

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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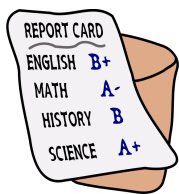
November 15, 2021



Rockwell Register

Honoring Veterans at Rockwell Elementary School

We had a wonderful school gathering on November 11th to conduct morning flag-raising to honor Veterans. We had 11 members of American Legion Post 171- Damascus join us outside for the brief, but memorable ceremony. Please ask your children about the message that was conveyed and the experience that we all enjoyed.



Report Cards Are Coming Home This Week!

Students will bring home report cards the week of Monday, November 15th. There was a delay in processing and printing them. In each report card are important notices and letters. Please take a look. Your child will bring home his/her report card in a manilla envelope.

Special note about report cards: They are in the process of being revised based on changing circumstances. For this marking period, you may think that some grades are missing as you will see blank boxes for different measurement topics. Typically, these have been shaded to indicate that the particular topic was not taught and/or assessed for the current marking period. There is no shading for this marking period, but there will be blank boxes. If you have questions about your child's report card, please contact your child's teacher.



School Improvement Planning at Rockwell ES

This year, all schools in our district have a singular school improvement goal:

To mitigate the learning interruptions to ensure all students are on grade level or higher for literacy and math by the end of the year

At Rockwell, we are approaching this in a variety of ways. The first best approach is to be certain that our students are receiving excellent and effective first instruction.

This means that our teachers are planning together to determine the best approach to deliver the curriculum in both literacy and math. We work with teachers through professional learning to sharpen skills and hone their lessons to meet the needs of students. We are examining student assessments to determine individual needs. We analyze state, district and classroom assessments to uncover deficits and strengths for individuals and groups of students. Teachers are organizing small group instruction so that they can differentiate from one group to another within their classes. This way, first instruction is not only effective, but also tailored to student needs to

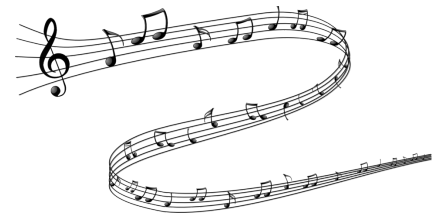
realize a state where all students will be at or above our grade level benchmarks by the end of the school year. We have identified more intensive academic interventions for students that address some significant learning interruptions that we have uncovered. Interventions are tiered based on their intensity and how often students are engaged in this type of learning. Our special educators, specialists, and paraeducators are all involved in interventions designed to fill in where learning has been interrupted for individual students. Your child's teacher may have discussed the possibility of a virtual tutoring program designed to take place after school hours. We have not been able to secure adequate staffing for this tutoring. It is on hold until we can hire the staff necessary to provide this one type of intervention. We will keep you updated on this piece of our program as things change. In the meantime, we are seeing students make terrific gains in their academic skills and knowledge. You will hear and see where your child is learning at your scheduled parent-teacher conference later this month.



Music & Movement At Rockwell ES

This year, Mr. Beabout (Physical Education) and Mrs. Looper (Music) are offering a MUSIC AND MOVEMENT class to all 4th and 5th grade students at Rockwell. We have had an amazing response with 100 students signed up! This is replacing our traditional Chorus Class for at least the first half of the school year. The goal is to provide fun and engaging activities that

promote student well-being through movement activities and music while practicing concepts and skills that we have learned in P.E. and Music class. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT class will be from 9:05-9:50 every other Wednesday, alternating 4th and 5th grade weeks. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT will include reading and performing music on Boomwhacker instruments, rhythm cup games, line dances, expressive movement, yoga, cup stacking and music and physical education games. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Looper or Mr. Beabout with any questions regarding MUSIC AND MOVEMENT class.



Kevin Beabout, Physical Education ([Kevin W Beabout@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kevin_W_Beabout@mcpsmd.org))

Suzanne Looper, Music ([Suzanne M Looper@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Suzanne_M_Looper@mcpsmd.org))

Is Your Child Missing Any Clothing?!

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 unclaimed. Some are new winter coats!

Please ask your child to check for any missing items at their lunch and recess time. 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.





Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers have been in touch with parents via email and phone calls to set up conferences for each of their students. It's important for all parents to be informed about how their child is performing and what parents can do at home to partner with teachers for student success. If you have not yet set up a parent/teacher conference with your child's teacher,

please be in touch with him/her right away. You can email all Rockwell staff using the [Staff Directory](#) on our website.

In preparation for a conference with your child's teacher, consider reviewing a helpful publication from MCPS: [Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences](#). We look forward to sharing all of the good news of your child's growth in academics and in their social emotional development as well.

November Dates to Note

Parent Conferences will take place in November!- Did you schedule with your child's teacher?

November 22, 23-Early Release Days- Dismissal at 12:55 PM



November 24, 25 & 26- School Closed- Thanksgiving

****Note: November 24 was added as a holiday- no school for students or staff**



Buses, Parking & Traffic Around Rockwell

We are happy to report that our buses are arriving closer to our dismissal time and students are getting home closer to the typical time that they have in past years. We continue to work with our transportation partners in MCPS to improve pick up times for our last two later

buses. We appreciate our bus drivers every day for their consistency and their safety consciousness in bringing our students to school and back home again. If you have an occasion, please express thanks to your child's bus driver.



Since we returned to school full time, we have had an increase in students being dropped off and picked up by parents. Some parents stay in cars and pick up in the pick-up loop. Others park either in the lot or on the streets around Rockwell and walk up to drop off or pick up students. We want to be able to accommodate all and at the same time keep all of our students safe as they come and leave school daily. Parents are always invited to stay in their cars and pick up- we work to keep this process moving, but safe for all. If you prefer to park your car and walk up, please be conscious of where you are parking and the impact on our neighbors. Cutsail Drive has a sidewalk on both sides and it is wide-enough to accommodate cars parked on both sides of the road (please take notice of the no parking signs close to the intersection of the school drive-way). The side streets

off of Cutsail Drive are not as wide and do not have sidewalks. When these streets become congested with cars on both sides, this makes for a dangerous walking path for students and adults who live on these streets. All of the streets around the building are public and are “open” for parking. However, we can all take care of one another and particularly our students by making adjustments to keep safe walking paths from close neighbors to the school open. We appreciate your consideration- Thank you!



All Students Invited to Saturday School with MCPS!

Montgomery County Public Schools offers Saturday School? The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy is regionally based and students from Rockwell are welcome to attend. Please visit their website to learn more about this program. www.saturdayschool.org.



Updates on Health & Safety at Rockwell Elementary

Weekly COVID Testing Continues:

CIAN Diagnostics continues to visit Rockwell every Friday afternoon for COVID testing. Parents should be receiving negative results via email. We will continue to test on Friday afternoons. You can give permission for your child to be tested weekly if you have not done so already. Please log into Parent Vue and search for COVID testing. If you experience difficulty, please call the school and seek assistance from Mrs. Nelson or Mr. Isabell.

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 call or 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!

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>

Parent Volunteers in MCPS & Rockwell ES

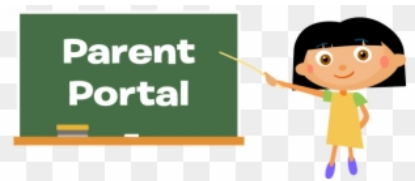
Beginning October 2021, all school volunteers and partnering agencies will be required to complete an additional new module via their *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* account called **COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation** in order to volunteer within our school district. Currently, all volunteers/contractors must complete the vCAN (Volunteer Child Abuse/Neglect) module. In addition, depending on level of volunteering, some are required to be fingerprinted, per the vCAN FAQ. Fingerprinting requirements are not being changed. The new module will consist of a volunteer a) attesting to being fully vaccinated, b) uploading their *Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination* from the Maryland Department of Health, and c) agreeing to specific expectations of masking and social distancing while in MCPS facilities.

User-Guides on how to access both module requirements and how to access and upload their *Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination* from the Maryland Department of Health will be available on the Child Abuse and Neglect and the [Volunteers websites](#).

Montgomery County Public Schools designates flyer distribution dates. You can expect your child to bring home flyers from the community on the following days:

January 21, 2022

March 25, 2022



View & Edit Information on Parent Vue!

In the past, we have sent home the “yellow cards/sheets” for you to check the information contained in your child’s official MCPS/Rockwell data. This includes parent contact information as well as other important data related to your child’s profile. We would like for all parents to become proficient in working with Parent Vue and we are here to help you! If you need assistance in logging in so that you can make changes, please be in contact with Mr. Isabell or with me and we will arrange support for you. Your ParentVue account will be with your child throughout their time as a student in Montgomery County Public Schools so learning how to use it now will be helpful for the current year and years to come!



Parental Consent for Online Digital Tools

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School may utilize a variety of supplemental online digital tools to reinforce the district’s instructional program. In the form below, you will find supplemental tools that may be used by Rockwell’s teachers. Links to each supplemental tool's terms of service and privacy policy, as well as additional information on MCPS' data privacy practices, are available on the MCPS Data Privacy and Security website:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/data-privacy-security/technology.aspx>



Here is the link to the Google Form: [**Rockwell's Online Digital Tools Consent Form**](#)



Lois P. Rockwell Elementary is in the first cohort of schools to implement *The Leader in Me* curriculum. Implementation is a joint project between classroom teachers, specialists and in particular, our counselor, Mrs. Kane. You can learn more about this and how you might incorporate the goals and objectives in the home setting by attending a session in the MCPS Parent Academy. Check out this opportunity and other virtual parent workshops and chats on the MCPS website [here](#).