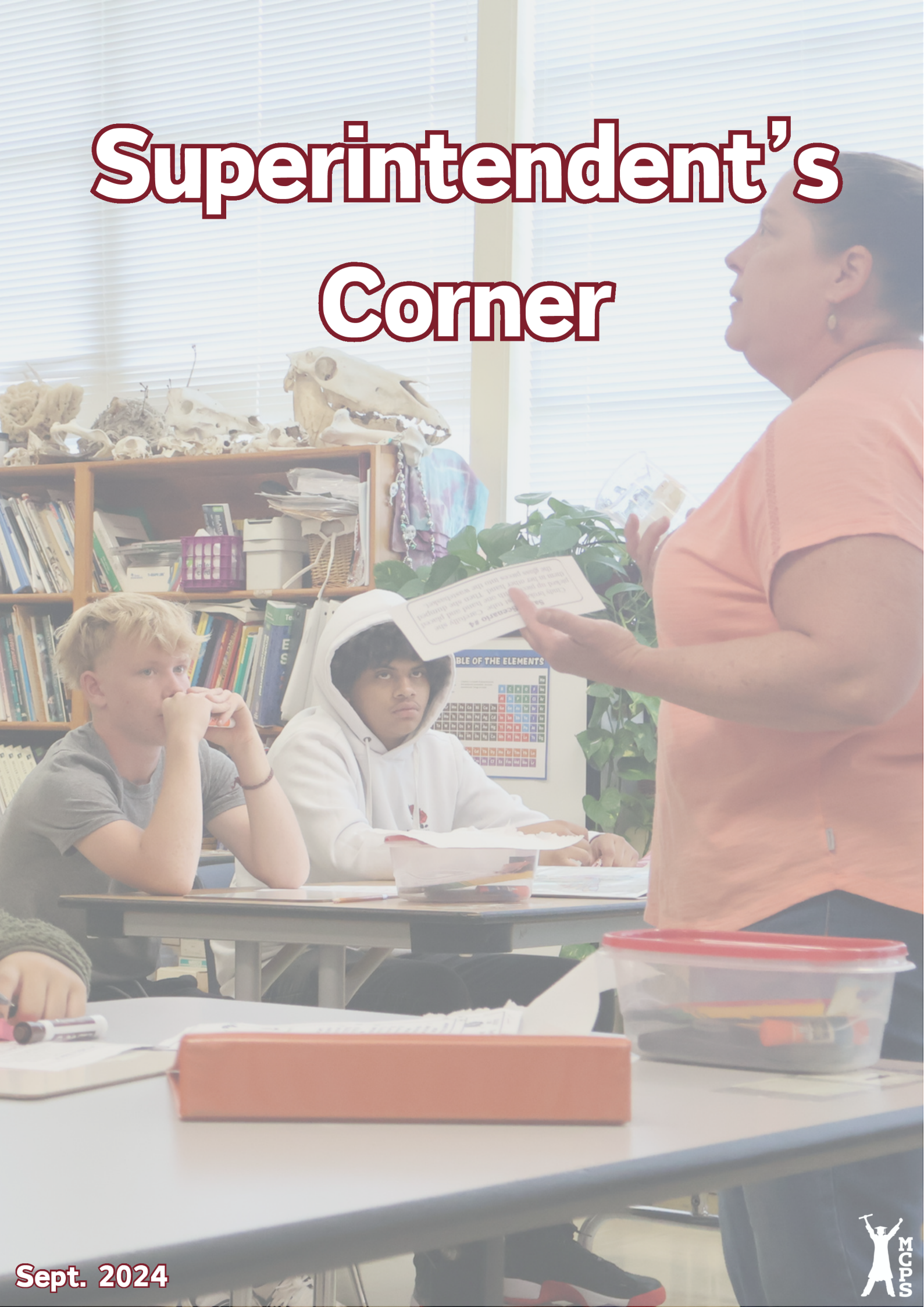


Superintendent's Corner





Superintendent's Update

Dear MCPS Community Members,

As we embark on a new school year in Montgomery County Public Schools, I want to welcome each of you warmly. We begin this journey with great excitement and enthusiasm, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges in serving our students across our county.

Montgomery County Public Schools has a proud tradition of excellence, and this year, we remain committed to building on that foundation. Whether through innovative teaching methods, expanded extracurricular activities, or enhanced support services, our focus remains on providing the best possible education for every student in our district, enabling each child to reach their full potential.

The start of a new school year is always a time of renewal and possibility. This year, more than ever, we are reminded of the importance of collaboration and working together to best serve our students. Our shared commitment to their success unites us and keeps us focused on our common goal. I am confident that together, we will create an environment where every student can thrive.

I look forward to the incredible things we will achieve as a community this year. Let us continue to support one another and work hand in hand to make this school year the best one yet.

Thank you for your support and partnership. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

Sincerely,

Bernard Bragen, Jr.
Superintendent

Engage! Encourage! Empower!





Curriculum & Instruction Update

Welcome to the New School Year!

As we embark on a new school year, the Curriculum and Instruction department is excited to share several key initiatives to enhance teaching and learning across our district. Introducing a new English/Language Arts (ELA) curriculum is one of the most significant changes. Our elementary teachers are diving into the new Amplify ELA curriculum, designed to foster critical thinking, enhance reading comprehension, and engage students with high-quality texts.

In addition to our elementary ELA update, we are adopting new ELA curricula for our secondary schools this year. This adoption is part of our commitment to providing consistent, rigorous, and relevant literacy instruction for all kindergarten through grade 12 students.

We are also exploring new math curricula for both elementary and secondary levels to find the best programs that align with our goals of promoting deep conceptual understanding, critical problem-solving skills, and a love for mathematics. In our middle schools, we are excited to introduce Magma Math, a dynamic program designed to boost student engagement and mastery in math.

As part of the work outlined in our Strategic Plan, we will also focus on grading this year. We aim to examine what grades mean, what they communicate to families, and whether they truly reflect mastery of learning. This discussion will be essential in ensuring that our grading practices are clear, fair, and aligned with our educational goals.

To ensure our programs best meet the needs of our students and community, we are seeking parents to serve on various committees. Your insights and feedback are invaluable as we continue to refine and enhance our instructional practices. Please visit <https://www.mcps.org/about-us/advisory-committees> to join a committee.

We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's success. Stay tuned for more updates, and here's to a fantastic year of learning ahead!

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Wickham
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

#WeAreMCPS

Welcome, Mr. Willie Howard III

Willie Howard III will join the MCPS team this month as the new Director of Student Support and Intervention.

Mr. Howard currently works for Nash County School in North Carolina as the Director of Equity and Alternative Programs.

For more information about Mr. Howard visit:

<https://www.mcps.org/news/news-room/news-details/~board/district-news/post/willie-howard-iii-joins-mcps-in-new-leadership-position>



Bear Cave Care Closet

Students and Families at Margaret Beeks Elementary School have a new resource available this school year.

The Bear Cave Care Closet provides the MBES community with free resources. Items range from food to personal hygiene products and clothing.

MBES staff say by providing students with these items, it allows kids to attend school and be prepared to learn throughout the school day.

Engage! Encourage! Empower!



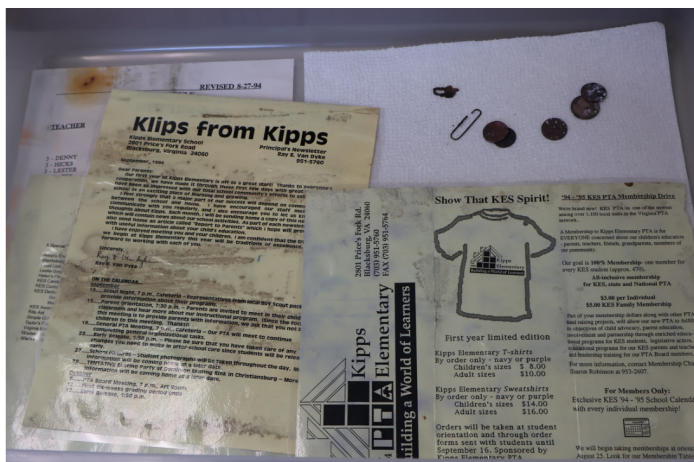
Virtual Reality becoming the new MCPS reality

Grant funding has provided MCPS the ability to purchase a class set of virtual reality headsets. These devices travel around MCPS giving students the opportunity to see and explore the world of VR.

Students can complete missions on the International Space Station and visit places around the world from the comfort of their classroom.

Kangaroos hopping into 30th Year

Kipps Elementary School is celebrating its 30th year during the 2024-2025 school year. To help celebrate, KES items from the school's history on display. School staff have recovered the original time capsule which was originally buried 30 years go. The capsule holds predictions for the future, lunch menus from 1994, the original school song and more!



#WeAreMCPS

Drivers Education 90 Minute Meetings

Virginia Code requires all students taking Drivers Education to attend a 90 minute presentation offered by MCPS. Student attendance is required at one of the four meetings. Students will not be allowed to take behind the wheel training or apply for a drivers license without attending the meeting.

Meeting Dates:

9/10/24 - EMHS 6:30 p.m.


9/24/24 - AHS 6:30 p.m.

10/2/24 - BHS 6:30 p.m.


10/9/24 - CHS 6:30 p.m.

2024-25
MCPS DRIVER EDUCATION

PARENT / TEEN MEETING




VIRGINIA REQUIREMENT



For ALL students enrolled in Driver Education for the 24-25 school year.

MANDATORY

- The 90 minute Parent/Teen Meeting is a mandatory course requirement.
- 1st and 2nd semester Driver Ed students must attend one of the meetings listed below.
- ALL Driver Education students must attend one meeting outside of school time.
- Parents/Guardians should attend the meeting with their child.
- If a parent/guardian cannot attend, their child must bring a completed parent opt out form with them to the meeting.



SCHEDULED MEETINGS


- 9/10/24 Eastern Montgomery High - Auditorium
- 9/24/24 Auburn High - Auditorium
- 10/2/24 Blacksburg High - Auditorium
- 10/9/24 Christiansburg High - Auditorium

All meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.

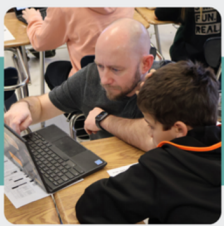
*Meetings will not be offered 2nd semester. All second semester students should plan to attend one of the first semester meetings listed above.
Questions? Contact Kelley Sulphin: ksulphin@mcps.org

Attendance Awareness Month

Montgomery County Public Schools



Attendance is Important




Help your student SUCCEED

What You Can Do

- Make school attendance a priority!
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule appointments during the school day.
- If your child must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

EVERY DAY MATTERS!



September is Attendance Awareness Month. It's important for our students to be in school as much as possible throughout the school year. One of our goals is to reduce chronic absenteeism throughout the district. The VDOE defines chronic absenteeism as a student missing 10% or more school days throughout the year. This equates to 10 days of school.

For more information about chronic absenteeism visit:

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/student-services/attendance-school-engagement>

Engage! Encourage! Empower!

