



# Galway Chronicle



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**Dorothea Fuller, Principal**  
**Nichola Wallen, Assistant Principal**

**Our Vision:** Galway Elementary School will empower students to be valued, productive members of a global society.

**The Galway Pledge :** We pledge to respect one another, to be trustworthy and fair. We will care about each other, and be good citizens. Above all else, I will take responsibility for my actions, in a quest to build a better you...and a better me.

## Principally Speaking: *Thoughts on "School Opening Virtually"*

We never dreamed 2020 would be filled with so much change. Between COVID-19, racial unrest, economic upheaval and virtual school, it feels like everything that was dependable has become questionable and these changes are overwhelming. I understand those feelings and I want you to know that I, too, have personally felt the impact of these significant events. Now, the usual things we expect for school opening has changed also. Children will not be waiting at the school bus stop, parents will not be walking students to their classroom on that first day and the teacher will be seen through the computer. So many changes that it is hard to keep up. But one thing that has not changed is the feelings students have about the beginning of year.

The beginning of the new school year is always filled with excitement and that excitement forces us to view this time through the lens of opportunity and gratefulness. The new year is a fresh beginning, full of hopes and dreams and new experiences. The excitement children feel about their new teacher, new friends, new technology is contagious and that contagion spreads and makes adults excited too. Keep the first day rituals; pick out the outfit, lay out the clothes the night before, get up early and have breakfast. Yes, get excited, it is the first day of school. The technology is new, and it will challenge us, but get excited. There will be bumps and mistakes, but get excited anyway. The computer will freeze and Zoom will drop you, but stay excited. This time is so valuable and we cannot let the constant changes steal the excitement children have about learning. So let's make memories this year that celebrate the excitement and successes of our children "on purpose"!

In light of recent events, the staff and I want to ensure our families that you are valued participants in our school community. We embrace the cultural diversity represented by our students and families. Galway Elementary will not tolerate any behavior that causes anyone to feel unsafe or unwelcomed because of their race, ethnicity, religion, language, or gender. All students and families belong. We commit to making sure that every student has an opportunity to reach their potential as we provide a safe and positive learning environment for all. Please do not hesitate to share with administration or staff any actions or communications that do not align with our core values of



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 1**  
Chromebook & Material Distribution  
9:00-3:00 pm (Pre-K-grade 5)
- September 2**  
Chromebook & Material Distribution  
9:00-3:00 pm (Pre-K-grade 5)
- September 4**  
Early Release-closed at 11:30 am
- September 7**  
Schools Closed-Labor Day
- September 15**  
Back-to School Night (K-3)  
6:15-8:00 pm
- September 16**  
Back-To-School Night (4-5)  
6:15-8:00 pm
- September 28**  
Schools Closed for Students



### ELECTED PTA BOARD

President: Greta Schumacher

VP of Events: Olanike Oladoja-Oladapo

VP of Fundraising: vacant

Treasurer: Ashley Derr

Communications Secretary: Vicky Malengo

Recording Secretary: Nefertari Carver-Johnson

Membership Chair: Rita Estiphanos

**JOIN THE PTA- \$5**



## **SCHOOL LUNCH**



School breakfast and lunch will be served beginning August 31 from 11:30 am to 1:00pm at Galway Elementary. Meals will be served Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday this year. **To pick up curbside meals, the student's ID must be provided**, if they don't have the ID, we will be taking names, grades, and home schools. Students can pick up a meal at any of the 74 open school food distribution sites in the county, it does not have to be their home school. Parents may pick up meals for more than one student, as long as the student is enrolled in MCPS and they can provide a student ID number. Also, **they will not be taking any form of payment at the curb for safety reasons. Money may be added to their account using:**

**MySchoolBucks:** <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>

**Meal Prices:** The regular breakfast and lunch meal prices will be the same at all levels this year due to grab 'n go meal service. The reduced price lunch is 20 cents per meal at all levels. • Breakfast: No Cost • Lunch: Regular Price All Levels: \$2.55; Reduced Price All Levels: 20 cents

Families may apply for meal benefits by completing an **Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals** for the current school year.

**For faster processing, households may apply online at [MySchoolApps.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com).** If students received meal benefits last year, a new application must be submitted this year. If an application is submitted online, please do not submit a paper application also.

## **IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE**



Maryland requires that all students receive required vaccinations in order to attend school. This requirement continues to be enforced for all Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) student to participate in virtual learning. Parents/Guardians must submit documentation of required immunizations by the first day of school attendance, even if attendance will be virtual. For students who start school virtually on Monday, August 31, 2020, the exclusion date is September 20, 2020, which means that on Monday, September 21, 2020, students must be excluded from virtual instruction without documentation.

## **RECORDING LESSONS**

**Teachers** will record lessons in order to support families and students, create flexibility in accessing learning experiences when attending live instruction is a barrier, and enhance the opportunity to review lesson content and resources.

- When students first log in, their video and audio is off by default. If students should not be recorded, they should leave these off.
- Recordings are protected, available only to students through a protected myMCPS site, unavailable for download, and will delete after 72 hours.
- We recognize that even with these protections there may be students or families who do not want their children's images or voices to be captured. If you would like to have your student opt out of being in the recording, they should keep their video off in each class from the start of the school year. Parents/guardians are asked to indicate an opt out in the Parent Vue portal by September 11, 2020. Link to the [Parent Vue Slide Deck](#) provides families with information about activating the Parent Vue Account.



## **PARENT WEBINAR SERIES**

Learn about Zoom, myMCPS classroom, Canvas, ParentVUE and all the technology in virtual learning. More dates and times have been added to the webinar series for parents. Sessions with translators have also been added. Check out the updated flyer and visit the MCPS website for updates and links to resources.

Flyer: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7qQJcm\\_zk4yQUtRPPZY7uoo16govBitrtMUPHljav0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7qQJcm_zk4yQUtRPPZY7uoo16govBitrtMUPHljav0/edit?usp=sharing)

Website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/>

## **ParentVUE**

The new ParentVUE parent portal allows you to view your child's grades and assignments, and communicate with teachers. Learn more: [https://youtu.be/nDd6F\\_g1FIE](https://youtu.be/nDd6F_g1FIE) If families did not receive an email with ParentVUE activation information, you can call **240-740-7020** or email [communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org](mailto:communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org)

## **VERIFICATION OF STUDENT INFORMATION**

Parents/guardians will be able to start updating and adding emergency contact information as soon as they activate their **ParentVUE accounts using Synergy Online Registration**. This annual verification of student information will include the FERPA notification and notice for Directory Withholding. Parents will have the option to elect to withhold all or select directory information as in previous years.



# Clean Out Your Closet Challenge

Galway Elementary School is participating in the **Clothing To Cash**  **Recycling Program**

Help our School Raise Money!  
Bring in Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Towels and Textiles.  
Every Bag Counts!!!



**Bring items in all conditions, unneeded, outgrown and out of style.**



**Galway Elementary School will be paid for every pound we collect. All materials will be Reused, Repurposed or Recycled and saved from landfills.**

Look for the large white collection bin in the school parking lot. The goal is to **FILL** our collection bin **WEEKLY** with as many **PLASTIC BAGS** of clothing, shoes and other textiles as possible!

Recycling at schools now goes beyond bottles and cans. We are teaching our students the benefits of recycling while helping our school raise money for necessary resources that our students deserve.



**Help Support Our School & Save The Environment One Bag At A Time!**

