

# DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School  
APRIL 2024



Dear Diamond Families,

Spring has finally arrived and hopefully we can say good bye to the winter weather. April marks the beginning of the fourth marking period. We are very proud of the hard work that all of our students have exhibited during the past three marking periods and especially under this very unique and challenging learning conditions. We look forward to a wonderful fourth quarter as we near the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

**Tuesday, April 9th** marks the end of the third marking period. The third marking period report cards will be mailed home for all students in grades K-5 on **Thursday, April 18th**. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

As we begin to plan for the 2024-2025 school year, we need to get some information from our current K-4 parents. On page 3 is the Student Profile Form for 2024-2025 for Current K-4 Students. This is an optional form for parents to complete to provide information for consideration for class placement for next year. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher requests. Any specific teacher requests will not be honored.

## **APRIL 2024 CALENDAR**

### **Monday, March 24-April 1**

Spring Break- No School for Students and Staff

**Friday, April 5:** PTA Assembly - Gary Lloyd Storyteller (K-2)

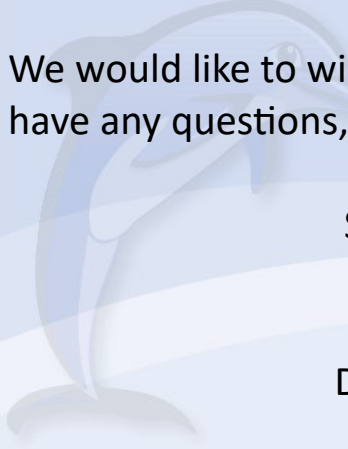
**Tuesday, April 9th:** Last Day of 3rd Marking Period.

**Wednesday, April 10:** No School for Students/Professional Day for Teachers  
-PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM in Media Center

**Thursday, April 18:** 3rd Marking Period Report Cards Distributed.  
Family Night Event- SEL 6:30-8:00 pm

**Monday, April 22nd:** Asynchronous Learning Day- from home.

**Thursday, April 25:** Take Your Child to Work Day



We would like to wish all of our Diamond families a wonderful spring break! If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (240) 740-2120.

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder  
Principal

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**Spring Student Picture Day is on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Diamond Elementary School:** Only Students who pre-order online or complete an order form will be photographed will participate in individual spring pictures. All Students will participate in a class picture. Skip the order form and click the link below to pre-order before picture day: <https://onlineorders.classicphoto.com/ordering/access> -Access Key: 4U7FZ4H4. Picture Questions, please call Classic Photography at (800) 869-9515 x112

**Student Safety Reminders:** If your child walks to/from school, please review safety rules with them accordingly. Students should only cross a street at a stop sign, designated crossing area, traffic light, or where a crossing guard is posted. Car-riders driving through the Diamond community should adhere to speed limit postings and drive with caution.

**End of Day Plan Policy- Changes to Normal Dismissal Plans:** Students will be sent home using the daily routine communicated by the parent with the school. If a student's plans require a change from their normal dismissal, all changes must be made in writing by note or email to the school. Play dates should be prearranged in advance of the school day. If you forgot to send a note in the morning, or in the event of last minute changes to a student's dismissal plans, please call the main office prior to 3:00 p.m. Any adults who come to pick up a child will be asked to show documentation to verify identification and ensure student safety. Students cannot ride home on friend's school buses for playdates.

**Take Your Child to Work Day: Thursday, April 25, 2024 is *Take Your Child to Work Day*.** If you plan to take your child to work for all or part of that day, you must notify the school **no later than Wednesday, April 24, 2024.** If your child will not participate in *Take Your Child To Work Day*, disregard this message. You have the following options available to report this excused absence: If you plan to have your child participate in Take Your Child to Work Day, please click on the link to fill out the **Take Your Child To Work Day Form:** <https://forms.gle/bZNikozoMhqq8Es57>. If you prefer, you may complete the hard copy form and send it to your child's teacher. The **deadline** for submitting your request is **Wednesday, April 24, 2024.** We trust you and your child will have a wonderful, educational workday experience together.

**MCAP Assessment for Grades 3-5:** The state of Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which serve as the foundation for all MCPS Curriculum. The MCAP assessments are computer based and are divided into administered during the month of April/May. The students in grades 3-5 will complete four sessions in English/ Language Arts and four sessions in Mathematics. Student results of the MCAP assessment are mailed home to parents in August/September. For our school, the MCAP testing days are listed below.

Parents can assist in the following ways which include:

- Ensure your child is reading independently every night. Reading can vary from fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Ask your child comprehension questions to ensure they understand what they are reading.
- Review basic math facts: multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
- Make sure your child is in attendance each day for the state assessments (please see assessment chart below)
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest the night before and a healthy breakfast.
- Communicate to your child that they should do their best and “stick with it.”
- Please do not schedule doctor appointments or family events during the MCAP testing schedule for your child’s respective grade level.

Testing	Date/Time
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MCAP English Language Arts (Literacy)</b></p>	Grade 3 – Mornings (AM) on April 15, 16, 18, 19
	Grade 4 – Afternoons (PM) on May 1, 2, 6, 7
	Grade 5– Mornings (AM) on April 15, 16, 18, 19
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MCAP Math</b></p>	Grade 3 – Mornings (AM) on May 1, 2, 6, 7
	Grade 4 – Mornings (AM) on April 8, 9, 11, 12
	Grade 5 – Mornings (AM) on May 1, 2, 6, 7

Morning (AM) testing time usually ranges from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Afternoon (PM) testing time usually ranges from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information about the MCAP assessments, visit the MCPS website <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/mcap/> or contact the school, your child's teacher, or our school testing coordinators Mr. Neuman-Sunshine and Mrs. Hageman.

## **Student Plans and Input for the 2024-2025 School Year**

**School Enrollment Plans for 2024-2025 (For Families currently in grades K-4):** As we begin to plan for the 2022-2023 school year, we need identify our actual enrollment which then has an impact on the number of staff allocated to our school. Please complete this form by March 30, 2024 to indicate if your child will be returning to Diamond ES or not returning. Complete one form per child. Only fill this form out for students currently in grades K-4. If your child is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and moving to middle school next year, this form should not be completed. **School Enrollment Plans Form for 2024-2025:** <https://forms.gle/koVgPyjBxNGN8vM5A>. Please complete this survey form by April 12, 2024. Thank you for providing us with this information as we plan for the next school year.

**Diamond ES Parent Input on Student Profile Form for 2024-2025 School Year For Families Currently in Grades K-4:** With the end of the current school year quickly approaching, thoughts turn to planning for placement of students in classes for the next school year, 2024-2025. Your child's current teacher will advocate all she/he knows about your child's individual needs and capabilities for the placement decision, as we complete a thorough articulation process for each and every student. Parental input is also valued in the decision making process and the online form below can be used to provide the school with such information. In addition, this optional input form will be passed on to your child's new teacher in the fall. This optional input form should not be used to make a specific teacher request. (teacher requests will not be honored).

The process for composing classes for the upcoming year is a task that we take very seriously through careful and thoughtful consideration as we all want the best for all of the children at Diamond. It is important to ensure a productive classroom learning environment for your child as well as for all children at Diamond. The Diamond staff wants you to know that we are committed to providing classrooms in which each child will have the opportunity for learning and personal growth. When making class placements we consider the following variables as we aim towards creating a well-balanced, productive learning environment for all students:

- Relationships among individual children
- Compatibility between the individual child's learning styles/needs and the classroom environment.
- Heterogeneous placements of student's academic achievement levels
- A balance in terms of gender, ethnicity, and race
- The varying degrees of adult assistance needed by children for successful learning

If you are interested in providing this information to be considered as decisions are made for class placement for next year, please complete the electronic profile form as soon as possible and no later than March 30, 2024. If you provide this form to the school after March 30<sup>th</sup>, there is no guarantee this information will be used in the class placement process.

**DES Student Profile Form:** <https://forms.gle/h5iHbcc19tFjuJkb8> - **Due April 12th.**

Please complete an individual form for each child in your family that will be attending Diamond ES for the 2024-2025 school year. It should be noted that this form is not to be used for specific teacher requests. Such requests will not be honored. Diamond Elementary values parental input and precludes specific teacher request in our process for class placement. This optional form is a way of offering opportunity for those of you who wish to provide parental input. Further confidential concerns about student class placement for 2024-2025 may be addressed in writing to the principal, Mr. Daniel Walder via email: [Daniel\\_walder@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org).

We expect that parents will trust and respect the judgment of the Diamond staff in making placement decisions. We appreciate your support in our efforts to best serve the instructional needs of your child. Diamond Elementary staff members work together to draft initial groupings and class lists in May/June, but these are not finalized until late in the summer when we have the most up-to-date enrollment information. You and your child will be notified between August 19th-23rd of the class placement decisions. The first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year is Monday, August 26, 2024.



## Diamond Elementary Arts Program April Newsletter

What is going on in **ART** class during April?

**Kindergarten** – Students will be creating artwork out of a color wheel.

**Grade 1** – Students will be creating a jungle scene using paint.

**Grade 2** – Students will complete their mini art galleries.

**Grade 3** – Students will be creating clay animal pinch pots.

**Grade 4** – Students will glaze their coil pots and reflect.

**Grade 5** – Students will complete stained glass inspired artwork.

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

**Kindergarten** students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will use pictures and/or symbols to represent long/short and high/low sounds. Students will produce appropriate sounds in response to picture symbols representing long/short and high/low sounds. Students will maintain the steady beat on instruments using locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Students will create movement and sounds appropriate to accompany dramatic poetry and fables.

**1st grade** students will be working on reading and notating simple rhythm and pitch patterns. Students will write or place notes in spaces and on lines. Students will match pitch within a limited vocal range for simple melodies and songs. Students will arrange and create sounds to ostinato patterns. Students will dramatize simple stories or poems.

**2nd grade** students will be working on notating the pentatonic scale as well as half notes, half rests and dotted half notes. Students will continue singing within a limited range. Students will identify various musical symbols to facilitate notating the music they hear or compose. Students will create simple speech or melodic ostinato to accompany songs. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

**3rd grade** students will notate simple rhythm and/or pitch patterns. Students will use the voice to improvise phrases that answer given melodic phrases in the same style. Students will continue to read and identify traditional music notation and symbols. Students will learn dances from various cultures.





# Diamond Elementary Arts Program

## April Newsletter

What is going on in **MUSIC** class during April?

**4th grade** students will conduct music with meter in three and four. Students will compose and notate simple melodies using a given rhythm. Students will read a variety of melodies and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

**5th grade** students will read and perform a simple melody on the treble staff in different keys using solfeggio or a comparable system. Students will compose and notate a short melody or rhythm using original pitches and rhythms. Students will learn dances from various cultures.

What is going on in **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** class during April?

**Kindergarten** students will be able to demonstrate an underhand strike with hand.

**1st grade** students will be able to demonstrate striking with various body parts.

**2nd grade** students will be able to demonstrate striking with short-handled implements.

**3rd grade** students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a forehand stroke.

**4th grade** students will be able to demonstrate striking a dropped ball with a backhand stroke.

**5th grade** students will be able to demonstrate striking a gently tossed ball over a low level line with a forehand and backhand stroke.

### Habit 6: Synergize®

# Together Is Better

*“Synergy is not just teamwork or cooperation. Synergy is creative teamwork, creative cooperation. Something new is created that was not there before.”*

—Stephen R. Covey

Pick a date this month to Synergize as a family. Ask your family to think about a certain issue and bring their ideas to a family meeting. At the meeting, creatively work together using the “Family Synergy Action Plan.”

### WHAT IS SYNERGY?

#### Synergy is:

1. Celebrating differences.
2. Working together.
3. Being open-minded.
4. Finding new and better ways.

#### Synergy is not:

1. Being intolerant.
2. Working independently.
3. Thinking you are always right.
4. Being selfish.

### COMMON LANGUAGE

Creative cooperation  
Creative teamwork  
Synergize

### FAMILY SYNERGY ACTION PLAN

Follow these steps to create synergy in your family:

1. Define: Clarify the problem or issue.
2. Their way: Seek first to understand the other person’s needs.
3. My way: Seek to be understood by sharing you needs and ideas.
4. Brainstorm: Create new options and ideas together.
5. Synergize: Find the best solution—the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alternative.

Real family example:

- Problem: How to spend Saturdays.
- Dad wants to spend time as a family outside. Mom wants to get all the housework done.
- Can we do both and not compromise?
- Mom makes a reasonable list of housework that needs to be done sometime during the day. The family can do an activity together either before or after housework, depending on the weather.

## Habit 6: Synergize®

### HOW CAN YOU CREATE SYNERGY IN YOUR FAMILY?

**Family Activity:** Synergy—creative family teamwork—occurs when you follow two simple rules:

1. Value one another.
2. Recognize strengths.

How can you value your family members? Choose any family member and finish the following sentences keeping them in mind.

1. What I admire most about you is...
2. One of my favorite memories is...
3. I'm glad you are \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm not.
4. One of the funniest things you have ever done is...
5. One of my proudest memories of you is...
6. I like it when you...

Share your answers with that family member. How did they respond? Did they learn something new about themselves?

### IDENTIFY AND CELEBRATE FAMILY MEMBERS' STRENGTHS

Write two or three strengths for each family member, starting with yourself. Share these strengths with each other. Did you each list the same qualities for each other? Did you learn something new?

Family Member	Strengths
You	



# Diamond Elementary Yearbooks

## Order Your Diamond ES Yearbook Now

Diamond Elementary School is offering yearbooks for the 2023-2024 school year. Pre-orders started in January and will continue through April 19, 2024, with delivery expected on or about early June. Early-bird price of yearbook is \$25.00 from January 1-April 19. Yearbook Orders after April 19th will cost \$28.00. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in June 2024.

## To order a School Yearbook, follow these 2 easy steps:

- Step 1: Please complete this DES Yearbook Order Form. DES Yearbook Order Form: <https://forms.gle/FVRZLpXYB9HQgf5L8>
- Step 2: Submit your payment for the DES Yearbook. (There are 3 options for payment)

Option 1: Purchase yearbook online through School Cash Online:  
<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>



Option 2: Purchase yearbook with check payable to  
“Diamond Elementary School” and submit check and form below to school’s main office.

Option 3: Purchase yearbook with cash payment (exact payment only: \$25.00) and submit in an envelope addressed to Diamond ES Yearbook to the school’s main office.

We prefer online payments through School Cash Online: <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>  
As mentioned before, we also accept checks made payable to “Diamond E.S.” or cash payment (exact change only). You can use this [SchoolCash Online](#) document for procedures on setting up an online account.

Any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact Mr. Desai @ [Rahul G Desai@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rahul_G_Desai@mcpsmd.org).

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## Diamond Elementary Yearbook 2024 order

**Only return this tear-off form if you are submitting cash or check payment to order a DES yearbook.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per yearbook)

# School Cash Online

Diamond Elementary School offers SchoolCash Online for making online payments for field trips and other school orders and fees like school yearbook, etc. SchoolCash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school-related fees.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. It will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The system puts all the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on School-Cash Online or at the school.



all items  
Cash

## How to register

- Go to <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/> and click **Register**. Then, click the Green button **“Use your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account”**
- Sign in with your MCPS Parent/Guardian Account login. If you haven't registered with it yet, follow these steps:
  - Click “Sign Up now”
  - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
  - Click the “Send verification code” button
  - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
  - Create your password for the account.
  - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
  - Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school (e.g., ParentVUE email)
  - Click the “Send verification code” button
  - Enter your verification code from your email and click “Verify code”
  - Create your password for the account.
  - Enter First and Last name in the appropriate fields
  - Click the “Create” button
- Go back to <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com> and sign in with the email address on file and the password you created
- Answer “Yes” to receive email notifications of new school-related fees assigned to your student.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's main office team.