

The Dolphin's Tale

Summer Newsletter

Travilah Elementary School
13801 Dufief Mill Road
NORTH POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20878

School Telephone: 240-740-4300
School Fax Number: 240-740-4298
Attendance Line: 240-740-4301
School Hours: 9:25 am to 3:50 pm



Principal: Dr. Karin Wade
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Carlie Parker
PTA President: Mrs. Amrin Chowdhury
PTA Executive Vice President: Ms. Diana Talesnick

Travilah links:

[PTA Website](#)
[Travilah school website](#)
[Twitter: @TravilahES](#)



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. As the summer break draws to a close, we are delighted to welcome your child back to an exciting new school year at Travilah. It's been a joyous time of preparation, and we are eager to embark on this educational journey together.

At Travilah, we believe that each school year is a fresh opportunity for growth, learning, and building strong foundations for the future. We are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment that fosters academic excellence, personal development, and a love for learning.

Here's what you and your child can expect during this remarkable school year:

- **Caring and Dedicated Educators:** Our team of experienced and passionate educators is dedicated to nurturing each child's unique abilities and helping them reach their full potential. They will create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where every student can thrive.
- **Rigorous and Engaging Curriculum:** Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire young minds. We will encourage critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, enabling your child to develop a deep understanding of various subjects.
- **A Focus on Holistic Development:** We will focus on fostering your child's social, emotional, and physical development, helping them grow into well-rounded individuals.
- **Safe and Welcoming Environment:** The safety and well-being of your child are of paramount importance to us. We have implemented comprehensive health and safety measures to ensure a secure learning environment for all.
- **Open Communication and Collaboration:** We believe that open communication between parents, educators, and students is vital. Our doors are always open for any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have throughout the school year.
- **Parent Involvement:** We encourage and value parental involvement in your child's education. There will be regular PTA meetings, volunteer opportunities, and other opportunities for you to participate in school events and initiatives.

As we commence this academic journey together, we urge you to support and encourage your child to make the most of their learning experience. Your partnership with us is essential in helping your child succeed.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child. We are excited to witness their growth and achievements throughout the year. Let us make this school year a memorable one, filled with curiosity, discovery, and accomplishments.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming **Sneak Peek on August 24th from 2pm-3pm**, where you will have the opportunity to meet the teachers, PTA, and more. We will also host our New Family

CALENDAR



TUESDAY, AUG. 22
New Family Information
Night, 6:30pm - Cafeteria

THURSDAY, AUG. 24
Travilah Open House
"Sneak Peek" 2pm-3pm

MONDAY, AUG. 28
First Day of School

MONDAY, SEPT. 4
Labor Day, Schools and
Offices closed

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7
Back to School Night, 6:30

orientation (kindergarten and new families only) on **August 22nd from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the All-Purpose Room. During orientation, we will answer questions and have a Travilah Parent Panel as well. Our before and aftercare program Bar-T will have limited spots available if you need childcare. Please stay tuned for more details!

Once again, welcome back to Travilah. Together, we will make this a fantastic school year!

Warmest regards,

Karin Wade

Karin Wade, Ed.D.
Principal

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the Travilah ES staff:

- ★ Kindergarten - Jennifer Russell
- ★ 1st Grade - Christine Nwosu
- ★ 1st Grade - Alyssa Reich
- ★ 2nd Grade - Adalia Yanez
- ★ 3rd Grade - Erin Schaal
- ★ 4th Grade - Elizabeth Mathews
- ★ 5th Grade - Christopher Fernatt
- ★ Resource - Cheri Mercurio
- ★ Resource - Brady Chenot
- ★ Speech Pathologist - Nicole Burke

Departing staff:

We would like to wish the following staff members good luck as they venture onto their new journeys:

- ★ Kindergarten - Erin DeBaise
- ★ 1st Grade - Lisa Dominici
- ★ 1st Grade - Ashley White
- ★ 3rd Grade - Rebecca McCleary
- ★ 4th Grade- Mahvash Chaudhri
- ★ 5th Grade - Sudha Singal
- ★ Resource - Lauren Ferguson
- ★ Resource - Hazara Charles
- ★ Speech Pathologist - Anne Evans

2023-2024 Grade Level Teams:

- ★ Kindergarten-Angela Keaney, Jennifer Russell, Allison Pecoraro (Team Leader)
- ★ Grade 1-Christine Nwosu, Sue Potts, Alyssa Reich (Team Leader)
- ★ Grade 2-Kerry Bowman, Debbie Faine (Team Leader), Adalia Yanez
- ★ Grade 3-Diana Kline (Team Leader), Erin Schaal, Shira White
- ★ Grade 4-Melissa Antoine, Elizabeth Mathews, Gerardo Rodriguez (Team Leader)
- ★ Grade 5- Jennifer Cao, Susan Chidakel (Team Leader), Christopher Fernatt

Class Lists: Students in grades 1-5 will be able to view their teacher in [ParentVue](#) during the week of August 21st for the 2023-2024 school year. Kindergarten is participating in Switcheroo and classes will be finalized during the first week of school. You should receive a video message from your child's teacher on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 23. We will also post class lists on the front doors for our Sneak Peek on August 24th.

New Family Orientation: Travilah will host a new family orientation on August 22nd from 6:30 - 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. This is a time to learn about Travilah and hear from current families.

Home of the Dolphins

Home School Communication

A principal's message will be sent home weekly on Sundays. This will include school information, as well as reminders about upcoming events and celebrations. An automated phone call and/or email from the school is sent to parents to relay important information such as upcoming meetings, reminders about field trips and sometimes even late-notice closing information. Please make sure we have your correct home phone numbers as well as work numbers for emergencies. Please log in and check to see that your settings are turned on to receive notifications. Please click here for step-by-step instructions on how to make sure your notifications are set up. "The Dolphin's Tale" is the monthly principal's newsletter that will be sent electronically and posted on our website. Our school [website](#) and Twitter page [@TravilahES](#) will also include additional school information, updates, and other important events.

School Lunch/ Free and Reduced Meals

Please click [here](#) to view the latest MCPS updates on the school menu and nutrition information. Payment to your child's account can be made at any time. You can submit payment to the cafeteria manager in the form of cash or check. You can also manage your child's lunch account online through [www.myschoolbucks.com](#). Meal prices: Breakfast—\$1.30; Lunch—\$2.55. Beginning this year, students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch meals!

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATIONS Apply online NOW so that benefits will be in place when school starts! Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use their MCPS ID number at the register so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meals. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year. The online application is now open for families to submit applications. [www.MySchoolApps.com](#) For more information and How-To videos, visit the Food Services website:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/meal-payments/#FARMS](#)

Cell Phones/Smart Devices

Students may bring a cell phone or smart watch device to school for use after school hours. Smart watches or communication devices may not be used during the school day. Phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks and may not be used during the day. Please review the updated MCPS policy concerning personal mobile devices [here](#).

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/transportation/rules/a_parents_role.pdf

Ride by the Rules Student Guide:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/transportation/rules/put_safety_first.pdf

Car Riders

Parents who drive their children to school can begin dropping off starting at 9:05 am. No adult supervision will be present prior to 9:05 am. Travilah Road is the only entrance for cars at all times. It is essential that children be safe in the front lot, so please drop your child off on the sidewalk next to the car circle. **Children should not be discharged in the parking lot or on the street.** We do not want children to walk among moving vehicles. We will have staff unloading the cars, so please have your child ready to exit the car quickly from the passenger side. After your child is dropped off safely onto the curb, please pull out so that other cars can move up and we can unload children as quickly as possible. **DuFief Mill Road is the only exit for cars.** There are two lanes from which to exit. Travilah staff will assist with helping students out of vehicles.

Car Pickup Arrival/Dismissal Map Instructions-

Please click [here](#) for the arrival and dismissal instructions. When picking up or dropping off your child please utilize the parking lot. **Do not park along Travilah Road as it is unsafe and illegal.** We will only release students to their parents in the car line or parents that have communicated with the school that they are walkers. **New families, please place a visible sign on your passenger dashboard with your child's first and last name and grade level.**

Sneak Peek

Our Sneak Peek is Thursday, August 24th from 2 - 3pm. Class lists will be posted at 1:45pm outside of the main door on Thursday, August 24th. **You will also receive a video message on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 23rd to inform you of your child's teacher.**

ParentVue

MCPS uses ParentVue for all student information. ParentVue engages parents in using an online portal to view student and classroom information, update emergency contacts, and stay connected with teachers and activities happening in the school and classroom.

Travilah PTA Information

More information will be available soon to join the PTA for the upcoming school year. The first PTA meeting will be announced soon.

School Visitors & Volunteers

To ensure the safety of all children and staff, it is imperative that all

School Wide Class Parties

Halloween and Valentine's Day: Information about the celebrations will go home a month prior to each event.

Emergency Preparedness

Over the course of the school year, students will participate in safety drills. In addition to five fire drills, students will experience the following drills as part of the MCPS Emergency Preparedness plan: **Lockdown, Shelter, Severe Weather, Drop, Cover and Hold, Evacuation, and Reverse Evacuation.** Click [here](#) for additional information on the drills that are practiced and monitored throughout the school-year.

Back to School Supplies

Our school supply list can be found [here](#) and on our [school website](#). There is a link to our supply list and the voluntary parent donation request list

Travilah Expectations & Student Support

At Travilah, we expect each child to be responsible for his/her own behavior. Our Travilah Expectations are as follows:

- *Being kind in what I say and do*
- *Being honest and making good choices*
- *Following school rules and being a good friend*
- *Taking responsibility for myself and my learning*

Our goal is to support students by providing them with a variety of social-emotional well-being strategies and supports. Inappropriate behavior that violates these values is not acceptable and there are consequences. We are committed to promoting a positive learning environment and preventing conflict in our school building. Students may face disciplinary actions as a consequence of any behavior that disrupts classes, causes disorder, invades the rights of others, is unsafe, or violates a school rule/ core value.

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Student Code of Conduct is implemented in every MCPS school. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to promote fairness and equity through clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations and consequences in addressing student misbehavior, and to ensure that students learn from their mistakes and make appropriate amends when their behavior affects others. Please take time to review these at home and reach out to the school with any questions. **Please click [here](#) for the Student Code of Conduct and Student Rights & Responsibilities documents.**

Media Center

Click [here](#) to view some of the highlights of the 2022-2023 school year in the Media Center. Mrs. Corrado and Mrs. Sellman look forward to another successful year in the Media Center.

Travilah Parent and Student Handbook

visitors (including parents, guardians, and caregivers) report to the office to identify themselves and their purpose for visiting before going further into the building. All visitors must have their driver's license available to scan into our Visitor Management System (VMS). Once visitors are checked in, they will receive a badge/sticker to wear. Visitors not wearing proper identification will be stopped and questioned as to their business in the school building and will be redirected to the office. It is important that we all work together to follow MCPS safety protocols and procedures. Please note that our exterior doors will be locked at all times. When you visit the school, please press the silver button to the right of the front door and wait for a signal or verbal direction from office staff. If you have not already done so, you will need to complete the [MCPS Child Abuse & Neglect](#) training online to volunteer. You can take the MCPS online training at any time. Once you have completed the training, a completion report will be sent to the school. Please save a copy of the course completion certificate.

Bar-T Before and After Care

Travilah is fortunate to continue to have Bar-T as both before and after school care providers. Bar-T will be available at Open House/Sneak Peek and Back-to-School night for you to register your child for the 2023-2024 school year. Information about the program can be found [here](#). Bar-T does not want financial status to ever stand in the way of a child attending Bar-T, and they have a robust [voucher and scholarship program](#) to ensure that.

School Cash Online

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school. Parent registration instructions can be found here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Parents/guardians can register now at <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

Curriculum

Our academic program will focus on providing students with differentiated instruction that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. All students in K-5 will continue to participate in the Eureka Curriculum for Math. Students in 4th and 5th grade who were identified to participate in Compacted Math will use the

Please click [here](#) to view the 2023-2024 Travilah Parent and Student Handbook. This handbook covers the Travilah ES vision, mission, Travilah expectations, school operations and policies and student code of conduct.

MCPS Student Handbooks

The four key handbooks and guidelines developed for students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have been revised for the 2023-2024 school year to address Board of Education (Board) policies and MCPS regulations amended and revised over the 2021-2022 school year, and comply with updated guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Please see the links below for the four handbooks.

[A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity](#)

[Guidelines for Student Gender Identity](#)

Eureka Math curriculum. Students in 4th grade will be instructed on Grade 4 and half of Grade 5 math concepts. Students in 5th grade will be instructed on Grade 5 and half of the Grade 6 math concepts. Students will continue using the Benchmark Advance Curriculum for Literacy. K-5 students will continue to use the Next Generation Science Standards for Science and Curriculum 2.0 for Social Studies. Families will learn more about our curriculum program at Back to School Night, and at an upcoming PTA meeting. In addition, our school staff will provide families with curriculum information and resources throughout the year.

Thank you for your support and partnership. It's going to be an AMAZING School year!

Travilah
Elementary School



Outstanding Staff
2023-2024

PRINCIPAL

Karin Wade

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Carlie Parker

MAIN OFFICE

Patricia Hairston - Admin Secretary
Karen Foecking - Attendance Secretary

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Angela Keaney
Allison Pecoraro - Team Leader
Jennifer Russell

FIRST GRADE TEAM

Christine Nwosu
Sue Potts
Alyssa Reich - Team Leader

SECOND GRADE TEAM

Kerry Bowman
Debbie Facine - Team Leader
Adalia Yanez

THIRD GRADE TEAM

Diana Kline - Team Leader
Erin Schaal
Shira White

FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Melissa Antoine
Elizabeth Mathews
Gerardo Rodriguez - Team Leader

FIFTH GRADE TEAM

Jennifer Cao
Susan Chidakel - Team Leader
Christopher Fernatt

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Vanessa Melendez

READING SPECIALIST

Nikki Graham

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Nolan Kopec

RESOURCE TEACHERS

Tracey Alalouf
Brady Chenot
Cheri Mercurio

SPEECH TEACHER

Nicole Burke

ELD TEACHER

Robyn Goldman

READING INITIATIVE

Marlo Kach

SPECIALISTS TEAM

Jennifer Bryan – Instrumental Music Teacher
Jon Reader – P.E. Teacher
Heather Weaver – Art Teacher
Moukdahanh Southivong – Music Teacher

SUPPORT STAFF TEAM

Sarah Barrett
Felecia Bright
Marianna Dickinson
Lisa Meringoff
Nasrin Rouhanian

MEDIA TEAM

Jenny Corrado – Media Specialist
Kris Sellman – Media Assistant

BUILDING SERVICES TEAM

Francis Davis – Manager
Chaunte Short – Building Service Assistant Manager
Wen Qing Chen - Building Services
Okhee Go-Building Services
Iris Paz - Building Services

HEALTH ROOM

Ani Jarian – Health Tech
Angela Bagdasaryan – Nurse

CAFETERIA

Amy Liang – Manager

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Michael Hyman