

# Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal      March 7, 2022  
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## Rockwell Register

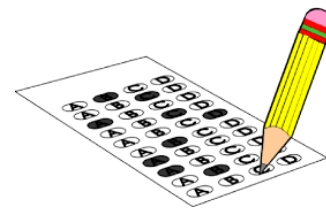
Dear Parents,

Happy March! Early spring is always an interesting time in the life of a school. We are working hard to make the most of each instructional day knowing that we are well past the halfway point in the year, and at the same time are required to begin thinking about the next school year in terms of scheduling, staffing, and instructional organization. I will share information about staffing and organization for next year as things become clearer, but I am happy to report that we did well in terms of staffing and will be doing some hiring to complete teams in preparation for the fall. I will share team organization and staffing news as we get more settled with our plans in the next several weeks. I am hopeful about class sizes for the coming year and I can share that we will have three teachers at each grade level with the exception of grade three and grade two which will be organized into 4 classes each. This is great news as these two groups- currently grade 1 and grade 2 continue to grow with more students registering for this current year and for next school year as well. Our PEP program is unchanged with 5 classes (5 AM and 5PM Sessions daily).

With the spring also comes academic testing. We will be administering district and/or state testing in grades K-5. Grade level teams will communicate specific testing schedules. It is always helpful to minimize absences during our testing windows if at all possible. With this being said, please don't send your child to school with symptoms of sickness. We will have make-up dates for all testing.

Here is a schedule for the Maryland State Tests in grades 3-5:

<b>Grade 5 Science</b>	<b>March 8 &amp; 10</b>
<b>Grade 5 Reading &amp; Math</b>	<b>April 4-8, April 20</b>
<b>Grade 4 Reading &amp; Math</b>	<b>April 4, 5, 7, 8, 20, 21</b>
<b>Grade 3 Reading &amp; Math</b>	<b>April 19, April 21, April 25-27, April 29, May 4-5</b>



Thank you to each of our Rockwell families for sending us your best every day. The students are working hard and are making progress in their academic learning and in how they interact with both peers and the adults in the building every day. We hope that you are noticing and enjoying the same at home!

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Clark*

Principal

Montgomery County Public School sends out Things to Know. Please take a look at the message for Friday, March 4, 2022 [here](#).

The word "Kindergarten" is written in a large, colorful, bubbly font. Each letter has a different color, creating a rainbow effect from red on the left to purple on the right.

**Calling all Kindergarten  
Students for Fall 2022!**

Rockwell is excited to register a new class of kindergarten students this spring to begin in August, 2022 when our school year begins. Students must be five years old by September 1, 2022 to be eligible. We will consider Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK) for students who turn five between September 1-October 15, 2022. Please contact Mrs. Shae Nelson for more information about Rockwell's EEK procedures. More information about EEK can be found on the MCPS website [here](#).

**Registration for kindergarten at Rockwell begins on Monday, March 28, 2022.** You can begin electronic registration on this day. Information is at this [link](#). If you prefer to bring in your documents and register in-person, our registration fair is scheduled for April 5, 9:15-11:30 and 1:00-2:30 in the school lobby. We will have staff available to accept forms, make copies, answer questions, etc. Your children do not need to attend this registration fair.

**Orientation for Rockwell kindergarten students will be held in the summer-after June 21, 2022.** In addition, we will offer a Kindergarten Q & A via Zoom in April. We will advertise these details soon!

**Questions about Kindergarten Registration or Orientation?** Call Mrs. Shae Nelson, our main office 240-740-5180. She can assist you. More details will be sent later this month.

*Please forward this information to your friends and neighbors who have an incoming K student!*

## PEP At Rockwell for the 2022-23 School Year



We are happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for our Preschool Education Program (PEP) for the 2022-2023 school year. PEP offers pre-kindergarten classes and services for children ages 3-5 in an early childhood setting for children with and without disabilities. If you choose to enroll your child, he/she will be in an inclusive class with other students with and without disabilities. Classes are 5 days per week for 2.5 hours per day. The cost is \$150 per semester or \$300 per year. The class is taught by a certified MCPS teacher. There is a para educator in the class to assist. The class follows a PreK Curriculum.

All applicants must be residents of Montgomery County. Priority is given to children who reside in Rockwell's school boundary, then the Damascus Cluster boundary. *Your child must be 3 years old by Sept 1, 2022.* Due to the anticipated high numbers of applicants, enrollment will be based on a lottery system. Applications will be accepted through the month of March and assignments will be made in late April. You will be contacted in late April or early May if you are awarded placement in the program. Although a wait list will be created with the names of applicants not originally placed, please consider back-up plans for pre-school, as there are a limited number of openings.

Applications are available on the MCPS website by typing "community peers" into the search box or via the link below. Please either hand carry, mail or email your completed application to the following:

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School  
Attention: PEP Community Peer Program  
24555 Cutsail Dr.  
Damascus, MD 20872

Shae Nelson, Attendance Secretary: [Shae\\_J\\_Nelson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Shae_J_Nelson@mcpsmd.org)  
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/335-47.pdf>

***PEP Community Peer Applications for Returning and New Students are due 3/31/22!***

♥ Welcome to  
Preschool!



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**Calendar Dates to Note:**

March 11, 2022

Early Release for Students- School is out at 12:55 PM

March 24, 2022

Early Release for Students- School is out at 12:55 PM

April 1, 2022

Early Release for Students- School is out at 12:55 PM

April 11-18

School is Closed for Students for Spring Break & Holidays

April 24, 2022

Spring Individual & Class/Group Pictures will be taken

**Previously sent items of interest**



**Breaking News: The Lost and Found is more robust than ever! Looking for a lost hat, glove or coat? It could be in Rockwell's Lost and Found!**

Our lost and found rack is located directly beside the doors to the All-Purpose Room. We have a collection of sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets and water bottles unclaimed. Some are new winter coats! Please ask your child to check for any missing items at their lunch and recess time. We will be clearing out the lost and found approximately every six weeks so that it does not build to an unmanageable number of items.

**When do Rockwell students go outside for recess and/or lunch?**



- ❖ We factor in the wind chill to determine the “feels like” temperature in making all decisions about indoor vs. outdoor recess and lunch
- ❖ If it “feels like” less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, we choose to keep students indoors for both lunch and recess
- ❖ Students are never forced to eat outdoors; this is always a choice if the weather and ground conditions allow outdoor lunch
- ❖ All students at a particular grade level either go out for recess or stay in; we do not have supervision to give a choice.
- ❖ Indoor recess is held in the classroom and teachers have collected games and activities for students to do with friends in their classroom during the 40 minute recess time