

Carderock Springs Elementary School

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Office of the Principal

August 2021

Greetings Carderock Springs Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It is hard to believe August is already here and the opening of school is quickly approaching! I hope that you had a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer, especially following a very challenging year and a half due to the Covid pandemic. I am extremely excited to be starting my sixth year as the proud principal of Carderock Springs Elementary School. Our staff, students, PTA, and Educational Foundation will continue to work together to embrace challenges and set high expectations for student success.

Our School Improvement Team met for three days this summer to carefully plan for the opening of school and reaffirmed our continued focus on our passion for teaching and learning and doing what is best for kids. We begin this year with a heightened focus on academic excellence and the social-emotional health and wellbeing of each child. These areas are more important than ever as we transition back to a more traditional school year. We are proud to continue to offer Morning Recess, which will start on the second day of school. We find this provides an important opportunity for our students to exert physical energy which sets them up for daily success, while at the same time creating opportunities for our classroom teachers to observe cross class and grade-level friendship dynamics firsthand. Please see arrival procedures below for more information. We are also pleased to share that your child will be taking part in 'Start With Hello Week' at Carderock in September. 'Start With Hello' teaches students the skills they need to reach out and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their classroom and our school. After a year apart and with limited in-person social interactions, all students will benefit from this new initiative. More information about this wonderful opportunity is coming soon!

You will receive a postcard during the last week of August with the name of your child's teacher. We will also make your child's classroom assignment information available during the Open House on Friday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Please join me in thanking all of our staff who work so hard all through the summer to ensure that Carderock Springs is ready for the return of staff and students. Our building services team, office staff, staff development teacher, reading specialist, team leaders, counselor, and parent and student volunteers do an amazing job completing all of the behind-the-scenes work that needs to occur to prepare for the school year. Special thanks to our building services team for managing summer school and preparing the building for reopening!

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer break from school. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to seeing you for the first day of school on Monday, August 30, 2021. Have a great rest of the summer, *on purpose!*

Sincerely,

Orinda Nelson and Jae W. Lee

**Important Information
2021 –2022**

Event	Date	Time
Orientation for Students New to Carderock Springs in Grades 1 – 5	Friday, August 27	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Open House for All Students		10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Open House is a time for your child to see their classroom and meet his/her teacher. As such, it is not an appropriate time for parent teacher conferences. There are many opportunities to share personal information after school begins.

Arrival Procedures for the First Day of School:

The first day of school is Monday, August 30, 2021. All students will report to the All-Purpose Room to meet their teacher. Walkers and those arriving by bus will enter through the main entrance. Car riders will be able to enter the building from the car loop and join their class line in the APR. Once all students have arrived, they will be escorted to their classrooms by school staff. Please understand that during the first few days, the flow of arrival/dismissal procedures, bus times, and schedules may vary slightly. We ask for your patience.

For Kindergartners only: to ensure successful dismissal for our youngest cubs, parents must complete this form as soon as possible. <https://forms.gle/gLegDzGTN1RNEtN96> Lanyards with dismissal information will be distributed to students on the first day of school. Please have your child wear it the first two weeks of school.

Arrival Procedures (beginning Day 2):

- Car Riders proceed through the building and go down the main steps to the playground
- Walkers go directly to the playground
- Bikers park their bikes and proceed to the playground
- Bus Riders go down the steps and out the recess door

9:00 – Morning Recess: students report directly to playground (classrooms if inclement weather)

9:20 – Students enter the building

9:30 – Homeroom Begins/Announcements

9:35 – Instruction Begins

Dismissal Procedures:

- Bus Riders will be called by bus number and will exit through the front doors to the buses
- Walkers will exit through the front doors to the flag area
- Car Riders When you pull into the car loop, please ensure the sign provided with your child’s last name is visible in the windshield so your child can be dismissed.

Bus Loop

Parents should not park in the bus loop or pick up/drop off their child in this area. The limited numbers of parking spaces in the bus loop are reserved for individuals with a handicapped parking sticker and staff members. If your child rides the bus, please allow your child to ride the bus starting the first day of school. It is helpful for children to establish a routine from the first day. It instills confidence and minimizes confusion. All students must wear a mask during the entire bus ride. When students exit the bus, they will enter the building through the main doors and proceed to the playground.

Traffic Pattern and Procedures for Cars (Arrival)

We have a designated loop for students arriving and leaving by car in the lower lot. The entrance to the loop is to the right of the main entrance of the school.

- Please pull into the loop and follow staff directions.
- Please have all materials ready so that your child can exit the car swiftly, and traffic can continue to flow smoothly.
 - Please do not get out of the car as it stops the flow of traffic.
 - Please do not pull alongside another car to drop off or wait for your child.
 - Patrols and staff members will be stationed along the loop to assist students.
 - Please do not park or leave your car unattended in the drop off loop.

We need your help to ensure the safety of our students. Last year, as in years past, we had far too many incidents of parents engaging in unsafe practices in the drop off/pick up loop including leaving their vehicle unattended, passing other vehicles in the loop, and picking up their child in the middle of the drop off/pick up loop.

Procedures for Children Walking to and from School

Children walking to and from school will enter and exit using the main door.

Change in Dismissal Plans

Any variation from your child's daily routine requires a note from home, addressed to the teacher. Please do not email teachers regarding the schedule changes. Teachers often do not have the opportunity to check email mid-day and cannot ensure that your message will be received. We realize that emergencies arise, but please avoid emailing or calling the office before school or during the school day to report a change in dismissal plans. If needed, please try to contact the office prior to 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation. All emails to the office regarding last minute schedule changes or after school activities should be sent to Antoinette_A_Tyser@mcpsmd.org and Carol_D_Meyer@mcpsmd.org.

Information That Will Be Sent Home the First Day of School

- Student Emergency Information Form
- Emergency Dismissal Information Form
- Menu for the first week of school and MCPS meal information

Before and After-School Programs

The PTA and Educational Foundation have developed a partnership with Flex Academies to administer before and after-school programs. This partnership includes an on-site coordinator from Flex Academies. **Students staying for a PTA after school program will need a note from home (or an email sent to the office) on the first day of class only.** A note (or email) is not required after the first week. The office and classroom teachers keep a roster of students enrolled in the after-school activities. If you wish, however, you can continue to send a note in each week with your child, (or send an email to the office) to confirm your child's participation in the after-school activity. The only time your child would require a note (or an email) sent to the office is if he/she has a change of dismissal plans and is not attending the after-school club on that day.

Bus Transportation

The bus schedule is posted on the Carderock homepage and will be available during Open House. The times given are considered anticipated arrivals at the stop nearest your home. Please have your children at the bus stop a few minutes early on the first few days of school. This will allow you and your children the opportunity to get used to where the stops are and how the buses work. It also informs the Department of Transportation of overcrowded buses and assures that all students are accounted for in their bus routes.

Bell Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Main doors open and students will go the blacktop for recess
9:20 a.m.	Students called to line up and go to their classroom
9:30 a.m.	Homeroom /Announcements
9:35 a.m.	Instruction begins
3:45 p.m.	Afternoon announcements
3:50 p.m.	Dismissal

School Lunches

Students may choose to bring a packed lunch from home or order a school provided meal. The county is providing free lunches for any students who wish to order. Menus will be provided monthly to aid in your planning.

Lunch/Recess Schedule

RECESS K/5	11:30-12:00
LUNCH K/5	12:00-12:30
RECESS 1/3	12:00-12:30
LUNCH 1/3	12:30-1:00
RECESS 2/4	12:30-1:00
LUNCH 2/4	1:00-1:30

Early Release Day Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Main doors open and students will go the blacktop for recess
9:20 a.m.	Students called to line up and go to their classroom
9:30 a.m.	Homeroom /Announcements
9:35 a.m.	Instruction begins
1:15 p.m.	Afternoon announcements
1:20 p.m.	Dismissal

Lunch on Early Release Days

Grades	Lunch
K/5	11:15– 11:45
1/3	11:50– 12:20
2/4	12:25– 12:55

If school opens two hours late, we will follow the regular lunch schedule. There is no midday recess on early release or delayed opening days.

Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Night will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 for all grades from 7:00 p.m. – 8:35 p.m.

Parent Visitation Day/Open House

Parent Visitation day will be held on Monday, October 11, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The day is for parents to visit their child’s classroom to see the wonderful things they are learning.

Health Room

The health room’s direct number is 240-740-0541.

We have new staff members joining the Carderock Springs learning community this year. Please join me in welcoming them to our school and community.

- Severiano Cordova, Building Services Worker
- Marissa Murphy, Paraeducator
- Karen Tsarev, Reading Initiative Teacher

PTA Membership

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is very active at Carderock Springs and supports the staff and students in myriad ways. There are many committees to which you can lend your voice to help Carderock Springs continue to grow and flourish. The PTA will have a table set up in the All Purpose Room during the Open House on August 31. Please make sure you stop by the PTA table to pick up your membership application and other important information and forms.

Carderock Educational Foundation

The Foundation has been instrumental in creating an educational environment in which our students and staff can learn and grow. Through parent contributions, the Foundation augments our curriculum and resources—funding our student online learning resources, teacher instructional tools, professional development, Drama Cubs and STEM enrichment classes.

You will find the following information posted on the Carderock Springs website.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/carderockspringses/> If you prefer a hard copy, copies will be made available in the Carderock Springs main office after August 30.

- School Supply List
- Bus Schedule
- Parent Handbook
- Change in Dismissal Protocol
- Food Allergy Policy
- Homework Policy
- School Discipline policy
- Lunch Menu for the First Week of School

***THANK YOU FOR BEING PARTNERS WITH US
IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.***