



LOVE, KINDNESS, AND RESPECT  
AMOR, AMABILIDAD, Y RESPETO

# Oakland Terrace Elementary School Community Message

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[Español](#)

July, 2024

Dear Oakland Terrace Elementary School (O.T.E.S.) Families,

On behalf of the staff at Oakland Terrace Elementary School, we send you well wishes and hope you are enjoying the warmth of summer and have taken time to relax. Our building has been busy with various projects, and preparing for the arrival of our staff and students. As we look forward to the start of a new year, we are filled with anticipation. This new year provides staff and students alike with a fresh start to create new goals, new exciting memories and greater opportunities for achievement. Our staff is committed to providing the best education for our students in a safe and enriching environment. One that is filled with love, kindness and respect, and we look forward to collaborating with our families to ensure the success of our Ocelots!

It's that time of year again when we ask **ALL families to complete the Free and Reduced Meals application**. Data collected from this form is critical for us to have an accurate count of qualified families as it directly impacts our school's funding, staffing and class size. We have witnessed first hand how low qualification and/or completion of the application, increased our class sizes, and do not want to have to face the challenge of loss of teachers again. Please know, **only qualified students will receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch**. All other students will have to buy or bring their lunches. Therefore, to ensure your student has proper nutrition and to support our school programming, funding and staffing, **please read the information below and complete the application**. We will also provide support to our families during our Open House and Back To School Night events.

We ask that our families share the news with our community that we have a PEP peer program. The Peer Program is for community pre-school aged students to learn inclusively alongside students with special education services. If you are interested in applying for the program, please see the attached flyer. Please note: there is limited space available. [PEP Peer Flyer](#)

This newsletter includes a great deal of useful information, including our process to inform the school about student absences and changes to dismissal plans. **Please read it carefully.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school and administration.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and get ready for our new adventure!

Have a fabulous August!  
Elissa Royall & Andrew Howard





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## Important Dates:

### [MCPS Calendar](#) (English) [Espanol](#)

- **Thursday, August 22nd @ 2:00pm** - School Open House (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade)
- **Thursday, August 22nd @ 6:00pm** - [New students in the Einstein Cluster Orientation Cookout](#) (K, 6th & 9th Graders)
- **Monday, August 26th** - Kindergarten through Fifth Grade - First Day of School
- **Monday, September 2nd** - No School
- **Tuesday, September 3rd** - PEP & Pre Kindergarten - First Day of School
- **Tuesday, September 10th** - Due date to return Directory Withholding Form
- **Thursday, September 12th @ 6:00-8:00pm** - Back to School Night (PK-5 parents) and Instrumental music meeting (4th-5th parents)

## The School Day

Daily Bell times are as follows:

- Pre K, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grade and SESES students.
  - Full day: 9:00a.m. - 3:25p.m.
  - Early Release/ Half Day: 9:00a.m. - 12:55p.m.
- PEP Students
  - Morning PEP students 9:00a.m. - 11:30a.m.
  - Afternoon PEP students 12:55p.m. - 3:25p.m.

Students may begin arriving at school at **8:35 a.m.** Staff supervision is not available before that time. **Students are expected to be in classrooms and in their seats at 9:00a.m.**

Parents bringing their children to school **are unable to walk** them to their classrooms. We realize that it is important for you to make sure that your child is safe, but we ask that you trust our experienced staff to get your child to their classroom. We will have many staff members stationed throughout the building to assist students. When we have an overwhelming number of parents/adults in the building, it is very difficult to ensure safety. Responding to parents while attending to students is a challenging task. We are requesting your assistance in this matter by asking you to say goodbye at the entrance to our school or in the car.

## Clarified Process To Inform OTES of Student Absence OR Change In Student Dismissal Plan (Process)

Use this [link](#) to read our attendance policy and notification process. It also includes needed information to inform the school if your child will be absent or will have a change in dismissal plan.

- ★ Communication must be in writing (email or handwritten) and sent to:
  1. Attendance Secretary: alexandra\_l\_lenhardt@mcpsmd.org
  2. Administrative Secretary: melanee\_m\_bryant@mcpsmd.org
  3. Students Homeroom Teacher(s)
- ★ Information that needs to be provided:
  1. Student/s full name
  2. Student ID Number
  3. Student Grade
  4. Reason for the absence

**2024-2025**  
**Albert Einstein Cluster**  
**New Student Orientation**  
**Cookout**

Flora M. Singer ES   Glen Haven ES   Highland ES   Newport Mill MS  
Oakland Terrace ES   Rock View ES   Stallions   Stephen Knolls   Woodlin ES

**Who:** Incoming Kindergarteners, 6th graders, 9th Graders & Transfer Students and their family  
**What:** New Student Orientation Cookout  
**Where:** Albert Einstein High School   **Rain or Shine**  
**When:** Thursday, August 22, 2024  
6:00pm - 8:00pm   **Why:**

Please contact your home school for more info and how you can volunteer!	Meet new classmates & staff
	Ask questions
	Food, Snacks, & Desserts
	Music & Dancing
Multilingual Student Ambassadors will be available!	Einstein HS Clubs & Extracurriculars
	Cluster School Information
	Local Community Groups



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## School Supply List & Student Materials

[Kindergarten through fifth grade school supply lists](#). The link can also be found on the OTES website homepage.

School supplies may be brought to school during Open House or sent into the building with the student during the first week of school. Please note, parents are unable to walk and assist their child to class, with materials, when school begins. All students will be assigned Chromebooks when they return to school.

## School-wide Communication & Remind App Messaging

Nearly all general communication from our school and MCPS' central office will be sent electronically. It is very important to make sure that we have a correct email address and telephone numbers to ensure that you receive all correspondence.

**Please make sure your Parent Vue (Synergy) information is always current.**

## Process to Withhold Student Information from Directory

If you do not want the school to release your directory information, [complete form 281-13](#) and submit it to Oakland Terrace Elementary School by **September 10, 2024**.

Please note, submission of this form will prohibit your family's contact information from being included in the OTES student directory. Directory details include: Student's grade, Student's name, teacher, parent/s' name and parent/s' contact number.

Use this link for the Form 281-13-Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/281-13.pdf>

## How will I know my child's teacher?

Enrolled families and students will receive an email prior to the O.T.E.S. Open House event informing them of their student's teacher. Please look out for this email.

## Meet & Greet Your Teacher

The purpose of Open House is for students to meet their teachers and gain comfort prior to the first day of school. The first few days of school will also offer time for students, teachers and classmates to learn about each other, review various roles and become familiar with a new daily schedule.

- **Open House** is scheduled for students and their families on **Thursday, August 22nd**. The Open House, for grades Pre-K -5, will take place at our school from 2:00-2:45 p.m. Please plan to bring your child to the Open House to meet their new teacher.
- An **Ice Cream Social**, sponsored by our PTA, will follow the Open House on **Thursday, August 22nd at 3:00 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for all staff, students, and parents to get to know one another.

## Back To School Night

Back To School Night will be on **Thursday, September 12th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Instrumental Music Orientation for 4th and 5th grade parents will also be on September 12th at 6:00 p.m. before the classroom visits.

## Transportation (Arrival & Dismissal)

### ★ Bus Riders

Prior to the start of school, bus schedules for arrival and departure will be posted on the school's website. Each bus will have a route number displayed in its side view window. *(See the website for bus information with route numbers.)*



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It is important to note that the route numbers have been given by the Division of Transportation and should be referred to when calling that department. Parents should be familiar with the route number assigned to the bus. Bus schedules will also be available in various languages on the MCPS website.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/busroutes/>

### ★ Parent Drop-Off/Pick-up

If you transport your child to and from school by automobile, please remember to use the designated drop-off and pick-up areas. The bus lane is off limits to automobiles.

### Arrival -

#### ★ Process:

- Students may begin arriving at school at **8:35a.m.** Supervision is not available before that time.
- All Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students will enter school through the main entrance of the building.
- Pre-Kindergarten and PEP students enter at the lower entrance.

#### ★ Drop Off By Car

The designated drop-off area is located in the first traffic circle next to the parking lot entrance. Please adhere to the staff and patrol directions for traffic. **Children can only be dropped off in the school traffic circle or on Maybrook Avenue near the crossing guard - not on Plyers Mill Road.** Many parents find it helpful to drop off on or near Maybrook Avenue by the crossing guard. This way, students can safely cross the street with the crossing guard. We also ask that prior to school, you take time to have your younger children practice getting out of the car quickly and safely on their own. This will alleviate traffic back-ups that occur when parents have to assist their children from the automobile. Parents, please teach your children how to get in and out of the car independently. To ensure a smooth arrival, we ask that parents do not get out of the cars to help students during this time. Staff will be present to provide support if needed.



**Please note, cars are NOT able to make a left into the parking lot after 8:00 am.** Please adhere to traffic signs.

#### ★ Late Arrivals

To ensure safety, if a student is late to school, for any reason, the parent/guardian **MUST** walk the student to the office and sign the student in upon arrival.

### Dismissal - Dismissal begins at 3:25p.m.

#### ★ Pick up by car

Parents picking up by car must use the traffic circle in the rear of the school, by the gymnasium. This is a different traffic circle than the one used in the morning. Please drive through the lot slowly and carefully as there are many pedestrians.



**Please note, cars are NOT able to make a left onto Plyers Mill before 4:00pm.** Please adhere to traffic signs.

#### ★ Walkers

Please plan a pick-up location with your child. As with arrival, many parents find it helpful to pick up on or near Maybrook Avenue by the crossing guard where students can safely cross the street, or at the field next to the school. Our goal is to always keep a safe and orderly environment for our school community. Please be patient when using these areas.



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Pre-K, PEP and Kindergarten Walker Pick-up is located at the lower entrance.

### Important Reminders For Arrival & Dismissal

- Teaching our students how to cross the street safely is important--Cross at the crosswalk. Please **do not park your car and walk across the middle of Plyers Mill Road to get to the front of the building**. It can be very dangerous, as traffic is heavy during arrival and dismissal. Please help us teach our Ocelots to cross at the crosswalk, with the crossing guard, to ensure everyone's safety.
- Walking to and from school is wonderful for the whole family, including pets. However, we ask that you **do not bring your dogs/pets to the front of the building or under the front walkway during arrival, dismissal or during school hours of operation**. This can create undue excitement for students and families during a very busy time. If your family uses this time to walk the dog, we ask that you meet your student/students at a predetermined area on the field or sidewalk. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Breakfast & Lunch

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/>

- Students have to purchase breakfast and lunch, unless their family qualifies for free and reduced meals.
- Meal Prices:
  - Breakfast: Regular Price (All Levels) : \$1.30; Reduced Price (All Levels): No Cost
  - Lunch: Regular Price: \$2.55 (Elementary), \$2.80 (Middle and High); Reduced Price (All Levels): \$0.40
    - **ONLINE pre-payment for meal purchases can be made here: [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com)**
    - **ONLINE FARMS Applications are available here: [www.MySchoolApps.com](https://www.myschoolapps.com)**
- **It is imperative that all of our families complete the application for Free and Reduced meals.** The percentage of qualifying families may help to maintain our focus school status. This status provides our school with additional funding, staffing and support. Families can apply now and avoid longer processing times in the fall!
  - Here is a video with directions to complete the application.
    - Spanish Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsdCrtCIFJc&t=4s>
    - English Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJUapGLarBo>
- **Breakfast Time**
  - If your student will eat breakfast at school, they should arrive at school prior to 8:45 am. This will allow them substantial time to eat breakfast in the cafeteria and get to class on time.
- **Lunch Menu**
  - Lunch menus will be shared with families and can also be located on the MCPS website.

### SchoolCash Online

Montgomery County Public Schools utilizes an online payment system called [SchoolCash Online](#) as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. (Please note that the payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts mentioned above)

[SchoolCash Online](#) helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. Once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities! Most school-related fees are available online so users can make purchases using a debit card, 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. Parents/guardians can register now at: <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>



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## Oakland Terrace Elementary School Community Message

### Welcoming our 2024-2025 Team and Saying Goodbye

We are excited for our new staff members and teams and welcome them to our den! Some Oakland Terrace staff members have also moved on to new and exciting places. Although they will be dearly missed. We thank them for their spirit of teaching and learning, and providing the best for the students at Oakland Terrace and we wish them all the best.

### **2024-2025 OTES Team** (\*\* Denotes new role or new OTES staff member)

<b>Administrative Team</b>	Elissa Royall, Principal Andrew Howard, Assistant Principal Melanee Bryant, Administrative Secretary Alexandra Lenhardt, Attendance Secretary	<b>Healthroom</b>	Elizabeth Hunt (Nurse)
<b>Building Service Team</b>	Lillian Osorio, Building Manager Rosa Guiterres Gilberto Padilla Edward Awoonor-Williams Delmy Vasquez	<b>Cafeteria Team</b>	Estella Koncke Reyna Arevalo
<b>Student Services Team</b>	Kimberly Hughes, Counselor Rebecca Frick, Behavior Support Teacher (SESES) Kelly Hukmani, Social Worker (SESES) Caroline Chance, Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) Maria Romero, Parent Community Coordinator (PCC) Kimberly Bossie (K-5 Psychologist)**	<b>Special Education Team</b>	Carolyn Chabolla, HSM Special Educator Jennifer Ventura, HSM Special Educator Wendy Schoenfeld, HSM Special Educator Joan Lane, Speech Pathologist Alanna Don, Speech Pathologist TBD, Occupational Therapist**
<b>Academic Support Team</b>	Deborah Becker, TWI Coach Genevieve Dorsainvil, Reading Specialist Rachel Mann, Staff Development Teacher Becky Clemmer, Focus Teacher	<b>English/Spanish Language Development (ELD/SLD) Team</b>	Missy Robbins-Passos Elizabeth Gwathmey-Collins Claudia Moncayo**
<b>Social Emotional Special Education (SESES) Team</b>	Mariah Lee, Teacher** Michael Bacon, Teacher** Nina Collins, Teacher ** Linda Ventura, Paraeducator Amy Richardson, Paraeducator Amanda Smith, Paraeducator Armando Barrientos, Paraeducator Sara Sanango Nunez, Paraeducator Joana Benitez, Paraeducator** Aisha Kelly, Paraeducator**	<b>K-5 Paraeducator Team</b>	Sarah Preston, Paraeducator Sonia Wiggins, Paraeducator Lisa Curro, Paraeducator Lisa Van Zalk, Paraeducator Anne Hillman, Paraeducator



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<b>Specialist Team</b>	Trish Warnock-Safford, Media Becky Rupprecht, Media Paraeducator Anna Harris , Music Celeste Rubino, Music** Joshua Wolfe, Instrumental Music Roberto Quiroga, Art Lauren Cate, Art Dan Moxley, Physical Ed. Brian DuFour, Physical Ed.		
<b>PEP Team</b>	Leesha Cook-Amen, Teacher Beverly Riordan, Teacher Danielle Strauss, Teacher Kathleen Newman, Parent Educator Nahid Sadrolhefazi, Paraeducator Lourdes Humari-Rodriguez, Paraeducator April London, Paraeducator** Kellie Strenkowski, Paraeducator**	<b>Pre-K Team</b>	Lori Minnick, Teacher TBD, Paraeducator
<b>Kindergarten Team</b>	Xiomara Sánchez Lozano, Eng./Sp. Facilitator Yanira Lebrón Camacho, Sp. Facilitator Karen Miller, Eng. Facilitator Kim Schmidt, Eng. Facilitator Johanny Eusebio, Sp. Facilitator**	<b>First Grade Team</b>	Marilyn Medina, Sp. Facilitator Mariana Soto, Sp. Facilitator** Pua White, Eng. Facilitator Sarah Richard, Eng. Facilitator
<b>Second Grade Team</b>	April Kelly, Eng. Facilitator Brenda Garcia, Eng. Facilitator** Lanita Callahan, Eng. Facilitator** AnnKatherine Tobar, Sp. Facilitator Eileen Lopez-Portillo, Sp. Facilitator** Ana Villanueva, Sp. Facilitator	<b>Third Grade Team</b>	Adriana Alvarez, Sp. Facilitator Lillian Marroquin, Eng./Sp. Facilitator MaryBeth Shuster, Eng. Facilitator
<b>Fourth Grade Team</b>	Jennifer Bustamante, Eng./Sp. Facilitator Liza Calcagno, Sp. Facilitator Jennifer Fields, Eng. Facilitator	<b>Fifth Grade Team</b>	Tanya Mason, Eng. Facilitator Angela Solis, Eng./Sp. Facilitator Vanessa Renderos, Sp. Facilitator**

### Moving on from OTES:

<b>Retired</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denise Galbo has retired after serving the OTES community for fifteen years as a second, third and fifth grade teacher.</li> </ul>
<b>Moving On from OTES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lainie Kramer served for seven years at OTES as a Occupational Therapist. She will continue as an OT in upper grades within MCPS.</li> <li>Dimaris Lopéz taught kindergarten at OTES for six years to develop the TWI program as a Spanish teacher. In efforts to reduce her commute, she will be continuing TWI instruction as a first grade teacher at Brown Station ES.</li> <li>Gisselle Quintanilla instructed at OTES for four years as an SESES teacher. She is currently planning her next adventure.</li> </ul>



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- Alessandra Cutolo-Ring provided ELD instruction for four years at OTES. She is moving back home to Kansas to continue career as an English language teacher.
- Allison Rodriguez served OTES for three years as a PEP para, PEP teacher and SESES teacher. She is moving to Virginia Beach to pursue a career as an ABA therapist.
- Brandon Miles supported OTES' SESES as a paraeducator for two years. He will continue as a paraeducator and basketball coach at Paint Branch HS.
- Guanee Belle supported OTES for one year as a PEP Paraeducator. She will continue as a paraeducator at Galway ES.
- Emely Umanzor supported OTES for three years as a classroom monitor, SESES and PEP paraeducator. She is leaving OTES to continue her graduate studies.
- Rachel Leanza served for one year as a Music teacher. She will continue music education at Shady Grove MS as chorus teacher/director.
- Laure Veissiere served for one year as an Art teacher. She will continue teaching art at Veirs Mill ES, East Silver Spring ES, and Sargent Shriver ES.
- Carmela La Cunza supported OTES as a PK para for one year. She is pursuing her education degree and will be teaching Spanish at Silver Spring International MS.