

JACKSON ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

900 Jackson Road
Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904
240-740-0800 (Office) (Fax)301-879-1054



August 13, 2024

Dear Jackson Road Families:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited for the start of the school year and welcoming our students, staff and families back. I hope you had a wonderful summer full of relaxation and fun.

Communication between school and home is a key component to our success. There are many ways in which you can communicate with the school. We hope you'll take some time to explore some of the ways we like to share our great work with you!

- Our school website: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/jacksonroad/>
- Twitter: @velasquez_mcps @JacksonRoadAP
- Sunday Messages: messages are sent via the Remind App to the numbers and emails that you listed in ParentVue
- Monthly Teacher Newsletters
- Thursday Folder Communication each week
- Teacher Remind messages

Equally important is how we communicate with each other. As a school, we are dedicated to being respectful, responsible and safe. We strive to do the same as adults! We ask that if you have any concerns, that you please share them with your child's teacher first. They will provide you with their email at Open House and the best way to communicate with them. Please know that you can also communicate with the school administration:

Rosario P. Velasquez, Principal
Rosario_Velasquez@mcpsmd.org

Jason Reinke, Assistant Principal
Jason_R_Reinke@mcpsmd.org

We will continue to use the Remind app which is a platform that we will use to communicate with families and students. Messages will go directly to your emails and/or sent via text to your cell phones. Please do not opt out of receiving the Remind messages as this will be the main means of communication.

Upcoming Dates

- August 19-First Day Back for Teachers
- August 21- Back-to-School Night for Kindergarten 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- August 22- First Day Back for Paraeducators
- August 23- Open-House 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- August 26- First Day of School for K-5 Students
- September 2- Holiday: Schools and Offices Closed
- September 4- Back-to-School Night Grades 1&2
 - 6:30-7:45
- September 5- Back-to-School Night Grades 3-5
 - 6:30-7:45
- September 27- Early Release Day for Students; Dismissal at 12:55 p.m
- October 3- Non-Instructional Day: No School for Students and Staff
- October 18-Professional Day for All Staff: No School for Students

Open House

Our Open House is scheduled for Friday, August 23, 2024 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to visit your children's classrooms, meet their teachers and navigate the school. Class assignments will be mailed to your home via postcard. You will also get an email from the teachers with your child's assignment. The postcards should arrive by Thursday, August 22, 2024. If you cannot attend, send your children to school on the first day of school and staff will be available to meet students and help them find their classes.

Please be sure to bring a shopping bag to Open House and come visit our Food Pantry! The food pantry is now located outside, in Portable #2. We have pasta, beans, cereal, and canned fruits and vegetables for families.

Back-to-School Blacktop Party and Resource Fair

We will not be having a Back-to-School Resource Fair directly after Open House this year. Instead, we will partner with the PTA and host a Back-to-School Blacktop Party and Resource Fair on September 20, 2024 from 6:00-p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

Arrival and Dismissal

Our first day of school is August 26, 2024 and it will be a regular full day of school for Kindergarten through Grade 5 students. Buses will begin their regular routes. The JRES bus route information is included. Our school hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. daily. Students should arrive no earlier than 8:40 a.m. Students who arrive earlier than 8:40 a.m. will need to remain with their parents/guardians since staff are not available to supervise students until 8:40 a.m. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. All students will report to their classrooms upon arrival at school. Parents will not be permitted to escort their children to their classes.

Bus Routes and Information

Bus routes for JRES are attached. Route numbers, not bus numbers, will continue to be used this year and will be displayed in the second window on both sides of all buses. JRES will be served by many different MCPS buses for school-age students in addition to numerous buses for Prekindergarten/PEP students and several daycare/aftercare vans. We assign each route number a color to help students remember their assigned bus. Parents should also be aware that road construction, poor weather conditions, accidents and general traffic are a challenge, so buses may be delayed when picking up students in the morning and at dismissal. We recommend that you arrive with your student to the bus stop 10 minutes early to allow for weather or traffic related issues. Please review bus behavior with your child. Students are expected to line up in an orderly manner when waiting for the school bus. All Kindergarten and Pre-K students must be supervised by an adult while waiting for pick up and when buses return the students at the end of the school day. The rules on the bus are exactly the same as in the classroom. Respectful, responsible and safe behavior is expected at all times. A child may lose privileges if behavior is unsafe and disruptive. Finally, changing buses or last-minute changes to your child's end-of-day routine are difficult for students and staff. Any changes to your child's day need to be in writing for the classroom teacher and also communicated with the main office. Changes to that day's dismissal cannot be honored after 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please call the transportation office at 240-740-1851.

Car Loop

If your child will be a car rider, please make sure to stay in your vehicle when picking up your child. You may not leave your vehicle unattended while in the car loop, as it causes a delay in moving the vehicle along the car loop. Car rider dismissal procedures will be the same as in previous years. Each student will be assigned a number that is communicated to the teachers informing them that their student's caregiver is at the school ready to pick him/her up. Siblings receive the same number. Numbers will be assigned on the first day of school and will be given to the parent/guardian when they pick up their child.

A returning JRES student will keep the number from the previous school year. Please make sure to memorize their assigned number.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2024-2025 school year

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be providing free breakfast and lunch at Jackson Road ES in the 2024-2025 school year. Households do NOT need to complete Free And Reduced-price Meal (FARMS) applications in order to receive free meal benefits at our school*. We encourage students to enjoy breakfast and lunch at school, please check out [menus here](#). Breakfast will be served in the classroom at 8:40 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

*Households with students at other MCPS schools should check directly with those schools to determine if a FARM application is needed.

Supply List

Please see the attachment. The supply list is also available on our main school website at <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/jacksonroades/>. This is a recommended list of school supplies. Please note that all students are eligible to receive a backpack with basic supplies at Open House. Most school supplies are provided by the school for students.

Synergy/ParentVUE

The parent portal, Synergy ParentVue, will serve as the primary tool for all schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling and more. Returning students should already have an account. Parents of new students will receive an activation email or letter in the mail soon. Please enroll so we can share important school and community information in a secure way. If necessary, you will be able to update your contact information in the portal.

Message from PTA

We need YOU! The Jackson Road Elementary School PTA board has unfilled Vice President and Treasurer positions. The current board is looking for JRES parents that would want to participate in the PTA by volunteering for these positions. Please email Jacksonroadeempta@gmail.com for more information.

Technology Information

All students will continue to have access to Chromebooks for classroom instruction. Chromebooks will not go home with students.

The staff and I are looking forward to the start of the 2024-2025 school year and welcoming back our students! We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. See you soon!

Sincerely,



Rosario Paola Velasquez
Principal