

**Flora M. Singer
Elementary School**

S e a T u r t l e s

The Sea Turtle Times

Flora M. Singer Elementary School 2600 Hayden Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902 Phone: 240-740-0330
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This week	8/21	8/22 Kindergarten and New Parent Meeting on Zoom 7:00 p.m.	8/23	8/24	8/25 Open House 3:00 to 4:00
Next Week	8/28 First day of School Arrival starts at 9:00 a.m.	8/29	8/30	8/31	9/1

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Welcome Back!

As we approach the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you. I trust that you are having an enriched summer filled with fun, sun, relaxation, and reading. It is nearly time for us to return to school and begin another year together.

I look forward to the new school year with excitement and anticipation. Over the past 11 years, the staff and I have worked together to build a special place for students to learn and grow. We continue to strive towards implementing anti-racist practices that create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We are focused on making continued progress academically, socially, and emotionally through daily instruction.

This is also a year of change, as we welcome many new staff members:

Lindsay Benjamin, Second Grade
Emma Bennett, Third Grade
Caroline Chance, Pupil Personnel Worker
Mary Anne Gehrenbeck, Home School Model
Hannah Graves, Kindergarten
Shannah Hartman, Second Grade Learning Center
Nikki Stiger, Fourth Grade

A very special welcome to our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Aaron McKinley. Mr. McKinley was a teacher here at Flora Singer several years ago and was most recently an Assistant Principal at Drew Elementary School.

We also have some staff members taking on new roles:

Bridget Quinn, Reading Specialist
Casey Rosenthal, Home School Model
Vanessa Cox-Tristani, Fourth Grade Learning Center

We extend a very special thank you to our PTA and its new leadership. We will also have several PTA parent meetings that I believe you will find helpful and informative. If you are not an active member of the PTA, I strongly encourage you to get involved.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. If there is ever anything that I can do to help you or your child, please feel free to call me.

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The Sea Turtle Times

This is our weekly newsletter. We call it The Sea Turtle Times, and we email it to parents every Monday morning. It is our main tool for communication regarding school events and news. Please look for it every Monday in your inbox.

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Open House

Our Annual "Open House" will be Friday, August 25th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for you and your child to walk through the building, locate classrooms, and say "hello" to the teachers and other staff members. Class lists will be posted that afternoon. Masks continue to be optional to enter the buildings for all individuals.

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Kindergarten and New Parent Meeting on Zoom

We will host a meeting on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22nd. Everyone is welcome, but this meeting is specifically for parents of students who are new to Singer Elementary. We review general information about the school, such as arrival and dismissal procedures. We hope you can join us. Here is the link to the Zoom meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/99875735805?pwd=aVFHZ0NJYk9HRVpxd0cwYk4yL1NWUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 7573 5805

Passcode: Singer

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Back to School Nights

We will have two Back-to-School Nights. Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Third Grade,



Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 19th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please take a moment to fill out this survey to give us valuable feedback for planning the night.
[BTSN Survey](#)

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Supply List and Bus Routes

Here is a link to our student supply list:

-  FMS ES - School Supply List - FY 23-24.pdf
-  FMS ES - School Supply List - FY 23-24 - SPANISH.pdf

Here is a link to the general education bus routes:

-  SINGER ES - 770 - REG ARR.pdf
-  SINGER ES - 770 - REG DEP.pdf

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Breakfast and Lunch

Meal prices will be \$2.55 for lunch. Our breakfast program is free to all students and available in the classroom every morning.

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch. Families can apply online now so that benefits will be in place when school starts. Families can access the online application by visiting www.myschoolapps.com/. Please remember a new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

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First Day Of School and School Hours

Monday, August 28th is the first day of school for students. Students may arrive for morning line up at 9:00 a.m. Students should not arrive prior to that time, as supervision will not be available. School hours are as follows:

Grades K-5

9:25 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

When students arrive, they should line up in the following locations:

Kindergarten	Lunch Room
First Grade	Top floor hallway line-up
Second Grade	Top floor hallway line-up
Third Grade	Hallway line-up (top or main floor)
Fourth Grade	Hallway line-up (main floor)
Fifth Grade	Gym or patrol duty post

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Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival begins at 9:00 am. Students may enter the building at that time and go to line up. Kindergarteners and 5th graders go to the gym. Everyone else goes to the lunch room. **Do not drop your child off prior to 9:00 a.m. They will be unsupervised.** Dismissal begins at 3:50. You may arrive prior to 3:50 to wait for dismissal. Kindergarteners are dismissed through the doors by the gym. Walkers, car riders and bus riders are dismissed from the front doors. **Parents must contact the main office before 3:00 p.m. with any dismissal changes for the day.**

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Student Questionnaire

We ask parents to fill out this important questionnaire for every student. This form

gives your teacher important information about your child, including arrival and dismissal plans. We will have paper copies in the main office and in the classrooms at Open House. We would like this form completed for every student by the end of Open House next Friday. If you would like, you can print it out and complete it at home, and then give it to your teacher at Open House.

Here is the form: [☰ Student Questionnaire](#)

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Communication

We maintain open lines of communication with parents and community members throughout the school year. The phone number for the school is 240-740-0330. Please call us at any time. You may also email Mr. Heatwole at kyle_j_heatwole@mcpsmd.org or Mr. McKinley at aaron_a_mckinley@mcpsmd.org. We also email this weekly newsletter every Friday to keep you informed of school events and announcements.

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Immunizations and Medications

It is very important that your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations. If you are not sure, please check with your doctor. **The state law mandates that children not be admitted to school without the proper immunizations.** **Medications must be brought to school in the original container by an adult** along with [MCPS Form 525-13](#) (Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication) completed by your physician. Medication will not be administered without proper authorization. Please contact our Health Technician if you have any questions.

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School Cash 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

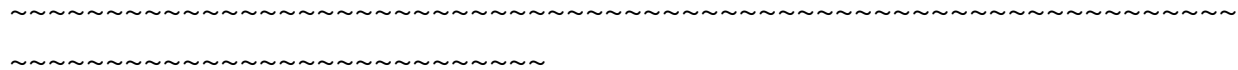
fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc.

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/>

SchoolCash Online also offers a 24/7 customer support desk that can be reached by online inquiry or by calling 1-866-961-1803.



Important First Quarter Dates:

- Tuesday, August 22 Virtual Town Hall for Parents-7:00 p.m. on Zoom
- Friday, August 25 Open House from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 28 First Day of School for students (9:25 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.)
- Monday, September 4 Labor Day – No school for students
- Tuesday, September 12 Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 19 Intermediate (3, 4, and 5) Back-to-School Night 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 22 Early Release-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.
- Monday, September 25 No School for Students
- Thursday, October 5 Fall Picture Day – Individual Portraits Only
- Thursday, October 5 1st Marking Period Interims are distributed
- Monday, October 9 Professional Day-No school for students
- October 23-October 27 Book Fair
- Tuesday, October 31 Fall Festival Parade and Parties starting at 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1 Professional Day-No school for students
- Monday, November 13 Fall Picture Day Re-takes
- Monday, November 20 Half Day- Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- Tuesday, November 21 Half Day-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m

- November 23, 24 & 25

Thanksgiving - No School for Students