

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal

October 7, 2021

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Rockwell Register



Happy October!

We have scheduled a **Conversation with Administrators** for parents. All parents are invited to attend via Zoom. We will send parents the link via email. We look forward to seeing you and talking with you about all the great things that are happening at Rockwell and answering any questions that you may have about the start of the school year.

Pre-K to Grade 2 Parents: 6:30 PM

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Grade 3-5 Parents: 6:50 PM



There is a new face in the Rockwell ES Main Office!

We welcomed Mrs. Shae Nelson to our office as our new attendance secretary on October 4th. Mrs. Nelson has worked with us at Rockwell for over twelve years in many different capacities. She worked with us as our summer school secretary and was a terrific asset to us as she helped with enrollment in both our summer program as well as our regular school year classes. We are thrilled to have Mrs. Nelson as one of our very important front-facing staff members to work with students, parents, and staff.

Mrs. Nelson will be handling all attendance matters including recording and coding absences as excused (lawful) and unexcused (unlawful) based on documentation that she receives. Here are some examples and important items to review regarding attendance:

- When the school sends notice to parents of the need for a child to isolate due to COVID 19, we mark this absence as *excused/sick* in the system
- When the school sends notice of quarantine due to close contact of a positive case of COVID 19 we mark this absence as *excused/quarantine* in the system.
- If your child is absent from school and it is not related to COVID 19 isolation or quarantine as determined by the school and communicated to you, we must have and keep documentation of the reason for the absence and determine whether it is lawful or unlawful. The written note or email from you should include your child's full name, teacher, date of absence(s) and reason for the absence. Documentation of absences is required by our school system and by the Maryland State Department of Education. In the event that there is an abundance of days missed from school, we

may need to request documentation from your child's physician. You can read our district's policy and regulation on student absences (MCPS Regulation JEA-RA) [here](#). You may send written absence notes to your child's teacher who will forward them to Mrs. Nelson. You may also choose to send an email to Mrs. Nelson directly shae_j_nelson@mcpsmd.org.

- We are obligated to inform parents when student absences reach 10% or greater. If you receive an attendance letter, please know that it is an invitation to have a conversation with either Mr. Isabell or Mrs. Clark about how the school can support your child and work together to improve attendance.



Out-of-School Time Event for Students

As part of the Office of Districtwide Services and Supports (ODSS) Out of School Time Initiative, ODSS is partnering with The Department of Recreation to provide opportunities

for students when school is not in session. This Friday, October 8th, The Department of Recreation (DOR) will be providing Kids Day Out at local recreation centers). All questions regarding Kids Day Out should be directed to the Department of Recreation, www.mocorec.com. See the accompanying flyer from DOR!



Thank you Rockwell Community & Parents

We were surprised to receive a check from our local Weis Market's store manager for over \$747 last week! This was the result of their *Weis 4 School* program. Shoppers donated funds by rounding up their purchase to the nearest dollar and designated their contributions to our school by signing up last fall. We are brainstorming on how these funds may be used to benefit all the students in our school- perhaps an "in-house" field trip or performance to enhance our instructional program. Rockwell ES has signed up again for this program. We will send information for how you can register for our school when we receive our new information for 2021-22.



Updates on Health & Safety at Rockwell Elementary

Weekly COVID Testing Continues:

Due to the early release day on Friday, October 8, 2021, the CIAN Diagnostics team is scheduled to be at Rockwell in the morning to conduct our weekly COVID testing. If your child is tested, you should receive an email indicating a negative test.

Notifications have been taking longer than expected, but you should be receiving them Monday at the latest. Should your child's test be positive, you would hear directly and individually from our School Health partners with instructions.

What if your child is sick? As always, if you have questions about procedures or guidance for when to send your child to school, please email our school health staff: Mrs. Ann Blanco, School Health

Technician (Ann_C_Blanco@mcpsmd.org) and Mrs. Arpita Ramkaran (Arpita_Ramkaran@mcpsmd.org). They are happy to provide guidance and answer any questions.

What if your child tests positive for COVID outside of school?

If you were to have your child tested for COVID and receive a positive result in the evening or over the weekend, please email Mrs. Clark (cheryl_clark@mcpsmd.org) AND Mr. Isabell (rodney_a_isabell@mcpsmd.org) so that we can provide guidance and begin the process of contact tracing and necessary communication with close contacts. We appreciate how our parent community is rising to the occasion and working closely with us to keep the school community safe- thank you!



Our Lost and Found Collection is Growing!

Our lost and found rack is located directly beside the doors to the All-Purpose Room. We have a collection of sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets and water bottles already after only 5 weeks of school. Please ask your child to check for any missing items. We will be clearing out the lost and found approximately every six weeks so that it does not build to an unmanageable number of items.

Have you considered becoming an MCPS Substitute?



MCPS is seeking substitute teachers! Substitute teaching is an excellent way to learn about our schools while allowing principals and teachers to get to know you. To qualify as a substitute teacher, each applicant must present proof of the completion of the minimum of an associate's degree or 60 college credits from an accredited institution.

Substitute teachers are temporary employees and are on an on call basis. An automated substitute calling system helps you manage your work schedule by allowing you to call at any time, day or night, to find jobs. This system is telephone and internet accessible. The system uses your subject area and location preferences to offer you jobs on the days you have selected and allows you to change the days you work.

Substitute Teacher Rates: Daily hourly rate of pay \$18.79- Long Term rate \$26.81.

If you hold a valid Maryland professional eligibility certificate or standard advanced professional certificate, the daily hourly rate of pay is \$19.97-Long Term rate \$28.45. In order to qualify for this higher rate of pay, you must submit a copy of your valid Maryland certificate.

[Apply now!](https://mcps.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=200051E) <https://mcps.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=200051E>