

THE CLARKSBURG CHEETAH

Week of September 15, 2025



TRANSLATED NEWSLETTER: [Amharic](#) [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [French](#) [Korean](#) [Persian](#) [Spanish](#) [Uzbek](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Wednesday, 9/17** Student Picture Day
- Friday, 9/19** PTA Back to School Social, Black Hill Regional Park, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, 9/23** No School for Students and Staff
- Friday, 9/26** Early Release Day - Students dismissed at 1:20 p.m.
- Thursday, 10/2** No School for Students and Staff

Dear Clarksburg Elementary School Families,

I hope that you and your family had a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable weekend. I want to thank all of the families who were able to join us for our Back to School Nights last week. It was great to see you and be able to provide you with information that will help you to support your students throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Your feedback regarding the event was awesome and I am so glad that you had the opportunity to get to know my tremendous staff on a deeper and more personal level.

I want to remind you that student portraits will be taken on Wednesday. I always look forward to student picture day because I get to see so many of your children dressed up in their cute and fancy outfits! We also have the PTA Back to School Social on Friday evening. It is always one of our most highly attended events. I look forward to seeing you and your family at Black Hill Regional Park on Friday.

Please see the additional information below to learn more about the exciting things that we are doing and the Montgomery County Public School system is offering. Contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Carl Robert Bencal

Carl Robert Bencal
Principal

From Your PTA

Thank you to everyone who joined our PTA Meeting! We loved seeing so many families come together! 🎉
We're excited to partner with parents and our amazing community to make this school year the best yet.

- 👉 Not a member yet? [Join the PTA Here](#)
- 👉 Want to get involved? [Sign Up to be a Classroom Coordinator](#)
[Sign Up to volunteer for our any of our PTA Events](#)
- 👉 After-School Programs are open now—don't miss out! [Register Here](#) !

It takes all of us to make the magic happen for our kids, so jump in where you can.

Together, we can make this year truly unforgettable! ✨

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST!

The Clarksburg Elementary School yearbook is looking for this year's cover art! Our school song inspired this year's theme: "Our Cheetah Spirit is Shining Bright!"

Please follow the guidelines below when creating your cover. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines cannot be accepted:

- Use a plain white sheet of 8 ½" x 11" paper in the portrait orientation.
- Include the following:
 - **Clarksburg Elementary**
 - **Our Cheetah Spirit is Shining Bright!**
 - **2025-2026**
- All capitalization, punctuation, and spelling must be correct. Lettering must be neat and in print.
- All entries must be hand-drawn, student-created artwork. (Created by the CES student submitting the entry)
- Drawings should be school appropriate, related to the theme, and represent Clarksburg Elementary School.
- All entries should be neatly colored. Marker is preferred, but crayon and colored pencil are also acceptable.
- The following information must be included on the ***BACK*** of the submission:
 - **Student's first and last name**
 - **Student's grade level**
 - **Student's homeroom teacher**
- Only original submissions will be accepted, no digital copies are allowed through the yearbook company.
- All entries are due to **Mrs. Walsh** on or before ***Monday, September 22, 2025***. Late entries will not be accepted due to the voting schedule, so please use your time wisely.

CES Back to School Social - Friday, September 19

Mark your calendars! The PTA invites you to celebrate the start of the new school year with us at the CES Back to School Social! Bring your family to Black Hill Regional Park on Friday, September 19 at 5:30 PM. When you arrive at the park, you'll find us at the playground near Shelter A. We're extra excited because we'll have two delicious food trucks joining us, *Tacos El Pariente* and the *Clarksburg Yard Ice Cream Truck*! They accept cash, credit, and apple pay. Check out the flyer for all of the info, and if you know any other CES families please send it along to them!

We can't wait to see familiar faces and meet some new friends!

The PTA Executive Board



Picture Day - Wednesday, September 17

Picture day is coming up on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. We need volunteers to ensure that picture day runs smoothly and that we get great photos of all of our adorable cheetahs! As a picture day volunteer you will guide students from their classrooms/the waiting area to a photographer who is waiting to snap a photo of their smiling face! Any time you can contribute is greatly appreciated because we need volunteers for the entire school day, from 9:30 AM - 3:15 PM. Please complete [this google form](#) if you are available to help out.

Thank you so much,
The CES PTA Board



Freed
PHOTOGRAPHY

**CLARKSBURG
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**DON'T FORGET...
PORTRAIT DAY IS SOON!**

SMILE! PORTRAIT DAY PROCEEDS BENEFIT YOUR SCHOOL!

FALL STUDENT PORTRAITS

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**



HOW PORTRAIT DAY WORKS

- We photograph ALL students
- All ordering will be completely online
- Students will be photographed in a variety of poses
- You will receive an email with a unique gallery link when the photos are ready
- Online purchases will be shipped directly home



Questions? support@freedphoto.com
Freed Photography | 4806 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD | freedphoto.com | 301.652.5452



Saturday School AT-A-GLANCE 2025-2026

The mission of Saturday School is to enhance student mastery of core academic subjects – specifically, reading, language arts, and mathematics – to prepare students for the challenges of college and career.

SEPTEMBER

- 6th - No Saturday School
- 13th - No Saturday School
- 20th - Opening Session
- 27th - Tutoring Session 1

OCTOBER

- 4th - Tutoring Session 2
- 11th - Tutoring Session 3
- 18th - No Saturday School
- 25th - Tutoring Session 4

NOVEMBER

- 1st - Tutoring Session 5
- 8th - Tutoring Session 6
- 15th - Tutoring Session 7
- 22nd - Tutoring Session 8
- 29th - No Saturday School
Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

- 6th - Tutoring Session 9
- 13th - Tutoring Session 10
- 20th - Tutoring Session 11
- 27th - No Saturday School
Winter Break

JANUARY

- 3rd - No Saturday School
- 10th - No Saturday School
- 17th - No Saturday School
- 24th - Tutoring Session 12
- 31st - Tutoring Session 13

FEBRUARY

- 7th - Tutoring Session 14
- 14th - No Saturday School
- 21st - Tutoring Session 15
- 28th - Tutoring Session 16

MARCH

- 7th - Tutoring Session 17
- 14th - Tutoring Session 18
- 21st - Tutoring Session 19
- 28th - No Saturday School
Spring Break

APRIL

- 4th - No Saturday School
Spring Break
- 11th - Tutoring Session 20
- 18th - Tutoring Session 21
- 25th - Tutoring Session 22

MAY

- 2nd - Closing Ceremony (Opening and Closing Ceremonies 8:30 - 11:00 AM)

CENTER LOCATIONS

- CLARKSBURG HS** - 22500 Wims Rd, Clarksburg, MD 20871
- EINSTEIN HS** - 11135 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington, MD 20895
- GAITHERSBURG HS** - 101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- MONTGOMERY BLAIR HS** - 51 University Blvd E, Silver Spring, MD 20901
- NORTHWEST HS** - 13501 Richter Farm Rd, Germantown, MD 20874
- PAINT BRANCH HS** - 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866
- ROCKVILLE HS** - 2100 Baltimore Rd, Rockville, MD 20851
- SPRINGBROOK HS** - 201 Valley Brook Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904
- WHEATON HS** - 12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906
- BELIEVERS** - VIRTUAL CENTER

Saturday School offers a variety of special programs including: Coding, Robotics, SAT/ACT Prep, Crash Course to College, Pre-K, and Adult Literacy. See our website for registration.

Reminder...
Registration for Saturday School is open all year!

GBTLA EXECUTIVE STAFF

- Mr. David Hill, Esq., *Board President*
- Dr. Lakeisha D. Lashley, *Executive Director*
- Dr. Cara Grant, *Assistant Executive Director*

- Ms. Lucretse Djuidje Gouayou, *Office Manager*
- Mrs. Bernadine Green, *Administrative Assistant*

Emergency Closing Policy: As a rule, when MCPS is closed on any Friday due to emergencies, holidays, or bad weather, Saturday School will be closed. The centers will also be closed when closing conditions occur late Friday or early Saturday. Center closings will be announced by location on WTOP RADIO 103.5 FM, 104.3 FM, 820 AM, on MCPS cable channel 31 and online at wtopnews.com and saturdayschool.org.

Saturday School @ Sligo Middle School • saturdayschool.org
1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902 • P: 301-287-8980



REV. 07/25/25



Saturday School

CALENDARIO 2025-2026

La misión de la escuela sabatina es mejorar el dominio de los estudiantes en las materias académicas básicas – específicamente, lectura, artes del lenguaje y matemáticas – para preparar a los estudiantes para el desafíos de la universidad y la carrera.

SEPTIEMBRE

- 7th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 14th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 21st - **Sesión de apertura**
Registro/Orientación para padres y estudiantes
- 28th - Tutoría Sesión 1

OCTUBRE

- 5th - Tutoría Sesión 2
- 12th - Tutoría Sesión 3
- 19th - Tutoría Sesión 4
- 26th - Tutoría Sesión 5

NOVIEMBRE

- 2nd - Tutoría Sesión 6
Capacitación para padres
8:45 - 10:15 AM
- 4th - **fin del trimestre 1** ★
- 9th - Tutoría Sesión 7
- 16th - Tutoría Sesión 8
- 23rd - Tutoría Sesión 9
- 25th - Sin escuela sabatina
Acción de gracias

DICIEMBRE

- 3rd - Fundraiser Event
- 7th - Tutoría Sesión 10
- 14th - Tutoría Sesión 11
- 21st - Sin escuela sabatina
Vacaciones de invierno
- 28th - Sin escuela sabatina
Vacaciones de invierno

ENERO

- 4th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 11th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 18th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 25th - Tutoría Sesión 12
- 29th - **fin del trimestre 2** ★

FEBRERO

- 1st - Tutoría Sesión 13
- 8th - Tutoría Sesión 14
- 15th - Sin escuela sabatina
- 22nd - Tutoría Sesión 15

MARZO

- 1st - Tutoría Sesión 16
Capacitación para padres
8:45 - 10:15 AM
- 8th - Tutoría Sesión 17
- 15th - Tutoría Sesión 18
- 22nd - Tutoría Sesión 19
- 29th - Tutoría Sesión 20
- 31st - **fin del trimestre 3** ★

ABRIL

- 5th - Tutoría Sesión 21
- 12th - Sin escuela sabatina
Vacaciones de primavera
- 19th - Sin escuela sabatina
Vacaciones de primavera
- 26th - Tutoría Sesión 22

MAYO

- 3rd - Ceremonia de Clausura
- 19th - **GBTLA 30th Golf anual**
Torneo y recaudación de fondos

Ceremonias de Apertura y Clausura – **8:30 - 11:00 AM**

Todas las sesiones de tutoría – **8:30 - 11:00 AM** a menos que se indique lo contrario.

Ubicaciones del centro

- CLARKSBURG HS** - 22500 Wims Rd, Clarksburg, MD 20871
- EINSTEIN HS** - 11135 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington, MD 20895
- GAITHERSBURG HS** - 101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- MONTGOMERY BLAIR HS** - 51 University Blvd E, Silver Spring, MD 20901
- NORTHWEST HS** - 13501 Richter Farm Rd, Germantown, MD 20874
- PAINT BRANCH HS** - 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866
- ROCKVILLE HS** - 2100 Baltimore Rd, Rockville, MD 20851
- SPRINGBROOK HS** - 201 Valley Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904
- WHEATON HS** - 12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906
- BELIEVERS** - VIRTUAL CENTER



Recordatorio...
Registro para
La escuela del sábado
es abierto todo
el año!

ALSO OFFERING:

- Coding
- Robotics
- SAT/ACT Prep
- Crash Course to College
- Pre-K
- Adult Literacy
- AP/IB support

Personal ejecutiva GBTLA

Mr. David Hill, Esq., Presidente de la junta
Dr. Lakeisha D. Lashley, Directora ejecutiva
Dr. Cara Grant, Asistente directora ejecutiva

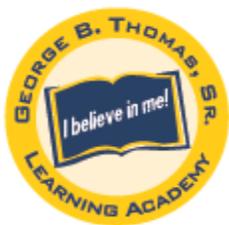
Ms. Lucretia Djuidje Gouayou, Gerente de oficina
Mrs. Bernadine Green, Asistente administrativa

Política de cierre de emergencia: Como regla general, cuando MCPS está cerrada cualquier viernes debido a emergencias, días festivos o mal tiempo, la escuela de los sábados estará cerrada. Los centros también estarán cerrados cuando las condiciones de cierre se den el viernes por la noche o el sábado temprano. Los cierres de los centros se anunciarán por ubicación en WTOPI RADIO 103.5 FM, 104.3 FM, 820 AM, en el canal de cable 31 de MCPS y en línea en wtopnews.com y saturdayschool.org.

Saturday School Admin Office: 1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902
P: 301-287-8980 • saturdayschool.org



REV. 07/25/25



Saturday School Courses

Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment. The program is aligned with the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) curriculum. This support is offered **every Saturday** on the dates and times below.

MCPS students Grades K through 12 may attend after registering for Saturday School for \$85 per year (\$40 for students who receive FARMS).

2025-2026 PROGRAMS SATURDAYS / 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Opening Ceremonies, Registration and Orientation: Sept. 20

Closing Ceremonies: May 2

Courses are available on the following Saturdays:

September 27, October 4, 11, 25; November 1, 8, 15, 22; December 6, 13, 20
January 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21; April 11, 18, 25

Parent Workshops: November 1, March 7

Center Locations – High Schools:

CENTERS Clarksburg, Einstein, Gaithersburg, Montgomery Blair, Northwest, Paint Branch, Rockville, Springbrook, and Wheaton. Virtual options for all grades.

TO REGISTER Please go to our website saturdayschool.org



Program Highlights

- Grades K through 8 focus on reading, language arts and math
- Grades 9 through 12 focus on core subjects (english and math); support for High School Assessments;
- College and career readiness is emphasized.

Also Offering

- Robotics
- Coding
- Rising Star Pre-K
- Adult Literacy
- SAT/ACT Prep
- Cosmetology
- Automotive Concepts



Saturday School: 1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902
P: 301-287-8980 • saturdayschool.org



REV. 08/21/25

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STAFF OF A PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Montgomery County Public Schools Integrated Pest Management procedures, such as inspections and monitoring, are used to determine when to control pests and to identify conditions contributing to pest problems. The necessity for pest control, if warranted, is evaluated and one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, non-chemical methods and pesticides is utilized as a last resort, when all others have been exhausted. Problem areas are identified where alternative pest control technologies can be incorporated in order to eliminate routine pesticide applications. It has been determined that a current pest problem warrants the use of a pesticide to effectively control the pest problem.

School: Clarksburg E.S......

Location(s) of the Pesticide Application: Above Exit Door #2.....

Planned Date and Time of Application: 9-5-25 / 2:15 pm.....

Reason for Pesticide Application: Wasp Nest.....

If extenuating circumstances arise, the intended pesticide application may have to be delayed or postponed to a later date(s).

Note: The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Regulations pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and Notification of Pesticide Use in Public Schools require that the following information be provided as part of this notice:

"The Office of Pesticide Programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated: 'Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than two years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure.'"

The following information regarding potential adverse effects was taken from the safety data sheet (SDS) of the pesticide to be applied:

Product Name: PT Wasp Freeze

Common Name: Prallethrin

EPA Registration Number: 499-550

Health Hazard Data: Potential health effects: **Eyes:** Flush with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contacts after flushing eyes for 5 minutes then continue flushing. **Skin:** Take off contaminated clothing immediately. Wash skin with water for 15-20 minutes. **Ingestion:** Immediately call poison control or doctor. Do induce vomiting or give the person liquid.

Inhalation: Remove to fresh air.

If you require further information regarding this notice, you can contact Mr. Brian Mullikin, at 240-740-2520.

Messages and Updates from MCPS

Want to Volunteer in MCPS?

MCPS welcomes volunteers! MCPS schools are stronger because parents, caregivers, and community members step in to help. Whether it's chaperoning a trip, coaching, or lending a hand in the classroom, volunteers make a real difference for kids. At the same time, nothing matters more than keeping every child safe. That's why we require all volunteers to complete required training—and some volunteers must also complete a fingerprinted background check, including:

- Volunteer coaches
- Grade 6 Outdoor Education
- Overnight or extended day field trip chaperones (returning after 7:00 p.m. or out-of-area/state)
- Volunteers working 1:1 with students unsupervised

For more information about being a volunteer with MCPS, visit these websites:

- [Volunteer Information](#)
- [Application Form](#)
- [Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#)
- [MCPS Background Screening Office](#) (for criminal background checks)

Have Questions? Need Answers? AskMCPS Can Help!

Your child's school is always a great place to start with questions, and staff are ready to help. But you can also reach out to AskMCPS for support.

- The AskMCPS Chatbot and website search are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in any language.
- Real people answer the AskMCPS phone lines and Spanish hotline Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
 - Call 240-740-3000 (English) or 240-740-2845 (Spanish).
 - Or email AskMCPS@mcpsmd.org.

Resources:

- [Visit the Ask MCPS Website](#)
- See the Ask MCPS Flyer—[English](#) / [español](#) / [中文](#) / [français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [tiếng Việt](#) / [አማርኛ](#)
- Read the Ask MCPS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [English](#) / [español](#) / [中文](#) / [français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [tiếng Việt](#) / [አማርኛ](#)
- [Visit the “Most Requested” website](#) and...
- Don't forget to use the MCPS Chat Bot—you can find it on the [MCPS homepage](#) and on the [Ask MCPS website](#).

Help Shape Next Year's School Calendar—Share Your Input!

MCPS is seeking input as it works to develop the 2026-2027 school calendar. Complete this [survey](#) by Tuesday, September 30, to share your feedback. Your input is an important component of the development process. [Take the survey today!](#)

Stronger Background Checks, Fingerprinting and Badging Underway

The safety of our students and staff always comes first. The recent report from the Montgomery County Office of the Inspector General made clear that background check procedures had not been as strong or consistent as they needed to be. We agree with those findings, and we are acting quickly to correct these issues and catch up. This work has begun across the district. Here's what we're doing:

- **Re-Fingerprinting Staff Hired Before 2019:** All will be enrolled in *RapBack*, the FBI's continuous background monitoring system, ensuring ongoing safety checks, not just one-time clearances.
- **Clearing CPS Checks:** With support from MCPS and the Department of Health and Human Services, dedicated teams are processing any yet-to-be done Child Protective Services clearances quickly through a new electronic system.
- **Re-Badging Staff:** Updated badges are being issued through multiple mobile badging teams and printers.



Every employee, contractor and volunteer will receive a new badge displaying the “*Security Certified*” image. This visible marker will confirm that the individual has successfully completed the updated clearance process. This work began September 8 in the Paint Branch cluster, following the completion of all Special Needs schools last week. With 211 schools across MCPS, resources have been surged, including multiple fingerprinting stations and additional staff support, to complete this process by mid-December.

For the future, improvements in our processes will allow MCPS to keep pace with new hires, new volunteers, and contractors so that everyone working with our students, and alongside each other, is “*MCPS Security Certified.*”

It's important to know that every staff member, contractor and volunteer currently working with students has already passed a criminal background check. No one has unsupervised access to students without clearance.

MCPS will report progress on this work to the Board of Education at its business meeting in September, and again before the Montgomery County Council's Audit Committee on September 26.

Next Round of Boundary Study Options Meetings Set for October

You spoke; we listened. Make plans to attend a boundary study option meeting in October. The community is invited to upcoming public information meetings for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School, and the expansion of the Damascus High School. In these sessions, the community will hear about the proposed refined boundary options for the 2027-2028 school year, including accompanying maps, articulation patterns, data tables and an interactive map tool. MCPS will also share surveys for each boundary study so that attendees can continue to provide meaningful feedback. [See the opportunities to attend a virtual or in-person session](#) or the [MCPS Boundary Study webpage](#)

Remind, ParentSquare, ParentVUE–What’s the Difference?

We know that you may still have questions about the different platforms for school communication. We’ve created [this resource](#) to help clarify the difference and answer your questions. Additional resources and guides can be found on the [Technology Information and Support for Parents webpage](#).

Job Fair for Bus Drivers Set for Sept. 18

MCPS is hosting a job fair for bus drivers from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 18. The fair will be held at the Shady Grove Transportation Depot, 16651 Crabbs Branch Way in Rockville.

To become a bus driver, the minimum qualifications are:

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Have a clean driving history; no more than one point on your driver’s license.
- Have at least three years of driving experience, with at least one year driving in the U.S.
- Meet all pre-service training and testing requirements.

Interested candidates are asked to create a profile on the [MCPS Careers portal](#). For more information, call 240-740-6080.

From The News Page

[Pickleball Diplomacy](#): Continuing MCPS’ cultural exchange, MCPS recently welcomed visiting students from China.

[ReImagine Your Classroom](#): A special education teacher at Sherwood Elementary School got to do just that.

Stay Connected to MCPS

- **VISIT** the [MCPS homepage](#).
- **CALL** 240-740-3000. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish (240-740-2845). Visit the [AskMCPS website](#)
- **READ** news and information sent via email and text message and on the [MCPS News](#) page.
- **FOLLOW** the MCPS social media pages:
[x.com/mcps](#) / [facebook.com/mcpsmd](#) / [instagram.com/mcps_md](#) [facebook.com/mcpsespanol](#) / [x.com/MCPSEspanol](#) / [instagram.com/mcpsenespanol](#)
- **SIGN UP** for [emails and text alerts](#) and make sure your [ParentVue](#) information is up to date.
- **WATCH** the MCPS cable channels Comcast 34 (1071 HD), Verizon 36, or RCN 89

More MCPS Resources

- [School calendar](#)
- [Parent resource page](#)
- [News and Information page / Noticias en Español](#)
- [Latest photo galleries](#)
- [MCPS TV videos](#)
- [MCPS TV español](#)