offices Closed Due to
Election Day Holiday

Wednesday, November 16

2nd Grade Field Trip to Strathmore
Music Center- 11AM-2PM

Thursday, November 17

Open House for 2nd and 3rd Grade
Parents- 9:05-11:00 AM

Wednesday, November 20

Report Cards Distributed

Monday, November 21

Early Release Day- students
dismissed at 1:20 p.m. Parent/
Teacher Conferences.

Tuesday, November 22

Early Release Day- students
dismissed at 1:20 p.m. Parent/
Teacher Conferences.

Wednesday—Friday, Nov. 23-25

Thanksgiving Holiday—Schools
Closed

We wish you and your children a safe and healthy month! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 240-740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

Open House Pre-Registration for Grades 2-3: Open House is a time to visit your child(ren)'s classes and observe instruction. This opportunity is only open to parents and guardians of record. Diamond Elementary School will offer small cohort-based Open House Event from 9:05-11:00 AM on Thursday, November 17th for Grades 2-3 with classroom visits from 9:05-10:05 AM and then a school presentation on Reading and Math in the All-Purpose Room from 10:15-11:00 AM. For the Open House for Grades 2-3 on Thursday, November 17th, all parent visitors will be required to sign-in with the school using their driver's license or identification card with the Visitor Management System. We have set-up a Visitor Pre-Registration Sign-In Process to help speed up the process. All you need to do is fill out the **Pre-Registration Sign-In Process for Grades 2-3 Open House Event Form:** <https://forms.gle/rnmfVi5QEARVg1c57>. Please complete the Pre-Registration Form by no later than 11:59 PM, Wednesday, November 16th. Then on the day of the event, bring your driver's license and skip the line to the Pre-Registration Table and show you ID and pick up your visitor sticker already pre-printed and ready for your visit. We appreciate your understanding to this safety matter.

Personal Mobile/Electronic Devices: based on Diamond Elementary School and MCPS policies, elementary students are not permitted to possess or use a personal mobile devices (including cell phones, e-readers, iwatches, ipads, etc.) on school grounds during the instructional day or at MCPS sponsored elementary school activities, including school building, field-trips, etc. If a child has an electronic device/cell phone, the device may be confiscated by the school staff and parents will be notified to come to school to pick up the phone. Students may get permission to use the main office telephones during the school day, before, and after school whenever they need to communicate with a parent or guardian with emergency issues. Calls about dismissal changes are made through the main office. Calls about medical concerns are made through the Health Room. Social calls or playdate arrangement calls are not allowed during the school day. Students are provided with student chromebook laptop computers to use at Diamond ES during the instructional day. While on MCPS property at Diamond ES, students must use the MCPS network (not private cellular networks) for Internet access, where MCPS uses filtering and other technological measures to limit students' ability to access harmful Internet sites. Diamond ES and MCPS will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, or damage to any child's personal mobile device or for the unauthorized use and possession of any such device. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the school administration. Personal mobile devices include Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, or other devices equipped with microphones, speakers, and/or cameras, and other similar non-MCPS issued devices are all considered personal mobile devices (PMDs) and are subject to MCPS Regulation COG-RA, *Personal Mobile Devices*, and MCPS Regulation IGT-RA, *Responsibilities for Computer Systems, Electronic Information, and Network Security*.

- Keeping children home from school if they are sick. Individuals who have been sick with the flu should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours. Any children or staff who are sick at school will be sent home.
- Reminding your children to wash their hands often with soap and water.
- Encouraging your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or utensils.
- Telling your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If they don't have a tissue, they should cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve, not their hands.

For more information, visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, the Montgomery County government website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu or call the County flu hotline at 240-777-4200. In addition, you can visit the DES Health page at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/diamondes/about/DES%20Health%20Room%20Information%202019.pdf> or contact the DES health room staff at 240-740-2122.

How to Contact Diamond Elementary Staff Members: You can contact your child's teacher or any Diamond Elementary staff member by email or phone call. Parents/Guardians can leave phone messages for staff at 240-740-2120. Staff email addresses can be found on the Diamond Elementary School website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/> under the Staff Directory section, which is available at the following web link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/diamondes/staff/directory.aspx>. In order to maximize instructional time, teachers will only be available to speak by telephone before or after the student day. Calls for teachers should be made between 8:45 a.m.- 9:10 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.- 4:25 p.m. Otherwise, the main office staff will leave a message with the teacher/staff member. In addition, teacher email addresses may be found on the Diamond website. We will do our best to return all phone or email messages within 24 hours.

Planning for Parent/Teacher Conferences: The parent-teacher conference is your opportunity to discuss how your child is doing in school. The conference also is an opportunity to strengthen the partnership with your child's teacher. Be sure to keep these tips in mind as you prepare for the conference:

For interpretation services to be provided, please contact the school at least one week before the conference.

How much time should I expect my child to spend on homework each night (each week)?

What does my child need to continue to work on?

What are my child's strengths?

How does my child get along with classmates?

What can I do at home to support what my child is learning at school?

Remind your child about the upcoming meeting and ask if he or she has any concerns or questions for you to discuss at school.

Remember that what goes on at home affects your child's performance at school. If there is a major event happening in your family life, consider informing the teacher, as it may affect your child's academic performance.

Arrive on time for the meeting.

Feel free to take notes and ask the teacher to repeat anything that is unclear.

If you have more to talk about than your assigned time will allow, ask to schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher.

When you get home, share the discussion with your child.

Follow up with any strategies you agreed to try at home.

If you will need a translator or interpreter for the conference, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

The following link includes a planning form that can be used for the conference.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/parents/Parent-Teacher-Conference-Planner.pdf>

Student Birthday Celebrations: Birthday treats are not permitted at school for students in grades K-5. Birthdays in grades K-5 are recognized on the morning announcements on the day of the child's birthday, and they receive a birthday pencil. An alternative arrangement is made for students whose birthdays fall on weekends, holidays, and during the summer so they can be recognized during the school year. If a child is distributing birthday party invitation cards at school, each child in the class must receive an invitation. Otherwise, parents must find another way to distribute birthday cards such as using the PTA directory to look up student contact information.

Safety Update: One of our commitments to the school community is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff members, and families. As we have many students who walk to and from school each day, we encourage students to walk in groups. In addition, our bus drivers want to make sure our kindergarten students have someone who will meet them at the bus stop or that they have an older student to walk them home. In addition, develop and discuss an emergency plan with your children for what they should do on early dismissal days (whether it is scheduled or due to inclement weather, no heat, no power) or if they arrive home and no adult is there.

End of Day Plan Policy: With changes to Dismissal Plans: Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated with the school and your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If there will be a variation in your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change in after-school care/activity or play-date with another child), your child must have a note addressed to the teacher explaining this particular change. A student who is going with another student on a different bus, cannot ride the bus unless he/she has a written note from his/her parent. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, you can call the office prior to 3:00 p.m. **Play Dates:** If your child has a "play date" after school and will be accompanying another student home by bus transportation, car-rider, or walker, your child **MUST** have written authorization from their parent/guardian for this to occur. If a child does not have written permission from their parent for a play date, school staff will have the child report home by following their normal routine.

Late Arrivals: Students should be in their classrooms by 9:25 a.m. each morning. We know that you make every effort to ensure that your child arrives on time. In the event that you do run late, a parent or guardian must accompany the child to the main office to sign in and receive a late slip. Children may not sign themselves in. To ensure the safety of our students, please do not drop them at the curb when arriving late.

Request for Language Assistance Translation: If parents need oral interpretation services or sign language interpretation for school meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school events, etc., please notify your child's teacher or contact the main office. Oral interpretation requests need to be made at least two weeks in advance of the school meeting or event to ensure interpreter availability.

What is going on in Art class during the month of November?

Kindergarten- Students will create pumpkin still life artwork.

1st grade – Students will create collaged pumpkins using magazine.

2nd grade – Students will create radial sand art, then begin exploring blending techniques with oil pastel.

3rd grade – Students will weave two paintings together.

4th grade – Students will create a viewfinder and use it to recreate pieces of famous artwork.

5th grade—Students will complete a fantasy portrait drawing.

What is going on in Physical Education class during the month of November?

Kindergarten will be working on self-throwing and catching.

1st grade will be working on underhand throwing and catching.

2nd grade will be working on overhand throwing to stationary objects and catching a pass from a partner.

3rd grade will be working on overhand throwing and catching at different levels.

4th grade will be working on overhand throwing to a moving partner and catching on the move.

5th grade will be working on overhand throwing to lead a partner and catching over the shoulder.

What is going on in Music class during the month of November.

Kindergarten students will be working on the steady beat, long/short sounds, same/different, vocal and instrumental tone color, vocal range/exploration, and movement to music.

1st grade students will be working on identifying high/low, and long/short sounds in music. Students will imitate rhythmic and tonal patterns, and maintain the steady beat through movement and on instruments. Students will identify classroom instruments and instrument families. Students will also identify the number of sounds on a beat.

2nd grade students will be working on playing a bordun with proper technique on barred instruments, identify strong vs. weak beat and simple vs. compound meter; reading the pentatonic scale, singing with proper posture and breath support; developing criteria for classroom performances and audience behaviors.

3rd grade students will be working on singing within an octave range, in two part rounds and with correct posture and breath support. Students will sing songs of varied repertoire and read music using the pentatonic scale with pitches of low so and low la, while identifying music symbols for pitches G, A and B, the staff, bar lines and the treble clef.

4th grade students will be working on singing with expression, in three and four part rounds. Students will identify repeating and contrasting phrases along with various musical symbols. Students will sight read rhythms and pitches using solfege and given syllables. Students will perform singing games, songs and dances from various cultures.

5th grade students will be working on singing with appropriate technique while identifying various musical symbols. Students will perform music of world cultures, including songs and dances from various periods and cultures. Students will sing partner songs and descants with clear diction and expression

Last year, MCPS updated the elementary report cards based on feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators to provide you with a more accurate assessment of your child’s progress.

- A, B, C, D in Grades 2–5.
- Kindergarten students will get a report card four times (instead of twice) per year.
- Includes overall subject grade (in addition to the end-of-year average and measurement topics per marking period).
- Includes reporting of key learning skills.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Grading Scale

Grade	Descriptor
P	Evidence shows complete understanding and use of grade-level concepts.
I	Evidence shows incomplete understanding and use of grade-level concepts. Errors impact understanding
N	Evidence shows minimal understanding and use of grade level concepts. Critical errors impact understanding.

Grades 2-5 Grading Scale

Grade	Descriptor
A	Evidence demonstrates a full understanding of content, concepts, or skill. Errors or omissions are absent or do not impact understanding.
B	Evidence demonstrates general understanding of content, concept, or skill with minimal support. Errors or omissions may impact understanding.
C	Evidence demonstrates some understanding of content, concept or skill with some support. Errors or omissions impact understanding
D	Evidence demonstrates limited or minimal understanding of content, concept and skill with significant support Errors or omissions are critical and impact understanding.

Learning skills will also be updated to include personal and social development skills and thinking and academic success skills. Personal and Social Development Skills are the effort and behaviors that affect learning. The chart below explains the meaning of the codes for Personal and Social Development Skills and Thinking and Academic Success Skills.

Code	Description
DEM	Demonstrating
PRG	Progressing
N	Not yet evident

Measurement topics are a group of related content, skills or processes in a subject. For example, foundational skills are a measurement topic in the category of reading and geometry is a measurement topic in math.