

# WATERS LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

13100 Waters Landing Drive  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: (240) 740-1020 Fax: (301) 601-0392

Office of the Principal

August, 2020

Dear Waters Landing Families,

The end of summer is quickly approaching and we are diligently planning for the return of students and staff. Together this year, we will create a year of excellence for our children focused on quality instruction, academically challenging our students, and creating and maintaining a positive school culture and climate. I hope you and your children enjoyed the summer months and had opportunities to relax, have fun, and spend time with family and friends.

Our goal for this school year is to continue the tradition of high-quality education, safe, and nurturing environment for students and staff. Each of us play a vital role in creating and sustaining a positive atmosphere to support the success of our school. We must continue improving our ability to meet the needs of all students. We are making steady academic gains in our students' overall academic performance; however, we will not be satisfied until every student in our school meets high standards. You will see me visiting classrooms, greeting students, and working alongside staff and families to see the work of teaching and learning reach even higher levels.

We would love to see everyone at our ***Open House*** on ***Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>*** ***from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*** The new school year will begin on **Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**. All instruction is virtual for the first semester of school. Please ensure your child has a device and all materials to begin the year.

Enclosed is important information to help ensure a smooth transition to the new school year. Staff are working hard to prepare virtual classrooms and instructional materials for the opening of school. I am filled with 'Dolphin Pride' and look forward to working with each of you this year. Thank you in advance for your support as we work to make this a dynamic year for all of our children.

Sincerely,

Srelyne A. Harris  
Principal

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**Vision:** Waters Landing Elementary School develops a school community of empathetic, contributing, responsible members of society.

*Respectful ..... Responsible ..... Safe*



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Dear Waters Landing Elementary School Community,

It is with excitement and honor that I write this letter to introduce myself as the new assistant principal of Waters Landing Elementary School. I am thrilled to join the Waters Landing community and support our school's mission of serving our students and families. I firmly believe that with Ms. Harris' leadership, and partnering with you and our teachers, we will continue to achieve great success with our students.

I am a proud alumni of Johns Hopkins University, where I received my Master's degree in Elementary Education and from Hood College where I received my Certification in Educational Leadership. I have a total of eighteen years of experience with Montgomery County Public Schools. My most recent experience was the Assistant School Administration at Rachel Carson Elementary School. I believe all students should have access to high quality instruction that is tailored to their unique learning needs and backgrounds. I look forward to supporting all children with their elementary school experience.

I believe that all elementary schools should foster a love of education while addressing the needs of the whole student. I already know that the incredible teaching staff at Waters Landing creates a positive learning environment that promotes collaboration, leadership, and maximizes student growth. My focus on data-driven instruction, serving the whole child, and differentiated instruction for both students and professional development for staff, will serve Waters Landing well. Furthermore, my emphasis on building relationships and open communication will positively enhance the school's climate and culture.

In addition, my teaching and leadership experiences have truly solidified my passion for achieving equity in education and have led me to defining my core values of relationships, integrity and continuous growth. As assistant principal, I am committed to our community's well-being, and ensuring that all students have access to a safe learning space, where they experience growth and success. It is my distinguished honor to join Waters Landing Elementary School and look forward to working with you as a partner in your child's education. Here's to a great new school year!

Respectfully,

Gina Bannon  
Assistant Principal  
Waters Landing Elementary School

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# SCHOOL INFORMATION



## SCHOOL HOURS



### [WLES VIRTUAL LEARNING SCHEDULE CLICK HERE](#)

School Phone Number	240-740-1020
Office Hours	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Students Prepare for the day	8:45 a.m.
Instructional Hours	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Lunch) 1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Early Release Time	1:00 p.m.

## STAFF UPDATES



We say farewell to the following WLES staff members and wish them much success with new endeavors:

- ❖ Sean Lewis – Relocated to Colorado
- ❖ Daniel Duvall – Pursuing other opportunities
- ❖ Raakhee Mallick – Math Content Coach, Brookhaven ES
- ❖ Ruth Anna Skowronski – ESOL Teacher, Oakland Terrace ES
- ❖ Lecia Chambers – Relocated to Illinois
- ❖ Jett Merritt - Retired
- ❖ Kelli Craig – Relocated to California
- ❖ Sara Black - Pursuing other opportunities
- ❖ Ellen Brown – Pursuing other opportunities
- ❖ Will VanNort – Consulting Teacher

**Introducing: We are excited to welcome several new and experienced staff members to the WLES team**

- ❖ Gina Bannon, Assistant Principal
- ❖ Melissa Holmes, First Grade Teacher
- ❖ Alexis Bell – First Grade Teacher
- ❖ Clarissa Lazaro – First Grade Teacher
- ❖ Valerie Parris – Third Grade Teacher
- ❖ Casey Sauter – Fourth Grade Teacher
- ❖ Kristina Shipyan – Fifth Grade Teacher
- ❖ Jeanine Galdo – Fifth Grade Teacher
- ❖ Kimberly Santora – Special Education Teacher
- ❖ Amy Beauverd – Special Education Teacher
- ❖ Stephanie Dietz – ESOL Teacher
- ❖ Katrina Harrigan – ESOL Teacher
- ❖ Angie DeJulis – Reading Specialist
- ❖ Kevin Sandell – Math Content Coach
- ❖ Lea Wehnau – Part-Time Music Teacher
- ❖ Dale Adams – Part-Time Art (Long-Term Substitute)
- ❖ Mary Kempf – Paraeducator, LFI

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- ❖ Shubha Ramamurthy – Paraeducator
- ❖ Richard Evans – Paraeducator
- ❖ Summer Elhayek – Paraeducator
- ❖ Jeong Yu – Paraeducator

## OPENING WEEK PROCEDURES

On the first day of school, **MONDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>** students should log in to their new virtual classrooms by **9:00 a.m.** Teachers will engage in modified lessons to meet students and build relationships with students and families. Live instruction time will be reduced for the first 1-2 weeks in order to allow time for individual teacher meetings with families. Teachers will schedule a designated time to meet with families and build relationships with students. Please connect with your child’s teacher for specific schedules. Access the [Fall 2020 Virtual Learning Checklist](#) for families to ensure your child is ready for the first day of instruction.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

*Please mark your calendar for our annual Back-To-School Night:*

**Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, LFI**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Please stay tuned for more information regarding the specific schedule.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, August 28 <sup>th</sup> (virtual)	<b>Open House K-5/LFI:</b> Meet the teachers/visit classrooms @ 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. <b>TEACHERS WILL EMAIL CLASS ZOOM LINKS.</b>
Monday, August 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>First Day of School for Students LOG IN BY 9:00 A.M.</b>
Wednesday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Back-To-School Night: 6:00 P.M.</b>
Friday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Early Release SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:00 P.M.</b>
Monday, September 7	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>

## KINDERGARTEN STUDENT INFORMATION

Please click [HERE](#) to view the Kindergarten Welcome information. Kindergarten students will have the chance to meet their teachers during Open House on Friday, August 28 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## SCHOOL MEALS

Elementary Lunch	\$2.55
Reduced Price Lunch	\$0.30
Milk	\$0.60

The Summer Meal Service Program will end on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Three days’ worth of meals will be provided that day. There will be no meal service on Thursday, Aug. 27 and Friday, Aug. 28. MCPS will transition

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to a more traditional food service program this fall, starting on Monday, Aug. 31, the first day of the 2020-2021 school year. Breakfast and lunch meals will be provided to MCPS students at 74 meal sites. A student must be enrolled in an MCPS school to receive these meals. This curbside meal service will be provided from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (no meal service on Thursday). Students/families will need their student identification number in order to pick up a meal. Standard meal prices will be charged and students who receive Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) will continue to pay reduced rates. Payment will come from a student's lunch account. Families can pick up meals at any of the 74 sites. MCPS is mailing this information home to all families, along with student ID numbers. The district will also continue to partner with local non-profits, faith-based organizations, county government agencies and others to provide food and other critical resources to the community. Additionally, families are encouraged to visit Montgomery County's COVID-19 Food Resource page for additional resources. Parents/guardians of enrolled MCPS students can click here to opt in for 2020 Fall Meal Curbside Service. Meals will be available at 74 sites around Montgomery County. **Families may complete the Free and Reduced Meal forms on the following website: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>**

## PARENT VUE



Beginning Friday evening, activation emails and letters will be sent to parents. If a parent has an email on file in Synergy, an email with activation instructions will be sent. If a parent does not have an email on file, a mailer will be generated and mailed to the parent address. If parents have difficulty with activating accounts, or if they do not receive a communication, they should contact the help line at 240-740-7023. It is important for families to access Parent Vue and update all contact information for accuracy with communication. Parents Vue will also allow families to OPT OUT of student recording during live instruction. **IMPORTANT:** The default setting for Zoom has all student cameras and microphones off. If you OPT OUT, please remind your child to NOT turn the camera on during live instruction.

### ParentVUE Support for Parents

- If families did not receive an email with ParentVUE activation information, they can call 240-740-7020 or email [communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org](mailto:communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org)
- If parents can only see some children but not all, please complete this form and we will merge accounts: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3RJam5FI3jdbhxmSttrSLB-ybJ3Gwp4sB8dPAwqj1VjmzNg/viewform>

## RECORDING LESSONS



We will be recording lessons in order to support families and students, create flexibility in accessing learning experiences when attending live instruction is a barrier, and enhance the opportunity to review lesson content and resources. When students first log in, their video and audio is off by default. If students should not be recorded, they should leave these off. Recordings are protected, available only to students through a protected myMCPS site, unavailable for download, and will delete after 72 hours. We recognize that even with these protections there may be students or families who do not want their children's images or voices to be captured. If you would like to have your student opt out of being in the recording, they should keep their video off in each class from the start of the school year. Parents/guardians are asked to indicate an opt out in the [Parent Vue](#) portal by **September 11, 2020**. Link to the [Parent Vue Slide Deck](#) provides families with information about activating the Parent Vue Account.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES



All grade level school supply lists are posted on our school website. All students will receive supplies and materials for the beginning of the year when you pick up Chromebooks from the school. Families will receive a



new Chromebook, a small bag of starter school supplies, and reading and math workbooks for the first units of instruction. Families may access school supply lists [HERE](#).

## CLASS LISTS



Families will receive an email from the classroom teacher on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> indicating the assigned classroom teacher. Much thought has gone into student placements and class groupings for this year. As always, our priorities for grouping students include the student's academic level, as well as ensuring gender, racial, and ethnic balance for each class. The staff at the school put considerable time into balancing classes and student placements and appreciate your cooperation and respect regarding grouping decisions.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE



Attendance will be taken twice a day (a.m. and p.m.) for students. Students are marked present through any of the following: attending Zoom sessions, completing assignments, and submission of the parent attestation form for completed work. It is expected that students are logged into class and engaged in instruction. Please ensure you communicate with the teacher any extenuating circumstances that may impact your child's presence in daily live instruction. Families will receive daily phone calls when students are not present for instruction.

## PARENT WEBINAR SERIES



A series of technology webinars for parents have been scheduled to help parents learn about the new parent portal (ParentVUE) and other digital tools their children will be using this fall (myMCPS Classroom, Kami, Zoom). Webinars will be recorded and posted on the MCPS website. Materials are in the process of being translated and those will be posted as well. Additional webinars from across offices will be added, as well as additional dates and times. Please share the link to the webinar series with families so that they may participate in these webinars.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7qQJcm\\_zk4yQUtRPPZY7uoo16govBitrMUPHljav0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7qQJcm_zk4yQUtRPPZY7uoo16govBitrMUPHljav0/edit?usp=sharing)

## STUDENT MEDICATIONS



All student medication authorization forms must be renewed each school year. These forms can be found at: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/mentalhealth/school-health-services.aspx>. The form number for medication is 525-13; the form for epipens is 525-14. Families may access the website in order to locate county health resources.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION POLICY



To preserve our focus on instruction and to address the growing concern with student allergies the school Birthday Celebration policy is as follows: Each child will receive a birthday acknowledgement in our weekly announcements. **\*\*PERSONAL BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SCHOOL!**

## PARENT COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



Parent Community Coordinator Support Available to all Waters Landing Families!

- Need information on school, system, and community resources?

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- Interested in volunteering?
- Want to connect business/community partnerships with the school?
- Looking for strategies to support your child's work at home?

Please contact **Shanique Moore/ Parent Community Coordinator**  
[Shanique\\_V\\_Moore@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Shanique_V_Moore@mcpsmd.org)  
 Cell: 240-550-3951

## SATURDAY SCHOOL



We are excited to share that our 2020-2021 online registration has begun for our VIRTUAL Saturday School program. We will be offering academic support with Eureka Math and Benchmarks curriculum for grades K-12 on Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, September 26th. Students that register, will access our courses through MyMCPs each Saturday morning. Our Learning Academy online program includes two sessions (September through December and January through May) and costs \$40 (FARMS) \$85 (NON-FARMS) per session. Our specialized program include Pre-K, CODING, Robotics, SAT/ACT Prep and Crash Course to College to support students with the College application Process. We will also be partnering with the ESOL Department to offer some exciting programming for our ELL students.

Parents can register online at [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org).

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