

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal ~ December 23, 2020
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Rockwell Register



Dear Rockwell Families,

This year, we all have been pushed and prodded to do things in a very different way and to cope with the emotions that come with the isolation and reduced in-person contact with friends and family members. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of our families. With some, it has claimed the life of dear and close friends and family members. Our heartfelt thoughts go to our families who have suffered the loss of life. Please know that if your children are having difficulty coping with a loss or in general need emotional support, reach out to us through your child's teacher, Mrs. Kane, our counselor, Mr. Isabell, our Assistant Principal, or me. We are here to help the children of our school community.

I want to say again thank you to our parents, grandparents, older siblings and all adults in our students' lives who have afforded their time, energy and support to making online learning the most it can be for our individual students. We have mentioned often the resiliency of our students and the work that they are putting into learning new skills and content in a very different setting than ever before. Their home support is a terrific compliment to the online instruction provided by our staff. Our teachers and paraeducators also have worked hard to continually improve the online learning experience for all of our students. We know that the successes that our students have achieved in the first four months of this school year are due to our staff seeking how to do things better for our students' sake and for the unwavering home support. I am proud to lead from behind an amazing group of educators and I am grateful to serve a school community that contributes so much to ensure each student's school success.



At this holiday season, please accept our sincere wish for a healthy, happy, and peaceful break. We hope that the time spent with your children will be uplifting and filled with terrific opportunities to make positive memories for the close of 2020. Here's to a bright 2021!

Cheryl Clark
Principal



Parent Survey for Return to Partial In-Person Instruction

In November and early December, MCPS asked parents to complete this survey indicating preferences for a possible return to partial in-person instruction when county health metrics allow. We had over 89% of parents respond. The data varies slightly from grade level to grade level and we seek to get closer to 100% participation in completing the survey. If you have not responded, please reach out to us via phone (240)740-5180 or by email to Mr. Isabell or Mrs. Clark at our address posted above. If you did not complete the survey, MCPS will include your child in the group who will continue with virtual/online instruction only.

The Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education is slated to discuss and decide upon a partial return to the building for a hybrid (mix of online and in-person) approach to instruction at a meeting on

January 12th. All decisions made by the BOE are entirely dependent upon the health metrics for COVID infection in our county. You can learn details about these metrics by visiting <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/>.

As you may have followed in past discussions of the BOE, how in-person learning looks from school to school will be different based on unique survey data, school building physical space limitations, and staffing limitations. We have spent the past couple of weeks analyzing the survey results and will continue to plan for how this may look at Rockwell. We know from preliminary planning that in-person instruction in any of the over 200 schools in MCPS will not be the same as we have enjoyed in pre-COVID times. Given the necessary safety precautions, the experience will be very different. We have been asked about how a partial in-person return will affect all students whether they choose one option or the other. These details are not known at this time though realistically, changes will have to be made to teacher assignments and student groupings. I am confident that our plan moving forward when given permission to implement a partial in-person experience will put the safety of students and staff at the forefront. Until the time comes to do this in our school community, we will continue to work hard to reach students virtually in the online format. You can listen to the BOE's discussion and decision-making process either in live or recorded sessions at this MCPS site: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/>.

Rockwell ES Calendar

December 24–25 Schools and Offices Closed for Holiday

December 28–31 Non-instructional Days– No school for students/teaching staff

January 1 Schools and Offices Closed for Holiday

January 18 Schools and Offices Closed for Holiday

January 29 End of Quarter 2/Semester 1 Ends

See you online for virtual school on January 4th!

Montgomery County Public Schools Notes for Parents



Don't Forget to Activate Your ParentVUE Account

ParentVUE is the brand new, powerful, single location for all information about how your child is doing in school. ParentVUE is also a new tool we use to stay connected with you.

When you are logged into ParentVUE you can:

- See your child's schedule;
- Check your child's grades (and report card);
- Check your child's assignments;
- Send a message to your child's teacher; and
- Update your contact information.

Soon, you will be able to see a report on Student Service Learning hours (SSL). If you haven't yet activated your account, you should have received an e-mail message and/or notification via U.S. mail. Once you've received your activation letter, simply visit www.MCPSParentVUE.org to activate your account.

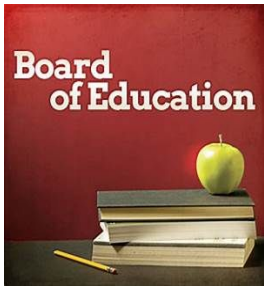
No se olvide de activar su cuenta de ParentVue

ParentVue es un sitio nuevo y poderoso donde en un solo lugar encontrará toda la información sobre el progreso de su hijo en la escuela. ParentVUE también es una nueva herramienta que usamos para mantenernos conectados con usted.

Tras iniciar sesión en ParentVUE, usted puede:

- Ver el horario de su hijo;
- Revisar las calificaciones de su hijo (y el boletín de calificaciones)
- Revisar las tareas asignadas a su hijo;
- Enviar un mensaje al maestro de su hijo; y
- Actualizar su información de contacto.

Pronto, usted podrá ver un informe sobre las horas de aprendizaje mediante servicio estudiantil (Student Service Learning–SSL). Si todavía no ha activado su cuenta, debería haber recibido un mensaje de correo electrónico y/o una notificación a través del correo postal de los Estados Unidos. Una vez que haya recibido su carta de activación, simplemente visite www.MCPSParentVUE.org para activar su cuenta.



Newly Elected Board of Education Members Sworn In

Newly elected member of the Board of Education Lynne Harris (At-Large) and reelected members Shebra L. Evans (District 4) and Rebecca K. Smondrowski (District 2) were sworn on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Mrs. Evans was elected to her first four-year term on the Board on November 8, 2016. Mrs. Smondrowski was elected to her second four-year term on November 8, 2016. Ms. Harris will succeed Ms. Jeanette E. Dixon, who did not seek reelection.

REMINDER: Gift Card Campaign to Help Families in Need



The MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc.; the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations' volunteer network; and MCPS still are seeking support for the Families Helping Families campaign. Grocery gift cards will be purchased with funds donated to the MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc.'s Crisis Relief Fund—COVID-19. Learn more about how to donate [here](#).

RECORDATORIO: Campaña de tarjetas de regalo para ayudar a las familias necesitadas

La Fundación Educativa de MCPS, Inc. (MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc.); la red de voluntarios del Concejo de Asociaciones de Padres y Maestros del Condado de Montgomery, Inc. (Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, Inc.); y MCPS siguen pidiendo a la comunidad que apoye la campaña Familias Ayudando a Familias (Families Helping Families). Se comprarán tarjetas de regalo para comestibles con los fondos donados al fondo de ayuda para crisis de la Fundación Educativa de MCPS, Inc.—COVID-19. Obtenga más información sobre cómo donar [aquí](#).

Awards & Recognition

Nominations Open for Staff Awards

Nominations are open for several awards to honor exceptional teachers and principals. They are:

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Master Teacher Award: This award recognizes three full-time teachers in kindergarten through Grade 12 who have a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap. One of the Master Teacher Award winners is chosen as the MCPS Teacher of the Year, goes on to represent the school district as a contender for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year award, and could become the National Teacher of the Year. One award winner will be named for each level: elementary, middle, and high school. Each will receive a \$2,000 monetary award. More information is available [here](#). **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Rising Star Teacher Award: This award recognizes a first-, second-, third-, or fourth-year full-time teacher in kindergarten through Grade 12 who has a demonstrated record of promoting student success. The teacher contributes to a professional learning community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community. The winner will receive a \$1,000 monetary award. More information is available [here](#). **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

[The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award:](#) This award recognizes a full-time teacher in prekindergarten through Grade 12 who instills in students a desire to learn and achieve. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, three of which must be in MCPS. This teacher also must understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self-esteem. He or she will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter and possess the ability to share it effectively with students. The nominee fosters cooperative relationships with his/her colleagues and the community and demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

[The Washington Post Principal of the Year Award:](#) This award recognizes principals who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment. In presenting these awards, *The Washington Post* Company Educational Foundation hopes to encourage excellence in school leadership and contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area. Nominations may be submitted by teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators or the general public. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

[The Shirley J. Lowrie Thank You for Teaching Award:](#) This award honors extraordinary elementary school teachers who have a deep dedication to the teaching profession. These elementary school teachers, prekindergarten through Grade 5, must work directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis, demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter, and effectively communicate that subject matter to students. The nominee should be a teacher who goes the extra mile to ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

[The Superintendent's Annual Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award:](#) Established in 1991, this award honors MCPS principals who excel in promoting academic excellence, positive human relations and community outreach. These qualities were exemplified by Mark Mann, a former principal of Parkland Junior High School, who died in 1988. Nominations made in previous years may be resubmitted. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021.**