

Summer 2026

Dear Shady Grove Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! It is with great excitement and gratitude that I begin my third year as principal of Shady Grove Middle School. Serving this incredible community continues to be an honor, and I remain committed to ensuring that every student, family, and staff member feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Last year, our theme, **Rooted in Growth**, challenged us to strengthen our foundation through meaningful relationships, high expectations, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement. Together, we celebrated academic growth, strengthened our partnerships with families, and continued building a school culture where students felt a greater sense of belonging.

This year, we take the next step in our journey with our new theme:



Rooted to RISE

**Resilient in Purpose. Innovative in Practice. Student-Centered in Every Decision.
Evidence-Based in Every Action.**

Being **Rooted to RISE** reflects our commitment to continuous growth while embracing new opportunities to elevate teaching, learning, and student success. As we continue striving toward our goal of becoming a **4-star school**, we remain focused on ensuring that every student is known, valued, challenged, and supported to achieve their full potential.

This school year, our priorities remain clear. We will continue to:

- Deliver rigorous, engaging instruction that meets the needs of every learner.
- Use data intentionally to strengthen teaching, learning, and student outcomes.
- Foster meaningful partnerships with families as essential members of our school community.
- Create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every student feels a sense of belonging.
- Empower students to become resilient learners, innovative thinkers, and responsible leaders.

We are excited to welcome both our returning Timberwolves and those joining the Shady Grove family for the first time.

Transition Day (a full day of school) on **Monday, August 24, 2026**, is for **all sixth-grade students and any new seventh- or eighth-grade students** enrolling at Shady Grove Middle School. **Returning seventh- and eighth-grade students** will begin school on the **first full day of school, Tuesday, August 25, 2026**.

All essential **Back-to-School Information** for the 2026–2027 school year will be available online. Please visit our **Back-to-School Information** website:

<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/back-to-school-resources/home>

You can also access this information through the [Shady Grove Middle School website](#). Families who prefer a printed copy may pick one up in the school's main office beginning **August 10, 2026**.

We are thrilled to welcome new, talented staff members to our Shady Grove family. **Please join me in welcoming:**

- Ms. Tanya Campbell - Staff Development Teacher
- Ms. Sonia Castillo - Building Service Worker, Sh2
- Mr. Diana Goodman - Media Assistant
- Ms. Erica Harris - Teacher, Science
- Mr. Jermaine Harris - Security Assistant
- Ms. Kara Nocito - Teacher, Special Education
- Ms. Jennie Ortiz - Paraeducator
- Mr. Sascha Simkanich - Teacher, Technology

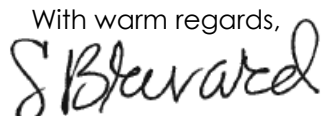
We hope you are enjoying a safe and relaxing summer break. We cannot wait to see everyone on Tuesday, August 25th, ready for an exciting new school year!

Some dates to note on the calendar:

- **Monday, August 24** - Student Transition Day will be held from **8:00 am - 3:00 pm**. All 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students **new** to Shady Grove MS are welcome to participate, and bus transportation will be provided.
- **Tuesday, August 25** - First Day of School
- **Thursday, August 27** - Back-to-School Night: Back-to-School Night will be in person and with a virtual option for families
- **Monday, September 7** - Holiday: Labor Day (**Offices and Schools Closed**)
- **Friday, September 18** - Early Release Day
- **Monday, September 21** - **Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students & Teachers)**

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we will remain **Rooted to RISE** as we cultivate a school community where every student is inspired to learn, empowered to lead, and prepared to thrive.

We look forward to another outstanding year with our Timberwolf family!

With warm regards,

Shenice N. Brevard
Principal