

# Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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December 14, 2021



## Rockwell Register

Dear Parents,

The temperatures lately suggest that winter has arrived! Even though technically, winter begins on December 21st, we have all had to pull out the winter coats as well as other cold weather gear. We wanted to update you on our procedures for colder weather here at Rockwell with regard to outdoor lunch and recess:

- ❖ We factor in the wind chill to determine the “feels like” temperature in making all decisions about indoor vs. outdoor recess and lunch
- ❖ If it “feels like” less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, we choose to keep students indoors for both lunch and recess
- ❖ Students are never forced to eat outdoors; this is always a choice if the weather and ground conditions allow outdoor lunch
- ❖ We must be consistent with students for indoor vs. outdoor *recess* due to adult supervision requirements- all students either go out or stay in
- ❖ Indoor recess is held in the classroom and teachers have collected games and activities for students to do with friends in their classroom during the 40 minute recess time

Our teachers continue to take advantage of milder days to take students outside for a walk, to have a quick discussion, or even to do a short lesson. We will continue to do this as the weather conditions allow. This is a terrific break for students and Rockwell staffs.



### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Congratulations Kindergarten through Grade 5 teachers and parents! We hit the overall 90% parent/teacher conference held in November and early December! This is a true testament to dedicated staff who worked around parent schedules and to committed parents who made the time to talk with teachers either via telephone or on Zoom meetings about student progress and how they can help at home. Our Rockwell students are the beneficiaries of this attention to building a strong home/school connection. Bravo one and all!

Did you still need to schedule a conference? If so, please email or call your child’s teacher. Again, teachers can accommodate by doing a telephone or a Zoom conference with you. We could even hit 100% with just a small number . Call today and office staff will forward a message to your child’s teacher 240-740-5180!



## **December Dates:**

**Rockwell ES and MCPS System-wide Closure: December 23–January 2**

*We wish all of our Rockwell Families Happy Holidays and a Terrific Break!*



## **January Dates:**

**Early Release for Students @ 12:55: January 12**



**Holiday– ML King, Jr. Day: January 15**

**Professional Day for All Staff (No school for students): January 24**



**We are looking forward to our Annual Damascus High School Marching Band Holiday Concert at Rockwell on December 22, 2021!**

Each year, the DHS marching band travels to all of the elementary schools in the cluster to play a selection of holiday themed songs the last day before winter break. They end the concert with the DHS fight song which is a big hit as well. We missed this last year, of course. We have worked out a way to have the concert this year! It will be an outdoor concert. This concert is special to our alumni and staff as the band features Rockwell students in the band. Also, we believe this is a way for our young students to see how they can continue their own love of music as they grow and mature past elementary school. We typically do not invite parents to attend, but if you are in the neighborhood, we can have a place for you outside as well.



[Health and Safety Procedures: Information from MCPS](#)

**Information on vaccination clinics in MCPS Buildings**

**Week of December 13<sup>th</sup> through December 17<sup>th</sup> (afterschool sites 3:30pm-6:30pm)  
1st Dose/These are ALL new sites!**

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> Fox Chapel ES Jackson Road ES</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday</u></b> Dr. Sally K. Ride ES Harmony Hills ES</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b> Arcola ES Oak View ES Poolesville ES Maryvale ES</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday</u></b> Brookhaven ES Cannon Road ES</p>
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**Weekend of December 18<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> (10:00am to 6:00pm) 1st Dose**

<p><b><u>Saturday</u></b> Bannker MS Neelsville MS Gaithersburg MS Paint Branch HS (adult boosters)</p>	<p><b><u>Sunday</u></b> Takoma Park MS Briggs Chaney MS Martin Luther King MS</p>
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**Sunday January 2, 2022 (10:00am-6:00pm) 2ndDose**

<p><b><u>Sunday</u></b> Martin Luther King MS Briggs Chaney MS Rocky Hill MS Frances Scott Key MS Takoma Park MS</p>
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**Week of January 3<sup>rd</sup> through January 7<sup>th</sup> (afterschool sites 3:30pm-6:30pm) 1st Dose/2nd Dose**

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> Fox Chapel ES Jackson Road ES</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday</u></b> Dr. Sally K. Ride ES Harmony Hills ES</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b> Arcola ES Oak View ES Poolesville ES Maryvale ES</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday</u></b> Brookhaven ES Cannon Road ES</p>
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**Weekend of January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup> (10:00am to 6:00pm) 2nd Dose**

<p><b><u>Saturday</u></b> Bannker MS Neelsville MS Gaithersburg MS</p>	<p><b><u>Sunday</u></b> Takoma Park MS Briggs Chaney MS Martin Luther King MS</p>
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## Looking for a lost hat, glove or coat? It could be in Rockwell's Lost and Found!

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.



## 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](mailto:Ann_C_Blanco@mcpsmd.org)) and Mrs. Arpita Ramkaran ([Arpita\\_Ramkaran@mcpsmd.org](mailto: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](mailto:cheryl_clark@mcpsmd.org)) AND Mr. Isabell ([rodney\\_a\\_isabell@mcpsmd.org](mailto: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>



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](#).