

240-740-1420

June, 2019

---

## Greencastle Gazette

---

This will be the final newsletter for the 2018-2019 school year. This has been a fantastic year filled with learning, great successes, and memorable experiences. Remember to have your children read, write, and practice their math over the summer so they can practice strategies and skills learned this year. Our summer reading challenge and math calendars are coming home soon. More information about them is below, and they will also be available on our website.

Reading Night on May 9<sup>th</sup> was a great evening of bookmark making, campfire read alouds, book making, and other literacy activities. Thank you to all staff members who planned, organized, and/or participated: **Ms. Greene-Turner, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Shelton, Ms. Diaz, Ms. McGrath, Ms. Cuneo, Ms. Rivera-Smith, Ms. Merchant, Ms. Reid, Dr. Sperl, Ms. Jones, Ms. Riebman, Mr. Marroquin, Ms. Klein, Ms. Hammonds-Richardson, Ms. Bullock-Smith, Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Carter, Ms. Moore, Ms. Samuels, Ms. Hayden, Ms. Terry, Ms. Amos.**

Thank you as well to our music team for preparing students for our Spring Concert, **Ms. Dubas, Mr. Slay-Vincent, and Mr. Collins.** Thank you as well to **Ms. Johnson, Mr. Cordova, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Ra, Ms. Moore** for attending and supporting our budding performers!

On Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, we were honored to have a visit from the Maryland Book Bank Bookmobile! Almost 500 of our students were able to visit and choose a book of their own to take home, free of charge. A huge thank you to **Dr. Sperl** and **Ms. Hammonds-Richardson** for making this possible. Thank you as well to all staff members who were able to pitch in to support and organize the visit! Seeing students get on the bus that afternoon with a new book proudly in hand was phenomenal.

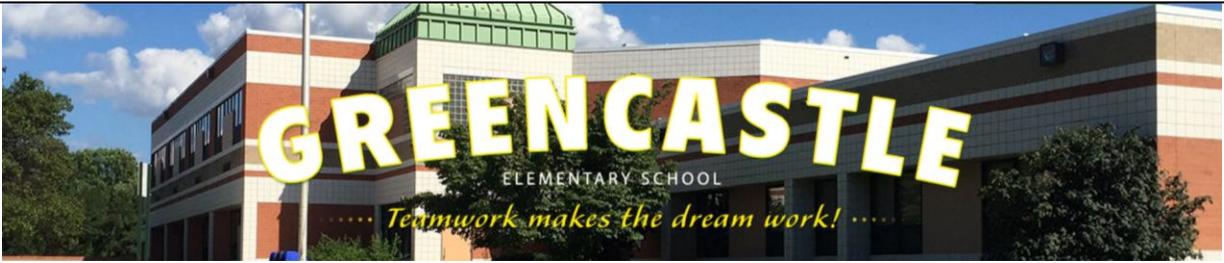
The end of each school year brings some staffing changes. Don't miss the Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes sections below for further details about departing and incoming staff. We have also included information about teachers who are tentatively planned to switch grade levels.

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September!

### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

---

Although Kindergarten Orientation has passed, we are still registering students for next year's kindergarten classes. If you or someone you know has a child who will be turning 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019, please contact Ms. Edwards in the main office at (240) 740-1420.



240-740-1420

June, 2019

---

## **CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

---

Inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on four days this winter. The 2018–2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, 2 more than the minimum required in the state of Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use two designated make-up days to ensure that it meets the state-required number of school days. The school year will be extended to June 14, 2019, and schools also will be open on June 5, which was a previously scheduled professional day for staff. June 14 will be an early release day for all students.

---

## **SUMMER LEARNING AT GREENCASTLE!**

---

We are beyond excited to share that through a partnership with Montgomery County Recreation Department (MCRD) and Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, we have been awarded a grant through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to hold a summer program here at Greencastle! **We recently learned that this is actually a THREE YEAR GRANT!** We will now be able to provide programming for many of our students for at least the next three summers!

The program, Fun, Food, Fitness, and Fundamentals at Greencastle (FFFFG) will run from July 1 through August 9 from 8:30-3:00. It will include breakfast, lunch, and transportation at no cost to families. The program will include targeted academic support and recreational activities in addition to science and technology lessons from Idea Lab Kids.

The grant enables us to have this program for 150 students who are entering grades one through five. The initial enrollment will be through invitation. Invitations will be sent soon. If additional seats remain available after the invitation period, we will open it up to others. While we would love to have all of our students, the grant from MSDE will only allow for us to have 150 seats. This is a great opportunity for a large portion of our students to receive additional education throughout the summer months to prevent summer learning loss, while also providing fun enrichment opportunities.

We are extremely grateful to our community partners for working with us to make this possible!

---

## **BUILDING AND FACILITY UPGRADES**

---

As you may have seen or heard, we've had two fantastic improvements to our Castle this month. First, we have had fencing installed around our playground, field, and blacktop area. This will go a long way towards keeping our students safe during recess, especially our youngest friends.



240-740-1420

June, 2019

Also, the next time you are in the building, be sure to check out our beautiful new stage curtains and valences in the Multi-Purpose Room! Stay tuned for additional improvements throughout the summer!

### **SUMMER READING!**

---

We are challenging our students to read at least twelve books over summer break. For our youngest students, these can be books read to them. We have provided a [Summer Reading Log](#) for students to record the title, author and one or two sentences about the books they have read. Additional paper can be used if needed. Students should return their completed reading log to the Media Center by September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Students who finish all twelve books, track their reading, and turn in their form will be invited to a Summer Reading Party which will be held during the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to hearing about all the books that were read over the summer.

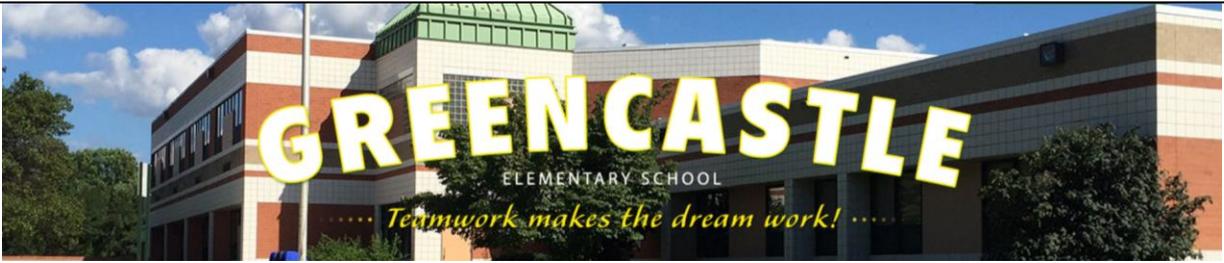
This information, as well as additional websites and resources can be found here on our school website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/greencastles/news/index.aspx?id=537303>. Happy reading!

### **SUMMER MATH!**

---

Our students have worked so hard this year to gain many new math strategies and understandings, and we don't want anyone to lose their learning over the summer. For this reason, each student will receive a two sided summer math calendar of quick math activities that will allow your student to engage in meaningful and productive math thinking all summer long. Any student who completes at least 35 activities, attaches any applicable work, and turns it in to their teacher by September 6<sup>th</sup> will be eligible to receive a reward for all of their hard work in the fall. Parents/Guardians must initial each activity completed for students to receive credit.

Even though our fifth grade students won't be returning to us, it's very important that they start middle school math on the right foot. Students have received a document that provides interactive games and engaging tasks in order to help them spend purposeful time this summer reviewing what they have learned. This will help students be prepared to jump right into middle school math. This can also be found on our school website. Students should set their own goals for completing the math activities from all five areas for their appropriate math classes, and should use a math journal to show any work that might help them to solve the given tasks. The journal can also be used to keep track of all that has been worked on, and what still needs to be completed. Please contact Benjamin Banneker Middle School with any questions: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms/>.



240-740-1420

June, 2019

## **FOND FAREWELLS**

---

As the school year closes, we will be saying farewell to some staff members who will be beginning new adventures. Please join us in sending well wishes to our departing staff: Mr. Collins, Ms. Dommu, Ms. Gallun, Ms. Hayden, Ms. Lea, Ms. Osburn, and Ms. Salmon. We wish each of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

- Ms. Lea, fifth grade teacher, will be joining the staff at Arcola Elementary School as they implement an innovative school calendar initiative.
- Ms. Dommu, counselor, will be joining the staff at Burnt Mills Elementary School,
- Ms. Hayden, Gifted & Talented liaison and focus enrichment teacher, will be making the jump to middle school at Benjamin Banneker Middle School.
- Ms. Gallun, focus teacher, Mr. Collins, instrumental music teacher, Ms. Osburn, PEP Occupational Therapist, and Ms. Salmon, Building Service Worker, will all be retiring at the end of the school year. We thank each of them for their dedicated service to all the students they have worked with here at Greencastle, as well as their other experiences in education. This is extremely well deserved!

Please see the following message from Ms. Dommu: “It has truly been a privilege to work with the Greencastle students and community for the last five years. I have loved being a part of the lives of so many outstanding students and supportive families. I am saddened to announce that I will be leaving Greencastle at the end of this school year to gain additional hours as a School Counselor at another school in Montgomery County. I will always hold my memories and experiences at Greencastle close to my heart.”

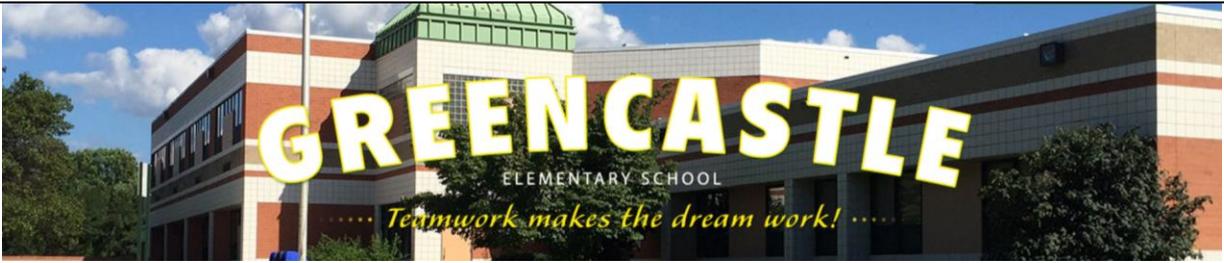
## **WARM WELCOMES FOR OUR NEW KNIGHTS!**

---

We are currently in the process of hiring new staff members. We are still hiring for a focus teacher, .5 counselor, building service worker, and PEP paraeducator. In the meantime, we have some amazing educators coming to join our Greencastle family next year. We are excited to welcome:

- Ms. Hannah Chow, PEP 5 Hour teacher
- Ms. Vianka Hardy, PEP paraeducator
- Mr. Sheldon Mizelle, second grade teacher
- Ms. Veronica Oldfield, PEP paraeducator
- Ms. Sarah Riffle, PEP INC teacher

Read introductory messages from some of our new Knights below:



240-740-1420

June, 2019

I'm **Hannah Newcomb**, but I'm getting married this summer so soon I'll be **Hannah Chow**! I've been teaching at Brooke Grove E.S. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Learning Center, but next year I am so excited to work with my favorite early childhood age-range. I went to the University of Maryland (Go Terps!), where I earned my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education. I am currently taking courses in Special Education from John's Hopkins University. My hometown is Deep Creek Lake, MD and I love to visit and go on outdoor adventures. A few of my favorite things include spending time with my friends and family, sitting on my porch, and drinking tea.

Hi! I am **Sheldon Mizelle** and I am very excited to start working at Greencastle. I have been working with children since I was sixteen and have loved all that has come with this journey. Not long ago I started an internship with second grade students down in Wicomico County. During this time, I found that this grade is my calling and where I know I need to be. I finished my teaching internships and graduated from Salisbury University, December 2018, with my degree in Elementary Education. After a quick winter break I started as a long term substitute teacher at Montgomery Knolls Elementary with some amazing first graders. Some of the main things to know about me are that I am a huge Washington Redskins fan, I love to participate in as many sports as I can, and I love being outdoors!

Hello Greencastle community! My name is **Veronica Oldfield**, and I have been working with children in MCPS since 1995 as both a volunteer and as a paraeducator. I most recently worked in PEP for the past 8 years at Glen Haven Elementary School. I am originally from El Salvador and am bi-lingual. My husband, Misao, and I have three amazing daughters--Norma (26), Tiara (18), and Kiara (16). I enjoy working with children and believe that they can teach us as much as we can teach them. As educators, we can help students grow by building classrooms where they not only feel safe and loved, but also enjoy themselves. We should also serve as role models for kindness and communicate with their families. I am happy to join the Greencastle family and look forward to meeting everyone!

My name is **Sarah Riffle** and I will be teaching PEP INC at Greencastle Elementary School next year. I have been teaching special education in Montgomery County for 16 years. I am very excited to be joining the Greencastle community and look forward to meeting everyone!

## **CLASSROOMS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

---

New school years provide new opportunities for some of our staff members to experience new grade levels. The table below shows the number of classes in each grade level for next year, along with the teachers scheduled for each grade. We based these plans on our current projected enrollment. If you know anyone who will be enrolling in Greencastle for next school year, please encourage them to register in late June. Early registration allows us to have adequate staffing for the school year.



240-740-1420

June, 2019

Please know that while this is our current plan, it is subject to modification if our enrollment significantly changes during the summer:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>PEP/Pre-K</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>	<u>Grade 5</u>
<b>Class 1</b>	Ms. Chow (PEP 5 Hr.)	Ms. Bullock-Smith	Ms. Diaz	Ms. Hughitt	Ms. Amos	Ms. Avent	Ms. Deitemyer
<b>Class 2</b>	Ms. Garrett (PEP Classic & Collab.)	Ms. Georgetti	Ms. Fitzgerald	Ms. Lawrence	Ms. Cuneo	Ms. Hobson	Ms. Hammonds-Richardson
<b>Class 3</b>	Ms. Riffle (PEP INC)	Ms. Jones	Ms. Mason	Mr. Mizelle	Ms. Dolins	Ms. Kim	Ms. Smith
<b>Class 4</b>	Ms. Samuels (Pre-K)	Ms. Mitchell	Ms. McGrath	Ms. Moore	Mr. Marroquin	Ms. Reid	Mr. Swigart
<b>Class 5</b>	Ms. Terry (PEP Classic)	Ms. Riebman	Ms. Ra	Ms. Pierre-Louis	Ms. Vandervall	Ms. Townsend	
<b>Class 6</b>		Ms. Robey		Ms. Shearin			

### **INNOVATIVE WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

Next year, we are excited to be a part of an innovative pilot program to provide additional language learning for our students. We will begin next year with our **third grade students** who will have weekly lessons and experiences to learn **French!**

For both Greencastle and other schools who are piloting the program, MCPS is looking for individuals to teach lessons and support the program. Please see the message from the World Languages office:

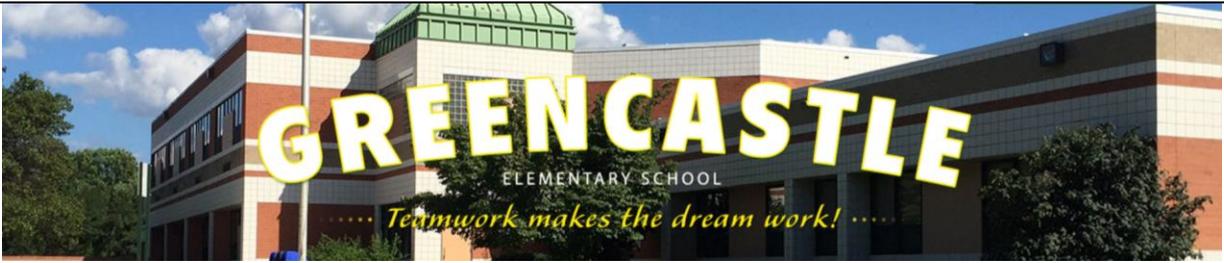
*Do you want to make a significant contribution of time and talent to your community?*

*MCPS is planning on expanding its world language experience programs to additional elementary schools through a cadre of community volunteers. This innovative, hybrid program consists of weekly face-to-face lessons led by a bilingual volunteer and further supported by weekly access to the target language through an interactive online platform.*

*The program outcome aims at providing all students with the opportunity to be exposed to a language and culture other than English throughout their elementary years.*

*We are looking for individuals who:*

- *are bilingual and biliterate,*
- *easily connect with young students,*
- *have some experience teaching or working with groups of students,*
- *are willing to plan and deliver lessons under the supervision of the local school, and*



240-740-1420

June, 2019

- can commit to teaching the language one day a week throughout the 2019-2020 school year

Interested? Please contact Françoise Vandenplas at [Francoise.Vandenplas@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Francoise.Vandenplas@mcpsmd.org) or (240) 740-4005

## **BENJAMIN BANNEKER AND BRIGGS CHANEY M.S. SUMMER MATH PROGRAMS**

Banneker and Briggs Chaney Middle School will be offering a summer Math 6 enrichment course for rising sixth grade students. The course will be taught by an MCPS teacher from Tuesday, July 9 until Friday, July 26, 2019. The courses will be held at Benjamin Banneker Middle School from 8:15 am until 12 noon. Transportation and breakfast/lunch will be provided to all students. The tuition cost is \$75 with options for reduced payments based on family income.

Please see the attached information and registration form as well as the important information below. If you have questions about the program, please contact the LSP lead teacher, Ms. Yusuff, at [Ashely\\_R\\_Yusuff@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ashely_R_Yusuff@mcpsmd.org) or (301) 989-5747.

### **Course Information**

- **Math Enrichment for Grade 6**
  - This course will review content from elementary math curriculum and preview some indicators from the Math 6 curriculum: Statistics & Data, Expressions & Equations and Geometry. Conceptual development of material and on-level concepts, content, and processes is addressed as students are taught concrete understanding through manipulatives, transitioning to pictorial representation, to abstract understanding through problems.

### **Tuition Information**

- Tuition is \$75 per student.
- Reduced fees are available based on parent/guardian income. Please see the guide below or on the registration form for details:

<b>Family Income</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Over \$46,435</b>	<b>\$32,632-\$46,435</b>	<b>\$0-\$32,631</b>
<b>Approved Tuition</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Full Fee (100%)	Waiver (40%)	Waiver (28%)
LSP Course Tuition	\$75	\$30	\$22



240-740-1420

June, 2019

### Registration Information

- **PAPER REGISTRATION:** Paper registration begins Monday, May 20, 2019. Parents/guardians may bring the completed registration form along with the tuition fee payable via cash or money order (no personal checks) to the main office of Banneker Middle School. Please do not bring the registration or money to your current elementary school.
- **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** Online payments will begin Tuesday, May 28, 2019 via the MCPS Online Payments System (<https://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/>). Be sure to select Banneker Middle School and not your current elementary school. Parents/guardians may pay using a credit card.
- **The deadline for all registrations is Friday, June 7, 2019.**
- Courses are based on a minimum of 12 students and a maximum of 20 students. Parents/guardians will be notified regarding their student's registration shortly after June 7. If a course is cancelled, a refund will be provided.

### COUNSELORS' CORNER

---

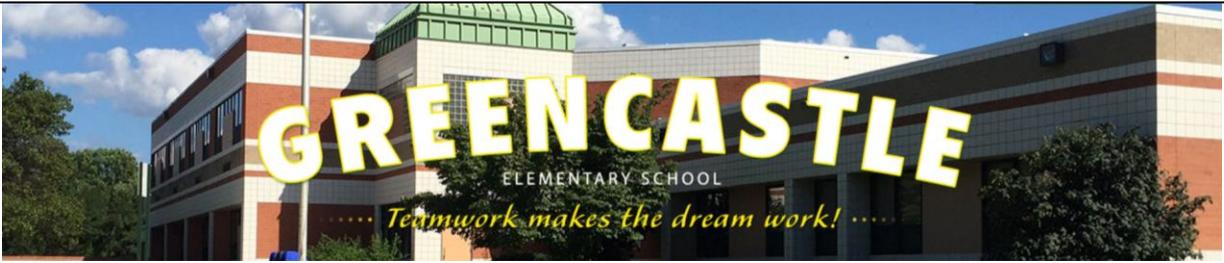
It's hard to believe this school year is coming to an end. The Greencastle counselors enjoyed working with your students this year! Mrs. Brock is looking forward to continuing her work with Greencastle Students in the 2019-2020 school year while Mrs. Domm is sad to say goodbye to the Greencastle community. Good luck and best wishes to our 5<sup>th</sup> graders moving on to middle school next year. We know that you will make us proud! We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!

### BOARD OF EDUCATION SEEKS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON POLICY ADDRESSING STUDENT WELL-BEING AND SCHOOL SAFETY

---

The Board of Education is seeking feedback from staff, parents/guardians, and members of the community on a new policy addressing student well-being and school safety. Policy COA, *Student Well-being and School Safety*, ties together the district's policy on Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health, and its work on *Be Well 365: The Framework to Support the Physical, Social, and Psychological Well-being of All Students* initiative.

The draft policy addresses safety from the perspective of promoting a positive school climate; accountability for all; behavioral threat assessment; facilities, security staff and technology; collaboration with count partners including health and law enforcement agencies; and emergency planning and preparedness. Draft Policy COA also incorporates key requirements set forth in the *Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018*. To learn more about the policy and provide comment, visit [mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/q353v381r2151/](https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/q353v381r2151/). Submit public comments by Wednesday, June 5.



240-740-1420

June, 2019

## BE WELL 365

MCPS has launched a new initiative, *Be Well 365*, which will address the physical, social, and psychological well-being of our students. Students perform better academically when they are healthy in body, mind, and spirit.

*Be Well 365* will work to ensure that students have the necessary skills to become positive members of the school and broader community; manage their emotions; build academic and social resilience; identify and access support for themselves or a friend; peacefully resolve conflict; and make positive decisions.

The district has launched a webpage with more information on each component of this initiative. You can view this webpage at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/bewell365](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/bewell365). You'll be hearing much more about *Be Well 365* as we get closer to the start of the 2019–2020 school year.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
June 4, 2019	PTA Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
June 5, 2019	Instructional Make-Up Day due to earlier snow days Field Day
June 6, 2019	Green & Gold Assemblies Grades 3-5 – 9:15-10:15 a.m. – Gym Grades 1-2 – 2:05-3:05 p.m. – Gym * Students receiving awards will receive an invitation from their teacher. *
June 11, 2019	Kindergarten Celebration – Gym – 9:15-10:45 a.m.
June 12, 2019	Kindergarten Fun Day – 9:00-3:00 Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony – Paint Branch H.S. – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
June 13, 2019	Last Day of PEP and Pre-K students
June 14, 2019	Last Day of School for Students Early Release – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m. No PEP or Pre-K classes