

# Engage • Achieve • Thrive

Brooke Grove Elementary

2700 Spartan Road • Olney, Maryland 20832 • Phone: (240) 722-1800 • Fax: (301) 924-3161  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/brookegrovees>

Dear Brooke Grove Families,

I hope our students enjoyed their virtual meeting with their teachers today! We are all so excited to see our students in person on Monday! We prepared a [Back to School Video](#) to share with our families. We also have an [Meet the Arts Team](#) video so students and families can learn more about their teachers. There is also an MCPS [“Mask Up, MCPS” public service announcements](#) starring students from across MCPS. We hope you enjoy them!

The first day of school for students is **Monday, August 30, 2021**. Our school hours are **8:50 a.m.-3:25 p.m.** Doors are open for students at 8:40 a.m, students should be seated in class, ready for instruction to begin by 9:00 a.m. We thank you for getting your students to school on time each day. Breakfast will be served from 8:40-9:00; **breakfast and lunch will be free of charge for all students this year.**

As we prepare for our students to return, I want to let you know that we have a **mask lanyard to provide for each student**. This will be an important tool to prevent dirty/used masks from spreading germs or getting lost. We ask that you please help ensure students have their masks attached to the lanyard each school day.

We also are encouraging the use of **reusable water bottles at school**. Our water fountains and bottle fillers are operational, though having a personal water bottle will help students stay hydrated. Please consider sending your child with a water bottle daily.

If your child is sick, please keep your child home from school. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or above, your child **MUST** stay home. Please do not give your child a fever-reducing medication and send them to school. A fever is an indicator that a person is contagious. We need to be diligent in not spreading any germs or disease. You may report your child’s absence electronically on our school [website](#) by scrolling to the blue box on the left to “report and absence”. Additionally, you may call the school and contact your child’s teacher. If your child has COVID19-like symptoms, please call your pediatrician. If your child is at school and displays COVID-like symptoms, they will be isolated in our triage room and you will need to come and pick up your child from school. Your child will need to be cleared in order to return to school.

We will be back to school in-person five days a week, but we still will have students use **Chromebooks on a regular basis**. Students will use the computer as an instructional

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tool, not a main source of instructional delivery. Also, teachers will be maintaining their Canvas Classroom page where students will be able to access assignments and resources and upload work. Also, while we hope that students will not have to quarantine, we do want to be prepared for it if they do. Students would need to have their computer in order to access instruction through Zoom and Canvas. Please send your child's computer to school on Monday and on a daily basis.

Again this year we will have a focus on children's **social-emotional learning** (SEL). MCPS has adopted the [CASEL](#) (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) Framework to help implement SEL instruction and strategies. We will concentrate on one of the

**Self-management: The abilities to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.**

This includes the capacities to delay gratification, manage stress, and feel motivation and agency to accomplish personal and collective goals. Such as:

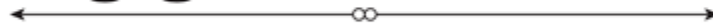
- Managing one's emotions
- Identifying and using stress management strategies
- Exhibiting self-discipline and self-motivation
- Setting personal and collective goals
- Using planning and organizational skills
- Showing the courage to take initiative
- Demonstrating personal and collective agency

One common strategy that staff will be using across the school is teaching "[Zones of Regulation](#)". You may find it useful to use this language with your students at home to help them identify and express their feelings. We will continue to provide information and resources to you related to social emotional learning.

The health and safety of students and staff is the district's top priority as MCPS carries out its commitment to provide in-person instruction, five days a week, for all students. MCPS has developed a plan to ensure a safe return to school and will continue to be proactive in the face of rapidly changing circumstances. Read the 2021-2022 Reopening Guide: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/reopening2021/>

I hope that you have a fun and relaxing weekend. Welcome back to school!

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Warmly,

Jolynn Tarwater, Principal

[jolynn\\_e\\_tarwater@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jolynn_e_tarwater@mcpsmd.org)