



Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year at Flower Hill Elementary School!

For 40 years, Flower Hill Elementary School has served as the center of learning and community for our neighborhood. Last Spring, 100% of Flower Hill parents who answered the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Climate Survey reported that they felt “welcomed” at our school. This data point speaks to the culture we have created together. At Flower Hill, we strive to create a collaborative environment where families and staff work together to ensure each of our students has the best elementary school experience possible. Everyone belongs at Flower Hill Elementary and we can't wait to welcome our students back for the 2025-26 school year.

Please note that this year MCPS is having a “transition day” on Monday, August 25. This day is only for incoming kindergarten families or any student new to Flower Hill. Students returning to Flower Hill should NOT come to school on Monday, August 25. The first day of school for everyone is Tuesday, August 26.

Below you will find information around our summer engagement activities, open house & transition day, arrival & dismissal procedures, attendance, staff updates, our school supply list, and our 40th birthday celebration. Use the table of contents below to skip to different topics.

<u>Summer Engagement Activities</u>	<u>School Hours, Arrival, Dismissal, & Bus Info</u>	<u>2025-2026 Flower Hill Staff Updates</u>	<u>Flower Hill Turns 40!</u>
<u>Grade 1 -5 Open House & Kindergarten Transition Day</u>	<u>Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism</u>	<u>2025 - 2026 School Supply List</u>	

Always feel free to reach out to me personally with questions: Joshua_Fine@mcpsmd.org. On behalf of the staff at Flower Hill, we look forward to working together to ensure a successful school year for all students!

Warmly,

Joshua Fine, Principal

Summer Engagement Activities

- ❖ Tuesday, August 12 at 3:00 pm at Washington Square Apartments
 - Chat with Dr. Fine and Dr. Kang
 - Backpack giveaway and popsicles
- ❖ Wednesday, August 13 at 6:00 pm at Flower Hill Elementary's back playground
 - Play recess games with friends and chat with Dr. Fine and Dr. Kang
 - Backpack giveaway
 - Hungry Hippo Italian Ice Truck

Grade 1 -5 Open House & Kindergarten Transition Day:

Grade 1- Grade 5 Open House

Flower Hill will hold a Grade 1 - 5 Open House on Thursday, August 21 at 3 pm to give all students and families an opportunity to see their classrooms, meet their teachers, and gain valuable information for the upcoming school year. Grade 1 - Grade 5 teachers will reach out to their families to invite you to their open house by Wednesday, August 20.

- ❖ Grade 1 - Grade 5 Open House
 - Thursday, August 21 from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 - At Flower Hill Elementary School

MCPS Transition Day: Kindergarten & New Students Only

MCPS is having a “transition day” on Monday, August 25. This day is only for incoming kindergarten families or any student that might be new to Flower Hill. All kindergarten families and all families new to Flower Hill are invited to join us at 9:00 am on Monday, August 25. There will be a parent meeting at 9:00 am and students should plan to spend the whole day with us. Students will be able to go to their classrooms and a parent meeting will be held in the morning.

- ❖ Transition Day for Kindergarten Families & New Families to Flower Hill
 - Monday, August 25 at 9:00 am
 - At Flower Hill Elementary School
 - Dismissal is 3:25 pm

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, August 26th!

School Hours, Arrival, Dismissal, & Bus Info

School Hours

Student Arrival	8:40 am – 9:00 am
Breakfast in Classroom	8:40 am – 9:00 am
Instructional Hours	9:00 am - 3:25 pm

Arrival and Dismissal

All students must arrive before 9:00 am. Students walking to school or arriving by bus use our front entrance to enter the building. Students being dropped off by car and all kindergarten students may use our kindergarten entrance closest to our front playground to enter the building.

Students are dismissed at 3:25 pm on typical school days and 12:55 pm on early release days. Kindergarten students and students being picked up by car will be dismissed at our kindergarten entrance closest to our front playground. Students riding the bus home will be dismissed through our front entrance. Students walking home in grades 1-5 will be dismissed from the back of our building and parents who wish to meet them should wait on our back playground. If parents are picking up from the back of the building, please note that cars should not be stopping traffic on Flower Hill Way to wait or pick up students. To ensure safety, we ask that parents parallel park to meet students. If parked on the far side of Flower Hill Way, students should either use the crosswalk, or cross with a parent.

New Carloop Arrival Procedures

The safety of your children is our number one priority! Please help us with this when dropping off your children at school in the morning.

When entering the school property in our car loop:

- Form one line to the right side, staying “nose to tail” with the other vehicles.
- Stay to the right, and proceed towards the student drop off area. Staff will guide you.
- Drop off your students near on the side walk by the entrance door
- Continue to stay in line - DO NOT PULL OUT OF LINE TO THE LEFT TO EXIT!!
- Follow the other vehicles to the exit and leave the school property in an orderly manner.

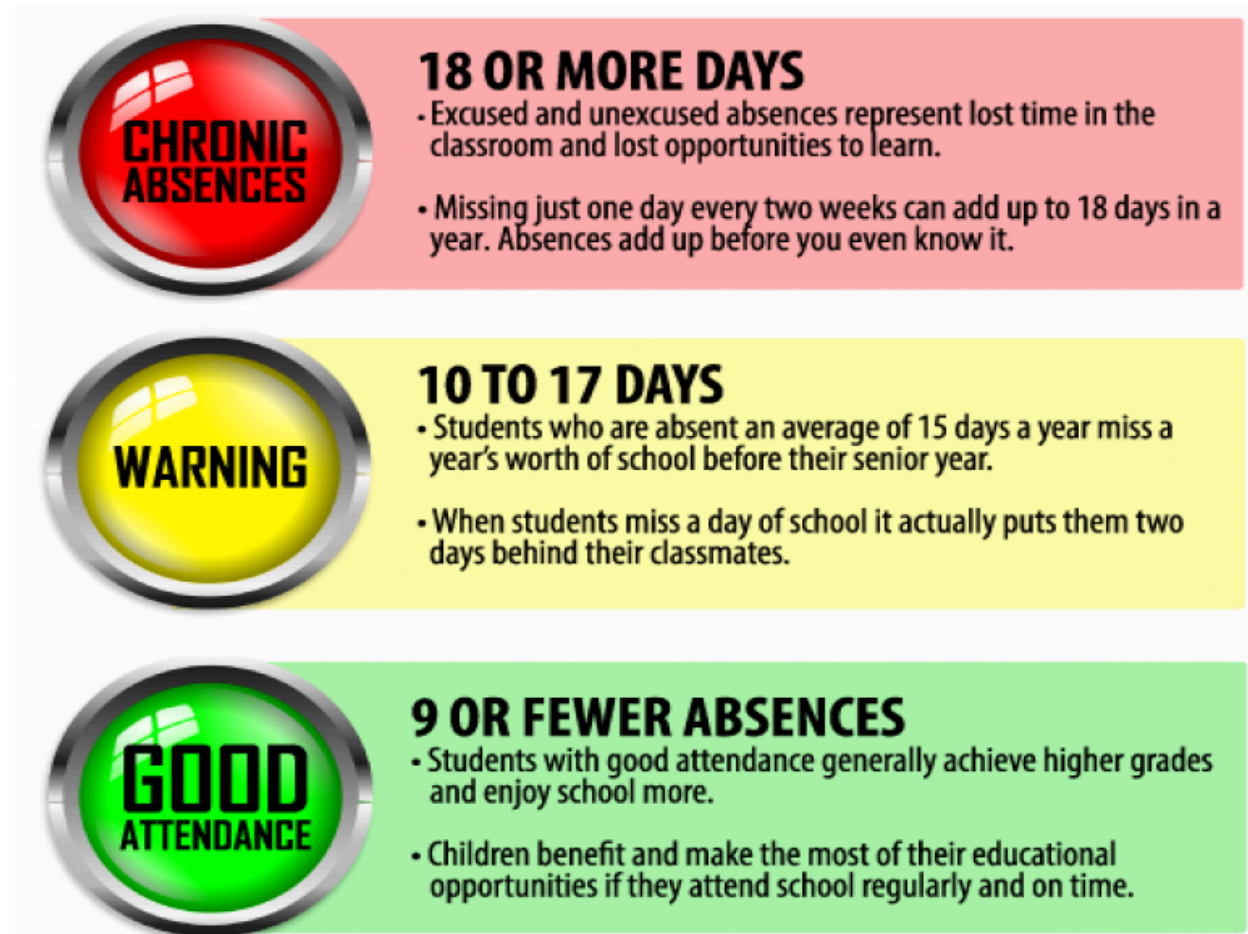
Again, thank you for your help and support to keep your children (our students) safe! If you have any questions, please reach out.

Bus Routes & Schedules

We have not yet received school bus schedules but will notify you when they arrive and ensure they can be accessed on our website. We are not expecting any changes to our bus routes from previous years.

Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism

Your child's daily attendance at school is the most critical component to their learning. In elementary school, children learn foundational reading and math skills that cannot be replicated through make-up work and have a huge impact on their entire academic careers. The Maryland State Department of Education will continue to track students who are chronically absent. Chronic absence is when a student misses 10% (18 school days) or more of their days on roll for any reason, whether it is excused, unexcused or due to suspension. Chronic absence is the rate of absenteeism that highly correlates with students falling off the path toward academic success.



2025-2026 Flower Hill Staff Updates

Flower Hill has the World's Best Staff! We are excited to welcome new teachers and announce changes in some positions for the 2025-26 school year. Please note that all K-5 general education homeroom teachers from last year are returning although some will be in different roles.

Please join me in welcoming these new staff members to our nest:

- Solange Solis, Kindergarten

- Ashlley Carrol, Grade 3 Teacher
- Sophie Jones, Grade 4 Teacher
- Emily Kursch, Primary Teacher with our Social Emotional Special Education Supports Unit
- Caitlin Fasano, Grade 3-4 Teacher with our Social Emotional Special Education Supports Unit
- Hamdi Abdulle Mohamed, Special Education
- Deb Herbaugh, Part Time School Counselor
- Bonnie Pereira, English Language Development
- Sharline Rene, Primary Talent Development
- Cristel Robles, Paraeducator Social Emotional Special Education Supports Unit
- Fatoumata Kayoute, General Education Paraeducator

In addition to these new staff members, some of our veteran staff are taking new roles on the Hill this year:

- Doreen Hinkeldey will now be our Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
- Silvana Rojas will be our Pre-Kindergarten Para
- Sri Panchangam will be our English Language Development Teacher for Grade 3
- Hongyu Li will join our Social Emotional Special Education Supports Unit as a paraeducator

2025 - 2026 School Supply Lists

Our supply lists by grade level, can be found in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Flower Hill Turns 40!

We are so excited to celebrate the jewel of our community; Flower Hill Elementary School! We will celebrate our birthday with students on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 and then with the whole community during TRUCKMANIA! on Friday, September 12.

Calling All Alumni!

Did you go to Flower Hill when you were younger? If you are interested in talking with our current students about your time at Flower Hill on Wednesday, September 3, [fill out this quick form here](#). We are looking for alumni to share some of their best memories and experiences in an hour window. Pictures and artifacts are definitely welcome!

TRUCKMANIA!

On Friday, September 12 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, the PTA is hosting our amazing annual back to school community event featuring a variety of large, amazing trucks, all sorts of different

machinery, face painting, food, and fun. Save the date for this fun family event held here at Flower Hill. Alumni and past staff are encouraged to attend!