



August 2013

Dear MCPS Families:

During the past four years, we have been rolling out an improved curriculum—titled Curriculum 2.0—one grade at a time, starting with kindergarten. In the coming school year, Curriculum 2.0 will be implemented in all kindergarten–Grade 5 classrooms throughout Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

Curriculum 2.0 is based on a strong body of research and is designed to provide a more well-rounded education for students, while also developing the critical and creative thinking skills that are so important for success in academics and in life. In mathematics, reading, and writing, the curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, the new internationally driven standards adopted by Maryland and 45 other states. At the same time, Curriculum 2.0 allows for additional instructional focus on the arts, information literacy, science, social studies, health education, and physical education—areas that have been crowded out at times during the past decade. We know that Curriculum 2.0 will help give our students a strong educational foundation in elementary school and lead to greater success in middle and high school.

We also improved our elementary report card to better align with the curriculum and to provide our parents with more information about what a student knows and is able to do. The “standards-based” report card in kindergarten–Grade 5 provides parents with information about how students are progressing in specific areas of the curriculum and how they are performing in relation to grade-level expectations.

Curriculum 2.0 will help improve teaching and learning in every elementary school classroom. You will hear more about Curriculum 2.0 at the beginning of the school year, but you may access additional information now by visiting our website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/). If you have further questions, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools