

The Patriot

NEWSLETTER



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September 15-October 15
Hispanic Heritage Month

Germantown Elementary
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Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301-353-8050

GES Website
Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
schools/germantownes/

Contact: Jaime Howenstein
jaime_b_howenstein@mcpsmd.org

Listserv: Join and stay up-to-date! To sign up, send an email to GES-PTA
subscribe@yahoogroups.com
or click the Join button on our website www.ges-pta.org

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Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Welcome back to another year of excellent teaching and learning at Germantown! The **first two days of school** were exhilarating with an extremely smooth opening, fantastic Boo Hoo Breakfast, positive interactions with many new faces and about feedback about the changes around our school building! I am excited about the year to come!

I'd like to take this time to share some friendly reminders. They are as follows:

- Starting tomorrow, the students will leave morning line-up in the gym at 9:13 am. After 9:13 am, arriving students will enter the building through the main entrance rather than the gym entrance. Why? The traffic pattern gets a bit confusing when we have large numbers of students using that entrance as students exit the gym.

- Please do **not go directly to your child's classroom** in order to drop off left items or to say hello. Going to classes after instruction begins causes a disruption in learning for your child and the rest of the class. We must follow safety and security rules by always signing in at the office.
- Send your child by bus or allow them to walk (if he/she is a walker). This will help to **alleviate any overcrowding and congestion** in our student drop off and bus loop areas. If you must drive your child to school, please take note of the area designated for student drop off. Please use the main entrance only. We are here to help you and keep your child(ren) safe so please, listen and watch the staff on duty carefully for directions.

Continued on pg 2...

Dates to Remember

- Sept 6** Principals' Chats: 3-5 @ 9:45 am, K-2 @ 3:00 pm
- Sept 7** **GES Spirit Day**
- Sept 10** **No School for teachers and students**
- Sept 11** First Day of School for PEP students
- Sept 19** **No School for students and teachers**
- Sept 20** **Back to School Night 7 - 8:50 pm**
- Sept 24** Grade level newsletters distributed
Chipotle @ 4-8 pm (GES sponsored fundraiser)
- Oct 2** Hearing and Vision Screenings grades K-1
After School Clubs begin 4:05 - 5:15 pm
- Oct 3** Hearing and Vision Screenings (new grades 1-5 students)
Principals' Chats 3-5 @ 9:35 am, K-2 @ 3:00 pm
- Oct 5th** **GES Spirit Day**
Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm
Tentative: Manna Foods (mobile) Pop-Up Pantry (pm)

Principal's Message continued ...

- Kindergarten students who are **walkers and car riders** will be taken to the student pick-up area during dismissal.
- Parents of grade 1-5 car riders, please create sign w/your **child's name for your car's dashboard**. We created name signs for K students already. This will provide greater ease at dismissal.
- Send a note in, instead of calling, if your **child's dismissal plans** will be different than usual. This reduces any confusion that verbal messages may cause during the busyness of the end of day.
- Check your child's **Home/School folder** each day and talk to your child about the items coming home in it. This folder is designed to increase the two way communication between home and school and between parents and their children, so please take advantage of it.

I appreciate you mindful attention to these reminders which will help our school year run more smoothly.

As a caring school community, I respectfully ask that we continue to consider the growing number of students within our building with **food allergies**. We have students with allergies to seafood, peanuts, tree nuts, dairy, and eggs. Our most common student allergy here at GES is the nut allergy. Another common allergy is to eggs. In each case, students may not only have a serious, life threatening reaction (anaphylaxis) to ingesting these food items, numerous children also have concerns with touching or being in the vicinity (airborne) of nuts and/or eggs. We have nut-free tables at both lunch periods, and egg-free areas in one lunch period due to this serious concern. Students eating at those tables or in classrooms with students who have these health concerns must refrain from bringing lunches and/or classroom snacks that contain these items. A letter went home yesterday to each student in a class with one of these allergies.

An issue of concern is the birthday treats (and those for Halloween/Valentine parties) that families bring in to school for their children. Many of our local grocery stores do not make it easy for us to support our students with these concerns. None of the four closest grocery stores (both Giants, Safeway and Wegmans) have nut-free bakery departments. This means the item you purchase may not contain nuts but other bakery goods with nuts that they produce may have contaminated the baking environment. However, we found:

- Both Giants carry a commercial line of cupcakes that indicate "peanut free." There are also sugar cookies that are made in a peanut and tree nut free facility.
- Wegmans offers a school safe line of cupcakes as well made in a peanut free facility. In addition, there are signs posted around the store for other allergies.
- Safeway does not have a commercial line at this time.

I know the list above is not inclusive of all of the local businesses that sell treats that you may purchase. As such, please call the store or bakery you will be purchasing from to inquire about their nut-free offerings. You should also confer with your child's teacher before purchasing any food items for your child's birthday treat and/or class parties. Even if your child isn't in a designated nut-free or egg-free classroom, please still follow these rules of safety. If your child touches eggs and/or nuts and then plays with a child with a food allergy without cleaning his/her hands and mouth, it could have a devastating impact. I know none of us want that because we care about each and every child in this building as if s/he is our very own. Please know that I appreciate your attention and care to this matter.

We invite all families to attend our annual **Back to School Night** on Thursday, September 20th. At 6:30 PM, the PTA will have several information tables set-up to sell GES spirit wear, establish PTA memberships, register parents' grocery store cards for GES to earn monies for school materials/equipment, and to view a school slide show featuring our best assets - the students! Then at 7 PM, the official program will begin with all community members meeting for an introduction of staff and a general information session in the All Purpose Room (APR). Around 7:35 PM, families will be dismissed to classrooms to hear more about their child's instructional day, academic program, and expectations. As always, there will be a second classroom session scheduled (around 8:15 PM) so parents may meet another one of their child(ren)'s teachers, if that is the case. Otherwise, after the first session parents are invited to visit more of the PTA tables or make it an early evening and go home. Please note, Back to School Night is designed to give an overview and not designed for parents to ask questions about their individual child(ren). Please call or set-up an appointment with your child's teacher, at another time, or wait until your child's teacher spends more time with him or her and can offer greater individual insight during the parent-teacher conferences in mid-November.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) mandates child abuse and neglect prevention training for volunteers who regularly support all schools. Volunteers who took the training the last two years do not need to repeat it at this time. New volunteers may access the training, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: for Volunteers and Contractors," through the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect. Volunteers will receive an email confirmation to verify their completion of the online training module. Please forward this confirmation to either Jennifer Atanda (school counselor) or Nancy Jespersen (attendance secretary) or provide a copy of the confirmation to verify completion of the online training module before volunteering in the school or for a school sponsored activity, such as a field trip. We keep a database of those who have completed the training and notify the students' classroom teachers.

As my letter comes to a close, please allow me to also share the following **words of appreciation**:

- Huge thanks and gratitude to Neelsville Presbyterian Church for once again **donating backpacks** filled with student school tools and supplies for *GES* students in need. Thank you! (If you have a child who needs supplies or a backpack, please see our school counselor.)
- **Thanks to our supportive PTA** who provided breakfast for the staff during pre-service week (the weeks before school begins for classroom set-up) and for the Kindergarten families at the Boo Hoo Breakfast.
- Our **building service staff worked long and hard hours** to get our building ready for the start of school.

Last but not least, enclosed you will also find a letter of introduction fromCarolynn Walsleben, principal intern, who has been a wonderful addition to our administrative team and school family! Mrs. Walsleben's letter follows on the next page. I am signing off for now. Please call (301- 353-8050) or email me (Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org) if you have a question, comment or concern.

Take care,

Amy D. Bryan

Principal

Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org

Follow me on



@TeamGermantown1



Crossing Guard Info

Our **crossing guards'** hours are 8:55-9:25 am and 3:45-4:15 pm at the intersections of Liberty Mill and Dawson Farm Roads. Please plan your child's walking plans accordingly.

El horario de nuestros guardias cruce es 8:55-9:25 y 3:45-4:15
en las intersecciones de libertad molino y caminos vecinales de Dawson.

Por favor planificar planes de caminar de su hijo.



Dogs on School Grounds

Please refrain from bringing or tethering your dog on school grounds. Although your dog is a beloved part of your family, some individuals are scared of them. As a result, we ask that you keep all dogs restrained within your cars and/or off the school property.

Perros en la escuela

Por favor abstenerse de traer o atar a su perro en la escuela. Aunque su perro es una parte querida de su familia, algunas personas tienen miedas de ellos. Como resultado, le pedimos que usted mantenga todos los perros sujetados dentro de sus coches o fuera de la propiedad de la escuela

Dear Germantown Parents and Students,

My name is Carolynn Walsleben and I am honored to be Principal Intern at Germantown Elementary School. I know that the 2018-2019 school year will be filled with new learning opportunities for all Germantown ES students. As Principal Intern, my work with students, staff and community will be focused on continuing to provide and building upon a rich and rigorous educational experience that they are already receiving at GES. Working closely with Mrs. Bryan and many of the staff members at GES, during the summer months, it is clear that our staff is focused on providing a positive educational experience for all students. As part of the GES community, I am looking forward to working with you to provide opportunities for students to develop as learners in a safe and productive learning environment.

This school year will mark the beginning of my thirtieth year as an educator; during my career I have been a first grade and fifth grade teacher at Bells Mill ES and Woodfield ES. I have also been a trainer of teachers within MCPS as well as holding many leadership positions within the school system. During the past two years, I have had the honor of being the assistant principal at Greenwood ES in Olney. I graduated from SUNY Cortland with a Bachelor of Education and obtained my Masters in Educational Leadership (Administration) from Hood College.

In June, Mrs. Bryan shared with you a letter explaining a little about the principal internship process. As part of MCPS principal training program, Mrs. Bryan was recruited to be a Principal Developer for the 2018- 2019 school year. As Principal Developer, Mrs. Bryan will be my coach, as I continue to develop my leadership skills as an administrator under her guidance. As the school year progresses, I will be gradually assuming responsibility for many of the leadership functions at our school, including leading meetings and activities typically carried out by Mrs. Bryan. Beginning January 2, 2019 I will serve as Acting Principal at GES for eight weeks. During this time, Mrs. Bryan will serve as a visiting principal at another MCPS school. A principal with an intern in another school will serve as GES’s visiting principal, and work with me as I take on this temporary role. At the end of the eight week period, Mrs. Bryan will return to GES.

During the school year, Mrs. Bryan and I will communicate with you next steps in the training program and what it will look like at GES. I consider this a great honor and privilege and I am looking forward to getting to know you and working with the staff, students and families of Germantown Elementary School. Go Patriots!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carolynn Walsleben

Principal Intern



GES restaurant fundraiser!

Take a break from cooking, treat yourself and your family at Chipotle in Germantown Town Center. The restaurant will donate a % of sales to GES.

Monday, September 24

4 – 8 pm

PTA News

Welcome, Germantown Elementary School Families!

I hope everyone had a memorable summer. Welcome back to school!

My name is Lydia Rose and it is my honor to serve as your PTA President for this current school year. My daughter, Adalyn, is an incoming Kindergartener. I hope to work alongside each of you to make the year a memorable one for students, parents, faculty and staff. As we begin a new school year, I want to encourage each of you to think about how the PTA may best serve your children’s needs – academically, socially and personally. What is important to your family? With greater parent participation from the parents at GES, the PTA may implement collaborative efforts that brings the school body together to focus on the issues that matter most. The PTA is a parent-teacher association because of your participation. This will be an exciting year filled with many fun PTA events and some changes, but with your support, we will thrive.

Among the activities our student body can look forward to in the new school year is renewed volunteerism efforts that offer children and families the opportunity to give back to their community, exciting family-centered events for all and an innovative App available on Android and I Phone that allows the parents to be plugged into the children’s school with the touch of a screen. If you have not already, please visit the PTA website ges-pta.org to register as a PTA member. You may also download our GES PTA App on Android and iPhone.

Our first PTA meeting of the school year 2018-19 will be held on October 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The PTA will be present at the **Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept. 20** to answer any questions about the PTA. We have a great array of volunteer positions for anyone who may be interested, and we promise to make volunteering FUN. For any direct inquiries, please feel free to E-mail me directly at LLydiaRose@aol.com.

Let’s come together to be a part of Germantown Elementary School’s commitment to excellence, volunteerism, and family-first activities in the new school year.

All my best,

Lydia Rose

GES PTA President



Earn money for GES!
Collect and bring Box Top labels
to your child’s teacher!



Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to Germantown Elementary School PTA when you shop for back to school supplies at smile.amazon.com.

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS APPLICATION FORMS

ONLINE FARMS APPS ARE LIVE!

www.MySchoolApps.com

is NOW OPEN for parents to complete and submit the 2018-2019 Online application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals!

Households that complete an online application DO NOT need to submit a paper application.

Meal benefit eligibility from last year will remain current only through early October 2018 OR until a 2018-2019 application is processed. Students who received meal benefits last year must have a new application approved by October 12th in order to continue receiving free or reduced-price meals. Students may use their eligibility from the previous school year until a new application is approved or mid-October, whichever comes first.

Beginning October 15th, all students who do not have an approved application for the current year must pay for meals until a new application is processed.



Are you tired of making an extra trip to school to pay a fee? Are you tired of sending your kids to school with cash or checks that they misplace? Would you rather make a payment anytime from the comfort of your own home?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please visit our new payment site where you can now pay your student's school fees by debit or credit card online using a web browser from any location, 24 hours a day.

Se aceptan tarjetas de crédito y débito

¿Está cansado de tener que ir a la escuela de su hijo solamente para hacer un pago? ¿Está cansado de tener que enviar dinero en efectivo o un cheque con su hijo y que lo pierda? ¿No preferiría hacer el pago en cualquier momento y desde la comodidad de su casa?

Si usted contestó SI a cualquiera de estas preguntas, por favor visite nuestra página web donde ahora podrá hacer estos pagos a través de la computadora usando su tarjeta de crédito o débito. Este servicio está disponible 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana, y lo puede hacer desde cualquier lugar.

<http://osp.osmsinc.com/montgomeryMD>

Saturday School (English and Spanish)

Registration for The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (Saturday School) is open. Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment. The program is in 12 school locations across Montgomery County and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m. For more information and to register, please visit www.saturdayschool.org/.

Escuela de los Sábados

Está abierta la inscripción para The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (conocida como la Escuela de los Sábados). La Escuela de los Sábados proporciona tutoría e instrucción académica con maestros certificados en un ambiente estimulante y propicio. El programa opera en 12 escuelas de todo el Condado de Montgomery y el horario es de 8:30 a.m. a 11:00 a.m., e incluye desayuno que se sirve a las 8:00 a.m. Para más información y para inscribirse, por favor visite www.saturdayschool.org/.

