

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal September 13, 2021
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Rockwell Register



*Greetings & Welcome to the 2021-22
School Year!*

What a start it has been! It is a pleasure to have students in the building and seeing how hard they are working and how they enjoy being with classmates and in-person with teachers. The joy of being around children in person is something I personally will never take for granted. Your children have come back to school ready to learn and there is nothing more rewarding than to see their bright eyes every day in classrooms. We do recognize that we have some ground to make up in getting everyone into routines that they either did not ever learn or they forgot since we have not started a school year in person since 2019! We are thrilled that your children adapt and learn quickly. Each day gets better as we all adjust to the new old routines.

As you know we are learning new routines and protocols for managing health and safety in the building. We have had students and classes in quarantine in week one and week two. It is important to share that all quarantine decisions are made in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of School Health staff and we follow strict guidelines that are given to us. Together we analyze all information and move forward with the decision to quarantine individuals and classes as indicated based on data. We will continue to do this. We have some additional tools or resources added to help us this week and moving forward:

- Our Health Room received a supply of Rapid Antigen tests. These will be used for students who present in the health room with one or more symptom(s) of COVID-19. Results of these tests will help us make decisions about class and student quarantine. Regardless of the results of one of these rapid tests, a student presenting with one or more symptom(s) must go home due to the symptom(s). We will be waiting on further testing or information from a physician for the ill student before quarantining a class due to close contact.
- We are scheduled to begin weekly COVID testing with students for whom parents have provided permission electronically on forms sent home in the last two weeks. These tests will begin on Friday, September 17, 2021. The logistics for this testing program at Rockwell is still being finalized. We will communicate details about this later this week prior to Friday, 9/17/21, our first day of testing. If you have not yet completed the online permission form for this testing, please check your MCPS Alerts via email and complete the online form.

Together as a school community we will get through this challenging time and our students will be safe and will be witness to how when adults around them have similar goals and a collaborative spirit, we can and will work together to their benefit. I am proud to be a member of this school community and feel fortunate

to have such supporting parent partners. I am open to your emails and phone calls about how we can improve upon our service to your children and to your family. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me.

In partnership~

Cheryl Clark

Principal



Back to School Night

Please join us for live Back to School Night Presentations on Tuesday, September 13, 2021. Your child's teacher has sent you a link to join the Zoom Meeting.

6:00-6:20 Session #1

6:25-6:45 Session #2

6:50-7:10 Open Question/Answer Session with your child's teacher

7:15-7:45 Our PTA Leaders, Mrs. Clark and Mr. Isabell will offer a welcome and an update on the start of school. Please check your email for a link for this session.



Be Well 365 Student Supports and Interventions

We will continue to implement social-emotional support for students. In order to pull our resources together on behalf of our students, we will continue with our Student Well-Being Teams. Our student well-being team will seek and receive referrals for student support from school staff and families. Our team will provide support to students who are struggling with social-emotional concerns, attendance, and engagement in their learning. Our team is comprised of Mrs. Clark, Principal, Mr. Isabell, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kane, School Counselor, Mrs. Elza, Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW), Mrs. Lupfer-Jones, School Psychologist, and other staff that will join us from time to time in our regularly scheduled meetings. We are striving to assist all of our students to "Be Well 365" and be conscious of their physical, social and emotional needs and well-being.



...in the Grass at Rockwell

Our students have been enjoying eating outdoors as they have their own picnic towel to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of being outside while eating. We are fortunate to have a great shaded area in the back of the building for students to stretch out to eat as they wish. Many students have brought towels from home. In addition, our generous parent community has come together and they have donated over 75 towels for students to take and keep for the school year. This is available for any student who needs a towel for lunch. If you would like to request a towel for your child,

please be in touch with your child's homeroom teacher and/or Mrs. Kane, our school counselor. We will give him/her a towel to keep and use daily. We ask that all picnic lunch towels go home each Friday to be washed and brought back for the following week. We will continue the outdoor eating option as weather and ground conditions permit. So far, we have been fortunate to offer this nearly every day since it started on September 3!



MCPS & Meals

As you know, breakfast, lunch and a supper are offered to every student free of charge for the 2021-22 school year in Montgomery County Public Schools. Many students have started their day in our cafeteria for breakfast and we have a good number of students who are eating school lunch mid day. This week we have begun offering a bagged supper that students may take when they exit the school at dismissal. Teachers will ask students daily if they would like to reserve a supper for the following day. Teachers will update Mrs. Bailey in our cafeteria to prepare the bagged meals. Please discuss with your child whether or not you would like them to reserve and pick up a meal as they exit the school in the afternoon. This way, we can avoid wasted food and wasted effort to put the bags together daily. We appreciate your help with this!



Update and Important Message About Testing

As you are aware the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) mandates certain testing requirement for all students in public schools in the state of Maryland. Please review this flyer that they have published and asked to be distributed to all parents in MCPS ([English Version](#); [Spanish Version](#)) If you have any questions about testing at Rockwell ES, please reach out to your child's teacher or Mrs. Hinkelman, our School Test Coordinator via email.



Did you know?

You can update your child's contact information through Parent View in our system? It is very important that we have your most current contact information in the event of an emergency here at school. Please take a look at your child's profile to be certain all of the data is correct and that we have more than one way of contacting you and/or other emergency contacts. Thank you!

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA) FOR 2021-2022

[This notice](#) informs parents/guardians and eligible students (emancipated minors or those 18 and older) of their rights regarding conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These rights are spelled out in the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98). Please visit the [MCPS website](#) on this topic for additional information.



Don't forget...no school on Thursday, September 16, 2021