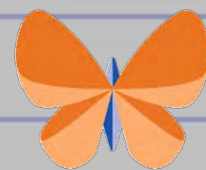




\* Your monthly guide to school news, information and events.

# THE Monarch Annapolis CHRYsalis



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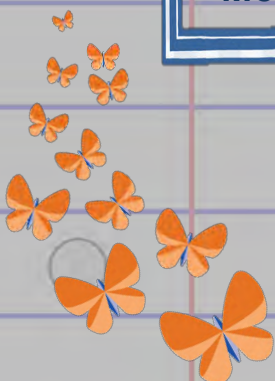
Monarch PTA News page 11

Wow, October is already here! There have been a lot of changes and we are excited to share this school year with you. Please read through this month's newsletter closely to find out the awesome things going on this month. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us!

<http://monarchacademy.org/annapolis/>  
(410) 934-1444

## OCTOBER 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
			1	2
5 Band/Strings and Chorus Classes Start!	6	7 Parents and PYP Learning Night (3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> )	8	9 Interims to be sent home MAA SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!
12 SCHOOL CLOSED Parent/Teacher Conferences	13 SCHOOL CLOSED Parent/Teacher Conferences	14 Parents and PYP Learning Night (PreK-2 <sup>nd</sup> )	15	16
19	20	21 Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing Virtual Event	22	23 "Fall into E-Learning" SPIRIT DAY!
26	27	28 Submission due for PTA Pumpkin Decoration Contest	29	30





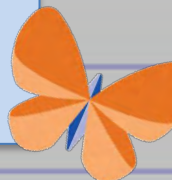
## Who We Are

Monarch Academy Annapolis (MAA) is a Public Charter School contracted through AACPS, run by The Children's Guild. The Children's Guild programs are guided by Transformation Education (TranZed), MAA is approaching the authorization to become an official International Baccalaureate, Primary Years Programme School.

## Our Mission

At Monarch Academy Annapolis, we educate the whole child by empowering students to embrace diversity, inspire curiosity, and cultivate compassion.

**Exceptional  
Education for  
Every Learner!**



## A message from your principal!

Dear Marvelous Monarch Annapolis Families,

**Congratulations and Thank You** are in order!!! With your partnership, we have launched the 2020-2021 school year in the virtual environment. We have welcomed 780 students throughout PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grades, our new e-School program launched, and we have successfully located all our students. Launching a new school year in a virtual environment is no small feat, but we are now well into the new school year and we want you to know how much we appreciate you and your partnership!

October is a busy month at school. On Friday, we mark the halfway point of the first marking period, and you will have access to interims on the Parent Portal. This will show you your child's current progress and will be a great tool to facilitate a conversation at Parent Teacher Conferences next week. If you do not have Parent Portal Access, please contact our main office at 410-934-1444 or email Mrs. Ruiz at [aruiz@aacps.org](mailto:aruiz@aacps.org).

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for next week, Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13. Please note, students will not attend class on these days. Instead our teachers are hoping to meet with every family to discuss progress and partner for success. If you have not yet scheduled a conference, contact your child's teacher or the main office to make an appointment.

We are very excited to see our new Prekindergarten program grow each week! This MSDE grant funded program is an incredible resource to the community. We can continue accepting enrollment in our program through December. We have both tuition-free and tuition paid seats available, depending on income eligibility. Please contact Mr. Turner ([turnerb@childrensguild.org](mailto:turnerb@childrensguild.org)), Director of Admissions for more information! If you know of a family with a 4-year-old child, send them our way! Great things are happening in PreK and this important program helps students enter kindergarten prepared for maximum success!

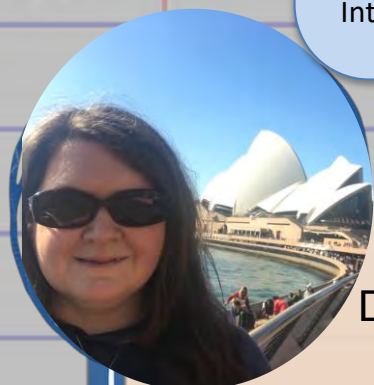
On Saturday, our PTA held its first virtual general meeting and had a good turn out! We encourage you to join the PTA and to participate in the meetings, committees, and other opportunities to partner with our school. Be on the lookout for information about an evening opportunity coming up this month focused on mental health supports for students and families.

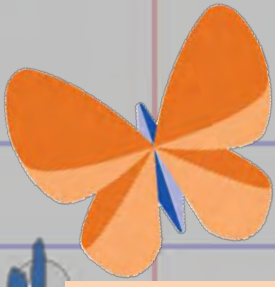
Also, this month, you will begin to see opportunities for extracurricular clubs! All opportunities will be virtual for the time being. We are expanding our approach to include a variety of types and formats of clubs. We are always seeking to expand our offerings; if you or someone you know might be interested in providing a unique experience for our students, please connect with Ms. Kate McFaul at [mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org](mailto:mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org) for more information!

We sincerely appreciate your partnership and support of Monarch Academy Annapolis. Great things are happening at our school! To see more of the awesomeness, keep an eye on social media and stay connected with us.

Have a fabulous October!

**Sincerely, Ms. Rachel  
Amstutz**





# \*UPDATES from Mr. Clapper!\*

## **Devices Update**

Our school is continuing to work with The Children's Guild to secure and distribute devices to all of our families that request one. While we have not yet achieved this goal, we are working to contact families as quickly as possible once more devices become available. If you have not yet completed our survey and need a device, please complete the survey below. Please include the names of your students in your responses.

[English](#)

[Espanol](#)

## **Free and Reduced Meals Application**

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the Free and Reduced Meals Application. This application allows students who qualify to receive Free or Reduced meal prices. Families who receive benefits from it must apply each year. This application is very important to the school and we want all families, even if you think you will not qualify, to complete the application. Monarch Academy Annapolis is a Targeted Title I school. We receive additional funding based on the number of students that qualify. This funding helps provide staff, family events, and materials that benefit our identified students. We will also be doing a classroom incentive for the class in each grade level that has the highest rate of completed applications. If you still need to, please complete the application today at the link below!

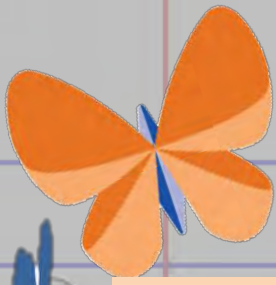
[Free and Reduced Meals Application](#)

## **iReady Testing**

All students in grades K-5 are currently taking the iReady diagnostic. This diagnostic is not a high-stakes test, but a way for your child's teacher to determine their current academic levels. This data allows the teacher to provide instruction that will be on your child's level. Please be sure to encourage your child to do the best work they can do. Students will take both a Reading and Math diagnostic. We want to make this a low-stress experience. If your child needs to take breaks or needs to work on it at additional times beyond what the teacher initially schedules, that is ok. We want all students to finish both the reading and math sections and to feel good about the effort and energy they have put into doing their best.

## **Supply Pick-Up**

Monarch Academy Annapolis has so far done 2 different school supplies pick-ups. The first pick-up was conducted in late August and the second was in mid September. We are still awaiting the arrival of a few more items and will be scheduling a final materials pick-up once those items arrive. If you missed either of the first two pick-ups and want to get those materials, please email Mr. Clapper at [bclapper@aacps.org](mailto:bclapper@aacps.org) to schedule a time.



# \*UPDATES from Mr. Johnson\*

## **Building Access Updates**

At Monarch Academy Annapolis, we value your safety! Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors are currently allowed in the building by appointment only. All visitors must wear a mask and maintain all social distancing protocols. Students and children are not allowed to enter the building unless they are a part of our before and after care program facilitated by the YMCA. In order to minimize interactions, we are currently asking that visitors remain outside for our supply and instrument pickups. Thank you for your cooperation as we help to maintain the health and safety of our staff and community!

## **Emergency Card Verification Report Update**

The Emergency Card Verification Report contains information that we have on file for your child. At the beginning of each academic year, we ask our families to read the information carefully, make any necessary changes, and return the report to the school. A section of the Emergency Card Verification Report is to inform parents about activities for which the school system needs permission. Generally, this section includes information about the Youth Tobacco and Risk Survey, Release of Information to Military Recruiters, Use of Social Media, and a Media Release. You can indicate whether you wish to allow your child to be interviewed, videotaped, or photographed for stories done by AACPS and outside sources. Please note that the Emergency Card Verification Report also allows you to update contact and transportation information. If you have any questions or need assistance with Emergency Verification Reports, please contact Ms. Nyia Curtis via [ncurtis@aacps.org](mailto:ncurtis@aacps.org) or 410-934-1444.

## **Attendance Updates**

To be successful, students must attend school regularly. Parents can encourage proper attendance by ensuring that their child:

- gets enough rest
- eats a healthy breakfast
- has adequate time to log-in to school.

Monarch Academy Annapolis uses Blackboard (formerly Connect-ED), an automated telephone notification system that phones the homes of absentees. There are lawful reasons for absence from school. Whenever your child is absent, you must provide a note of explanation to the school within three days of your child's return to school. Absences due to illness in excess of five consecutive days require a physician's note. School counselors and pupil personnel workers are available to assist families in situations where students are having difficulty with school attendance. A student who is lawfully absent will be allowed to make up work within a reasonable number of days and will receive credit for that work. A student who is illegally absent will also be allowed to make up work. In certain cases, where extenuating circumstances exist, the principal may recommend awarding credit for those assignments. If your child is going to be out of school for an extended time, you should call the school immediately to make plans for instruction. Students who are out of school for an extended time may be eligible to receive home and hospital instruction. If you have any questions or need assistance with Attendance at Monarch Academy Annapolis, please contact Ms. Nyia Curtis via [ncurtis@aacps.org](mailto:ncurtis@aacps.org) or 410-934-1444.



## \*Important Dates\*

### Coming up in October:

**10/5** Virtual Band/String and Chorus Classes start!!

**10/7** Parents and Primary Years Program (PYP) Night! (Grades 3-5)

**10/9** Interims to be sent home

**10/12** Parent/Teachers Conferences

**10/13** Parent/Teachers Conferences

**10/14** Parents and Primary Years Program (PYP) Night! (Pre-K-2)

## \*Important Resources\*

[Coronavirus Information and Updates can be found here.](https://health.maryland.gov/coronavirus)

<https://health.maryland.gov/coronavirus>

Not receiving digital communication from us? Please let us know immediately!

[MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com)

- [MAA Virtual School Link](#)
- [AACPS Families Resources](#)
- [AACPS Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#)
- [Digital 2020-2021 AACPS Calendar](#)

## COOLING DOWN

### Meltdowns with De-Escalation

Meltdowns are stressful for anyone involved. They may seem unpredictable but usually there is a clear pattern for the before, during and after. Some call this "The Escalation Cycle." Knowing this about your child can help prevent some of those nasty meltdowns.

#### De-Escalation Strategies

- ◇ Do not try to reason with them
- ◇ Do not yell over top of a screaming child
- ◇ Validate their feelings not their actions
- ◇ Be aware of your body language / facial expressions
- ◇ Silence
- ◇ Movement break or a walk
- ◇ Distraction
- ◇ Deep breathing exercises

Want more? Check out the full article at <https://hes-extraordinary.com/de-escalation-techniques>



#### Cool Down Corners

Zen Zone, Antarctica, Calming Corner. Regardless of the name, they are a great tool for kids and adults. They look a little different in each classroom but can be used at home too! A cool down corner should be a safe, comfy space to sit in and process your emotions.

## "Special Celebration Moments"

**Welcome everyone! You have entered the MAA Diversity in ACTION Zone.** Be certain to put on your hat of creativity because it is time to celebrate a special moment in YOUR life. You can celebrate anyone, anything, or any event that is important to you and celebrates diversity. I wonder what you will find when you research an important event/person that shares your birthday. There is a world of cool things for you to learn about. So, let's get started and don't forget to share all the cool things you learn! They just might be announced on the morning announcements!

Also, feel free to contact our MAA Media Center for lots of cool ways to get information about your "Special Celebration Moments."

<https://forms.gle/CH6Uz2AEph6AcKYdA>

**Grade 5:** Where we Are in Place and Time with the central idea: *Journeys and explorations are a part of human progress.*



## **\*Literacy in October\***

Literacy lessons are off to a great start at Monarch Annapolis! Students are engaging in Interactive Read Aloud lessons, Explicit Comprehension lessons, and are learning to use some of our new digital subscriptions. Through Clever, students will be able to access a digital library called Literacy Pro with over 2,300 e-books! Primary students in Grades PreK-2 will be starting a journey to Ooka Island through Scholastic FIRST in order to help support their reading instruction. Keep your eye out for these exciting new programs.

**Happy Reading!**

## **\*Parent Portal\***

The halfway point of the first quarter of the school year is this Friday, October 9, 2020. Traditionally at the mid-point of each marking period first through fifth grade students would come home with an Interim Progress Report from school so that parents/guardians are aware of how their child is progressing at that point in the quarter. This marking period physical or virtual copies of these reports will not be distributed to families.

Instead, parents/guardians of students in first grade and above are encouraged to register for and regularly monitor the progress of their child(ren) using Parent Portal. Parent Portal is a real-time application that connects directly to the gradebooks of your child's instructional team. You can log onto this app and monitor their progress from a computer or phone.

Directions for registering for and accessing your Parent Portal account are found on the AACPS Student-Parent Portal Webpage and are also linked below. If you are creating an account for the first time, please call the school at 410-934-1444 to get the user ID and access code for your child. (This is not the same code they use for instruction daily).

We hope you find Parent Portal to be a user-friendly tool for monitoring progress as we approach mid-marking period and throughout the school year.

[Student/Parent Portal](#)

[Establishing a Parent Portal Account \(English\)](#)

[Establishing a Parent Portal Account \(Spanish\)](#)

[An Overview to Navigating Parent Portal \(English\)](#)

[An Overview to Navigating Parent Portal \(Spanish\)](#)



Monarch Academy Annapolis



## October Spirit Days!

Building a positive school climate (even in the virtual platform) is one of our many goals here at Monarch Academy Annapolis. As an educational team we want our students and staff to show up for E-Learning with an excitement for knowledge, teaching, and being an active service member of our community. Our monthly "Spirit Days" are just one way for our students to positively participate in something that makes our community great!

**Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>****MAA School Spirit Day!**

\*students and staff are asked to wear our MAA school colors (orange, yellow, blue, & white) or spirit gear (if you have it) to show our excitement for Monarch Academy Annapolis!

**Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>****"Fall into E-Learning" Spirit Day!**

\*students and staff are asked to wear their favorite Fall colors/outfit



# 2020 Harvest for the Hungry



**GIVE WHERE  
YOU LIVE**

**October 1st – November 25th**

*Together we can unite to fight hunger  
in Anne Arundel County!*

**#AllMeansAll #WeAreBetterTogether**

- ▶ Food insecurity impacts a child's ability to learn
- ▶ Every dollar collected is equivalent to 8 pounds of food
- ▶ COVID-19 increased the number of needy families in our community
- ▶ 1 in 8 families in Anne Arundel County struggle with food insecurity

Your monetary donation will make a difference for families throughout our schools & community.

To donate go to: [www.aacps.org/harvest](http://www.aacps.org/harvest)

Proceeds benefit the Anne Arundel County Food & Resource Bank

**Kids Helping Kids**  
Virtual Campaign

# \*Tech Corner\*



**High-speed  
Internet from  
Comcast, so you  
can be ready for  
anything.**

**internet»  
essentials**  
FROM COMCAST

## Internet Essentials from Comcast

Internet Essentials from Comcast brings affordable, high-speed Internet to your home so you can have greater access to homework, job opportunities, healthcare and benefits, education resources, and more. **When you're connected, you're ready for anything.**

# \$9.95

Per Month + Tax

No Contract  
No Credit Check  
No Installation Fee  
In-Home WiFi

**Apply Now!**

InternetEssentials.com  
**1-855-8-INTERNET**  
**(1-855-846-8376)**

## You may qualify if you:

- 1 Are eligible for public assistance programs like the National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others.
- 2 Live in an area where Comcast Internet Service is available.
- 3 Have not subscribed to Comcast Internet within the last 90 days.
- 4 Have no outstanding debt to Comcast that is less than one year old.



## Low-cost computer

Once you are an Internet Essentials customer, you have the option to purchase a laptop or desktop computer for only

**\$149.99 + Tax**



## In-Home WiFi Included

Limited access to

**Xfinity WiFi hotspots**

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Limited to Internet Essentials service for new residential customers meeting certain eligibility criteria. Advertised price applies to a single outlet. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. After initial participation in the Internet Essentials program, if a customer is determined to be no longer eligible for the program and elects a different Xfinity Internet service, regular rates will apply to the selected Internet service. Subject to Internet Essentials program terms and conditions. WiFi Hotspots: Available in select locations. Requires compatible WiFi-enabled laptop or mobile device. Limited to forty 60-minute sessions per 30-day period per person/account. If session is terminated before 60 mins, remaining time expires. Unlited time does not carry over to subsequent sessions or 30-day periods. Not responsible for lost data resulting from terminated Internet session or any other reason. A maximum of up to 10 devices may be registered to a single Xfinity WiFi On Demand account. May not be combined with other offers. Call 1-855-846-8376 for restrictions and complete details, or visit InternetEssentials.com. © 2019 Comcast. All rights reserved. BSG-PPD-BIL-0819



## Important Dates

**October 3rd** – 7PM General PTA Meeting Via Google Meets

**October 18th** – 7PM In person Parking lot vote for PTA Members (Vote on bylaws, budget, and positions)

**October 21st** – 7:30PM – Virtual Event –Mental Health and social and emotional wellbeing of children during COVID Via Google Meets

**October 28th** Submissions due for pumpkin decorating/carving contest

