Good evening, Farmland community,

This week is Staff Appreciation Week! This week the PTA and administration at Farmland will show our appreciation for our wonderful staff! PTA has also given to staff an extra $50 to spend during Distance Learning. This gives teachers the ability to purchase stand up whiteboards, earphones with microphones, and other items they can use to help with instruction. In addition, they are asking for the students' help to do the following:

* On Monday all students will wear their teacher's favorite color.
* On Friday PTA will send something for students to complete and email to their teacher. If you have questions about what color to wear or how to receive the prompt, please check with your Room Parent.
* During the week the PTA will send each staff member a $25 gift card from Mama Lucia's. The gift card can be used now for take out or later for regular dining. The staff are thrilled and have expressed how thankful they are for the gift!

Ms. Davis-Jones and I also have a few ways we will be showing our appreciation for our amazing staff. This has been a year of fantastic highs with tremendous student growth. These last few weeks have demonstrated how committed our staff is to each of your students with the hard work they have all put in with this online experience. Our staff has stepped up to meet each challenge without complaint! They have been working day and night to support our students in many ways.

Take a moment to see how we are recognizing staff.  Families, you are welcome to bring your chalk to leave a kind note, on the sidewalk, for staff. I will come by during the week to videotape the messages. I know the staff will appreciate your contributions.

[**Thank you, Farmland Staff link**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__youtu.be_nAp-5FLsBNuHc&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=SaWmw9gqwFS4BGrJdQILSO-t8BjNvvmRAGwS4g3UMnU&e=)

**Morning Announcements**

On the morning announcements, I have been sharing national recognition days.  Here is a glance at the week ahead. If your child would like to send me a picture of them wearing something, a note to a teacher, or a hand-drawn picture or something else this week you can send it to [April\_D\_Longest@mcpsmd.org](mailto:April_D_Longest@mcpsmd.org). I will share it on the morning announcements.

**Monday, May 4:**May the 4th Be With You (Star Wars theme)

**Tuesday, May 5:** Teacher Recognition Day and Cinco de Mayo

**Wednesday, May 6:**National Nurses Day

**Thursday and Friday, May 7 & 8:**Mother’s Day is on Sunday. Students, please send me pictures of a special person you want to recognize for Mother’s Day.

**Promotion Activities for 5th Graders**

MCPS is in the process of working on guidance for graduations and promotions. We are waiting to receive more guidance from the State of Maryland about schools opening or remaining closed. Once I receive information from the County I will share it with the 5th-grade team and the planning committee. I understand first-hand the importance of recognizing milestones for children. My oldest is a senior this year. It has been tough knowing she might not have high school graduation. We will certainly figure out some way to recognize our 5th graders once MCPS publishes guidance on how to proceed.

**Elementary Grading and Reporting for Marking Period 4**

***Letter grades will not be assigned for the 4th Marking Period.*** Rather than letter grades, the emphasis for the 4th Marking Period will be on engaging students in learning experiences and connecting with and engaging as many students as possible. To ensure students are progressing and meeting learning objectives, we will:

* Provide students with the opportunity to engage in a variety of learning experiences
* Follow up with students and their parents/guardians in identified areas of concern
* Engage students in academic and social-emotional work
* Provide teachers with information so that students return to school, they will know which skills to work on, and how to engage them in learning at the next grade level.

[**Click here to read Published**MCPS’s Letter To The Community**from April 26th**.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_publicinfo_community_school-2Dyear-2D2019-2D2020_coronavirus-2Dupdate-2D20200426.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=gY69dGRXlRzu9Yu5PZ1TcHJQtYXd_0BE0CC8n22dDVM&e=)

**Specials: Art, Music, PE, and Media**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are using an A week (4/6 - 4/10), B week (4/14-4/17) format for Specialist schedules. A Week will be for Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade. B Week will be for 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade.  Within the modules, students will watch a video and may be asked to conduct a survey or follow up. Students will find the lessons in their myMCPS portal accounts. ***Specialists in marking period four will not be giving students grades.*** ***If your child is unable to complete certain activities your child will not be penalized.***

Please watch this screencast to view how to access the lessons in myMCPS portal.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C1dT\_qjZaIuVtGwsdDq8QLh7-RM7fAzZ/view](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__drive.google.com_file_d_1C1dT-5FqjZaIuVtGwsdDq8QLh7-2DRM7fAzZ_view&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=rxGWjeKFkW5WjA1e_e-3jyjuHdWKfqhSEGn8RQrVuSA&e=)

**Science**

Science experiences for students and families will be available in myMCPS classroom starting the week of May 4. Additional experiences will be available for families the week of May 11. These experiences are extensions of learning for students and families. The classroom teacher will not be instructing science.

**Math Resource**

If you would like your child to have additional math experiences, please feel free to use [Zearn.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__about.zearn.org_distance-2Dlearning-3Futm-5Fcampaign-3Ddistance-2Dlearning-26utm-5Fmedium-3Dnative-26utm-5Fsource-3Dwhats-2Dnew&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=NLFDHzzK-pP7_vUbhwKK6qY_ku0K_YvP081RHs8u_Zg&e=).

The math materials are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

**Monitoring Student Engagement**

MCPS is monitoring student engagement through multiple data sources and will mobilize staff and resources according to the individual student and family needs. The engagement plan has three phases—analyzing and tracking individual student engagement at the school and central office level; creating outreach and case management action plans to address student needs, and analyzing and quantifying the quality of student engagement. It is important to note that engagement in our Continuity of Learning program can happen in a number of ways. Students and parents/guardians (on behalf of students) are connecting with teachers through email, telephone, text, and paper-packet materials. Ensuring all students are accounted for in the engagement data is critical.

**Enrollment and Registrations**

***This enrollment process is for all new students to MCPS and 2020-2021 Kindergarten Enrollments.***

***Kindergarten Orientation has been canceled for this week.***

*If you have any enrollment questions, please email Ms. Cindy Keating, our registrar at*[*cynthia\_m\_keating@mcpsmd.org*](mailto:cynthia_m_keating@mcpsmd.org)

Montgomery County Public Schools has created a new student registration process during the COVID-19 crisis. The first step in the enrollment process is filling out the survey at the link below. The survey gathers basic contact information so we can provide you with the necessary information you will need to register your student(s) into MCPS. Once you have filled out the Registration survey you will receive an email with some forms attached. The email will instruct you to complete the forms, then email the completed forms to a Dropbox email address. Please be aware that the registration/enrollment process will take a little longer than normal as we navigate these unusual times.

When filling out the survey, please take care to enter data correctly so that we may contact you as quickly as possible.

[**MCPS Student Registration and Enrollment Survey**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__docs.google.com_forms_d_e_1FAIpQLScNNQ5nntorQTHZbXm6IQO4fY3XzM1dyHi6AaaeMj9tk0dSNw_viewform&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=hGOc92bXQ4M4xId6hq8Q1Fr1M1yaTbfBAyGSlbFrPMo&e=)

**Chromebook Troubles**

If you are having trouble this week with your school-issued Chromebook, please fill out the following survey. Ms. Harrison will get back to you on how you may swap out your Chromebook. If you fill it out the request last week and have not heard how to pick up a Chromebook, please email Ms. Harrison at T[heresa\_T\_Harrison@mcpsmd.org](mailto:theresa_t_harrison@mcpsmd.org)

[**Request to Exchange or Recieve a Chromebook or MiFi Survey**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__forms.gle_8MckbTRnowNwg3NH9&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=sLbO3eAxVqFbcebNDgfWRfIUdM297vuGom08efgAiHM&e=)

**Chromebook Technical Support**

MCPS Technical Support has published a new number for everyone who is having trouble with remote learning. **Please call: 240-740-7022**

**myMCPS Parent Portal**

If you do not already have access to the myMCPS Parent Portal, please email Ms. Harrison, who will send you the information to log into the portal.

In the portal, we have created an informational page which includes class schedules, contact information, Chromebook Distribution information, Counseling Website links, Media Center Information, and more. All families should access and become familiar with this information. Some of the information found on the portal will NOT be published on our main website.

**Screencast Introducing the Farmland ES Resource Page**

The screencast at the link below will show how to access the Farmland ES resource located in the myMCPS portal. The information will be changed regularly and announcements will be sent out. Please go to the portal to find the Farmland Morning Announcements and many other resources.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10e57cp0OBjPIIyezCERMuQOE7Kx4ncJQ/view](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__drive.google.com_file_d_10e57cp0OBjPIIyezCERMuQOE7Kx4ncJQ_view&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=vUJ4jziZroN23rtJTXsAPt4fkzfXudY4g_Ivqs5XuFE&m=eUlFg20PHgkmcG0uxgSRw6j7R-mwd_rDmzxEtgiVZW0&s=gA2Vh9Vnq6E_FnUrRK_nkBK30CyCe_kuunDf9b3ICN8&e=)

**Contact Information:**

As a reminder, due to Governor Hogan’s Stay at Home Executive Order, all school buildings are closed. The best way to reach the school and the administration is by email: Mrs. Longest (April\_D\_Longest@mcpsmd.org), Ms. Davis-Jones (Aara\_L\_Davis-Jones@mcpsmd.org), or Ms. Harrison, our school administrative secretary ([Theresa\_T\_Harrison@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Theresa_T_Harrison@mcpsmd.org)).

**Enjoy your week!**

**April Longest**

**Principal**

**Farmland Elementary School**