

**Flora M. Singer
Elementary School**

S e a T u r t l e s

The Sea Turtle Times

Flora M. Singer Elementary School 2600 Hayden Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902 Phone: 240-740-0330
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This week	9/16	9/17 Intermediate Back to School Night 6:30 to 8:00 pm	9/18	9/19	9/20
Next week	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26	9/27 Early Release-dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.

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TREX Plastic Recycling Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our TREX Plastic Recycling Challenge last year. We surpassed our goal and collected 1012.6 pounds of plastic! We earned a TREX bench for our school from our recycling efforts. Learn more: <https://nextrex.com/view/programs>

Our TREX plastic recycling bins are open this year in the main entrance. Please drop off clean recyclable plastic film without contamination. 5th grade eARTH helpers collect and weigh our data on Tuesday afternoons.

Contact Mrs. Gracias to help volunteer to move and drop off our weekly collection to local plastic recycling centers like your neighborhood grocery store on Tuesday afternoons - email: natalie_ramirez@mcpsmd.org

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Wheaton Arts Parade - 9/27 10 am

Join the Flora Singer Elementary School Community at the Wheaton Arts Parade! Students have been creating art from recycled materials to share in the parade. Artist Jessica Muniz Witmer has been working with our community to build masks and create our float after school in art room #114. 5th graders have volunteered recess time to help build our float.

8th ANNUAL WHEATON ARTS PARADE & FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 10am - 5pm

If walking in the parade with the school - join our group between 8-9:30 to assemble.

<https://www.wheatonartsparade.org/faqs>

Contact Mrs. Gracias to volunteer in the Float Art Club - email: Natalie_Ramirez@mcpsmd.org

Mondays & Wednesdays 4-5 pm, Art Room #114

Remaining Float Club Dates: September 16, 18, 23, 25

In School Hispanic Heritage Parade: September 27

Middle School & High School artists can earn SSL hours, parents welcome to join with your kids to participate.

EXTRA SSL event opportunity through the Wheaton Arts Parade - <https://www.wheatonartsparade.org/volunteer>

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Smartwatches and Cell Phones

Smartwatches- includes Apple Watches and any other kind of tracking watch- follows the same policy as phones per MCPS. It needs to be in a backpack during the day. Students will be asked to take them off and put them in their backpacks.

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Back to School Nights

We will have two Back-to-School Nights. Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Third Grade, Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade will host their evening session on Tuesday, September 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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Holiday Assistance - Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County

If you and your family are in need and would like to be referred for possible assistance for the holiday season, please complete this referral form to provide the required information. Resources are limited: please apply only if you and your family are truly in need. While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many

families in need as donations allow.

The Holiday Giving Project has provided Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low-income households for over 30 years. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies serve Holiday Giving recipients, as donations are available.

This request form is for Singer families ONLY. Families of other schools must ask their school for a referral. For the best chance of receiving resources, **please submit your request by this Thursday, September 19th.**

<https://forms.gle/ZM5hStakhss2rK348>

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Spirit Wear Store

Last Call for the Spirit Wear Flash Sale!!

It's time to make sure to get your Sea Turtle (or yourself) geared up! Check out a new t-shirt design in kid and adult sizes in the online [Singer Store](#). This Flash Sale runs through September 16th, and orders will be delivered to kid backpacks by mid-October. All purchases from the Flash Sale will have free shipping to the school. Following the flash sale, an “on-demand” store will open with more items that can be shipped to your home. Every purchase raises funds for the PTA.

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PTA Membership Drive

We have ALMOST reached our goal for the PTA membership drive – we have just \$800 to go to meet our goal of \$6500! Thanks, as always, for supporting the Singer community with your PTA membership.

We'll have a table at back to school nights next week for you to join, but don't wait! Join via the website [here](#).

- Just as a reminder, the three classes with the highest percentage of membership signups by 30 September will win either Singer t-shirts, a pizza party, or an ice cream party. Here's an update on our classroom leaders for the September

membership drive contest:

- Wirth (3rd): 47%
 - Flemming (K): 44%
 - Graves (K): 44%
 - Mooney (K): 44%
 - Yuan (2nd): 43%
 - Labastida (1st): 41%
 - Wilhite (3rd): 41%
 - Bennett (3rd): 40%
 - Abersold (K): 38%
 - Browne (2nd): 37%
- There are many classes close behind. Remember, tie breaks are determined by the earliest signup date, so don't delay!
 - Those who sign up at the Bronze level or higher by September 30th will be automatically entered into a raffle for a Singer Swag gift basket that includes a custom Singer water bottle, t-shirt, car magnet and cinch bag. PTA members at any level are automatically entered into a monthly raffle for Singer swag.

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PTA Volunteer Opportunities

Parent volunteers are the heart and soul of our efforts to provide Singer students and families with enriching and fun programs all year long! We know it can be intimidating to take on a new role, but we have options for everyone. If you want to shadow someone to learn the job for next year, we've got many opportunities to do so. If you want to take on more responsibility with more influence and engagement with the school administration, we have those opportunities too. And if you're a K-2nd parent, we really need your help! Many in our current volunteer group are graduating in the next two years, and we are in danger of losing our #singermagic without your help now!


Please sign up [here](#) to volunteer (or learn more about volunteer opportunities).

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Supply List and Bus Routes

Here is a link to our student supply list:


 FMS ES - School Supply List - FY 24-25 - ENGLISH.pdf


 FMS ES - Lista de Útiles Escolares - FY 24-25 - SPANISH.pdf

A limited number of supplies and backpacks have been donated by local organizations and the PTA. If your Flora Singer student is in need of school supplies or a backpack, please complete the following form.


https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoDVIRxsvns60Te4RXEAINQolCpjbEXeM5LHfSOS27cmtaEw/viewform?usp=sf_link


Here is a link to the general education bus routes:


 SINGER ES - 770 - REG ARR.pdf


 SINGER ES - 770 - REG DEP.pdf

Other information from the Transportation Department:

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool English.pdf

 20240801 RAN ElementarySchool SPANISH.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus.pdf

 What You Should Know About Riding the Bus SPANISH.pdf

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Breakfast and Lunch

Meal prices will be \$2.55 for lunch. **Our breakfast program is free to all students and available in the classroom every morning.**

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch. Families can apply online now so that benefits will be in place when school starts. Families can access the online application by visiting www.myschoolapps.com/. Please remember a new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

You can visit the the website to see all the options for paying for a school lunch:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/meal-payments/#How>

You can use My School Bucks to set up payment for school lunch online:
<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain.action?clientKey=&requestAction=home>

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Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival begins at 9:00 am. Students may enter the building at that time and go to line up. **Do not drop your child off prior to 9:00 a.m. They will be unsupervised.** Dismissal begins at 3:50. You may arrive prior to 3:50 to wait for dismissal. **Parents must contact the main office before 3:00 p.m. with any dismissal changes for the day.**

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Communication

We maintain open lines of communication with parents and community members throughout the school year. The phone number for the school is 240-740-0330. Please call us at any time. You may also email Mr. Heatwole at kyle_j_heatwole@mcpsmd.org or Mr. McKinley at aaron_a_mckinley@mcpsmd.org. We also email this weekly newsletter every Friday to keep you informed of school events and announcements.

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Immunizations and Medications

It is very important that your child is up-to-date on his/her immunizations. If you are not sure, please check with your doctor. **The state law mandates that children not be admitted to school without the proper immunizations.** Medications must be brought to school in the original container by an adult along with [MCPS Form 525-13](#) (Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication) completed by your physician. Medication will not be administered without proper authorization. Please contact our

Health Technician if you have any questions.

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School Cash Online

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school.

Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

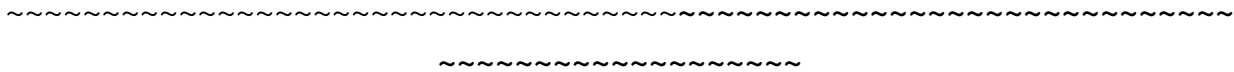
SchoolCash Online also offers a 24/7 customer support desk that can be reached by online inquiry or by calling 1-866-961-1803.

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Important First Quarter Dates:

- Tuesday, August 20 Virtual Town Hall for Kindergarten Parents-7:00 pm on Zoom
- Friday, August 23 Open House 9:00 am for Kindergarten, 10:00 am for 1st-5th
- Monday, August 26 First Day of School for students (9:25 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.)
- Monday, September 2 Labor Day – No school for students
- Tuesday, September 3 PTA Meeting (Food at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00pm)
 - Don't forget that you must be a [PTA member](#) to vote!

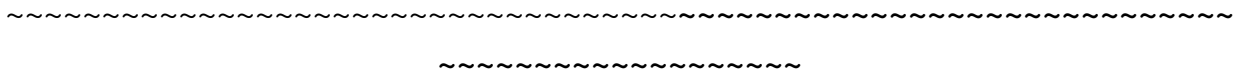
- Tuesday, September 10 Primary (K, 1, and 2) Back-to-School Night
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17 Intermediate (3, 4, and 5) Back-to-School Night
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 27 Early Release-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 01 PTA Meeting, 7:00pm
- Thursday, October 3 No School for Students
- Tuesday, October 8 Fall Picture Day – Individual Portraits Only
- Thursday, October 17 Book Fair Starts
- Friday, October 18 Professional Day-No school for students
- Friday, October 25 Singer Movie Night and LAST NIGHT of Book
Fair
- Tuesday, October 31 Fall Festival Parade and Parties starting at
2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1 End of First Marking Period
- Monday, November 4 No School for Students
- Tuesday, November 5 Election Day-No School for Students
- Monday, November 25 Half Day- Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- Tuesday, November 26 Half Day-Dismissal starts at 1:15 p.m
- November 27, 28 & 29 Thanksgiving - No School for Students



Volunteering at School

If you are interested in being a volunteer in any capacity this school year we would love to have you! Please access the link to learn about the requirements of volunteering in MCPS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. McKinley.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer>



Contact the Department of Transportation

If you ever have any questions or concerning regarding the buses or transportation of

students, you may now call their customer service hotline. They can be reached at: 240-740-7790.

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MAP assessments

MAP assessments are given three times a year in the fall, winter and spring to help monitor a student's growth in math in grades K-5 and reading comprehension in grades 3-5.

These assessments are administered on the computer in your child's class by their teacher during their normal math and reading blocks.

Results are posted in ParentVUE about a month after the assessment or can be shared with you by your child's teacher.

We are currently in our fall testing window. It runs from 9/3-10/4. If you have any questions about the assessments feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or our Staff Development Teacher Mrs. Angela Martin at Angela_L_Martin@mcpsmd.org.

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Instrumental Music Virtual Parent Meeting

Mrs. Kanowith would like to invite all parents of 4th and 5th grade students who are interested in joining Instrumental Music this year to come to a Virtual Informational Meeting to learn more about the program. The meeting is mainly for 4th and 5th grade parents who are new to Instrumental Music, but is open to anyone who has questions about the program. The meetings are scheduled for this Monday and Wednesday (the 9th and 11th) at 6:30pm. You may choose to go to the meeting that fits your schedule best. You do not need to attend more than one! Mrs. Kanowith looks forward to meeting you and working with your students.

Meeting info:

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/3742563820?pwd=Z0eabQGZm9a6V4d5TsXPAPMr4o4Tb5.1&omn=84404739988>

Meeting ID: 374 256 3820

Passcode: music

Here is a link to the parent presentation in case you cannot attend the meeting

[Parent meeting \(English\)](#)

[Presentación de música instrumental en español](#)