Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal December 21, 2021

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 **Rockwell Register**

 **Dear Parents,**

**Winter Break is almost here! There is a charge in the air and the excitement is growing as preparations are made for winter break and winter holidays. We’ve had a very festive spirit week with fun hats, flannel shirts, and we anticipate a school filled with PJ clad adults and children tomorrow. We are happy to host the DHS marking band for our traditional winter concert tomorrow here at Rockwell. Due to impending weather we will have to bring the concert indoors. We will not be able to accommodate parent audience members at the concert due to space limitation. We can’t wait to enjoy the music and see our former Rockwell students as they perform. Ask your children about the concert when you see them after school on Thursday.**

**As 2022 comes to an end, I’d like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Rockwell community- students, staff, and parents for all that you do to make our school such a special place for children and adults alike. There is a genuine caring feeling for one another in our school and it takes everyone’s contributions to make this so. A cheerful greeting, a welcoming smile and many other things that we can do equals a place where we want to be.**

**At the dawn of 2023, a new year, I wish each of you much health and happiness. Enjoy the last week of December with your children. We will see everyone back on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**

**Sincerely,**

**Cheryl Clark**

**Principal** 

\*\*Over the Winter Break, Rockwell’s main office will be closed. In the event of an urgent matter that cannot wait until January 3, 2023 when we return, please feel free to email me with a detailed message: cheryl\_clark@mcpdmd.org. Thank you!\*\*

**COVID-19 Test Kits Were Distributed Wednesday, 12/21/22**

Dear Rockwell School Community,

We know many of our families will spend time over the winter break traveling, visiting with friends and family, and engaging in fun community activities. As these activities possibly involve a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19, MCPS is distributing at-home rapid test kits to students and staff prior to the break.

Testing is an important way to identify individuals actively positive for COVID-19 who should temporarily isolate in order to prevent further transmission and keep our school community as healthy as possible. Testing is not mandatory. We are depending on our staff and families to consider their exposure risk, and test and report positive results accordingly.

Please note that schools were asked to distribute a kit made by InteliSwab. Video instructions for InteliSwab can be found here in [English](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DB16-_Vvbkdk&data=05%7C01%7CMichelle_J_Valdivia%40mcpsmd.org%7C8400a3458b994b1f471c08dab91f83e6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638025842253441009%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ea2DP5Ow4Q157MpebI%2BxdzSYCd7BKS8IBaC8EHU2Y18%3D&reserved=0) and [Spanish](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fespanol.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Ftesting%2Fself-testing-videos.html&data=05%7C01%7CMichelle_J_Valdivia%40mcpsmd.org%7C8400a3458b994b1f471c08dab91f83e6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638025842253441009%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jyR6XWtudFsFf2YUYEmDjFZN9PIMpG8CCsK7H6UVd8k%3D&reserved=0) and here for [other test kit types](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing-videos.html). Please note that the InteliSwab test takes **30 minutes** for results. Test kits should be used for staff and students. For other family members, free rapid test kits are also available at most [public library locations](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/rapid-tests.html).

**What do I do if the rapid test is positive?**

Please report positive tests for staff or students on the [MCPS COVID-19 Reporting Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs2RqaGzagPTfOg-HJEUXEbIcH-zyADhFZRS7ifjAf21wPBw/viewform). Individuals who have a positive COVID-19 test will need to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html).

**What do I do if the rapid test is negative?**

Negative test results do not need to be reported.

Please remember that non-COVID respiratory infections like influenza and RSV are also circulating in our community. Healthy habits include isolating when sick, good handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes help prevent illness. [COVID-19](https://mcgvaccineprod.powerappsportals.us/en-US/covid-vaccine-scheduling/) and [influenza](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html) vaccination are available for free for Montgomery County residents.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Clark

Principal

January Dates:

Students & Staff Return from Winter Break: January 3

Holiday- ML King, Jr. Day (No school for staff or students): January 16

Professional Day for All Staff (No school for students): January 27