Leonardtown Elementary

August 11, 2025

Welcome to the 2025-26 School Year

Our school will be bustling this week with the return of our full staff, beginning Wednesday. In addition to preparing the classrooms, our staff will be learning about new resources (like an updated version of Bridges Math), reviewing emergency preparedness procedures and crisis response protocols, finalizing class list assignments, and planning for a successful launch to this year!

Home Access Center (HAC) will open for families on Friday, August 15th after 5 pm. This is how you can find out who your child's homeroom teacher will be. See the details in the section below on 'Homeroom Assignments".

The bulletins are generally organized with calendar information at the top, followed by new information. Some news items will repeat for multiple weeks (especially if there is a required action or due date). The bulletins are archived on the LES school website on a monthly basis, can be searched in your email or found in the LES Schoology feed.

Last week's "Preparing for School" to-do list included:

- Choose 1 of 3 options for daily transportation (Bus, Placard Pick Up, or Before/After Care Service)
- Update your calendar with all SMCPS scheduled early dismissals and no school days
- Submit an application for Free/Reduced Price Meals
- Locate your returning student's laptop and charger

This week is the "Tax Free Shopping Week", so it may be a great time to get your child's school supplies.

New Staff Announced

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to staff who are new to LES:

- Tammy Bucior: Media Clerk
- Margaret Cancino: Band
- Alicia Dutill: Grade 5
- Sydney Gallion: Nurse
- Ashley Gallo: Assistant Principal
- Airen LaQuay: Special Ed Paraeducator
- Frank Pounsberry: Preschool Special Ed Paraeducator
- Debbie Settle: Physical Education
- Makenzie VanDevander: Speech/Language Pathologist
- Rebecca Vanecko: Special Education Teacher

Dates of Importance

Monday, Aug. 18: Open House Grades K - 5

- Last Names A-L 1:15 - 2:15
- Last Names M - J 2:30 - 3:30

Wednesday, Aug. 20:

- First Day of School Grades K - 5
- Pre-Kindergarten Orientation 10:30 - 11:30 am (Adult attends with child)

Thursday, Aug. 21:

- Pre-K Transportation Begins

2025-26 SMCPS School Calendar

PDF **Calendar_SMCPS2025-2026_FINAL_20240207.pdf** Download 200.9 KB

School Supply Lists

Use the button above to navigate to the 2024-25 School Supply Lists.
Most families choose to bring supplies to the Open House.

Tax Free Week

Student Accident Insurance

Highlights about student accident insurance are below. Please refer to the attached letter (in English and Spanish) for details. Also linked are a fact sheet and enrollment instructions.

- SMCPS has arranged with Bob McCloskey Insurance to offer student accident insurance.
- Continuous enrollment is available throughout the school year
- This is accident insurance; it is not health or liability insurance.
- The coverage provided by these plans is not intended to replace a primary health insurance plan.

2026 Letter to Parents.pdf
Download
196.8 KB

2026 Letter to Parents_SPA.pdf
Download
201.4 KB

2026 Fact Sheet.pdf
Download
136.2 KB

Enrollment Instructions (1).pdf
Download
327.1 KB

Enrollment Instructions_SPA (2).pdf
Download
328.8 KB

School Breakfast and Lunch

Student Lunch Schedules 25-25

Your child's homeroom teacher will schedule time during each full day of school for students to have a snack. Daily snacks are provided as part of the PreK program. All other students must supply their own.

Grade	Lunch	Recess	Specials
PK	130 - 200	1045 - 1115	* Varies
KG	100 - 130	215 - 245	1115 - 1200
1st	1215 - 1245	130 - 200	945 - 1030
2nd	1215 - 1245	1245 - 115	1030 - 1115
3rd	1030 - 1100	1215 - 1245	230 - 315
4th	1145 - 1215	1115 - 1145	145 - 230
5th	1100 - 1130	1030 - 1100	100 - 145

Lunch Menu: Aug 18 - 22

Please note: Lunch menus are subject to change based on food deliveries and school closures that are out-of-our-control.

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

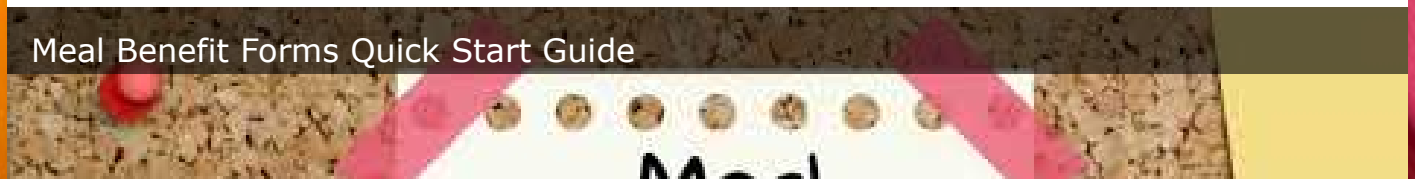
School Payments Made Easy

From the cafeteria to the classroom, pay anytime, anywhere from your computer or smartphone.
Elementary Meal Prices: Breakfast $1.75 : Lunch $3.00

Check out My School Bucks for more info.

Meal Accounts and Free Meal Programs

The online application process to apply for free and reduced meals is OPEN for 25-26. Meal benefit forms help with more than just food! Help your school get the necessary funding, reduced sports fees, and more!
Begin the application process here.



Transportation Information

Buses

All students within the LES school boundaries have access to bus transportation. Your child's assigned pick-up/drop-off location is based on the 5-digit street address provided at registration. The bus stop locator and assigned routes are expected to be available on August 1, 2025.
Bus Stop and School Locator

Here Comes the Bus App

Available to parents of students riding SMCPS School Buses:

- View the real-time location of your child's bus
- Access the app from your smartphone, tablet or computer
- Receive push notifications or email alerts
- Send your child to the bus stop at just the right time, every time

How to get started:

1. Download the Here Comes the Bus app* or visit herecomesthebus.com
2. Click the **Sign Up** button
3. Enter school code (86563) and click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
4. Complete the "User Profile" box
5. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
6. Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin using Here Comes the Bus!

Parent Pick Up

Arrival: 8:45 -9:00 am.

For safety reasons drivers must remain in the vehicle. Students will exit on the passenger side of the car. There may be times when you need to exit the car to assist your child. Please plan to park and escort your child to a staff member on the sidewalk when this occurs.

Departure: 3:40 - 3:55 pm.
Present your placard number (visible on the rearview mirror), and your child(ren) will be escorted in groups to the carpool line. For safety reasons drivers must remain in the vehicle. Students will enter on the passenger side of the car.

Walkers: 3:40 - 3:55 pm.
Present your placard number (carried in-hand) to the staff member positioned at the carpool loop under the sidewalk awning by the mailbox. Your child(ren) will exit the building by the Kg playground and walk along the sidewalk to greet you. There is no daily sign-out for walkers. You must commit to parent pick-up and complete the form to receive a placard.

2025-26 PLACARD PICK UP REQUEST FORM

Homeroom Assignments

How Do We Know Our Child's Assigned Teacher?

Class lists have been drafted, though we make adjustments in response to changes in staffing, new registrations and other unforeseen factors. You can expect to find out your child's homeroom teacher assignment through HAC or at Open House. Savvy students sometimes look in Clever for a sneak peak at their homeroom assignment. While this platform eventually updates correctly, I recommend that you use one of the two methods below for the most accurate information.

Home Access Center (HAC) Opens on Friday, Aug. 15 at 5 pm.
Home Access Center allows parents and students to view student registration, scheduling, attendance, report card grade information, testing information and transcripts. Daily assignment information and their scores will be viewed in Schoology.

Please try the “Forgot My Username or Password” link if you have forgotten either of these. This link will only work if you have an email address on file and you have already set up Challenge Questions. Please contact your school if you need further assistance. SMCPS does not currently utilize the “Click Here to Register with Access Code” link.

Open House: Student homeroom assignments will be posted in the school.

School Based Health Centers

Laptops, Books, Internet

Acceptable Use Policy

Informational: No Action Necessary

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) recognizes that access to and use of the Internet is an appropriate tool for instruction. Precautions are taken to attempt to ensure that the Internet is a safe learning environment for students. In accordance with the SMCPS Network Usage Standards, all use of the network and email communications must be in support of education, research and professional usage that is consistent with the purposes of St. Mary's County Public Schools. In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), SMCPS utilizes filtering software in an attempt to block access to objectionable material. Students will be supervised while using the Internet and will be instructed in the appropriate and safe use, selections, and evaluation of information. Per COMAR, opting out of curriculum-based resources is not an option.

Please review the Acceptable Use Policy for more detailed information about student access to Google Workspace tools and student responsibilities for use of digital resources. Unlike prompts in previous years, families no longer need to sign an Acceptable Use Policy. Furthermore, at the elementary level, students typically do not need to sign the Google permission form, as they are not required to utilize services outside of the Google Workspace.

PDF **SMCPS AUP 2025-2026.pdf** Download 327.4 KB

Print and Technology Resource Accountability

Students are responsible for the care and upkeep of all of their SMCPS-assigned resources, both print and technology. This newsletter and this document outline the policies and procedures *in addition to pricing for lost or damaged devices.*

Jamie Jameson
Jamie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters