

# Twinbrook Parent News!

## September 2022

*One School...Our Collective Impact!  
Preparing to be Future RM Rockets*



Greetings Twinbrook Families,

We had a wonderful day welcoming families to our in-person Twinbrook Open House last month! Students, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, family members, and friends of the family, were so excited to be back in the building, meet their teachers, and reacquaint with their friends. Thank you so much to everyone who visited! We would love to capture "First Day Excitement" and post photos of our Twinbrook Tigers on the Twinbrook Welcome Screen. If you take a picture of your child(ren) and would like to share with me for our Twinbrook social media account or Twinbrook Welcome Screen (located inside our hallways). Please email [DeAngela\\_Hill@mcpsmmd.org](mailto:DeAngela_Hill@mcpsmmd.org) with the picture and name of the Twinbrook student(s) and grade level. (The name and grade level will not be posted on social media).

We hope that your child and family had a great first week of school and you are ready to reach high levels of academic rigor this school year! As we begin this exciting school year, communication, collaboration, and coordination will be key aspects to the continued success here at Twinbrook Elementary School. The Newsletter will be a great source for all the important news and events taking place here at Twinbrook Elementary School. The Newsletter will be e-mailed home and posted on the school website at the beginning of each month. Please become familiar with our mascot, Rocky, and the Richard Montgomery "RM Ready" charge that we have for each of our students. We will be sharing our Grade Level RM Ready Skills on our Twinbrook website later this month. Please stay connected to our Twinbrook website for the latest news and stay connected with our teachers, staff, and PTA. Link [here](#).

Giving you our best,

Matt Devan, Principal & DeAngela Hill, Assistant Principal

### **September - Twinbrook Elementary Important Dates & Details:**

Thursday, Sept. 1	6:00pm Third Grade Parent Meet Up on Upper Playground
Monday, Sept. 5	Holiday – Labor Day – No School for Students or Staff
Tuesday, Sept. 6	6:00pm First Grade Parent Meet Up on Upper Playground
Tuesday, Sept. 6	First Day for PK/HS students – staggered start for both
Tuesday, Sept. 6	7:00pm – PTA Meeting Hybrid In Person Twinbrook Media Center or on Zoom Mtg ID: 864 4435 7351- Passcode: kq70vU <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86444357351?pwd=U3dUWIU1TmNWRkhpQVN5TzhpSWw2UT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86444357351?pwd=U3dUWIU1TmNWRkhpQVN5TzhpSWw2UT09</a>
Wednesday, Sept. 7	6:00pm Instrumental Music Parent Informational Meeting @ Twinbrook with Ms. Krohn
Wednesday, Sept. 7	6:00pm Kindergarten Parent Meet Up on Upper Playground
Wednesday, Sept. 14	1:20pm – Early Release Day
Thursday, Sept. 15	6:00pm - 7:30pm Back to School Night
Friday, Sept. 23	Fall Picture Day
Monday, Sept. 26	No School for Students or Staff
Thursday, Sept. 29	9:30am-10:15am Parent Meet and Chat
Friday, Sept. 30	1:20pm – Early Release Day

MCPS Central Calendar Link [here](#)

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## Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Tuesday, September 6, 2022

On Behalf of the Parents and Twinbrook Staff please participate in the PTA this year 😊.  
September 6, 2022 @ 7pm.

In Person option @ Twinbrook Media Center child care will be provided by the City of Rockville for children 5 and older and Spanish translation will be available for the PTA meeting.

For this meeting, PTA meeting will be - In person and Zoom

- In -Person session come to Twinbrook Main Entrance at the bus loop doors. Meet in Media Center.
- Zoom virtual see details below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86444357351?pwd=U3dUWlU1TmNWRkhpQVN5TzhpSWw2UT09>

Meeting ID: 864 4435 7351

Passcode: kq70vU

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86444357351#,,,,\*246232# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,86444357351#,,,,\*246232# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 864 4435 7351

Passcode: 246232

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdsw7aQ7WU>

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## MEALS

**Free and Reduced Meals** - We are reaching out to make sure that every Twinbrook Family has had an opportunity to fill out the on-line free meal form. Do you need help filling out the form? You can stop by the office or call us at 240-740-3450 and a staff member will assist you with this process. These benefits help you as well as providing benefits for all the students at school. When we qualify for Title I, Twinbrook receives extra funding to hire more teachers. This enables us to provide smaller class sizes. The extra funding also provides reading support, math support, extra materials and other assistance. Thank you for your continued support for our Twinbrook Family. Apply NOW for Free and Reduced-Price Meals! If you would like to pick up a FARM paper form to complete, please stop by Twinbrook's main office. The online application is open for parents to complete and submit the 2022- 2023 application! [www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com)

**MEALS Important Changes this year** - There is a major change in the cafeteria this year! Students who do not qualify for free/reduced meals will have to pay for their lunch. This is a major change as breakfast and lunches were free for all students for the past two years. All breakfast will remain free this year. MCPS cafeterias utilize a computerized Point of Sale (POS) system. Students utilize an ID Card with a specialized barcode at mealtime. A student's Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) status is always confidential, to learn more and apply for FARMS [click here](#). Beginning this school year 2022-2023, students who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged that cost - meaning that reduced-price students will eat for free! Deposits into the account can be made by any student and can be made ahead of time on our online payment system, My School Bucks. See more information [here](#). Daily Lunch: \$2.55 See more information [here](#). Click [here](#) to apply for free or reduced meals, pay online, read the [menu](#), and learn other information about School Meals.

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## ACADEMICS

**Learning Corner Home to School Connection** - Kindergarten to 2nd Grade High Frequency Words. Recognizing and saying high-frequency words quickly assists children as they begin reading books. These words appear often in children's books. Children who know high-frequency words can read more fluently (smoothly and automatically) than children who struggle over every word. High-frequency words are the words that appear most often in printed materials. Students are encouraged to recognize these words by sight, without having to "sound them out." Learning to recognize high-frequency words by sight is critical to developing fluency in reading. Students should be able to read these words individually and in sentences and stories. Automatic recognition of high frequency words provides an essential starting point for your child becoming a confident reader. It is important to note that

- 12 high frequency words make up 25% of words we read and write.
- 100 high frequency words make up 50% of words we read and write.
- about 300 high frequency words account for 75% of words we read and write.

Kindergarten	High Frequency Words click <a href="#">here</a>	High Frequency Word Card click <a href="#">here</a>
1st Grade	High Frequency Words click <a href="#">here</a>	High Frequency Word Card click <a href="#">here</a>
2nd Grade	High Frequency Words click <a href="#">here</a>	High Frequency Word Card click <a href="#">here</a>

**Assessments** – MCPS uses multiple assessments to provide teachers with information about their students to plan effective instruction and identify students who may need additional intervention or extension. Some assessments are required by state or federal legislation while others are used to meet state or federal program requirements. Teachers may administer additional subject or course related tests and assessments to measure individual student progress. The school district strives to maximize instructional time and create a balance throughout the instructional day. Link [here](#)

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### **TWINBROOK OFFICE**

**Health Room** – We would like to welcome our new school nurse, Mary Ferguson [Mary\\_K\\_Ferguson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Mary_K_Ferguson@mcpsmd.org) , and our new Health Technician, Kay Mangan [Katherine\\_B\\_Mangan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_B_Mangan@mcpsmd.org) to Twinbrook Elementary School. They are in our Health room at Twinbrook on a daily basis. The Health room staff can be reached between 9:00 a.m. – 3:50 p.m. at (240) 740-3450 or by email.

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### **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)**

**Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** – Stay connected. Be informed. Become active at Twinbrook Elementary School. Be a role model for your children and get involved by helping the school. At PTA Meetings, you can raise concerns, suggest ideas, and have input on how funds are spent. You can play an important role in helping the school acquire resources and reward children. Find out more and sign up at <https://bit.ly/JoinTESPTA>

**PTA Directory-** If you do not want your information (phone, address, etc) added to the PTA directory please contact Ellen Miller, registrar at 240-740-3450 and let her know what information you do not want to be shared with the PTA.

**Twinbrook Elementary School Spirit Wear** - Show your school spirit! Spirit wear is available for purchase online. Link [here](#)

**Treat Yourself for Twinbrook Restaurant Nights** - Watch for details about our first Restaurant night next week! Keep connected on Twinbrook PTA website. Link [here](#)

**Twinbrook Fun Run for Field Trips** – The PTA will have a student assembly for the Twinbrook fun run this month. Please stay on the look out for more details for this upcoming event. Keep connected on Twinbrook PTA website. Link [here](#)

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### **PARENT CONNECTIONS, EVENTS, OFFERINGS, PROGRAMS**

**Community Resources** – If your child or family have any needs for school supplies, food, clothing, or other assistance please don't hesitate to ask. We have resources to offer. Please contact Tanya Aguilar, Community School Liaison.

**Twinbrook Team Coffee with Administrators-** All family members are invited to attend our initial “But first, Cafecito” a *Coffee and Chat* on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 9:30 am. It will be held every last Thursday of each month. It is an opportunity to engage in informal conversations about our school and community. Information is shared by the Twinbrook

Administrative Team and/or Community Partners regarding resources and upcoming activities. It is also an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas about improving student achievement ,and get involved in our school. Please join us!

**Twinbrook Student Access-** Our Twinbrook Partners are offering several opportunities for our students:

1. FREE haircuts for all students! A good haircut can make a huge impact! A haircut can do wonders; build self-esteem, build confidence, make students feel professional, and afterwards the students feel like a whole new person with their energy, positivity and a new look!
2. Families that would like Thanksgiving meals should let us know by November 1, 2022.

Fill out this form and indicate what service you are requesting. Click [here](#)

**Twinbrook After School Programs-** City of Rockville is excited to offer many exciting after school opportunities for our Twinbrook families this fall. Families can reach us at 240-314-8643 or [stayandplay@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:stayandplay@rockvillemd.gov). Please see the attached fliers or [follow this link](#) for more details.

**Substitutes Needed for Immediate Hire-** MCPS is seeking substitute teachers! Substitute teaching is an excellent way to learn about our schools while allowing principals and teachers to get to know you. To qualify as a substitute teacher, each applicant must present proof of the completion of the minimum of an associate's degree or 60 college credits from an accredited institution. Substitute teachers are temporary employees and are on an on call basis. Substitute Teacher Rates: Daily hourly rate of pay \$18.79- Long Term rate \$26.81. If you hold a valid Maryland professional eligibility certificate or standard advanced professional certificate, the daily hourly rate of pay is \$19.97-Long Term rate \$28.45. In order to qualify for this higher rate of pay, you must submit a copy of your valid Maryland certificate.

Apply now! Click [here](#)

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## REMINDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Walker and Student Drop Off -** Please remember that students can be dropped off at the walker door at 9:10 AM. Students SHOULD NOT be dropped off unattended at any time. Students will not be permitted in the building before 9:10 AM as there will be no adult supervision. Any questions or concerns, please contact the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

**School Safety Patrols -** They have begun! Look out for the Safety Patrol student bright yellow belts! Twinbrook ES identifies a voluntary group of older students to assist younger students cross streets, stay safe in the hallways and assist with Twinbrook Elementary bus rides and entrance for walkers and car riders safely into the building. They continue to model the theme of every Twinbrook Tiger to be a safe student, a nice student and a hard-working student!

**Early Dismissal and Emergency student pick up plan -** If you plan to pick up your child before the end of the day; please be sure to send a note in the morning which is preferable or call before 3:00pm so your child can be dismissed promptly. Do you have a plan in place in the event that there is an early dismissal? All students should know where to go and what to do if an adult is not home when the child arrives home. Please take time to review your family's plan with your child.

**Water Bottles at Twinbrook** – Last year we switched from water fountains to water bottle filling stations at Twinbrook. Your child is now allowed to bring a water bottle from home if they choose to do so. This is strongly recommended, but we want parents and students to know that they are allowed in school as long as they are used properly (for water & drinking only) and not a distraction to our learning environment.

**Cell Phones, SMART Watches, Fitness Bands, Trading Cards (Pokemon), Sports Equipment (soccer balls, footballs, cleats)** – These are expensive items and can also be very distracting from our instruction. Students are not allowed to have these items at school. If there is a family emergency or urgent unique need, please communicate with Mr. Devan or Ms. Hill.

**Birthday Policy** - Simple, low key birthday celebrations are held during your child’s lunch period. If you would like, you may bring a small store bought treat such as a cookie or a cupcake for each child in their class, not grade level. The original label including ingredients label should be attached. In addition, all foods must be “peanut-free” (“peanut-oil free”). Lunch room staff members will facilitate the distribution of the birthday treat and the class will sing “Happy Birthday”.\*\*PERSONAL BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN SCHOOL!

**Twinbrook is a Title I School – Information & Details:**

If you wish to request certification information about your child’s teacher, paraeducator, or long-term substitute teacher, please submit a written request to the principal at your school. Your written inquiry may include information about the following qualifications:

- Degree status and subject area of certification.
- State of Maryland certification status, including conditional certification status.
- Qualifications of paraeducators or long-term substitute teachers who may be working with your student.

Your request will be forwarded to the Office of Human Resources and Development and you will receive a written response from that office within thirty (30) business days. Please contact the principal if you have any questions.

Our school is fortunate to receive supplemental funding through Title I, a federal grant program for schools that serve communities with students who have high economic needs. The federal legislation that establishes Title I regulations is known as, *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA). ESSA requires Montgomery County Public Schools to inform you that you have the right to request information about the professional certification qualifications of your child’s teacher, long-term substitute teacher, or paraeducator (formerly titled instructional assistant).

Check out updates on our Twinbrook school website for updates and staff contact information <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/twinbrookes/>

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