We are so thankful for a great year where we have been able to allow parents and families back in the building! We have a packed schedule to end the year - be sure to check with your students about field trips and permission forms.

MCAP testing will begin for grades 3-8 in May. Please make sure your student is well rested, eats a good breakfast, and arrives to school on time.

Our Ag program has hatched chicks! This means that we will have farm-fresh eggs for sale soon! Keep an eye out for more information about the sale.

Dr. Holland

Notes from the Office

**Year End Reminders**

- **Devices:** All students will be turning in their Chromebooks AND chargers at the end of the school year - if you do not have a charger, you can purchase one from Amazon (around $20) or from the school (for $35).
- **Doctor/Parent Notes:** You can still turn in any parent or doctor notes for your student’s absences. If you need dates, these are listed in Aspen, or you can contact the office.
- **Immunization Updates:** 7th Grade immunization updates are due to the office ASAP, or by the beginning of next school year. Information will be coming home from the nurse.
- **Address Changes:** If you have moved this school year, please send in a proof of residence (utility bill, lease, bank statement, etc.) from the past 30 days. You can verify the address on file in Aspen or contact the office.

Nurse's Corner

**PARENTS POINTS TO PONDER – Lung Disease and Deaths associated with Vaping**

The recent deaths across our country, combined with hundreds of reported lung injury cases continue to intensify causing alarm for the health and safety of those who are using vaping products. The deaths appear to be the first mysterious lung illnesses now under investigation by state and federal health officials in connection to vaping — at least 193 cases in 22 states, many in teens and young adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you or a loved one is vaping – PLEASE STOP until the cause of vaping related and irreversible lung damage and deaths can be determined. Your life may depend on it.

# April Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th-10th</td>
<td>Schools CLOSED for Easter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Schools REOPEN - 3 Hour DELAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Elementary Extra Effort &amp; Middle School Stars Awards Assembly 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Maryland Food Bank 11:30am–1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>3rd Grade to Western MD Scenic Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Spring Photos / Class Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Ag Club &amp; Crew Students to Crellin School Career Day (Grades 3–6)</td>
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# May Events

| Date     | Event                                                                 |
|----------|                                                                      |
| 1st-12th | MCAP Reading & Math Testing (Grades 3-8)                             |
| 17th     | 5th Grade to Antietam 3rd & 4th Grade to Mountain Ridge             |
| 18th-19th | MCAP Social Studies (Grade 8)                                       |
| 23rd     | 8th Grade to Mountain Ridge 5th Grade Visitation to Middle 9:00–11:30|
| 24th     | 8th Grade to CCTE 1st & 2nd Grade to Pittsburgh Zoo Elementary Band & Orchestra Concert 9:00 8th Grade Farewell *Tentative* |
| 29th     | Schools & Offices CLOSED - Memorial Day                              |
| 30th     | Elementary & Middle School FUN Day                                  |
| 31st     | 4th Grade to Carnegie Science Center                                 |

# June Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>8th Grade to Hershey Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Last Day for Students-3 Hour Early Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Last Day for Teachers</td>
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Pre-K News

We cannot believe we are already in the last nine weeks of school. This year has flown by! Throughout the year, we have worked on letter recognition, letter sounds and letter formation. We are getting really good at our skills and continue to work hard everyday to become better. Soon, we will be learning about mammals. After break we are going to have a visit from some local farm animals and we cannot wait!

We just finished up our third round of testing and WOW, we are so smart!

We are looking forward to finishing up the school year and making sure we are ready for Kindergarten!

1st Grade News

Happy Spring from First Grade!!

We can't believe we are in our last marking period!

The 4th marking period is a super busy time for us as we work hard to get ready for 2nd grade! In reading, we will be learning about r-controlled vowels, soft 'c' and 'g', and vowel diphthongs. We will continue to read and write multisyllabic words as we go on some final adventures with the Superkids!! In math, we will be having lots of fun using our base-ten blocks to add double-digit numbers. In our 4th marking period, we will also explore measurement and comparing lengths of objects and geometry.

We will be covering our Health Unit and Space Unit in science. We are very excited to visit the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium in May!!

2nd Grade News

It's finally spring! We will be springing into many new things as we begin the last nine weeks of school. Our focus shifts to becoming third graders. This means that we'll be working with larger numbers, longer stories, and writing more! Growing up is so exciting and we know that our classes are ready for the next challenge.

Second grade has begun learning cursive! Students have been looking forward to this all year long!

In science, we are learning about life cycles. We may even have some MORE creatures come live in our classrooms!

Keep working on math facts at home. Even though the weather will be getting nicer and everyone will want to be outside, time in the car is a great time to review spelling words and math facts.

3rd Grade News

Why did Mr. A and Mr. V throw their clock out the window? They wanted to see time fly! This and many other terrible dad jokes are in store for third grade as we gear up for the home stretch.

In reading, we are learning about explorers and what life was like for the early settlers in North America. In math, we are finishing up fractions and learning about measurement - both distance and time. We are excited about our social studies field trip. On April 25th, we will be heading out to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad to ride the rails! In science, we continue to learn how to collect and display data. In May, we will be taking the state MCAP test. We’re excited to show off everything we have learned this year!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is excited to learn about plants, animals, and keeping our world clean! We will celebrate Earth Day in April.Kindergarten will learn about reducing, reusing, and recycling for Earth Day. We will plant sunflowers for our special Earth Day project! In science, we are learning about different types of animals and where they live. We have a craft for students to complete for each animal habitat. In social studies, we will learn about economics such as community Jobs and community helpers. During this unit, students will think about what they want to be when they grow up. In reading, we are continuing Superkids by reviewing alphabet letters/letter sounds, identifying CVC words, and reading different decodable readers!In math, we are reviewing addition and subtraction as well as learning how to measure. This year has flown by so fast and we have a lot of learning and fun activities coming up soon! We are having such a wonderful year in kindergarten! Have a safe and fun summer!

PICTURE DAY INFO

G&G Studios will be taking our Spring and Class photos on Wednesday, April 26th. Order forms will NOT come home until after photos are taken. You will have the opportunity to proof and purchase your student’s individual and class photo together.
4th Grade News

In math, fourth grade will continue working on division strategies, and we will be learning about fractions, decimals, geometry, and measurement. Our unit of study in ELA will be Treasure Island. In science, we will continue to learn about the earth and energy. We are looking ahead to summer!

5th Grade News

Fifth grade is so exciting to be ending the year with great learning opportunities, field trips, programs, and more!

In English Language Arts, we will continue to build upon our reading skills as we explore our units on the Reformation and Native Americans in our CKLA curriculum. In math, we will build upon our knowledge of operations with fractions and decimals, convert measurements, explore coordinate planes, and work on geometry. We are excited to begin our social studies unit on the Civil War and prepare for our May 17 field trip to Antietam National Battlefield! More information on that will be coming soon.

Students did an excellent job focusing and doing their best on our Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in March. We look forward to seeing them continue this hard work and focus when we take MCAP for math and reading in May. Students will be participating in the D.A.R.E. program this May.

As we wrap up the school year, we are so proud of how much fifth graders have grown and excited to help them prepare to go to middle school in the fall!

Title I Tip

SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

The School Parent Compact outlines what the school staff, parent/family and child will do to increase learning for our students. Parents/family members and school staff help to write the agreement. We review the compact each spring and ask for parents to comment on the compact each year. The compacts are signed and used as a tool during the year to help everyone remember how important it is for all of us to work together to help our students learn.

A message from Snap-Ed!

STAY ACTIVE AS A FAMILY!

Hello parents and families! Physical activity can take place anywhere. Any activity that gets your body moving and heart beating faster is physical activity. Children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. This can be non-stop or in segments of 10-15 minutes. Active children have better focus, increased attention span, and improved behavior. All good reasons to keep everyone moving!

Tips for getting your family moving!

- Instead of watching TV or playing video games, plan a fun activity for the family - let your children see you move!
- Take an extra trip up and down your stairs to get your legs moving.
- Visit a community center for activities and team games.
- Invite neighbors and friends to join you for a game or walk around the neighborhood.
- Enjoy outside games like tossing a soft ball, hopscotch, or tag.
- Turn on your favorite music and have a dance party!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

6th Grade News

In language arts class, sixth-grade students recently studied the unit, “Through an Animal’s Eyes” and considered the essential question, “What can you learn from seeing the world through an animal’s eyes?” The unit also included a service learning component. Students were given three options for the service learning project.

1. Donate to Allegany County Animal Shelter.
2. Donate farm animals to needy families overseas through world vision.org.
3. Donate money to purchase an animal tracking bracelet for each homeroom from fahlo.com which uses proceeds from bracelet sales to save wildlife.

The majority of students voted for the third option. According to fahlo.com, “We partner with non-profit organizations to create bracelets that come with a real animal to track. We started this mission in 2018, and since, have been fortunate to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to save wildlife. By combining a tangible bracelet and interactive tracking experience, our goal is to educate customers about wildlife and excite them about conservation.”

Each homeroom will vote on an animal to track, and money raised will be used to purchase a tracking bracelet for each homeroom. Students have the option to track a sea turtle, elephant, polar bear, shark, penguin, lion, or giraffe. During the unit, students discussed the need for appreciating nature and wildlife so that it will not disappear over time.
The middle school yearbook is complete and has been submitted to the plant in Kansas! The yearbook staff is very excited for everyone to see what they have in store for this year’s edition of the book titled “Let’s Go!”. Books will be distributed sometime during the last week of school. There will be a limited number of books for sale for students who did not preorder earlier in the year. The cost of the book will be $35 at that time.

The Ag Club is getting ready for their honey bees to arrive. They have built and painted three hives and the students have built three swarm traps with the hope of collecting a swarm or two to add to the apiary. Ag Club students currently have peas, lettuce, spinach, beans, and carrots that they have been growing in small hoop houses since early March and they have added 5 more raised beds to the garden.

Eighth grade students, along with the rest of the middle school, will be taking the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) test for Language Arts on May 1-4, for Math May 8-11, and for Social Studies on May 18-19. Please make sure students are in school during this time, are well rested, and have had a good breakfast.

Student Council officers had a series of very productive meetings with Dr. Holland to discuss student concerns and needs. As a result, the student council and WEB leaders collaborated with the guidance department in presenting an anti-bullying lesson to sixth and seventh grade students. The presentation consisted of learning how to distinguish between rude, mean, and bullying behaviors, what it means to be resilient, and how to respond rather than react in social situations. In addition to learning how to handle social situations, students were given tools on how to find help if they ever feel they are being bullied. One of the tools recently implemented at school is the “Virtual Bully Box” which is available in most of the Schoology courses online.

What do outdoor school, chickens, gardens, and recycling have in common? They are all part of our Maryland Green School status! Mount Savage has been a certified Green School since the 2018-19 school year. This state recognition is awarded to schools who consistently use environmental best practices and education programs. We have just submitted our application for renewal, and will be notified in a few short weeks. This year, the Green School Co-Curricular class of 7th and 8th grade students has helped with several projects, including saving electricity, planting a pollinator garden, and recycling plastic film and paper. This spring, we are working on a tree planting and a school-wide Earth Day celebration.

It’s SPRING!! And that means our music department is rehearsing long and hard for upcoming performances:
- April 14th 7:00: Potomac State Jazz Festival. Mount Savage Jazz Band is performing at the Church McKee Arts Center in Keyser as part of this wonderful event.
- May 8th 7:00: Jazz at the Palace: Mountain Ridge Jazz Orchestra hosts a night of Jazz music with opening acts by Mount Savage Jazz Band and Westmar Jazz Band.
- May 11th 7:00: Spring Concert The Mount Savage Middle School Music Department presents our annual Spring Concert. The Orchestra, Choirs and Bands will all perform.

Students taking Phys. Ed. will have their Final Fitness Tests the first two weeks in May. We have been fortunate to have interns Dominic Ceresini and Corey McKenzie in Physical Education and Health!