2023-2024
Prekindergarten/Head Start Calendar

Child’s Name: __________________________________________
Prekindergarten (Pre-K)/Head Start Family Service Worker assigned to child’s class: ___________________________

Phone: 240-740-4530

Maryland’s Largest School District
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
## 2023–2024 Pre-K/Head Start Calendar

**2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 21-25</td>
<td>Professional days for teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>First day of school for students (K-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28-Sept. 1</td>
<td>Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Pre-K and Head Start students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Labor Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5 and 6</td>
<td>Staggered opening for Head Start and Pre-K students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>First day for all Head Start / Pre-K students</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Early release day for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>No School for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Head Start Parent Orientations End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>No School for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Prekindergarten Orientations End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>No school for all students; end of quarter planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20 and 21</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 23 and 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4-7</td>
<td>National Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Conference, New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Winter Lights Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25-29</td>
<td>Winter Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed December 25 and Jan 1</td>
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**2024**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>Winter Break— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>Winter Break— No school for students and teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>No school for all students; end of quarter planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30- February 2</td>
<td>Head Start Home/Family Visits— No school for Head Start students</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Pre-K and Head Start Teachers’ Training—No Classes for Pre-K and Head Start Students (Group B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Early release day for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Fatherhood Activity – 6:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25-April 1</td>
<td>Spring Break—No school for students and teachers; offices closed March 27 – April 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>No school for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15-18</td>
<td>National Head Start Conference – Portland, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>No school for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Policy Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Primary Election Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Memorial Day— SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Policy Council Monthly Meeting - 6:00 PM – Virtual Meeting/Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Last day of school for Prekindergarten/Head Start Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Last Day of School (K-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Professional Day for Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Juneteenth -- SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
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**PROFESSIONAL DAYS FOR TEACHERS**

[TYPICAL CALENDAR SCHOOLS ONLY]

- **First Day of School for Students (K-12)**
- Head Start Home/Family Visits—No school for Pre-K and Head Start students

*Read and share good books/visit the county fair.*
Pre-K/Head Start Staff

ADMINISTRATION ................. 240-740-4530
Jessica Blasic ................ Supervisor, Pre-K/HS
Michelle Esema .................. Coordinator
Valerie Ashton .................. Head Start Program Manager
Gloria Diaz ...................... Accountant
Kevin Shim ..................... Data Systems Operator
Elsa Rios ......................... Data Systems Operator
Jocelyn Joya ..................... Administrative Secretary
Jeanette Zepeda Escobar .... Administrative Secretary
Joanna Vasquez .................. Registrar
Flor Martinez .................... Registrar

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
AND HEALTH SERVICES—
EDUCATION STAFF ............. 240-740-4530
Rhonda Amissah .............. Instructional Specialist
Kelly Barrett ................ Instructional Specialist
Stephanie Brink ............. Instructional Specialist
Deirdra Fuller ............... Instructional Specialist
Jii Olds ......................... Instructional Specialist
Louise Tolin .................. Instructional Specialist
Shalini Komal ................ Pre-K Central Office Teacher
Shona Weaver ................. Pre-K Central Office Teacher
Susan Dowling .............. Program Support Teacher
Sonali Motha ................ Program Support Teacher
Maree Nicoll ................ Program Support Teacher
Gabriella Estevez ............ Psychologist
Sara McKeen .................. Psychologist
Marissa Senese .............. Psychologist
Julie Shields .................. Psychologist
Victoria Willingham ......... Psychologist
Joe Ann Robinson ............ Speech/Language Pathologist
Lynne Teoman .............. Speech/Language Pathologist

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) .... 240-777-1553
Beka Urgessa .................. Health Services Manager
Lesley Konigsburg ........... Dental Hygienist
Teresa Soodak ............... Dental Hygienist
Wond Workalemahu ........... Eligibility Specialist
Norma Davis ................ Health Aide
Terri Hock ..................... Health Aide
Cheryl Pyle .................... Health Aide
Mina Aliabadi ................. Nurse
Pamela Gambon ............. Nurse
Reene McNevin .............. Nurse
Kimberly Muhammed .... Nurse
Nomvuyo Qubeka ............. Nurse
Simone Roberts .............. Nurse
Patricia Winters ............. Nurse
Nina Munck ................... Nurse

Parent, Family, and
Community Engagement

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF ........ 240-740-4530
Lisa Conlon .................. Social Services Specialist
Terry Fisher Thompson .... Social Worker
Renee Foster ................. Social Worker
Annette Harris .............. Social Worker
Traci Powell ................. Social Worker
Jose Roberto Flores .... Parent Engagement/Volunteer Specialist
Maral Akbarian ............. Family Service Worker
Kiara Austin ................ Family Service Worker
Jazmina Begazzo .......... Family Service Worker
Elsi Bonilla ................. Family Service Worker
Cachet Carter .............. Family Service Worker
Jocelyn Chica Valdez .... Family Service Worker
Lestine Colbert ............. Family Service Worker
Sandra Cruz ................. Family Service Worker
Teresa Delgadillo .......... Family Service Worker
Damara Dockery .......... Family Service Worker
Michelle Dove ............... Family Service Worker
Reyna Escamilla ........... Family Service Worker
Esperanza Flores .......... Family Service Worker
Deborah Garcia .......... Family Service Worker
Sonia Granados ........... Family Service Worker
Vianka Hardy ............... Family Service Worker
Terri Harris ................. Family Service Worker
Vicki Johnson .......... Family Service Worker
Nuhu Khalaf ................. Family Service Worker
Patty Marroquin ............ Family Service Worker
Leida Martinez .......... Family Service Worker
Ruth Meininger ........... Family Service Worker
Sorangel Peralta ......... Family Service Worker
Myrna Perez ................. Family Service Worker
Tania Quintanailla ...... Family Service Worker
Amabilia Reyes ............ Family Service Worker
Daniela Rodriguez ........ Family Service Worker
Traci Stevens ............... Family Service Worker
Renee Teneyck .......... Family Service Worker
Rosy Turcios ............... Family Service Worker
Cesiah Ventura ............ Family Service Worker
Draw a picture of something you liked about school.
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings

• Elementary schools—First Tuesday evening of the month. Check your local school’s website to determine the meeting time and location, or call the school office.
• Middle schools—Second Tuesday evening of the month.

Board of Education meetings
The Montgomery County Board of Education currently conducts two business meetings each month: A day business meeting that usually starts at 2:00 p.m.; and an evening meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m. The meetings are held at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. If you have any questions about upcoming Board meetings, contact the Board office at 240-740-3030 or e-mail: boe@mcpsmd.org

Montgomery County Council meetings
Meetings are held at the Werner County Office Building at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. Call to confirm the meetings scheduled at 240-777-7900, or e-mail: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Community Action Board meetings
Fourth Tuesday evening of each month on Zoom or at 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

Policy Council meetings
See the calendars in this booklet for dates, times, and locations of the monthly Policy Council meetings.

Service Areas of the Pre-K/Head Start Program

Program Design and Management

Administration
The administrative service area provides total program coordination, budget preparation, and linkages within the school system and the community: Mrs. Jessica Blasic, supervisor.

Policy Council
To make decisions about the program, Pre-K/Head Start has a Policy Council (PC) whose members are parents/guardians elected from each Pre-K/Head Start school. Former parents/guardians, and other community representatives, also serve on the Policy Council. The Council meets at 6:00 p.m. every third Thursday of the month on Zoom.

In October, the Policy Council representatives receive the proposed program budget for the next year and decide how the Parent Activity funds will be spent. Not all parents/guardians are voting members of the Policy Council; however, all parents/guardians are welcome at all meetings. Your input is needed. Election of new Policy Council officers occurs at the December meeting. Be sure your school is represented. January is budget month for the school system. Watch for an announcement of when the Policy Council representative will give testimony before the Board of Education about the budget for Pre-K/Head Start. Show your support by attending the meeting. Help spread the good word about Pre-K/Head Start. The recruitment committee plans ways to reach new eligible families, recommends guidelines, and plans the recruitment for next year’s children. For more information, call Mr. Roberto Flores, parent engagement/volunteer specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

Social Services
This service area recruits and enrolls families and helps link families to community services and resources. A family service worker is assigned to each class and provides support and resource assistance to families. See the front cover of this calendar for the name and phone number of your child’s family service worker. If there are any further questions, contact Ms. Lisa Conlon, social services specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Parent Engagement
Each class has Parent/Guardian Center meetings for parents/guardians to become acquainted with each other, to visit the classroom and teaching team, and to share information about child development, reading and mathematics literacy, nutrition, safety, health, arts and crafts, as well as learning about how the program operates. You may ride the school bus with your child, and Head Start parents/guardians may have lunch. All meetings are planned and run by parents/guardians, with support from family service workers. You may sign up to organize meetings on the Parent/Guardian Volunteer Questionnaire. Head Start younger siblings also may come. Questions? Call your family service worker at 240-740-4530.

Children gain more from the instructional program when their parents/guardians are involved. Pre-K/Head Start has many ways parents/guardians can participate: volunteering in the classroom, making decisions about how Pre-K/Head Start operates, using learning activities at home with children, and working with staff and other parents/guardians to plan activities and to develop parent/guardian education programs. Parents/guardians meet monthly, and each class elects representatives to the countywide Policy Council. Call your family service worker, the Policy Council chairperson, or the parent engagement/volunteer specialist, Mr. Roberto Flores, at 240-740-4530.

Career Development
Opportunities are available for Pre-K/Head Start parents/guardians to be employed as paraeducators or as substitutes. You may make arrangements for completing your education or any other career goals by calling the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Community Resources
Pre-K/Head Start has prepared and will distribute a Community Resource Guide that lists helpful community services. The guide includes phone numbers for food assistance, health clinics, housing, and area clothing centers where good used clothing may be secured. Ask your family service worker for a copy of the resource guide, if you have not received one.
Find leaves from different trees, put like ones together, and trace them with sidewalk chalk.
Important Information

Early Head Start

Early Head Start is an exciting program for families with children from birth to 3 years old. The program provides many of the same services as Head Start, and some that are special to Early Head Start. To apply, families must be pregnant or have children 26 months or younger. Here’s how to get more information about the program: In the Gaithersburg and Upcounty areas: Call Family Services, Inc., Early Head Start at 301-840-3272. In the Silver Spring and Rockville areas: Call The Reginald S. Lourie Center, Early Head Start at 301-891-1900. In the Langley Park/Silver Spring areas: Call CentroNía, Early Head Start at 301-543-8040.

Child Care

Parents/guardians who need a child care provider can call LOCATE: Child Care at 1-877-261-0060, or ChildLink 240-777-3997 for free assistance with finding a licensed child care provider, school-age program, summer camp, preschool, and/or nursery school program. LOCATE identifies providers based on each family’s individual needs, such as hours of care, location, number and ages of children, and child care cost. This service may be accessed in multiple languages. LOCATE can identify providers located in or near the school’s service area. In addition, counselors will provide tips on how to identify good-quality programs and easy-to-follow tips to help parents/guardians choose the right program for their child.

LOCATE: Child Care identifies both family child care providers and child care centers that have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education’s Office of Child Care. Parents/guardians should look for high-quality programs that exhibit the following characteristics: the staff understands the developmental needs of the children; the program has a variety of educational materials, supplies, and games geared to the ages served; parents/guardians are welcomed and involved; and staff works with school personnel regarding schedules, policies, procedures, and programming. State and county laws require that children under the age of 8 be supervised at all times by a parent/guardian, child care provider, or babysitter who is at least 13 years old. Parents/guardians also can search for child care information online at www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

You may apply for financial assistance to pay for child care through Montgomery County Health and Human Services: Working Parents Assistance (WPA) call 240-777-1177. A recording provides general information including how to determine if you are eligible. The Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program offers assistance with the cost of child care to eligible working families; call 1-877-227-0125.

Early Childhood Development and Health Services

Children with Disabilities

Head Start is a federally funded program. It mandates that children with disabilities occupy 10 percent of the program enrollment slots. Children with disabilities share Pre-K/Head Start classrooms with those who have no disabilities (inclusion model) and receive all services and privileges enjoyed by all Pre-K/Head Start children. Classroom activities and experiences are adapted to accommodate children with disabilities whenever and wherever needed.

Parents/guardians, educators, and children enjoy the inclusion model, as it is a time when all children learn and grow together. Staff members answer questions parents/guardians have about their child’s development. Also, staff members provide parents/guardians with at-home activities that assist their child with a particular area of need. Children receive screenings in various areas of development (educational, speech/language, vision, dental, and hearing.) If, through the screenings, an educational disability is suspected, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team (e.g., teachers, parents/guardians and school psychologist, special educator, speech pathologist, nurse, etc.) meet to determine the need for further assessments. If further assessments are recommended, the school must obtain parent/guardian consent for the recommended assessments.

Once the assessments and evaluations have been completed, the IEP team must determine if an educational disability is present and, if so, which one of the federal educational disability codes best describes the student’s disability. Once the existence of the educational disability has been determined and the IEP team has determined that the disability impacts the student’s learning, appropriate goals and special education services will be discussed.

Services needed may be provided through the Pre-K/Head Start program or other MCPS programs. If your child needs more special education services than what can be provided in the Pre-K/Head Start classroom or services other than those provided by MCPS, Pre-K/Head Start staff will help parents/guardians locate the recommended services.

Things to look for in your child’s development:

- **Speech and Language:** Is your child able to speak clearly and understand language?
- **Cognitive:** Is your child learning and developing in the same way as other children their age?
- **Gross and Fine Motor:** Is your child “clumsy” or does your child have trouble using their hands to play with blocks or scribble on paper?
- **Social/Emotional:** Does your child get along with other children and adults?
- **Attention:** Does your child have more difficulty sitting still or paying attention than other children their age?
- **Hearing or vision:** Does your child squint when looking at books or watching TV? Does your child respond appropriately to sounds in their environment?

Notify your teacher if you have concerns about your child’s development, or call the Pre-K/Head Start Unit at 240-740-4530.
Go on a scavenger hunt and line up all items in ABC order.
Education
Programs are designed to meet the needs of each individual child and to share ideas with parents/guardians for assisting their children at home. Our centers provide the children with learning environments and varied experiences that support them in developing socially, intellectually, physically, and emotionally. When necessary, Pre-K/Head Start has speech pathologists and psychologists to work with you and your child. The education services specialist can be contacted at 240-740-4530. Parents/guardians are invited and urged to visit, volunteer, go on field trips, help with parties, and/or help at home. To volunteer, call Mr. Roberto Flores in the Pre-K/Head Start office, at 240-740-4530 for more information.

Emergencies
IMPORTANT! Please be sure the school and the Pre-K/Head Start office have an emergency phone number where someone can be reached if you are not at home. If you change your phone number or address, let the school and the Pre-K/Head Start office know your new number and address by calling 240-740-4530.

Health
Children receive medical screenings such as blood tests, vision and hearing, and dental. Dental services include teeth cleaning and dental treatment, if necessary, at no cost to you. The health services manager is Mr. Beka Urgessa, at 240-777-1553.

Health Clinics
Call the Health Care Eligibility Unit, (OESS), for information, assistance, and health resources: Rockville Health Center, 240-777-3120; Silver Spring Health Center, 240-777-3066; and Germantown Health Center, 240-777-3591.

Sick Care
For children and youth under 21, you can call Community Clinic for sick care at 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 1200, Silver Spring, 301-585-1250; 7676 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, 301-431-2972; or 200 Girard Street, Suite 212, Gaithersburg, 301-216-0880. You must call to make an appointment and bring proof of income.

Permission Slips
If you want your child to have the Pre-K/Head Start health screenings and dental services, you must sign and return the permission slips!

Nutrition
Pre-K/Head Start has the same lunch program that serves the public schools. Educational opportunities in nutrition are provided available for parents/guardians and children. Nutrition information is available by calling the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Program Self-Assessment
A committee of parents and staff complete the annual program evaluation for Head Start. For information or to join the committee, call Mr. Roberto Flores at 240-740-4530.

Health Services
As a requirement for Pre-K/Head Start, all students must have a physical examination, state and federal required immunizations, blood lead testing, and a dental examination. If your child does not have a source of health care to receive the physical examination and immunizations, please let your child’s teacher, family service worker, or the school nurse know so that we may assist you in getting these services. You may be financially eligible for state or local health and nutrition programs for your family, which are available at the following Office of Eligibility and Support Services (OESS) locations:

All immunizations given at Montgomery County health centers and the MCPS Health Services Center at Rocking Horse Road Center (4910 Macon Road, Rockville) are offered at low cost to families. Please keep a record of the immunizations your child receives.

During the school year, your child will receive screenings for dental, hearing, vision, height, and weight.

Medications
If your child will need any medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) during the school day, you must provide the school with an authorized prescriber’s order and complete MCPS Form 525-13, Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication (available at your child’s school and on the MCPS website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-13.pdf). Prescription medication must be labeled properly by a pharmacist and brought to school in its original container. Nonprescription over-the-counter medication must be in the manufacturer’s original container with the seal intact. MCPS Form 525-14, Emergency Care for the Management of a Student with a Diagnosis of Anaphylaxis, is the preferred authorized prescriber’s order form for epinephrine auto-injectors (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-14.pdf). All medications MUST be hand-delivered to school by the parent or guardian. If your child has any health problems, particularly those that may require emergency action, such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or an allergy to insect stings or food, please notify the principal and school nurse.
Bake cookies with a friend, measure and count, talk about the experience.
Illness
If your child has a fever, a bad cough, or does not feel well, please keep them at home. Your child cannot enjoy school when ill. If your child has been ill (measles, chicken pox, etc.), continue to keep them home until your doctor says it is okay to return to class.

Transportation
Parents/guardians are responsible for their children on the way to the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the way home from the bus stop. Please bring your child to the bus each morning and meet the bus each afternoon. Bus schedules are approximate and may vary due to weather, traffic, and student changes. It is best to be present at the bus stop at least five minutes ahead of the normal arrival time. If you are unable to meet the bus and you have chosen another responsible adult to do so (e.g., child care provider, grandparent), please notify your child’s teacher or paraeducator in writing. Keep the school phone number in your cell phone or other convenient place in case of emergency.

If you or your designee fail to meet your child, they will be returned to school. If you or your designee fail to meet the bus three times, you must meet with the family service worker. If problems continue, transportation privileges may be terminated. Also, behavior problems on the bus can result in termination of bus privileges.

Clothes
Because all Pre-K/Head Start children go outside every day, weather permitting, please dress your child appropriately for play and for all types of weather. In the fall and spring, be sure to send along a light jacket or a sweater. For winter, your child needs mittens or gloves, a warm hat, boots, and a heavy coat. Also, send a change of clothing that can be kept at school. (For example, an old pair of pants and a top.) To prevent mix-ups, put your child’s name on all clothing. If you need help with clothing, call your family service worker.

Messages
You will be receiving many notices from Pre-K/Head Start, and we count on your child to be the message carrier. Tell your child how important this job is and that we all count on them to get messages to and from home and school. Reminder: You need to check their backpack each day.

Volunteers
Parent/guardian participation in Pre-K/Head Start is extremely important and is encouraged. Parents/guardians support their children and Pre-K/Head Start by visiting, observing, and helping in the classroom. Also, parents/guardians help by going on field trips, making suggestions to improve the program, and preparing classroom materials at home. If you can help as a regular volunteer, talk with your child’s teacher and schedule the day of the week when you are available to volunteer in the class. If daytime hours are limited, you can discuss other ways you can help at home. Call the Pre-K/Head Start Unit at 240-740-4530 for more information.

All volunteers who regularly support schools and students and those who attend field trips, must complete an on-line training, “Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect.” The training is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Vietnamese on the MCPS’s website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org. When you complete the training, you should print the certificate of completion and give it to your child’s school. Remember that all volunteers need to sign in and out of the school building using the Visitor Management System (VMS), at the beginning and end of each volunteer activity and wear a volunteer identification name tag at all times.

You are recommended to have a tuberculosis (TB) test before volunteering in the classroom. To get a TB test, please call the school nurse at your child’s school.

Emergency Closings
In case of bad weather or other emergencies, MCPS schools may be closed for the entire day or school opening may be delayed for two hours.

- If school opening is delayed for two hours, Pre-K/Head Start morning classes will not meet. Afternoon classes will meet as usual.
- If schools close early because of inclement weather, Pre-K/Head Start children in the morning classes may be returned home early; afternoon Pre-K/Head Start classes will not meet.
- If school is closed all day, or if there is an early closing of school, all evening activities will be canceled automatically, and there will be no Policy Council meeting or adult education classes.

School-closing information is broadcast on local radio and television stations, the MCPS cable channels (Channel 34 on Comcast, 36 on Verizon, and 89 on RCN cable), and the MCPS website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org). You also can get information on the MCPS Twitter account (twitter.com/MCPS); the MCPS Facebook account (www.facebook.com/mcpsmd/); and MCPS also will send out messages via Connect-ED (a recorded phone and e-mail messaging system that uses emergency contact numbers and e-mail addresses supplied by parents/guardians). Also, you can sign up to receive text and e-mail messages through Montgomery County’s alert system (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx).

Attendance
It is important that students attend school every day and arrive on time. Regular attendance is necessary in order for each child to receive the most benefit from the Pre-K/Head Start experience. Going to school regularly and being on time are important factors in the attitude your child will develop about school. A positive attitude about school and regular attendance will pay off in the years to come.

When children arrive to school on time, they have a better educational and social experience in Pre-K/Head Start. If your child is sick, call the school and leave a message for the teacher. When your child is able to return, send a note with the child to explain the absence. Please keep your child’s teacher or your family service worker informed of any illness or emergency. If your child is absent 10 days or more in a month, follow-up with the family service worker will be conducted, whether the days are consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Pre-K/Head Start TOTLINE
If you have questions about your child’s behavior or development, call 240-740-4580; weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

HOTLINE
For adults, telephone crisis-intervention, informal counseling, information, and referral services are available. There is 24-hour professional assistance available to help with problems. Call 301-738-2255 or 988.
Make a snow angel—measure your height and the width of your wings.
Simple and Inexpensive Activities for Preschoolers

Imaginative Play:
- Use dress-up clothes (hats, caps, ties, dresses).
- Use cardboard boxes for pulling, pushing, climbing in and out; tunnels for climbing under and through.
- Make a hideout: drape a blanket over a chair or small table. Give the child a flashlight and some favorite belongings.

Play Store
Use canned goods, empty food containers, boxes, pans, and cartons. Make play money.

Play Dough
In a pan, combine 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 cup of water, and 1 tablespoon of salad oil. Add a little food coloring, if you wish. Heat and stir mixture over moderate heat until it pulls away from the pan. Cook about 2 or 3 minutes; knead until desired consistency. Keep in the refrigerator when not in use.

Blowing Bubbles
Add some dishwashing detergent to a bowl or glass of water. Give the kids a straw and let them blow!

Crafts
Use up old paper bags by letting the kids paste pictures on them (artists call them collages) bits of lace, buttons, seeds, toothpicks, colored magazine pictures, and ribbons.

Parents Build Literacy Skills
Consult the local library for a wide selection of age-appropriate books for children. The children's librarian can help families make good book selections. The child's teacher also can help with book selections. There may be a classroom lending library. Students check out books from the school library/media center to read in the classroom.

Always read the books yourself before you read them with your child. Be familiar with the story for appropriate content. It is more fun for you and your child if you like the book too.

Begin by reading the title and author of the book.
Be enthusiastic before, during, and after reading any book.
- Be excited about the story.
- Point to the pictures as you are reading the story and talk about what is happening.
- Talk about the story when you are done.

Be dramatic when you read.
- Change the tone of your voice.
- Use different voices for different characters.
- Bring the story to life.

Interact with and involve your child in the story.
- Read with, rather than to, your child.
- Show the pictures while you read.
- Have your child point to the pictures.
- React positively to children's comments with verbal and nonverbal responses.

Ask questions such as—
- What do you think will happen next?
- What would you do if you were...?
- How do you feel about this story?
This encourages the development of both language and critical thinking skills.

Helping With Cooking:
Let your children help while you are cooking. Here are some examples:
- Rolling out cookies
- Rolling out pie dough
- Helping with tortillas
- Mixing dry and wet ingredients
- Counting raisins and nuts

Parents'/Guardians' Questions
If you have a specific question about your child or the classroom, call your child's teacher. If you have a question about the bus route, call the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530. If you need special assistance or community services, call your family service worker or the Pre-K/Head Start office at 240-740-4530.

Encourage a friend or family member to apply for the Pre-K/Head Start Programs
If you know the parent/guardian of a child who will be four 4 years old by September 1, please encourage them to apply for Pre-K/Head Start. Registration is ongoing for the current school year and registration for fall starts in March. Important information about registration is available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Field Trips
Field trips are an important part of the Pre-K/Head Start program and provide a wide variety of experiences for your child. If you want your child to participate, you must sign a permission slip at the beginning of the year. Each semester, the teacher will send you a list of individual field trips. You will need to sign that permission slip, too. Of course, you and Head Start younger siblings are welcome to come along. Let the teaching staff know about any nearby trips your family has enjoyed. They can then include these as possible class outings. Parents who attend field trips must complete an online training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect." Ask your family service worker for more details.
Make a tent with a friend, have lunch, and cozy up to tell stories.
Finger Plays

I Had a Little Turtle
I had a little turtle, (cup hands together)
    that lived in a box.
He swam in the water (swimming motion)
    and climbed on the rocks. (fingers walking on hands)
He snapped at a mosquito (clap hands)
    He snapped at a flea! (clap hands)
He snapped at a fly (clap hands)
    and he snapped at me! (clap hands)
He caught the mosquito. (catching motion)
    He caught the flea. (catching motion)
He caught the fly. (catching motion)
    But he didn’t catch me! (Shake head and hold hands open.)
Good for playing while waiting in line or at an office or the clinic!

Story Time
Five-minute stories are great. Next time you read or tell a story to your child, you might try one of the following:

1. Substitute their name for the name of the child in the story.
2. Make the sounds of the animals, cars, or babies.
3. Find something round, square, long, or short to include in the story.

Using Old Newspapers
Painting or drawing on newspaper will aid in large muscle development. Find a place where your child’s designs and pictures can be put up for all to see, perhaps on the wall or refrigerator.

Crumpling paper into a ball is good for improving finger muscles. Newspaper balls can be used inside for tossing, throwing into wastebaskets, and as “snowballs.”

Outside Games and Activities
Chalking on the sidewalk is fun and washes off easily. The difference in texture adds interest. You can use colored chalk on wet paper too.

Give your child an old large paint brush, a bucket of water, and let them paint the side of the house, the hall, the sidewalk, or any available surface that water will not hurt. Call it magic writing—it disappears as it dries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>MONDAY</th>
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SPRING BREAK
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS; OFFICES CLOSED MARCH 27—APRIL 1

Make and fly a kite, tell a friend about the adventure.
The ABC’s of Family Involvement

A ctively listen to children
B elieve in each other
C heck backpacks daily
D elight in specific successes
E njoy children’s enthusiasm
F ind space for children to keep
   special treasures and supplies
G ive a gift from the heart;
   make one together
H ug your child every day
I nvolve family in activities: hike,
   sing, read, and start collections
J ump with children just for fun
K eep a list of words to share
L augh together
M ark your calendars for family times
N otice acts of kindness
O pen the door to independence
P lay games as a family
Q uest and Question together
R ead aloud together, often
S hare a smile
T reat children to the public library
U nderstand the many ways
   that children learn
V alue children’s schoolwork and school
W alk and wonder together
X tend a helping hand
Y ield to the family’s need to be together
Z ap into positive thinking

Transition to Kindergarten

Moving on to kindergarten is easier for Pre-K/Head Start children because they have been attending school, riding the bus, participating in the classroom with other children, and receiving health screenings. To smooth the way, teachers introduce the children to the kindergarten teacher, visit the kindergarten classroom, and transfer the child’s records. Parents/guardians are invited to Kindergarten Orientation meetings in April and May.
**APRIL 2024**

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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*Spring Break—Schools and offices closed*

*No school for all students*

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*Play ball with a friend, keep score, and write a story about the fun you had.*
### Montgomery County Public Schools
#### Pre-K/Head Start Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>School Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arcola ES</td>
<td>301-287-8585</td>
<td>Maryvale ES</td>
<td>240-740-4330</td>
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<td>Beall ES</td>
<td>240-740-1220</td>
<td>S. Christa McAuliffe ES</td>
<td>301-353-0910</td>
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<td>Bel Pre ES</td>
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<td>Ronald E. McNair ES</td>
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<td>Bells Mill ES</td>
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<td>Brooke Grove ES</td>
<td>240-722-1800</td>
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<td>Brookhaven ES</td>
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<td>Burnt Mills ES</td>
<td>301-649-8192</td>
<td>Oakland Terrace ES</td>
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<td>Rachel Carson ES</td>
<td>240-740-1840</td>
<td>William Tyler Page ES</td>
<td>301-989-5672</td>
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<td>Cabin Branch ES</td>
<td>240-740-7670</td>
<td>Judith A. Resnik ES</td>
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<td>Cashell ES</td>
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<td>College Gardens ES</td>
<td>301-279-8470</td>
<td>Lois Rockwell ES</td>
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<td>Rosemary Hills ES</td>
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<td>East Silver Spring ES</td>
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<td>Whetstone ES</td>
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</tbody>
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### Let Your Child Know You Love Them

**By showing:**
- Winking, Smiling
- Whistling, Laughing
- Holding Child, Patting
- Nodding, Kissing
- Playing Together, Hugging
- Walking, Clapping

**By telling them in different ways:**
- “Good”
- “You make me happy”
- “Show your father”
- “Good for you”
- “Excellent”
- “Thank you”
- “You did just right”

---

**Have a Great Summer!**
Take a walk and talk about the colors of all the flowers you see. Count the different kinds.
Read or tell a story every night.
MCPS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community’s long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency. This Policy affirms the Board’s belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual’s actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students*
Director of Student Welfare and Compliance
Office of District Operations
Student Welfare and Compliance
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850
240-740-3215
SWC@mcpsmd.org

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff*
Human Resource Compliance Officer
Office of Human Resources and Development
Department of Compliance and Investigations
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850
240-740-2888
DCI@mcpsmd.org

For student requests for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Section 504 Coordinator
Office of School Support and Well-being
Office of Well-being, Learning and Achievement
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 257, Rockville, MD 20850
240-740-5630
504@mcpsmd.org

For staff requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act
ADA Compliance Coordinator
Office of Human Resources and Development
Department of Compliance and Investigations
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850
240-740-2888
DCI@mcpsmd.org

For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff*
Title IX Coordinator
Office of District Operations
Student Welfare and Compliance
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850
240-740-3215
TitleIX@mcpsmd.org

*Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 3432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mccr@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.

**This notification complies with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.

This document is available, upon request, in languages other than English and in an alternate format under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837, 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay), or PIO@mcpsmd.org. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact the MCPS Office of Interpreting Services at 240-740-1800, 301-637-2958 (VP) mcpsinterpretingservices@mcpsmd.org, or MCPSInterpretingServices@mcpsmd.org.

July 2023