

# The Patriot NEWSLETTER



19110 LIBERTY MILL ROAD ★ GERMANTOWN ★ MD ★ 2087 ★ 301-353-8050

## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

We've had an awesome first week and a half of school! I am increasingly impressed with our staff's focus on providing an excellent instructional program for our students. I am equally impressed by our students' zest for learning as well as their kind and respectful manners.

Tomorrow (Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>) parents have an opportunity to attend our annual **Back to School Night** to hear about the instructional program. It'll also be a great opportunity for families to meet and greet other GES families as well. At 6:40pm, the PTA will have information tables set-up to sell GES spirit wear and establish PTA memberships. Then at 7pm, the official program will begin with all community members meeting for an introduction of staff and a general information session in the All-Purpose Room (APR). Around 7:35pm, families will be dismissed to classrooms to hear more about their child's instructional day, academic program, and expectations. As always, there will be a second classroom session scheduled (around 8:10 PM) so parents may meet another one of their child(ren)'s teachers, if that is the case.

Otherwise, after the first session parents are invited to visit more of the PTA tables or make it an early evening and go home. Please note, Back to School Night is a night designed to give an overview and not designed for parents to ask questions about their individual child(ren). Please call or set-up an appointment with your child's teacher, at another time, or wait until your child's teacher spends more time with him or her and can offer greater individual insight during the parent-teacher conferences in mid-November. Also note, **no child care is offered** tomorrow evening and due to the settling of the new gym floor, we will not house students in that space as we've done in previous years. Children who attend must be with their parents at all times. The school/staff will not accept responsibility for students playing unsupervised in the building.

Since mid-August when I sent our summer news- letter, we had some **additional staff updates** to share. We are pleased

*Continued on pg 3...*

Continue reading the Principal's message in the full version GES newsletter by linking at our school homepage  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

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**September 15-October 15**  
**Hispanic Heritage Month**

**Germantown Elementary**  
 19110 Liberty Mill Road  
 Germantown, MD 20874  
 Phone: 301-353-8050

**GES Website**  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)  
 Contact: Jaime Howenstein  
[jaime\\_b\\_howenstein@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jaime_b_howenstein@mcpsmd.org)

Listserv: Join and stay up-to-date! To sign up, submit your email at the bottom on our website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org) and click blue button GO

**Patriot Newsletter Editor:**  
 Kris daCosta-Warshauer  
[KdacW35@gmail.com](mailto:KdacW35@gmail.com)




## Dates to Remember

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Tues, Sept. 24              | Back to School Night 6:45 - 8:50 pm                 |
| Mon, Sept. 30               | Chipotle Fundraiser, 4-8 pm                         |
| Tues, Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>   | No School for students and teachers                 |
| Friday, Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> | PTA Meeting 7 pm, Media Center                      |
|                             | <b>GES Spirit</b> Day and Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm |

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

Thursday, September 11  
6:45 – 8:50 pm



**GES restaurant fundraiser!**

Take a break from cooking, treat yourself and your family at Chipotle in Germantown Town Center. The restaurant will donate a % of sales to GES, 30% of proceeds go toward grades 4-5 EOY field trip.


**Tuesday, September 24**  
**4 – 8 pm**

**Congratulations to our September School Spirit Classes of the Month!**

**Mrs. Edmundson’s class 61%**  
**Ms. Kiernan’s class 63%**

School classes of the month are identified by the highest % of (K-2 and 3-5) students in a class wearing school colors and/or spirit wear on the GES School Spirit Day!

Crossing Guard Info



Our crossing guards' hours are 8:55-9:25 am and 3:45-4:15 pm at the intersections of Liberty Mill and Dawson Farm Roads. Please plan your child's walking plans accordingly. Be a role model to your children and school community by using the **pedestrian crosswalks**. Traffic on Liberty Mill and Dawson Farm roads become very busy during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. When walking or bike riding, proceed with caution!

Catch up with PTA announcements, and other information!  
The full version GES newsletter is available by linking at our school homepage  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

Principal's Message continued ...

to welcome the following staff members to our GES family and say a sad but fond farewell to other beloved staff. They are as follows:

New Staff	Departing Staff
-Aisha Dukes, attendance secretary -Sunil Mallawaarachchi (asst building services manager) -Brian Burns (returning OT) -Katie Schroeder-Smith (PT) -Bonnie West (PEP 5 para) -Deborah Hokansen (0.5 HSM teacher)	-Nancy Jespersen (former attendance secretary) continues to be on long-term leave -Monica Gupta will transfer to Brown Station ES (9/16/19)

As my letter comes to a close, please allow me to also share the following **words of appreciation**:

- Huge thanks and gratitude to Neelsville Presbyterian Church for once again **donating backpacks** filled with student school tools and supplies for GES students in need. Thank you! (If you have a child who needs supplies or a backpack, please see our school counselor.)
- **Thanks to our supportive PTA** who provided breakfast for the staff during pre-service week (the week before school begins for teachers to set-up classrooms) and for the Kindergarten families at the Boo Hoo Breakfast.
- Our **building service staff worked long and hard hours** to get our building ready for the start of school.

I am signing off for now. Please call (301- 353-8050) or email me ([Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)) if you have a question, comment or concern.

Take care,

*Amy D. Bryan*

Principal

[Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)



Follow me on [@TeamGermantown1](#)

Child Abuse & Neglect

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) **mandates child abuse and neglect prevention training** for volunteers who regularly support all schools. Volunteers who took the training within the last 2 years do not need to repeat it at this time. New volunteers may access the training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: for Volunteers and Contractors," through the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect). Volunteers will receive an email confirmation to verify their completion of the online training module. Please forward this confirmation to either Jennifer Atanda (school counselor) or Aisha Dukes (attendance secretary) or provide a copy of the confirmation to verify completion of the online training module before volunteering in the school or for a school sponsored activity, such as a field trip. We keep a database of those who have completed the training and notify the students' classroom teachers.

# PTA News

GES Parents,

For those of you who do not know me yet, I am Meghan Lowery. I have 2 boys (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders). This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year at GES and I speak from personal experience when I say that getting involved in the PTA makes this school, and these years in your child’s life, a completely different experience. Our first year I “joined” the PTA. I completed my membership form, paid my dues, and we attended Pajama Reading Night. I didn’t feel a sense of community though. I didn’t feel like I knew the teachers, the staff, my kid’s friends, or their parents. Last year Danielle Story (PTA President Elect) and I made a pact to get involved. We started early with the October PTA meeting and attended the Fall Harvest Dance. Before long I had found time to make all the PTA meetings, attended several events, and even volunteered at the Book Fair and Movie Night. The school started to feel like a community, I felt like I had a voice, and my kids loved being more involved.

I hope you can join us for the first PTA meeting on **Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** in the Media Center and discover



where you fit with the PTA. Meetings are always the first Tuesday of the month (except December and April) at 7pm. If you’re able, come a little early for light refreshments and conversation at 6:45. We welcome fresh thinking and new ideas. Help me, help you, to make GES the awesome school and community as I had discovered and know it to be.

Volunteer opportunities are plenty during the school year! We have the following committee chairs vacant and waiting for your leadership:

- Cultural Arts
- Spirit Wear
- Grounds Beautification
- Hospitality
- Teacher Appreciation



One last thing before I sign off, SPIRIT WEAR! Coming soon. Keep an eye out for the long-sleeve spirit wear order form in your student’s red folder. If you miss this opportunity you will have to wait until the spring short-sleeve sale happens. We’ll place a heads-up on Facebook and Twitter.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com)

Best,

*Meghan Lowery*

GES PTA President

**Keep up with the current news and events:**  
 PTA website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org)   
 Germantown Elementary School PTA  
 Germantown ES PTA @GermantownPTA

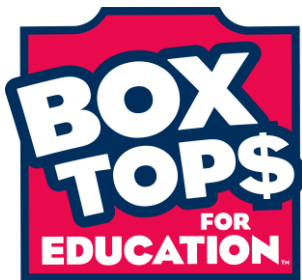
# Many shopping options you can support the PTA!

*Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for back to school supplies at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).*



Most of us already shop Amazon on a regular basis. By using the **Smile.Amazon.com** link and designating Germantown Elementary School PTA as you beneficiary, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases. It's the same Amazon you know and love, with the happy benefit of a PTA donation on purchases you're already placing.

Certifikid's mission is to bring families together to create unforgettable memories. They provide exclusive deals with incredible savings on activities, camps, classes, parties, and more. By entering the promo code "PATRIOT" during checkout any order over \$20, GES PTA will receive a \$5 donation.



Box Tops for Education is making its way into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century! Download the **Box Tops app** and scan your receipt after purchasing any items with the new Box Tops Logo. The school will automatically receive 10¢ for each Box Tops item. During the transition, you may still see some of the old logos. They can be clipped and sent in to the school. Visit [boxtops4education.com](https://boxtops4education.com) for more info.



Old Clip-able Logo



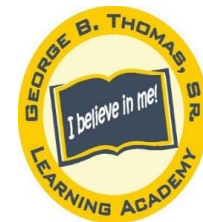
New Scan-able Logo



Join the fun at

# Saturday School

[www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org)



**Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment**

- Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
  - Breakfast is provided at 8:00 a.m. at all centers
- For Montgomery County students in Grades K through 12
- Curriculum is aligned with Montgomery County Public Schools
  - Grades K through 8 focus on reading, language arts and math
  - Grades 9 through 12 focus on core subjects (English and Math); support for High School Assessments; SAT/ACT support
- College and career readiness is emphasized

**12 LOCATIONS**

- Blair HS
- Clarksburg HS
- Einstein HS
- Gaithersburg HS
- Magruder HS
- Northwest HS
- Paint Branch HS
- Rockville HS
- Springbrook HS
- Strathmore **ES**
- Watkins Mill HS
- Wheaton HS

Transportation is provided at Blair, Clarksburg, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Springbrook, Strathmore and Wheaton Centers

**Registration is Easy!**

Register online at [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org) or at any of Saturday School's 12 centers. Registration is held on September 21, however, students may register any day that Saturday School is in session.

**September 21**

**Opening Ceremonies / Registration & Orientation for Parents & Students**

At all Saturday School Centers from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

A registration fee is required: \$40 for students receiving Free and Reduced-price Meal Services (FARMS) and \$85 for non-FARMS. If needed, parents may request a payment plan at registration.

For registering at the centers, cash, checks or money orders are accepted. For online registration, PayPal, Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

The following Special Programs are offered at the Saturday School Centers identified below. Please contact the center directly or go to [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org) for program specifics.

**KINDERGARTEN:** Watkins Mill, Wheaton, Paint Branch  
**RISING STARS PRE-K PROGRAM:** Montgomery Blair  
**SAT/ACT PREP:** Magruder, Paint Branch, Montgomery Blair, Einstein, Springbrook, Gaithersburg  
**STEM CURIOSITY ACADEMY:** Magruder, Northwest, Rockville  
**CODING:** Einstein  
**AP SUPPORT:** Paint Branch, Wheaton (Biology, Physics, Chemistry), Springbrook (English)

**AP BOOT CAMP:** Springbrook  
**ADULT LITERACY:** Montgomery Blair, Magruder  
**ARISTOTLE CIRCLE:** All Saturday School Centers  
**ROBOTICS:** Montgomery Blair, Paint Branch  
**ACES:** All Saturday School Centers EXCEPT Northwest  
**BRIDGE:** Magruder, Paint Branch, Springbrook, Einstein  
**CREDIT RECOVERY:** Magruder, Paint Branch

For more information call 301-287-8980 or go to [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org)

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS APPLICATION FORMS

**ONLINE FARMS APPS ARE LIVE!**

[www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com)

is NOW OPEN for parents to complete and submit the 2019-2020 Online application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals!

Households that complete an online application DO NOT need to submit a paper application.

Meal benefit eligibility from last year will remain current only through early October 2019 OR until a 2019-2020 application is processed. Students who received meal benefits last year must have a new application approved by October 12<sup>th</sup> in order to continue receiving free or reduced-price meals. Students may use their eligibility from the previous school year until a new application is approved or mid-October, whichever comes first.

Beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>, all students who do not have an approved application for the current year must pay for meals until a new application is processed.



Are you tired of making an extra trip to school to pay a fee? Are you tired of sending your kids to school with cash or checks that they misplace? Would you rather make a payment anytime from the comfort of your own home?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please visit our new payment site where you can now pay your student’s school fees by debit or credit card online using a web browser from any location, 24 hours a day.

**Se aceptan tarjetas de crédito y débito**

¿Está cansado de tener que ir a la escuela de su hijo solamente para hacer un pago? ¿Está cansado de tener que enviar dinero en efectivo o un cheque con su hijo y que lo pierda? ¿No preferiría hacer el pago en cualquier momento y desde la comodidad de su casa?

Si usted contestó SI a cualquiera de estas preguntas, por favor visite nuestra página web donde ahora podrá hacer estos pagos a través de la computadora usando su tarjeta de crédito o débito. Este servicio está disponible 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana, y lo puede hacer desde cualquier lugar.

<http://osp.osmsinc.com/montgomeryMD>

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\$1000 for our school,  
and be featured on WTOP**

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**JUNIOR**  
**REPORTER**

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LEARNING CENTER

**WTOP is looking for the next star reporter!**

Help your child enter to become a Junior Reporter...  
Entry window is **September 30th – October 20th.**

For entry, voting, rules, and more information visit  
**[www.WTOP.com](http://www.WTOP.com)** and search **"Junior Reporter"**

**Help us spread the word on social media!**

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**@wtopnews**



Retweet us  
on Twitter!  
**@WTOP**



\*Must be 13+ years of age to vote. One vote per person per day.