



North Chevy Chase Elementary School

3700 Jones Bridge Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

240-204-5280

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/nchevychasees/>

August 10, 2023

Dear NCC Families,

Anticipation is growing as we approach the first day of school on Monday, August 28, 2023! We hope your child is looking forward to this school year. We sure are! It is important that your child comes to school every day, on time, well-rested, happy, and ready to think and learn. Staff here at school will be working with your family to ensure a fantastic year of learning!

Hi, I am Mrs. Renee Wallace-Kimbrue. This marks my fourteenth year in the role of principal at North Chevy Chase Elementary School, and I am super excited! This will be my twenty-eighth year in Montgomery County Public Schools. I have spent much of the summer traveling, my favorite pastime, to St. Lucia, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Cabo San Lucas. I also spent time in Dallas, Texas with my son, daughter and son-in-law.

We feel strongly about parent involvement at our school. Research repeatedly has shown that students whose parents are involved in their child's education have a better chance of academic success. We look forward to working with you and your child as partners to ensure a great year. Parents and guardians should make sure to have an active ParentVUE account. Most of our communication will come through that platform.

To our new families, we extend a warm welcome to North Chevy Chase and invite you to become involved in the many activities we have here. We are excited to have you here and look forward to a year filled with rich, diverse, and meaningful learning opportunities.

To our wonderful students, when you come back to school, your teachers, Mrs. Breeding (school counselor), Ms. Mosley-Ramsey and Mrs. Wannon (lead teachers) and I will talk about what is expected of you this school year in the classroom, cafeteria and at recess. You should start thinking about some personal goals you have about school and then work with all the adults at school to achieve them. We know that you will continue to be respectful and thoughtful of others, talk to your teachers when you need help with school work or friends and that you will be a successful and happy student here at North Chevy Chase.

Open House and Back to School Night

An Open House will take place for all incoming NCC families on Friday, August 25, 2023 at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Our Back to School Night will take place on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please take note of additional important dates listed at the end of this Back to School Newsletter.

School Procedures

North Chevy Chase school hours are 9:25 am - 3:50 pm. Supervision of children is not available by school staff before or after school; therefore, students should not arrive before 9:00 a.m. or remain after 4:00 p.m. unless they are participating in a school-sanctioned activity under the direct supervision of a staff member. Children will line up inside the school in their designated hallway starting at 9:05 a. m. The students will report to their homeroom classes at 9:15 a.m. If you are in need of Before or After School Care you may contact our on-site child care provider, Kids After Hours (KAH), at (301) 933-6888 or visit their website at www.kidsafterhours.com

Student Drop Off

We encourage children to walk or ride a bus to school. Parents choosing to drive their child to school should drop students off at the Student Drop Off location on the side of the building closest to Connecticut Avenue. Drivers should stay in line and circle around the building and drop students off at the side door where a staff member will be standing.

Bus Arrival Procedures – Bus Loop

Buses enter and exit the driveway on Jones Bridge Road. Cars ARE NOT TO ENTER the Bus drop/off and pick up area in the front of the school. If your child rides the bus, please allow your child to begin riding the bus on the first day of school. It is beneficial for children to establish a routine from the first day. It instills confidence and minimizes confusion. If walking your child to school on the first day, please walk them to the front door and give them a kiss and a hug. The students will then proceed to their morning line-up area.

On the first day of school, all third grade students will line up in the gymnasium where their teachers will meet them and escort them to class. Fourth and fifth grade students will line up in the hallway at their designated morning line up location. There will be

adults located throughout the building to assist students with getting to their proper destination.

Students who could not attend the Open House and are not familiar with their homeroom should be directed by their parents to come to the office upon arriving at school. Students will be taken or directed to their classroom by a staff member.

Dismissal of Students and Transportation Home

Students are dismissed each day based on the mode of transportation the child uses to go home. Students will remain in their classrooms for dismissal. Each bus number is dismissed separately. Private car riders and walkers are dismissed first. Within each homeroom, the teachers ensure that the students leave at the appropriate time.

If a student's routine is changed, it is imperative that the homeroom teacher receive a note from a parent at the beginning of the school day.

The note must contain the change and information as to how the student is to go home. The notes are sent to the office with the day's attendance. Mrs. Koenig maintains a record of dismissal changes in the office and returns the notes to the teachers for reference by teachers at dismissal.

We ask that parents plan ahead and follow this system, and only if an emergency arises should parents call the school secretaries with a change. (A note is preferred, as an email to the teacher may not be read if the teacher is teaching or if the teacher is absent.)

To ensure a smooth and orderly dismissal, when picking up students for early dismissal or doctor's appointments, please remember to arrive before 3:30 p.m. as students will not be dismissed between 3:30 and 3:45 pm.

Bus Schedules

Please note that buses are referred to by their **route number** rather than the bus number. We also encourage and expect **all students** to memorize their route number. Parents are encouraged to write the route number down as well as the phone number for the bus depot (301-469-1070) if there are questions about the routes or arrival times. The bus schedules will go on the school website.

Security

The security procedures dictate that all exterior doors remain locked at all times. To gain entry into the school, you must call into the office using the button to the right of the front door. Listen for the soft click of the door to open it. You will need to **present a Government Issued Photo ID** to sign into the office computer. This is a process that takes place every time you enter the building and want to go beyond the Main Office Area. Please make sure that you sign out upon exiting the building. I am looking forward to our continuous efforts to maintain a safe and focused learning environment at all times.

Breakfast, Lunch, Payments, Menus and More

We are a satellite lunch program. Students have two or three choices for lunch every day. **The daily price of a student lunch is now \$2.55 including milk or bottled water. It is also possible to purchase milk, water, juice or snack separately for a small fee. The daily price for breakfast is \$1.30.** Parents have the options of sending a lunch to school with their children, sending money with their children, or putting money into each child's SNAP account.

Each student has a PIN number, which the student must learn. This PIN number does not change, and the account of Food & Nutrition Services - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD | Montgomery County Public Schools | Rockville, MD (montgomeryschoolsmd.org) can be moved with the student if the student moves within the school system. Naturally, any money in a student's account is carried over from year to year.

We encourage parents to put money in their children's account, **as this program eliminates the problems that occur when a child forgets his or her lunch or forgets to bring money to school for lunch.**

The menu for students for the first week of school will be listed on the Montgomery County Public Schools website: [MCPS Food and Nutrition Services](#)

NCC Autism Program

North Chevy Chase will be an Elementary Classic Autism Program for the 2023-2024. This will be a small class and we will welcome them to our NCC family.

More information on the Autism Program from MCPS

Autism Services for students, elementary through age 21, provide access to Alternate Academic Learning Outcomes aligned with MCPS curricula. Students receive intensive instruction based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Instruction is delivered in a highly structured setting to improve learning and communication that provides inclusive opportunities with nondisabled peers. At the secondary level, students also receive vocational and community support as they work toward a Maryland High School Certificate.

Welcome to the following new NCC Staff

Mrs. Ety Wannan has been a special education teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools for 25 years. In the upcoming year, she will take on dual roles, serving as a .5 Lead Teacher and a .5 Special Education Resource Teacher. Mrs. Wannan is married with two grown kids, and she is now a grandma of an adorable two year old boy. The only child left at home is Leo, her fluffy little dog.

Mrs. Wannan was born and raised in Israel, where she studied pedagogy and psychology prior to serving in the military as an educator for troubled adolescents. She moved to the United States to be with her now husband, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Special Education with a Concentration in Art and Psychology from Geneseo College, and her Master's Equivalency from Trinity College. She has worked in three different schools in Montgomery County: Bethesda Elementary School, Beverly Farms Elementary School, and now, for the past 12 years, at North Chevy Chase Elementary school (which has been by far her favorite!).

Outside of the classroom, she enjoys expressing her artistic creativity by painting and drawing. She loves exploring the world through hiking (this summer she hiked for seven days in the Mont Blanc mountain range, the highest mountains in the Alps), and loves reading historical fiction and mysteries.

Mrs. Daniella Gonzalez is our newest member of the third grade team. She is a wife and mother to two wonderful boys, aged 9 and 10. She has been happily married for 12 years. Mrs. Gonzalez' journey has taken her to various places throughout her life, from being born in Miami to being raised in El Salvador and living in Mexico City, Honduras, and now Maryland, which she absolutely adores.! She is passionate about connecting with new people and embracing diverse cultures. She is fluent in both English and Spanish. In her free time, she finds joy in watching movies, skiing, and cherishing moments with her family.

Mrs. Gonzalez holds a Bachelor's degree in International Finance from the University of Miami and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Tecnológico de

Monterrey Mexico. Currently, she is completing her Master's in the Art of Teaching Elementary Education from Western Governors University.

Her journey into teaching began a couple of years ago, following several years in the business world. She then became a teacher in bilingual schools across Latin America and recently as a paraeducator at North Chevy Chase Elementary School. She is overjoyed to be part of the incredible North Chevy Chase team in the upcoming school year and she is looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Mrs. Shelby Hinman is the newest teacher to the fourth grade team. Welcome to NCC! This is her first year here at North Chevy Chase and her 9th year teaching. Mrs. Hinman began her teaching career when she received her Bachelor's Degree at Radford University with dual certification in Teaching and Leadership, and Special Education. Prior to NCC she taught Prek-5th grade, was a Program Director for a Prek, an early childhood education activist, a mentor and trainer for Social Emotional Learning, and a 4th grade teacher in the Center at CCES. When she is not in the classroom, you can find her curled up with a good book, blazing a new trail, listening to music, or behind the lens of her camera. Both she and her husband grew up in military families and have lived all around the world, but they are new to Chevy Chase! They have so enjoyed tasting all of the wonderful food in the DMV and visiting the museums in D.C. Mrs. Hinman's favorite foods are ice cream, coffee & anything potato. Her favorite color is red and her favorite animal is a polar bear.

Welcome **Mrs. Marianne Francone**, our new .5 Special Education Resource Teacher. This is her 33rd year teaching students with special needs. Mrs. Francone earned her undergraduate degree from James Madison University and her master's and educational specialist degrees are from The George Washington University. She has six brothers and no sisters! She has a son who lives and works in the Cayman Islands, another son at James Madison University, and a daughter beginning her Senior year in high school. Mrs. Francone has spent most of her summer tending to her 11 month old beagle puppy, named Drambuie, "Buie!"

Ms. Crystal Pleasants will serve as our dedicated special education teacher overseeing the Autism Program. She was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and attended Richmond Public Schools. After graduating from Virginia State University, she relocated to Washington, DC to attend Trinity University where she received her Masters. She has a daughter who is in her senior year of high school. Ms. Pleasants loves to spend time with family and friends, eating out, going to movie theaters and concerts. She lives by the golden rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Please join me in welcoming to our NCC family, **Mr. Tracy J. Martin**, new Physical Education Teacher. Mr. Martin attended school in Montgomery County. He played three sports in high school (football, basketball, and baseball). Additionally, he played basketball in college. He is a graduate of the University of MD, College Park. He has been teaching for twenty-two years. His first ten years teaching were spent in elementary school and the last twelve years were spent in middle school.

Mr. Martin has twins (girl & boy) that are rising seniors at Blake High School. They are both involved in athletics there. Mr. Martin enjoys physical fitness, boating, and fishing. His goal is to instill lifelong physical fitness traits into every student that he teaches. 🍷

We welcome a new music teacher, **Mr. Colin Brown**. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Duquesne University. He has also earned a Master of Music and a Certificate of Performance in Voice and Opera from Northwestern University. He has worked as the General Music and Instrumental Music Teacher and Choral Teacher in the county. Additionally, Mr. Brown served as the Artistic Director at Georgetown Preparatory school. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Music Educators.

Congratulations to Ms. Snyder, our former Staff Development Teacher, as she takes a position at another school in MCPS. We do wish her the best of luck in this next phase in her career. Former fourth grade teacher, **Mrs. Kim Sexton-Malet**, will become NCC's new Staff Development Teacher. Please join me in welcoming her. Kimberly Sexton-Malet has worked as an MCPS teacher and leader for 19 years. She has served as a teacher leader at NCC for 15 years. She holds an M.Ed in curriculum and instruction with a STEM focus. She is certified in grades K-8 and holds an Administration and Supervision Certification. In addition to her service on leadership teams since 2006, she has served in the role of Staff Development Teacher, GT coordinator, Testing Coordinator, STEM Day Organizer, Dear with Dads Program Planner and founded the MSP Chapter at Silver Creek Middle School. She has a son, and two older stepchildren and resides in Montgomery County.

Everyone at school is working very hard this summer to prepare for the new school year, and we look forward to seeing you on **August 28, 2023 for the first day of school**. Our school hours are 9:25 am- 3:50 pm. There will be an **open house** where you can meet your teacher in the morning on **Friday, August 25, 2023 from 11:00 - 12:00 pm**. The homeroom class lists will be posted on the front doors of the school prior to the Open House. Homeroom teachers will also send a welcome letter to students in their classrooms prior to Open House.

Mark your Calendars

Open House

Friday, August 25, 2023

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First Day of School

Monday, August 28, 2023

9:25 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

No School Labor Day

Monday, September 4, 2023

PTA Back to School Picnic

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

6:30 - 8:00p.m.

PTA Back- to- School Night

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Non Instructional Day

Monday, September 25, 2023

There are a few short weeks left before the start of school. Enjoy them! If you are shopping for school supplies, please refer to the school supply list posted on the school website.

Mrs. Renee Wallace-Kimbrue

Principal

North Chevy Chase ES

240-204-5280

Renee_D_Wallace-Kimbrue@mcpsmd.org