

Principal's Message on 03/17

Good Evening Stallion Families,

It was a great week of learning throughout the building. This week's message is on the longer side, but please read through the entire message. It contains some reminders we are asking for you to review with your child(ren) and information on upcoming events!

We want to remind all families that Spring Break begins March 23rd with school resuming on Tuesday, April 2nd.

New: Kindness throughout the building

Over the past several weeks we have noticed an increase of inappropriate language being used at lunch and/recess in some grades. We are asking that you take a few moments to talk with your child(ren) to remind them about the power of words and the impact our words have on others.

When any of us demean another, it goes against our school's values of respect, inclusivity, and creating a safe and welcoming environment for all our students. Thank you for your partnership!

New: Testing Dates

Students in grades 3 - 5 will be taking the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics this spring. The current schedule for testing is as follows:

- 3rd Grade:
 - 3rd Grade ELA testing: 4/4, 4/5, 4/8 & 4/9
 - 3rd Grade Math testing: 4/15 & 4/19
- 4th Grade:
 - 4th Grade ELA testing: 5/2, 5/6, 5/9, 5/10
 - 4th Grade Math testing: 5/13 & 5/16
- 5th Grade:
 - 5th Grade ELA testing: 5/2, 5/6, 5/7, & 5/9
 - 5th Grade Math testing: 5/13 & 5/16

We will share more information as we get closer to testing but wanted to make you aware of the dates. We appreciate your support with testing! If you have any questions, please contact Kayla Gross at Kayla_M_Gross@mcpsmd.org

Curriculum Night on March 21st

Welcome to Curriculum Night! Curriculum Night will be held March 21st from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. We're excited to showcase our school's curriculum and provide you with valuable insights into your child's educational journey. Throughout the evening you'll have the opportunity to meet teachers, learn about classroom expectations, and gain a deeper understanding of the subjects and activities your child will engage with. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's academic success. Let's embark on this journey together!

New: Smart Watches at School

We've noticed a trend of students using smartwatches to contact their parents for various needs. While students are allowed to have smartwatches or cell phones on campus, these devices can not be used during the school day.

- If your child needs to contact you or requires assistance, they should go directly to the front office.
 - The office staff is equipped to handle their needs and facilitate communication with parents, maintaining a consistent and secure environment for all students.
- There should be no smart watches and/or cell phones used during arrival, instructional time, lunch/recess, dismissal, and before/after school activities.
- Students will be asked to remove a smartwatch that distracts themselves or others from learning or otherwise causes unwelcome attention.
 - If these rules are not followed, the device will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent or guardian.
 - The school is not responsible if the watch/phone is lost or stolen.

New: Career Day

Calling all adults with interesting careers! We are excited to host Snowden Farm's 1st Annual Career Day on the morning of Tuesday, April 30, and we would love your help.

- Please fill out the [short survey here](#) to indicate your interest by Friday, April 5.
- We will be in touch with more information once we have reviewed responses.

- Please reach out to our Counselors with any questions
(allison_n_pena@mcpsmd.org, danielle_e_luckett@mcpsmd.org)

Optional Spaces during Lunch for Students Celebrating Ramadan

With Ramadan starting this week we wanted to provide an alternative space for your child if they will be fasting. Please complete the following google form,

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScR2u1vQeNZ4H-Q-zk2UoOKBxqNadTu1xe6uHKgogwoA5trow/viewform>. This allows us to ensure there is enough space for each student.

Snack Donations for MCAP

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will take the MCAP Assessment for Language Arts and Math in April and May. We like to provide snacks for students to enjoy after finishing each day of assessment. Due to having 6 days of testing per student, and the number of students we serve, we need over 2,000 individually packaged snacks.

- Please sign up on the sign up genius if you are able to donate any of the asked for snacks towards this cause!
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45AEA92BA7F5C70-48418304-snacks#/>
- We request that all snacks be dropped off by Friday 3/22 so we are ready for testing after Spring Break.

Thank you and please look for more information about when each grade is testing in the upcoming weeks!

Kindergarten Registration Opens March 18th

Do you or someone you know have a child who is turning five before September 1, 2024 and needs to register for kindergarten? Kindergarten registration opens on March 18th. Here is a link to register,

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/info/enroll/kindergarten/2024-25/kindergarten-registration-2024.pdf>. If you need assistance, please call school at 240-740-5800.

STEM Fair on April 9th

The Snowden Farm Elementary School PTA is holding the 3rd STEM Fair at 6 PM on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024! We invite all our students and their families to participate in this exciting and educational event. Students, or teams of students, feel free to work with your family or friends! The participants will explore a topic in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math. You will then present your project in any of the following ways: Make a traditional tri-fold display; present it on a short video and display it on a computer; write a short report; make a Google slides presentation; make a short video news report; make your own website; or use a combination of these methods. If you have another presentation idea, let us know! Whichever presentation format you chose, each project should contain the following:

- Title: Every great project needs a name!
- Purpose: What do you want to learn from this project? What questions did you have that you would like to have answered?
- If you are doing an experiment, what is your hypothesis? What do you think will happen? What were your observations? Explain the steps of your experiment or present your research (tell us what you did, what you learned, what happened and what you noticed.)
- Conclusion: What did you learn? Were your questions answered? If you did an experiment, was your hypothesis (guess about what will happen) right? Why do you think that was?

If you are interested in doing a STEM Fair project:

- please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C48ADAC2FA5FD0-snowden#/>
- no later than 4/5/2024
- Let us know who you are, what grade you are in and who your homeroom teacher is, what you are working on and with whom!
- If you have any questions, please ask!
 - Just send an email to Alex (Ruoqiu) Wu, at vp1@sfespta.org
- We need more volunteers!

PROJECT IDEAS

To start your project, you could ask a simple question like “How does this work?”, “How are stop motion videos made?”, “What advancements are being made in the Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math field that will improve our lives?” Or think of an experiment and use the

Scientific Method to explore! Showcasing new technologies and getting other people excited (especially fellow students) is what STEM Fairs are all about!

Below is a list of STEM topics. You can use a STEM topic that is provided or use your own ideas as long as they are STEM related:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3D Printing ● Magnetism ● Robotics ● Green Screen Video ● Hydro or Solar Electricity ● Astronomy ● Environmental Issues ● Internet Technology ● Genetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maps and Geography ● Non-Newtonian Fluids ● Composting ● Architectural Design ● Biology and Health ● Gyroscopes ● Chemical Reactions ● Stop Motion Video ● Radio / Cellular Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers/Computer Science (Programming, Scratch, Python, etc.) ● English vs Metric Units of Measure ● Dimensions, Area, and Volume ● Space Technology (NASA SLS, SpaceX, Blue Origin) ● And so much more!
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- HINT: Interactive projects are very popular!
- Safety First!
 - No flying drones, dangerous chemical reactions, fire and flame, or sharp objects are allowed!

The Spelling Bee

Welcome to the 4th Annual Spelling Bee for Snowden Farm Elementary School!

- Please sign up your child for the appropriate slot, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4FACAA2EA20-47990761-20232024#/>
 - If all the slots for your grade level are filled, please use the waitlist.
- When signing up, please fill out the student's name.
 - We will use this name on the participation certificate.
- Please use only one slot per child.
- The study materials will be sent out once all the slots for a grade are filled or no later than Tuesday, April 2nd.

MCPS Caregiver Survey

MCPS wants your feedback to help inform decisions about teaching and learning for your child.

- Please visit <https://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org/> , select your language to take the survey, then log into the survey using your child's student ID number, grade level, and school.
- If you are unsure of your child's student ID number, you can find it on your ParentVue Account.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this survey!

Calming Bins for our Classrooms

We are collecting donations to assemble Calming Bins for every classroom at Snowden Farm! These bins will be available to all students to support Social Emotional learning and wellbeing. Please review the available slots below, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CAAAB22A4FF2-48096306-calming#/> and click on the button to sign up.

Contact School Counselors, Allison Pena or Danielle Lockett, with any questions.

Purchased donations can be dropped off at school labeled "Calming Bins"

Updates from the PTSA

Please consider joining the SFES PTA

- Visit the [PTA Webpage](#) for more information and link on how to sign up.
- We are also in need of a chairperson to lead the Spirit Wear and PTA Newsletter committees.
 - Please email vp2@sfespta.org if you are interested in volunteering to lead one of these committees.

Upcoming Important Dates

- 03/20- Meet and Greet with the Board of Education at Clarksburg High School at 6:00 PM
- 03/21- Curriculum Night at 6:00 PM
- 03/25-04/01- Spring Break
- 04/02- School reopens from Spring Break

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school, 240-740-5800.

With Gratitude,
Michelle Fortune