

# THE CLARKSBURG CHEETAH

Week of June 8, 2026



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

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Friday, 6/12** PTA Event - Glow Dance, 6:00-7:30 PM

**Wednesday, 6/17** Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony, Gym, 9:45 AM

**Thursday, 6/18** Last Day of School - Early Release Day - Students are dismissed at 1:20 PM

Dear Clarksburg Elementary School Families,

I hope that everybody had an enjoyable, safe, and relaxing weekend. The most important news of the week occurred on Thursday when the Board of Education appointed Clarksburg Elementary School's next principal, Ms. Tracy Tibbs. I promise to work closely with Ms. Tibbs to ensure that she has a positive and smooth transition to our wonderful school. Please read Ms. Tibbs' introduction letter in English and Spanish by clicking [HERE](#).

I also want to congratulate our newly elected PTA Executive Board Members - Ms. Chelsea Lanson (Vice President), Ms. Liz Armato (Secretary), and Ms. Krista Graziani (Fundraising Chair). I know that they will blend in beautifully with our remaining Board members while continuing to do the hard work necessary to make our school one of the best schools in the county.

Finally, the PTA Glow Dance takes place on Friday evening. This was probably the most well attended and enjoyed PTA event last year. I have a feeling that this year's dance is going to be even better! You can find more details about the Glow Dance later in this newsletter.

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. As always, please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

*Carl Robert Bencal*

Carl Bencal  
Principal

## ☀️ The CES Glow Dance is THIS WEEK! ☀️

Hi CES Families!

The CES Glow Dance is almost here! 🎉 We're just days away from celebrating the end of another amazing school year with our Cheetahs. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, now is the time! Advance ticket sales help us plan for attendance and supplies.

🎫 Purchase Tickets:

[my.cheddarup.com/c/glow-dance-tickets-2026](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/glow-dance-tickets-2026)

🛒 Amazon Wishlist:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NFMEIU0EFBEC?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NFMEIU0EFBEC?ref_=wl_share)

👤 Volunteer Sign-Up:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0JI0o1-nwO-iv5\\_GzihRQ47oDHuwBSdBUEl6paI9g2AlWXA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0JI0o1-nwO-iv5_GzihRQ47oDHuwBSdBUEl6paI9g2AlWXA/viewform)

A huge thank you to everyone who has already volunteered, donated, or purchased tickets. Your support helps make events like this possible! 🙏 Reminder: This is NOT a drop-off event. A parent or guardian must remain with their student(s) during the event.

See you on the dance floor! ✨

CES PTA

### Support Daria Taylor for Maryland School Librarian of the Year

Ms. Daria Taylor is one of the 10 finalists for this year's Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) School Librarian of the Year award! The next round requires her to submit 5 artifacts, one of which will be testimonials from Clarksburg ES students and caregivers.

If you are able to take a moment, she would greatly appreciate it if you and/or your student(s) could record a short video or write a few words in support of her application at [this Padlet](#).

MASL seeks to recognize a librarian who excels in five key areas: running the library program (administrator), leading school projects (leader), helping students find information (information specialist), teaching research skills (teacher), and partnering with teachers on lessons (instructional partner). They must also manage a program that supports all students, show strong leadership in technology and resource access, promote reading and celebrate diversity, build collaborative partnerships, and be recognized by the community as vital to the school's goals.

You can find the complete list of criteria that will be considered for the award [here](#).

**Be sure to [post to the Padlet](#) by Friday, June 12 at 5:00 PM.** Please let her know if you have any questions and **thank you for supporting her nomination!**

## Welcome to Our New CES PTA Executive Board Members

As you know, our PTA plays a vital role in enhancing our student and staff experiences here at Clarksburg Elementary School. The PTA Executive Board is crucial in organizing all PTA activities and events. We want to welcome three new members onto the Board while thanking those who are leaving the Board after dedicating so much time and energy to the school. The new PTA Executive Board members are as follows:

- **Vice President** - Ms. Chelsea Lanson
- **Secretary** - Ms. Liz Armato
- **Fundraising Chair** - Ms. Krista Graziani

## Clarksburg Elementary School



| CES Attendance by Grade Level - May |            |              |               |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Grade                               | Total      | ABS %        | PRS %         |
| K                                   | 48         | 5.59%        | 94.41%        |
| 1                                   | 64         | 3.07%        | 96.93%        |
| 2                                   | 62         | 6.62%        | 93.38%        |
| 3                                   | 60         | 2.98%        | 97.02%        |
| 4                                   | 54         | 3.31%        | 96.69%        |
| 5                                   | 56         | 3.40%        | 96.60%        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>344</b> | <b>4.08%</b> | <b>95.92%</b> |

As a school, we are committed to student success and consistent school attendance plays a vital role. Chronic Absenteeism is a key indicator on the Maryland State Report Card, and we are making a strong effort this year to reduce unexcused absences. With that in mind, we kindly ask families to avoid planning vacations or trips during the school year when school is in session.

Please remember:

- Vacations and trips are considered unexcused absences under MCPS policy.
- Students who are absent for 10 or more consecutive unexcused days will be withdrawn from enrollment.

Every day counts. Your partnership helps us ensure that all students are present, learning, and thriving. Thank you for supporting our commitment to student achievement.

## Unearth a Story This Summer

Preregistration is open for the Montgomery County Public Libraries Summer Reading Challenge. See the details below or visit [www.mcpl.link/summer-reading](http://www.mcpl.link/summer-reading) to get ready for the adventure!



### Unearth a Story with MCPL's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge!

Montgomery County Public Libraries is challenging everyone to keep reading and learning all summer long.

- Preregistration begins May 15
- Track your progress June 13–August 21, 2026

Sign up and earn\*:

- **FREE** book for ages 0–18
- **FREE** canvas bag for ages 19+
- **FREE** raffle entry for tickets to a Washington Spirit soccer game

### Participating is Easy

Set your personal goals each week. Hit your goal for a total of three weeks and earn\*:

- A Washington Nationals baseball ticket voucher
- A coupon for a sweet treat and automatic entry into a raffle for a tour of the Bruster's Real Ice Cream facility in Gaithersburg, MD

Hit your goal for a total of six weeks and earn\*:

- A **FREE** book from Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
- Entry into a system-wide raffle for your age group

For more information visit: [www.mcpl.link/summer-reading](http://www.mcpl.link/summer-reading)

\*while supplies last



# Clarksburg Elementary School



**June 1st - June 12th**

MCPS will once again be participating in its annual *Drive for Supplies Program*. This program asks schools to collect new and/or gently used school supplies that will be distributed to students in need during the upcoming school year.

If you would like to donate any supplies, please send them in with your child between **June 1 & June 12**. Teachers will also be asked to have their students donate any gently used supplies to the cause.

Boxes will be located outside the main office for students and/or families to place their donations.

Thank you for your support!



MCPS SUSTAINABILITY AND  
COMPLIANCE TEAM PRESENTS

# THE ANNUAL DRIVE FOR SUPPLIES

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND  
FOOD AVAILABLE FOR  
FAMILIES IN NEED

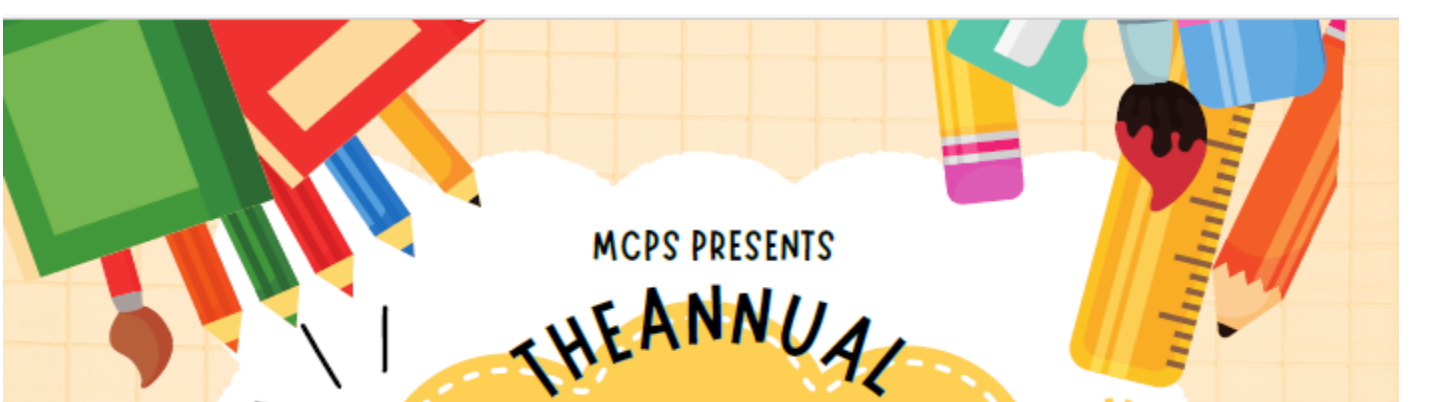
JULY 24 9AM- 2PM WHILE  
SUPPLIES LAST

GAITHERSBURG HS  
101 EDUCATION BOULEVARD,  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

Sustainability & Compliance Team  
[recycling@mcpsmd.org](mailto:recycling@mcpsmd.org)  
(240) 740-7715

The Upcounty  
H**♥**b

  
**Rise N Shine**



MCPS PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL  
**DRIVE FOR  
SUPPLIES**

ARTÍCULOS ESCOLARES Y ALIMENTOS  
GRATUITOS DISPONIBLES PARA  
FAMILIAS NECESITADAS

24 DE JULIO DE 9AM A 2PM  
O HASTA AGOTAR  
ARTICULOS

GAITHERSBURG HS  
101 EDUCATION BOULEVARD,  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

The Upcounty  
**H**♥**b**

Sustainability & Compliance Team  
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**Rise N Shine**

## **Messages and Updates from MCPS**

[Clarksburg Cluster Transitional Years Information Link \(Spanish\)](#)

### **Upcoming Schedule Reminders**

Wednesday, June 17 is a full day of school for students. The last day of school is Thursday, June 18, and it is an early release day for K–12 students. Friday, June 19 is a systemwide closure; all MCPS schools and offices will be closed. Final report cards will be available in [ParentVue](#) by Monday, June 29, and mailed home by Tuesday, June 30.

### **Turn Your Summer Into Service**

Summer is a wonderful time for middle and high school students to engage in Student Service Learning (SSL) opportunities and earn SSL hours towards meeting the 75-hour state graduation requirement! Current fifth grade students can begin earning SSL hours starting Friday, June 19. [June Opportunities](#)

### **Third Quarter Academic Performance Shows Progress in Literacy, Mathematics**

On Thursday, June 4, the Board of Education received a third-quarter academic performance update showing encouraging gains in literacy and mathematics as MCPS continues to focus on the goals of its Future Ready Strategic Plan. The report highlighted improvements in early literacy, with the percentage of students meeting benchmark expectations increasing from 57.8% to 65.7% on DIBELS and from 62.3% to 72% on Lectura compared to last year (from fall 2025 to winter 2026).

District leaders credited the progress to the focused work of teachers, principals, and school-based instructional teams who are regularly reviewing student performance data, adjusting instruction, providing targeted interventions, and responding quickly when students need additional support. The presentation emphasized that continuous improvement happens when educators use data not simply to measure results, but to inform daily teaching and learning decisions that help more students achieve at higher levels. [View](#) the slide deck.

### **School's (Soon) Out, Giving Back Is In**

Join us for the 25th annual [Drive for Supplies](#) from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24 at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd. in Gaithersburg. Families are invited to join us for a fun and meaningful day of support, community, and connection. Pick up free gently used school supplies. In addition, the UpCounty Hub and Rise-N-Shine Foundation will be distributing food boxes to families, and there will be opportunities to sign up for vital services, such as SNAP benefits, free and reduced-price meals, and summer support programs. Students can earn [Service Learning hours for volunteering](#) to unpack, sort, and repackage supplies before and during the event. Volunteers are needed July 20–July 23. [Student volunteer form](#)

## **State Highlights Innovations in MCPS Gifted and Talented Programs**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has recognized MCPS as one of only four school systems featured in its 2025–2026 Gifted and Talented Impact Series, highlighting innovative approaches to advanced learning.

The MSDE report recognizes the district for its work in expanding access to advanced learning through enrichment overlays developed by the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction. MCPS has designed enrichment opportunities that are embedded directly into the district's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum, making deeper thinking, greater complexity, and increased challenge available to all learners.

During classroom visits, state observers noted high expectations for every student, meaningful differentiation, rich academic discussions, purposeful student choice, and teachers who skillfully supported learners at all levels. The report discussed that MCPS is demonstrating how rigorous enrichment can be built into the core curriculum so that every student has opportunities to think deeply, engage meaningfully, and reach their full potential. [Read the report](#)

## **Website Updated with BOE-Adopted Boundary Reassignments**

The boundary website has been updated with the [Board of Education-adopted boundary reassignments](#) beginning in the 2027-2028 school year for both boundary studies.

Families can find more information about the middle and/or high school boundary reassignments, as well as the Board of Education-adopted implementation timeline. The interactive map tool with the Board-adopted boundary reassignments is available with the existing elementary, middle, and high school assignments and Board-approved middle and high school reassignments beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

- [Reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School and Expansion of Northwood High School](#)
- [Relocation of Thomas S. Wootton High School to the Crown Farm Site and Expansion of Damascus High School](#)

## **Reminders**

- [BOE Seeks Applicants for Ethics Panel](#): The appointment is for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026. Applicants must submit a letter of interest and resumé or other supporting documentation by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12.
- [Upcoming Math Changes](#): Beginning next year, MCPS will implement a cluster model for mathematics instruction. Classes will be organized to reduce the broad range of instructional levels within a classroom, which will make it more manageable for teachers to plan instruction effectively, differentiate learning experiences, and provide timely support and enrichment for students. [Upcoming meetings on June 9 and 16](#)

### 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](#)