

# An Update on MCPS Operations

Dear MCPS Community,

Thank you for all of your patience as we work to clear the snow from our schools and get the second semester under way. We continue to make progress in clearing as much as three feet of snow from our 202 school buildings. However, many neighborhood and main roads and sidewalks remain difficult to navigate due to the volume of snow we are contending with. **Given these conditions, and to ensure student safety, we will be closing schools on Thursday, January 28, 2016. All school and community activities in school buildings also are canceled. All administrative offices will be open on time. Day care programs in school buildings will remain open as scheduled.**

We will reevaluate conditions tomorrow and will let the community know the status for Friday by tomorrow at 6 p.m. Please know that our staff is working as quickly as possible to ensure our students can get back to school safely.

## Free Lunch Available for Students at 11 School Locations

We recognize that many of our students rely on our free and reduced-price meal program and that closing schools can create unintended barriers to meals. To ensure all students have access to healthy meals while schools are closed, Montgomery County Public Schools is offering free lunches to all students on Thursday, January 28, at 11 area schools:



- Sargent Shriver Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Gaithersburg Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.
- Clopper Mill Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Arcola Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Harmony Hills Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Washington Grove Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- JoAnn Leleck Elementary School at Broad Acres between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Whetstone Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- New Hampshire Estates Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Roscoe Nix Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Capt. James Daly Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- Greencastle Elementary School between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

Your child does not have to attend school at one of the locations to receive a lunch, and no identification is required.

## Making Our Bus Stops and Sidewalks Safe for Students

As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, there are many bus stops and sidewalks in our neighborhoods that remain difficult to traverse due to the amount of snow we received. Just as the county is encouraging residents to clear around fire hydrants to ensure fire fighters have access to this resource, we encourage community members to help ensure students have access to their schools by clearing the bus stops and sidewalks in their communities. We appreciate your continued assistance!

Sincerely,

Larry A. Bowers  
Interim Superintendent of Schools