Dear Garrett Park Families,

We hope you find this bi-weekly email user-friendly and beneficial for staying informed and planning for upcoming school events. If there is information you would like us to share in upcoming editions, please let us know. You can either call the school at 240-740-0700 or email Dan at Daniel\_K\_Tucci@mcpsmd.org or Melanie at Melanie\_S\_Bachrach@mcpsmd.org

**Updates from GPES Administration:**

I would like to cordially invite you into Garrett Park on Monday, October 8, from 9:30 – 11:30 am for our annual Open House visitation. This is a great opportunity to participate in your child’s classroom to see what learning is like for your child each day. Since the visitation begins at 9:30, we ask that you do not enter the building with students as they arrive. We would like to get the children settled in their classrooms as well as attendance and lunch counts accounted for before parents enter. We also ask that you sign in in the front lobby and wear a visitor sticker during the duration of your visit. Please use the Holy Cross parking lot for additional spaces as available. Thank you for your cooperation in helping make this an enriching and safe experience for everyone.

We will be hosting a support session for families wishing to fill out the FARMS (Free and Reduced Meals) form during Open House on October 8. Our school counselors and an MCPS interpreter will be here to assist you. We will also provide paper copies and Chromebooks for those wishing to complete the form electronically. The deadline for the application is October 17th. [**www.MySchoolApps.com**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.myschoolapps.com_&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=OiOEITm8_c4Yf3D3fgwtNil4_56eMXSnJF0Cwjwmd1c&s=tBjhrT_qzlTHOkFdyDyOYuP7Pov124NR0fq7jbJxeo4&e=)

Reminder: There is an early dismissal scheduled for students on Friday, October 5th. We dismiss students at 1:20 pm.

**Teaching and Learning:**

October 5th represents the hallway point in Marking Period 1. This is an opportunity for teachers to work on interim reports for students. The purpose of an interim report is to communicate to parents where their child is at this point in time. Due to the progression of the curriculum, a grade reported in the myMCPS Parent Portal could reflect multiple assignments, or it could reflect one assignment. For example, Art, Music, and P.E. teachers see their students a limited number of times each marking period and therefore have a small number of grades when interims are processed. Likewise, at grades 4 and 5, science and social studies are taught in chunks to provide students with continuity in their learning and there, therefore, may not be any grades reported. At all grade levels, some measurement topics are instructed for multiple weeks, some for a few, and some not until the end of the marking period. If your child’s teacher has a concern about academics, they would have communicated with you already or are doing so through additional interim information.

**Safety and Security:**

Officer Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer with Montgomery County Police - 2nd District, will be visiting Garrett Park in the coming weeks. We feel it is important that she begin to establish relationships with the communities she serves. Her presence simply serves as a reminder that officers are a community resource and are available to assist in many capacities. So, please do not be alarmed if you see an officer’s car at the school. If there is an emergency response or event that warrants the entire community’s knowledge, I will send an immediate connect-ed communication to the community right away. Thank you for understanding.

**Important Dates:**

October 2                              PTA Meeting                                                      6:30 pm

October 5                              Early Dismissal for Students                             1:20 pm

October 8                              Open House Visitation                                       9:30-11:30 am

October 8 – 12                      Scholastic Book Fair                                           Times Vary

October 10                            Pajama Read-aloud Night                                  6:30 pm

                                                                                                                                                                                                         **MCPS Updates:**

**MCPS Parent Academy (English and Spanish)**

The MCPS Parent Academy has kicked off its fall season on September 24. Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to participate in these free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child’s success in school. Don’t miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, study skills, cyber safety and social media, and positive communication.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided upon request. A full list of courses is available on the [Parent Academy website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org_departments_parentacademy_parentacademyregister.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=fgAH0TEak9hSJygxoVsafg&r=-H88A-nqVig4iJU0dnj9DZdbRw670-V-qbBcDiUgz1s&m=OiOEITm8_c4Yf3D3fgwtNil4_56eMXSnJF0Cwjwmd1c&s=Nn5oDCtJec9Ogeamp8_hmdabcICLrRgL3GG8Hlog_xA&e=).