

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

Cheryl Clark, Principal ~ Rodney Isabell, Assistant Principal March 30, 2022
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Rockwell Register



Happy Spring!

It's nearly April! We are gearing up for a terrific spring at Rockwell. The January to April time frame in school has always been a time where many students have their "lightbulb moments" and things just click for them and their academic progress shows brightly. This year is like others in this regard. We are so proud of our students for their incredible tenacity and willingness to put in the practice and hard work to get better in reading, writing, mathematics and all other academic subjects. We are also excited about how our students begin to imagine themselves in the next grade level. We know that this is a shared responsibility between home and school and we appreciate your part in making learning a priority by setting the stage for the practice and mindset necessary for all of our students to make the most out of each school day.

At Rockwell, we continue to witness kindness and care from and among our students as they interact in formal structured settings as well as their "free time" at recess. Though recess games can get intense, students come around and show an understanding of when to bring the intensity down so that everyone can enjoy the game and the time together on the playground and the field.

As we shared earlier in the month, springtime brings on testing for our students- tests that are required by our state and county/district school system. We are particularly interested in these assessments this year as we will be able to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the springtime. We know that all students lost something as a result of not being in school full time under typical circumstances over the past two years due to the pandemic. A slower learning pace or even some learning loss was real for many if not every student in some fashion. It's time for some good news and celebration for hard work as we believe students will show terrific growth on the assessments they will take in April and May. We see their growth in the classroom!

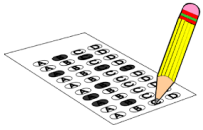
In preparation for these tests, please stress to your children that there is no studying nor is there any reason to prepare in any way outside of the practice and hard work that they display in the classroom daily. If they engage fully in class, complete their classwork, and act on the feedback that teachers give them, the tests will "take care of themselves." Your children should be encouraged to do their very best and show all that they know. Taking annual assessments is a time for perseverance, stamina, and engagement. Teachers have made these three components of "learning behaviors" a big part of their everyday classroom expectations.

Here's to a very strong fourth marking period which begins on April 4th!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Clark

Principal



Maryland State Tests in grades 3-5 at Rockwell Elementary

Grade 5 Reading & Math

April 4-8, April 20

Grade 4 Reading & Math

April 4, 5, 7, 8, 20, 21

Grade 3 Reading & Math

April 19, April 21, April 25-27, April 29, May 4-5



Next week will be Autism Acceptance Spirit Week at Rockwell ES ~ April 4-8

Magnificent Mind Monday, 4/4/22: Hat Day



Autism is a neurological variation, which means the brains of autistic people work differently than the brains of allistic (non-autistic) people - and that's amazing! Celebrate how amazing it is that all of our minds work in different and wonderful ways.

Neurodiversity Tuesday, 4/5/22: Rainbow or Tie-dye clothes



Celebrate the beauty in the diverse spectrum of the human mind- wear colorful clothing!

What's Your Passion Wednesday, 4/6/22: Dress to Show Something You Love

One characteristic of autism is to show an incredibly focused passion for topics of interest. What are you passionate about?



Autism Acceptance Day, Thursday, 4/7/22: Wear anything Blue, Red or Gold

Love and acceptance go a long way. Wear anything blue, red or gold to show your support and acceptance of individuals with autism.

Sensory Friendly Friday, 4/8/22: Dress in comfy clothes



People with autism often have a variety of sensory sensitivities. Dress in your most comfy clothes (including school-appropriate pjs) and/or wear sunglasses.



Parent Volunteers in MCPS & Rockwell ES



This year, all school volunteers and partnering agencies are required to complete an additional new module via their *myMCPS Classroom/Canvas* account called **COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation** in order to volunteer within our school district. Currently, all volunteers/contractors must complete the vCAN (Volunteer Child Abuse/Neglect) module. In addition, depending on level of volunteering, some are required to be fingerprinted, per the vCAN FAQ. Fingerprinting requirements are not being changed. The new module will consist of a volunteer a) attesting to being fully vaccinated, b) uploading their *Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination* from the Maryland Department of Health, and c) agreeing to specific expectations of masking and social distancing while in MCPS facilities.

User-Guides on how to access both module requirements and how to access and upload their *Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination* from the Maryland Department of Health will be available on the Child Abuse and Neglect and the [Volunteers websites](#).



BULLYING

WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO WE PREVENT IT?

Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) mission is to ensure that all students have the academic, creative problem solving, and social emotional skills to be successful in college, career, and community, regardless of their background. Creating and maintaining a safe, supportive environment that is free from bullying is critical to this mission.

We at Rockwell take bullying seriously and we want to help our students understand that if they are bullied they must report it and get assistance from the adults at school. Please check out the MCPS Information Page about bullying [here](#). Please be in touch with us if your child expresses concern or distress about bullying behavior at our school. The online form to report bullying can be found [here](#).

YEARBOOK

We are pleased to share that Rockwell Elementary will have a yearbook for the 2021-22 school year! Our yearbook will feature students from PEP and Grades K-5. We will include individual and group pictures in addition to candid photos. We have contracted with our yearbook company to buy a minimum number of books. Our online sales begin in April. **Yearbook sales will be online only.** The cost per book is \$20 (including tax and fees). The link is below. Once initial orders are placed, we will not be able to offer additional books, so please order during the sales window. After you make your purchase online with Classic Photography, Inc., you will be sent a sales receipt via email. Please hold onto this receipt for your records and as proof of your purchase. We will label all yearbooks at distribution time with your child's name.

Here is the Rockwell Elementary Yearbook timeline:

- Yearbook sales: April 1- April 22, 2022
- Yearbook distribution: Early June

Here is the ordering information:

- Online site: [Rockwell ES Yearbook by Classic Photography](#)
- Cost: \$20 (including tax and fees)

(Please do not send any checks or cash into school for yearbooks; sales are all online at the link above)



April 1-22, 2022 Yearbook sales link: [Rockwell ES Yearbook by Classic Photography](#)

April 1, 2022 Early Release for Students- School is out at 12:55 PM; AM & PM PEP students do not attend on early release days

April 4-8 Autism Awareness and Spirit Week at Rockwell ES

April 5, 2022 In-person Kindergarten Registration 9:15-11:30 & 1:00-2:30
Parents may attend in person or register online- your choice!

April 11-18 School is Closed for Students for Spring Break & Holidays

April 24, 2022 Spring Individual & Class/Group Pictures will be taken

Previously sent items of interest

The word "Kindergarten" is written in a large, colorful, bubbly font. Each letter is a different color: K (red), I (orange), N (yellow), D (green), E (light green), R (teal), G (blue), A (light blue), R (purple), T (pink), E (purple), N (pink).

**Calling all Kindergarten
Students for Fall 2022!**

Rockwell is excited to register a new class of kindergarten students this spring to begin in August, 2022 when our school year begins. Students must be five years old by September 1, 2022 to be eligible. We will consider Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK) for students who turn five between September 1-October 15, 2022. Please contact Mrs. Shae Nelson for more information about Rockwell's EEK procedures. More information about EEK can be found on the MCPS website [here](#).

Registration for kindergarten at Rockwell begins on Monday, March 28, 2022. You can begin electronic registration on this day. Information is at this [link](#). If you prefer to bring in your documents and register in-person, our **Registration Fair is scheduled for April 5, 9:15-11:30 and 1:00-2:30 in the school lobby.** We will have staff available to accept forms, make copies, answer questions, etc. Your children do not need to attend this registration fair.

Orientation for Rockwell kindergarten students will be held in the summer-after June 21, 2022. In addition, we will offer a Kindergarten Q & A via Zoom in April. We will advertise these details soon!

Questions about Kindergarten Registration or Orientation? Call Mrs. Shae Nelson, our main office 240-740-5180. She can assist you. More details will be sent later this month.

Please forward this information to your friends and neighbors who have an incoming K student!



PEP At Rockwell for the 2022-23 School Year

We are happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for our Preschool Education Program (PEP) for the 2022-2023 school year. PEP offers pre-kindergarten classes and services for children ages 3-5 in an early childhood setting for children with and without disabilities. If you choose to enroll your child, he/she will be in an inclusive class with other students with and without disabilities. Classes are 5 days per week for 2.5 hours per day. The cost is \$150 per semester or \$300 per year. The class is taught by a certified MCPS teacher. There is a para educator in the class to assist. The class follows a PreK Curriculum.

All applicants must be residents of Montgomery County. Priority is given to children who reside in Rockwell's school boundary, then the Damascus Cluster boundary. *Your child must be 3 years old by Sept 1, 2022.* Due to the anticipated high numbers of applicants, enrollment will be based on a lottery system. Applications will be accepted through the month of March and assignments will be made in late April. You will be contacted in late April or early May if you are awarded placement in the program. Although a wait list will be created with the names of applicants not originally placed, please consider back-up plans for pre-school, as there are a limited number of openings.

Applications are available on the MCPS website by typing "community peers" into the search box or via the link below. Please either hand carry, mail or email your completed application to the following:

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School
Attention: PEP Community Peer Program
24555 Cutsail Dr.
Damascus, MD 20872

Shae Nelson, Attendance Secretary: Shae_J_Nelson@mcpsmd.org
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/335-47.pdf>

PEP Community Peer Applications for Returning and New Students are due 3/31/22!

♥ Welcome to
Preschool!