



DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Elementary School
JUNE 2021

Dear Diamond Parents,

This school year is coming to an end! We have much to be thankful for and to appreciate. First of all, the health and safety of all of our Diamond community and staff members. Reflecting on the past school year makes us realize how fortunate we are at Diamond Elementary. Our school year has been successful due to the wonderful, collaborative partnerships between students, staff members, and parents. Our students are meeting high standards of performance due to the excellent teaching from our wonderful staff and the support from our parents. We must recognize our students for their perseverance, hard-work, and effort displayed throughout the school year with online learning and then the hybrid learning of online learning and in-person instruction.

A big thank you to our wonderful staff on working extremely hard throughout the year to provide your children with a strong virtual education program and then creating a hybrid program consisting of in-person learning and virtual learning at the same time. The building service team have done an extraordinary job in preparing the building by moving furniture and cleaning and sterilizing the building daily. Teachers and paraeducators for providing students with a wonderful learning program in-person and virtually, reminding students of social distancing and sanitizing procedures. Thank you to the main office staff for their hard work in coordinating the enrollment, attendance, and parent sign-out procedures.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTA and executive board and Mrs. Alyson Kozma, PTA president and Mr. Chuck Clapper, PTA vice president, for providing excellent leadership and support to the PTA committees, the school staff and administration, and most importantly to the students at Diamond ES during these past years, which were very unique and challenging. Thank you to all parents on the PTA executive board and various committees for your endless contributions and dedicating a great deal of time to provide beneficial activities, programs and events to our school. We are especially thankful to all Diamond parents for your patience, understanding, and flexibility over the past school year as staff, students and families became adjusted to a new school experience online.

Please join me in congratulating the following students on awards received this year:

- Chloe in 4th grade who received 2nd Place in the MCPS Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Poster Contest.
- Cheyenne in 5th grade who was the elementary school winner of Maryland Youth Art Month Flag Design Contest 2021.
- Yugan in 1st grade who received 2nd Place for the Children Cosplay at MoComCon 2020.

JUNE 2021 CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 15: last in-person day at the school building.

Wednesday, June 16: Last Day of School— Virtual Day Only- Early Release Day- 1:20 p.m. End of 4th Marking Period

Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony- Recorded Video will be sent to 5th grade parents @ 9:30 AM.

Fifth Grade Clap Out Car-Parade from 12:00- 2:00 PM in the car-drop-off circle.

Tuesday, June 22- Report Cards Mailed Home

First Week of August- Diamond ES Summer Welcome Back Packet will be sent via email and posted on school website.

Tuesday, August 24th- Teacher Post Cards will be Mailed Home

Please join me in congratulating Diamond staff members: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Siegrist, Mrs. Hsu-Lee and their families as they all welcomed new babies to their families during the 2020-2021 school year.

We have already started the planning and preparations for the 2021-2022 school year. One of the planning areas is to ensure our staff exemplifies the very best of educators who demonstrate a passion for teaching and learning. Unfortunately, we will be saying farewell to some of our staff members at the end of the school year, who will be moving onto new endeavors. We would like to thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to our students during their time at Diamond ES. First, *Mrs. Halstad*, our wonderful 1st grade teacher will be leaving Diamond ES as she has decided to stay at home with her daughter for the upcoming school year. In addition, *Mr. Rochelle*, one of our wonderful ESOL teachers, will be going to another MCPS elementary school in Germantown, MD as an ESOL teacher. *Mrs. Isaacs and Mrs. Chimera*, both new paraeducators hired in January will be going to new schools for next year as paraeducators. Also, Ms. Navina Grover, cafeteria worker, will be leaving Diamond ES and going to another elementary school in Germantown, MD. She has been at Diamond ES for over 7 years. Replacing such talented teachers and support staff members will be challenging, but our focus will continue to be recruiting and hiring talented teachers who are passionate, energetic, and creative in the art of teaching and learning. These changes in staffing are for the 2021-2022 school year and does not impact the current school year in any way. The staff members mentioned will be here for the remainder of the school year. On behalf of the Diamond staff and school community, I would like to wish *Mrs. Halstad, Mr. Rochelle, Mrs. Isaacs, Mrs. Chimera*, and *Ms. Grover* the very best in their future endeavors. As we say farewell to great staff members, we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to our school community.

There is only one current staff member position change for the upcoming school year. *Mrs. Hainer*, one of our reading initiative teachers, will be with us next year as a .6 ESOL teacher and a .3 reading initiative teacher.

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members to Diamond Elementary School:

- ◆ *Ms. Kyna Robinson*, our 1st grade teacher. She is currently working as a teacher-intern in Baltimore City Public Schools.

We will keep you informed of any summer staff changes or any new additions to the Diamond staff with our summer newsletter in August 2021.

MCPS is coordinating a system wide effort to provide families with opportunities to retrieve personal belongings from schools. In the coming days, Diamond ES will share logistics and schedule of times based on student last names.

Once again, we would like to thank you all for a wonderful school year and we wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and exciting summer break!

Sincerely,

Daniel Walder
Principal

Recognizing Teachers and Other Staff Members: If your student has teachers or other staff members who are especially meaningful to them, this season of the year is a perfect time for you to send an e-mail to the teacher/staff member praising his/her work. In casual conversations, many of you speak to a school administrator about teachers or staff members who you and your student think are outstanding, but staff members do not often hear those words of praise directly. If you choose to do so, you may send a copy to Mr. Walder at Daniel_walder@mcpsmd.org and he will print it out for the staff member's file.

Chromebook Returns Only for Students Not Returning to MCPS Schools: Students who plan to return to MCPS next school year will retain MCPS issued Chromebooks and MiFi devices (if applicable) for summer. Devices should be kept safe and used only for MCPS summer assignments, summer school, or other MCPS enrichment activities.

Only students who will not be returning to MCPS school for the 2021-2022 school year must return their chromebook, charger and Mifi device if you received one. Diamond ES will have scheduled device drop-offs on Wednesday, June 16th from 2:15-4:15 PM, on June 17th from 10:00-12:00 and June 18th from 10:00-12:00.

Additional guidance on proper care, use and repair fees for physical damage can be found online https://docs.google.com/document/d/1naqAQAu3_0d_rUpU_hAmalwY89kxyzbZzeLkviRsWgl/preview. More specific information will be shared for incoming Kindergarten students and VIL schools at a later date. Hours of operation for the central distribution site will be posted <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/chromebooks/>. Please check before visiting as hours are subject to change. Additional parental control information is available from ISP vendor sites:

Xfinity <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/set-up-parental-controls-with-comcast-networking>

Verizon <https://www.verizon.com/support/residential/internet/security/parental-controls>

MCPS UPDATES:

Graduation Season Begins June 2: The 2021 high school commencement season is set to begin on Wednesday, June 2, and will end Thursday, June 17. Graduation ceremonies will take place on individual high school campuses. More than 11,000 students are expected to receive their diplomas.

The ceremonies will include a wide array of commencement speakers, including TV and radio reporters, politicians, educators and others. Among those who will speak: Sarah Cooper, author and comedian, who will speak at Col. Zadok Magruder High School; Maryland State Delegate Eric Luedtke, who will speak at Thomas S. Wootton High School; and ESPN sportscaster Scott Van Pelt, who will speak at Sherwood High School. To view the full list of speakers and graduation dates, visit <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/graduation/>.

Identity Offering Assistance to County Residents (English and Spanish): [Identity](#) is receiving clients and offering services for:

- Help in applying for the county's Rental Relief Program (up to \$12,000 for qualifying residents who are behind in rent)
- Vaccination information and free COVID-19 testing
- Food and SNAP (food stamps)
- Care for Kids and referrals to Proyecto Salud Clinic and Care For Your Health
- Emergency cash assistance
- Connections to other social services in Montgomery County

They are able to offer help in English and Spanish. For more information, call Maribel at 301-800-5519 or Rita at 240-306-7626.

Identity ofrece asistencia a los residentes del condado: Identity está recibiendo clientes y ofreciendo servicios para:

- Ayuda para solicitar el programa de ayuda para alquileres del condado (hasta \$12,000 para residentes calificados que estén atrasados en el alquiler)
- Información de vacunación y pruebas gratuitas de COVID-19
- Alimentos y SNAP (cupones de alimentos)
- Care for Kids y referencias a la Clínica Proyecto Salud y Care For Your Health
- Asistencia en efectivo de emergencia
- Conexiones con otros servicios sociales en el condado de Montgomery

Pueden ofrecer ayuda en inglés y español. Para obtener más información, llame a Maribel al 301-800-5519 o a Rita al 240-306-7626.

Immunization Requirements for the 2021-2022 School Year (English and Spanish): All students must have up to date immunization records prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Parents should contact their doctor to make sure their child is properly immunized and submit a copy of the documentation to the Health Room at your child's school as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, August, 30, 2021** the first day of the 2021-2022 school year. Immunizations for students new to MCPS and children in Kindergarten through Grade 12, are available Monday through Friday, by appointment, at locations in Rockville and Germantown.

Appointments are available at:

- **School Health Services Immunization Clinic at Rocking Horse Road: 4910 Macon Road. Rockville; Phone: 240-740-4430**
- **Germantown Health Center: 12900 Middlebrook Rd. Germantown; Phone: 240-777-3380**

[Visit this webpage](#) to view the full list of immunization requirements for students.

MCPS UPDATES:

Requisitos de vacunación para el año escolar 2021-2022: Todos los estudiantes deben tener registros de vacunación actualizados antes del inicio del año escolar 2021-2022. Los padres deben comunicarse con su proveedor de servicios médicos para asegurarse de que su hijo esté debidamente inmunizado y enviar una copia de la documentación a la enfermería de la escuela de su hijo lo antes posible, a más tardar el **lunes, 30 de agosto de 2021** el primer día del ciclo escolar 2021-2022.

Las vacunas para los estudiantes nuevos en MCPS y los niños desde el jardín de infancia hasta el grado 12 están disponibles de lunes a viernes, con cita previa, en ubicaciones en Rockville y Germantown.

Las citas están disponibles en:

- Clínica de inmunización de servicios de salud escolar en Rocking Horse Road: 4910 Macon Road. Rockville; Teléfono: 240-740-4430
- Centro de salud de Germantown: 12900 Middlebrook Rd. Germantown; Teléfono: 240-777-3380

[Visite esta página web](#) para ver la lista completa de requisitos de vacunación para los estudiantes.

Students Invited to Submit Videos for “Take Your Shot” PSA Contest (English and Spanish): Story: MCPS middle and high school students are invited to produce video public service announcements (PSAs) to encourage young people to talk with their friends about the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine. The “Take Your Shot” contest invites students to produce 30- to 45-second videos exploring one of the following themes:

- **Why should everyone get the COVID-19 vaccine?**
- **What makes you want to get vaccinated?**
- **When people, like us, get vaccinated, we can ...**

Judges will select up to 25 videos, in English and Spanish, and use them on the county’s social media channels. Three high school and three middle school videos will be awarded prizes in early summer. The deadline for submissions is Friday, June 4. Contest rules and entry forms are available [here](#). The contest is sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with MCPS. Students can earn five Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for submitting an entry that meets all requirements. For more information, email Lynn Cook at lynn.cook@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Estudiantes invitados a enviar videos para el concurso de anuncios de servicio público "Take Your Shot": Se invita a los estudiantes de la escuela intermedia y secundaria de MCPS a producir anuncios en video de servicio público (PSA por sus siglas en inglés) para alentar a los jóvenes a hablar con sus amigos sobre la importancia de recibir la vacuna COVID-19. El concurso "Take Your Shot" invita a los estudiantes a producir videos de 30 a 45 segundos que exploren uno de los siguientes temas:

- **¿Por qué todos deberían recibir la vacuna COVID-19?**
- **¿Qué le hace querer vacunarse?**
- **Cuando las personas, como nosotros, se vacunan, podemos ...**

La fecha límite para las presentaciones es el viernes, 4 de junio. Las reglas del concurso y los formularios de inscripción están disponibles [aquí](#).

MCPS 2021-2022 School Year Calendar: The Board of Education has approved a 2021-2022 traditional school year calendar. The school year will begin on Aug. 30, 2021 and end on June 15, 2022 (scenario 1). The Board also voted to approve the Innovative School Year Calendar for Arcola and Roscoe Nix elementary schools. More information: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/calendar/0350.21ct_2021-22_SchoolYearCalendar_BOE%20Adopted.pdf

Students who plan to return to MCPS next school year will retain MCPS issued

Chromebooks and MiFi Students who will return to Montgomery County Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year will retain their assigned Chromebooks, cases, headphones, and assigned MiFis (if applicable) over the summer. Schools will only collect devices from students who have communicated their plan to withdraw from MCPS devices (if applicable) for summer. Devices should be kept safe and used only for MCPS summer assignments, summer school, or other MCPS enrichment activities. Additional guidance on proper care, use and repair fees for physical damage can be found online https://docs.google.com/document/d/1naqAQAU3_0d_rUpU_hAmalwY89kxypbZzeLkviRsWgI/preview.

More specific information will be shared for incoming Kindergarten students and VIL schools at a later date.

Hours of operation for the central distribution site will be posted <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/chromebooks/>. Please check before visiting as hours are subject to change.

Additional parental control information is available from ISP vendor sites: Xfinity <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/set-up-parental-controls-with-comcast-networking> or Verizon <https://www.verizon.com/support/residential/internet/security/parental-controls> .

Additional Parent/Chromebook support documentation can be found here:

- MCPS Parent/Guardian Accounts and Access: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSxma_FZVv8UQajYzd9A7ikk28IXPpJwibsQyqPfiYzaSThQ9ZEIU4cnIyW3VvPRp6TdW0Q5CdNw7E/pub
- Community Tech Support Portal: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16cASeft4mqW_P2RBAsTtc-S0aYbgJWow/view
- Printing on a Chromebook at Home: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT8cXuxNv1BRresbJu4hFasCBMihpv9zZ3PqC8BFpfFYSunTHQ0ZqTa3smomoYsnrJIelcN3s2_cuX4/pub
- Student Accounts and Access - Getting Started: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vS3mN2oufzx_Zw2Os3AGopMebqxIOgL4Jm8UayWeKzmzGbejW36wCGfpY1YgDokRcJG7Po11aT7UcJWe/pub
- Chromebook Troubleshooting - Zoom Edition: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ_PI7HdAo8p-RF8kyQntqpe7aK72irG4LZoe7KSbR25b5ewHAYdeMzqd7XzwQHWnGXl-xD7x4bBUyr/pub
- Chromebook Soluciones A Problemas: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17-XV_K35jc6nZjvaeQRyQxQ6i7-o699O/view
- ParentVUE Guides and Webinars: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/>
- Accessing myMCPS Classroom (Canvas) via mobile: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/115h0ElMvqzgGe9w8yNmSN7Hlv6Z7enQD45ePHKsKKbk/preview>

Kindergarten Registration/Enrollment Process for 2021-2022

The NEW Kindergarten Registration System is LIVE! If you are registering your child for kindergarten in the 2021-2022 School year reference the Getting Started with Kindergarten Online Registration document. - <http://bit.ly/K-OLR>

Here is a quick Guide to What you will need for Enrollment: This link shares with you information of documents you will need to provide during the enrollment/registration process. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/560-24b.pdf>.

Here are the steps to get started with the Kindergarten Registration Process online:

- o I am New to MCPS and I Need a ParentVUE Account to Register my Child for Kindergarten
How do I return to ParentVUE to continue a registration?
- o I am a current MCPS parent with an activated ParentVUE account
- o I am a current MCPS parent but don't have a ParentVUE account
How do I activate my ParentVUE account from the letter/email?

What are other forms that I will need to complete for kindergarten registration for my child:

1. **Complete the Kindergarten Online Registration Process:** <http://bit.ly/K-OLR> Same information listed above.
2. **Complete the Kindergarten Student Profile Form:** <https://forms.gle/QdyoZJN3hwHxTfV9A> This form provides parents with the opportunity to share information about their child that will be used as we make decisions on class placement for next year. Please complete by May 29, 2021.
3. Have your child's pre-school teacher or child care provider complete the following form to provide information on **Kindergarten Readiness Checklist for 2021-2022:** <https://forms.gle/vHx1fsRVeEjNrPg9>
This form should be completed by your child's current child care provider or pre-school/nursery school teacher. If your child does not attend a pre-school or child care, the parent can complete the checklist to the best of their knowledge. Please complete this form by May 29, 2021. The checklist will help us get to know your child's learning experiences, strengths and areas of need. For the child care provider or pre-school teacher, please read each statement and indicate your child's abilities by checking the appropriate column.

Other Resources for Kindergarten:

- **Kindergarten Handbook:** <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/kindergarten.aspx> This resource includes basic information about your child's Kindergarten year and all of the forms needed to enroll your child in MCPS.
- **Kindergarten Orientation 2021:** Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will hold the 2021 Kindergarten Orientation Program in two parts. We will kick off orientation with a registration drive in April. Formal visits to the school or opportunities to hear more specifics about your child's kindergarten experience will occur with each local school in August, 2021. More information will be shared with all incoming kindergarten parents later this summer.
- **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Information:** <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/earlychildhood/early-entrance.aspx>
Per Maryland State Department of Education regulations, to be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, children must be five years of age by September 1, 2020. Children who will turn five years old between September 2 and October 15, 2020 are eligible for consideration for the early entrance to kindergarten process.
 - Parents/guardians of children who wish to apply for early entrance to kindergarten must complete the Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten form.
 - **Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten:** <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=81&formNumber=271-6&catID=2&subCatID=0> Please complete this application if you feel that your child demonstrates academic achievement, social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for kindergarten placement, has a birth date that occurs between September 2 and October 15, and should be considered for early placement in kindergarten. Return the completed form to your school. Applications for early entrance to kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year will be accepted from February 1 through June 30, 2020. The testing for Early Entrance to Kindergarten will occur in August. More information will be shared soon.

Any questions regarding the kindergarten registration process, please contact Mrs. Michelle Taylor, school secretary via email Michelle_D_Taylor@mcpsmd.org or by phone at 240-740-2120.

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting Presentation: [Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting 2021 \(1\).pdf](#)



Diamond Elementary Arts Program

June Newsletter

What is going on in **Art** class during May?

K -2nd Grade— Students will be redesigning public spaces and drawing an underwater scene based on the book *Big Al* by Andrew Clemins Yoshi.

3rd - 5th Grade— Students will create anime people and animals based on characters that already exist or ones that they make up.

What is going on in **Music** class during the month of June?

Kindergarten—Students will sing within a limited vocal range and sing songs that use the voice in a variety of ways. Students will identify long/short and high/low sounds through movement. Students will maintain the steady beat through movement and homemade shaker/scraper or body percussion.

1st Grade—Students will be working on reading simple rhythm and pitch patterns. Students will notate simple rhythm patterns. Students will arrange sounds to create ostinato patterns to enhance a given melody.

2nd Grade—Students will be working on composing a simple rhythm pattern and notating it using iconic or standard notation. Students will perform dances to songs from various cultures and time periods.

3rd Grade —Students will notate simple rhythm and/or pitch patterns. Students will use the recorder and building bricks to improvise phrases.

4th Grade—Students will conduct music with meter in three and four. Students will compose and notate simple melodies using a given rhythm.

5th Grade—Students will read and perform a simple melodies or rhythms. Students will compose and notate a short rhythmic pattern.

What is going on in **Instrumental Music** class during June?

4th and 5th Grade: Students will record themselves playing along to their Final Performance song found in the myMCPS classroom.

What is going on in **Physical Education** class during June?

Kindergarten through 5th grade— By the end of June students will be able to demonstrate what they've learned throughout the year in P.E. Class.