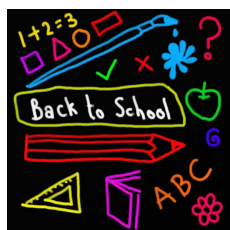


Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal

August 27, 2021

ROCKWELL REGISTER



Welcome Back to School!

It was great to see so many families at our outdoor “meet and greet” event on Thursday morning. We hope you enjoyed the pictures and videos that teachers sent to introduce your children and you to the classroom. We are excited to have all students in the building on Monday, August 30th!

Through this newsletter we will share some helpful hints to the start of the school year. If you have questions or concerns about your child beginning the school year, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or Mr. Isabell, Assistant Principal (rodney_a_isabell@mcpsmd.org) or Mrs. Clark, Principal (cheryl_clark@mcpsmd.org.) We want to provide you with all the information that you need to get the 2021-22 school year off to a great start!



Rockwell PTA Rocks!

We want to thank our PTA leaders for providing the awesome Kona Ice truck for our outdoor Meet & Greet event. They generously arranged for every Rockwell student to have a free Kona ice as a Welcome Back! Treat.

Also, our PTA provided breakfast treats for our staff during our pre-service meetings on Wednesday, August 25. We appreciate your kindness and your willingness to recognize the staff for their dedication and hard work in getting our school ready to accept students on our first day.



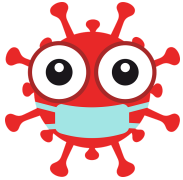
COMMUNICATION IS KEY!



We have spent the last several weeks verifying and correcting email contacts for parents for every child. Please review your contact information in Parent Vue to be certain that we have the latest email and phone numbers. Should your information change, please be sure that you update any changes with our system. If you have any trouble with your Parent Vue, please email Mr. Isabell.



Resources to Enhance Your Child's Educational Experience and to Read Updated Information can be found on our website: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rockwelles/>



We care about the health of our students and every Rockwell School Community member which is why we will follow all guidelines set forth by our school system leaders in this letter to the community:

The Montgomery County Board of Education and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are committed to providing students with the world-class education they deserve, addressing their social, emotional and academic needs. This commitment is shared by teachers, administrators, supporting services staff, parents and the community.

The health and safety of our students and staff must remain a priority. Although COVID-19 remains with us, MCPS intends to carry out its commitment to deliver in-person instruction, five days a week, for all of our students. We have developed a plan to ensure a safe return to school and will continue to be proactive in the face of continuously changing circumstances. The success of this plan also depends on individual actions, so we strongly encourage every person who is able to be vaccinated to do so before the start of the school year.

We have faced unprecedented challenges the past school year, but we are more determined than ever to provide our students with a high-quality education in a safe environment. We commit to the following measures in order to protect our students, teachers, staff and the community:

- Require that face masks be worn in all school buildings, buses and MCPS facilities, regardless of vaccination status
- Require that employees submit proof of vaccination or participate in weekly COVID-19 testing
- Encourage the use of outdoor spaces for unmasked educational, recreational and social experiences for our students
- Facilitate continuity of educational services for students who are unable to attend in-person instruction due to the need to quarantine
- Provide opportunities for individuals to engage in proactive preventative measures, such as frequent hand-washing
- Remind students and staff that they must stay home when experiencing any possible symptoms of COVID-19

- Ensure school facilities will be regularly sanitized, equipped with cleaning supplies, and ventilation and air quality monitored
- Provide in-school COVID-19 pool testing for random samples of students in prekindergarten through 6th grade, since students younger than 12 are not eligible to receive the vaccine
- Communicate clearly, concisely and in a timely manner with families and staff as information becomes available
- Respond to changing conditions so that our students will not experience major disruptions in their education

By working together, we can ensure our students can safely learn and thrive as they return to school. They are supported by the most talented and dedicated workforce in the nation, and we continue to applaud their efforts. Our commitments to the entire MCPS community are critical steps to achieving a successful start to the school year for all students.

Sincerely,

Brenda Wolff, president, Montgomery County Board of Education

Monifa B. McKnight, Ed.D., interim superintendent of schools



Recess Before Lunch	Lunch Time	Recess After Lunch
	11:00-11:30 Kindergarten	
10:50-11:30 Grade 2	11:30-12:00 Grades 4 & 2	12:00-12:40 Grade 4
11:20-12:00 Grade 1	12:00-12:30 Grade 1 & 3	12:30-1:10 Grade 3
	12:30-1:00 Grade 5	1:00-1:40 Grade 5
		1:30-2:10 Kindergarten

During the first week of school, we will be teaching procedures and protocol for lunch and recess at school and all students will be indoors for lunch. We will allow time for proper handwashing for all students prior to eating lunch. We also take time to teach students about recycling when they clean up their trash following lunch. We will continue to remind students that there is no sharing of food

with one another. This is important to remind your children so we can avoid any issues with food allergies. If your child needs a “peanut-free” lunch table, please reach out to your child’s teacher or the school nurse or health aid and we will make these arrangements.



On September 8th, we will begin an option for students to choose to eat outdoors in the shaded portion of our property outside the grade one classes and the gymnasium. This area will be set aside for students to go outside to eat. Students will need to bring in a child-sized beach towel to enjoy a picnic on the grass. A group of parents are seeking donations for extra child-sized beach towels to give to students so that all of students can take advantage of this option. Students will be responsible for taking their “picnic towel”

to lunch and then rolling or folding it up daily to store in their cubby in the classroom. We will encourage students to take these towels home weekly to be laundered. This outdoor eating option is completely dependent upon the weather and the ground conditions outside. We can accommodate all students in the cafeteria properly spaced apart, but we will offer the outside option whenever feasible.

Any student who is overly bothered or who is allergic to bees, should not opt to eat outdoors. When food is introduced to the area, stinging insects may be an unwanted consequence. We will do all that we can to make the experience pleasant; however, this will be a choice for every student. If you are willing to donate “picnic towels”, please email Mrs. Clark (cheryl_clark@mcpsmd.org) and you will be put in touch with our parent group who is leading this effort. Thank you in advance!

Back to School Night ... will be virtual on September 14, 2021 ~ 7:00 PM!

Your child’s teacher will hold a live Zoom Meeting to present important curricular information and allow you to ask questions about the instructional program. Please look for an email from your child’s teacher with details!