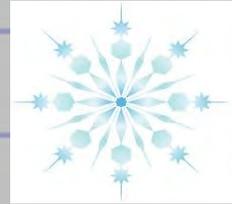


\* Your monthly guide to school news, information and events.



# THE Monarch Annapolis CHRYSA LIS

## What's Inside

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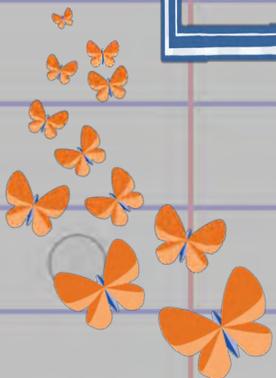
*Tech Corner* page 11

**Happy New Year! ☺**  
 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

## \*January 2021\*

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
				1 ---Winter Break---
4 Schools Open	5	6	7	8 MAA Spirit Day- Comfy Day!
11	12	13	14	15 MAA Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration
18 Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commemoration	19	20	21	22 MAA Spirit Day-Twin Day!
25	26	27	28 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Two-hour early dismissal	29 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Two-hour early dismissal



## 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,

Happy New Year! Here's to an amazing 2021!

At the end of this month, we mark the halfway point in this school year. While it's an unusual year, we are so thankful to have your family at Monarch Annapolis and to have your partnership in both your child's education and continuing to grow our young school into an amazing educational institution.

We wanted to share with you the big initiatives we are working on in our school improvement plan this year. Each year, all schools in our county create a plan to help focus efforts and determine priorities. This year's planning took a little longer than usual as we adjusted to virtual learning, consider hybrid learning, and work with limited data sources and options to measure our progress. Our plan this year has four main areas—1) Academic 2) Social Emotional 3) Attendance and 4) Community/Stakeholder Involvement. We have identified an ambitious plan in each of these important areas and are diligently working towards each of these goals. The action items in each of these goal areas are outlined on page 9 in the newsletter.

Another important initiative, aligned to our School Improvement Plan and supported by the Innovative grant funds we received earlier this year, is coming up! We are hosting a Family Bootcamp in winter to provide families with a variety of virtual workshops to offer you tools to support your child's education, to answer questions, and to ensure you are prepared for the second half of the year. This event will be modeled after an awesome event we hosted for teachers in early December. There will be five broad themes—including Academics, Social Emotional, Unique Learner Needs, General School Info, and Technology with many sessions in each area. We appreciate your responses to our recent survey to help us tailor the event to your needs. We will get you the date/time shortly and more information will be coming soon!

Finally, we are continuing to prepare for a return to learning in the hybrid model as soon as it is safe to do so. We have launched several committees to dig deeper into each area: building/operations, schedules, health, communications/protocols, renorming behavior expectations, and academics. We will provide updates each month to keep you informed of our plans.

We are so thankful for your partnership in this virtual learning environment. We are here if you need us! Please reach out at the school – 410-934-1444- or by email at [ramstutz@aacps.org](mailto:ramstutz@aacps.org).

Happy January!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rachel Amstutz

# \*UPDATES from Mr. Clapper!\*



## **iReady**

Students will be taking a second round of iReady diagnostics in February. Dates will be determined soon and shared with families in January. Teachers will schedule time during the instructional day for students to complete the diagnostics. The diagnostics help to show the growth that your child has made thus far in the year by comparing the results with their beginning of the year results. There will be one additional round of diagnostic assessments done before the end of the school year.

## **Devices Update**

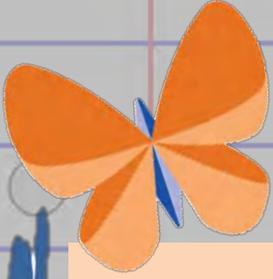
We have been informed a large amount of devices will be coming to Monarch Academy Annapolis before students return to school in January. While we don't know the exact arrival day, we expect to receive enough to provide devices for students that need one. If your child still needs a device, please complete the survey below. Please fill it out for each child who needs a device and currently does not have a school issued device. We will start contacting families about pick-up as soon as they are available.

[English](#)

[Espanol](#)



# \*UPDATES from Mr. Johnson\*



## **Building Access Update**

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 or testing. We are still asking that visitors remain outside for any assistance that they need. In addition, there is also construction going on in our building. These updates are below:

- Construction on the main level, adding classrooms where the county library had been, is almost complete!
- The construction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (the penthouse) is continuing and will now have two phases, one part now and one part that will occur over the summer.
- Construction on the property adjacent to us is progressing rapidly! Here's a [blog update about it with a picture!](#)

## **Emergency Cards**

Thank you to all the families who have turned in their child's Emergency Cards! Currently, we are still missing cards for some of our students. Emergency Cards contain information that we have on file for your child. If we do not have your child's card, Ms. Nyia Curtis will be sending the card to your home address this month. We ask that you please send it back to us so that we can have the correct information in your child's file. If you have any questions or issues, please contact Ms. Nyia Curtis via [ncurtis@aacps.org](mailto:ncurtis@aacps.org) or 410-934-1444.

## **Attendance**

Our Attendance team is continuing to work closely with our administration to remove all barriers to Virtual Learning so that every student is available and ready for learning each day. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open with **ALL** families with regards to daily on-time attendance. As we progress into the tail end of this school year, we are going to continue to send attendance letters home to our students that have known patterns of unlawful absences. A list of what would be considered a lawful absence is below:

### **Lawful Absences**

- Death in the family
- Illness
- Religion holiday
- Suspension
- State emergency
- Hazardous weather conditions
- Work approved or sponsored by the school
- Lack of authorized transportation (excluding students suspended from bus for disciplinary reasons)
- A visit with a parent/guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.
- Pregnant and parenting needs (student)
- Other emergency or circumstance approved by the Superintendent

If you would like to provide documentation that would excuse your child's absences, please use this link to our Attendance Notes Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSHFJL5IOUEpoS0KqaLmdw4xAUXPCV2AkJIO\\_YaOKBBsW5Lg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSHFJL5IOUEpoS0KqaLmdw4xAUXPCV2AkJIO_YaOKBBsW5Lg/viewform).

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.

**SAFETY FIRST**

# \*Important Dates\*

## Coming up in January:

1/1- Winter Break  
 1/4- School opens  
 1/8- MAA Spirit Day- Comfy Day!  
 1/15-MAA Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration  
 1/18- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commemoration  
 1/22- MAA Spirit Day- Twin Day!  
 1/28- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
 1/28- Two-hour early dismissal  
 1/29- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
 1/29- Two-hour early dismissal

# \*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](#)

● [AACPS Food and Nutrition Services](#)

# Student Support

## Virtual Student Support Center

The Student Support Team wanted to remind students and families about the Virtual Student Support Center. This month we wanted to highlight the Parent Help Me Form. Please fill out this form if you have any questions or concerns about your student. We will be able to support you or get you in touch with the right person.

### To access the Virtual Student Support Center:

- Open the virtual school: <https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/virtualmaa/>
- Click "To Classrooms"
- Click "Student Support"
- Click on the door – welcome to our offices (contact & parent forms are here)
- To get to the student access page click "Student Access to the Virtual SSC"

[Direct Link to the Virtual Student Support Center](#)

## Cultural Fact Collection

As you know on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings we celebrate ALL CULTURES on the morning announcements.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We are looking for anyone that wants to celebrate a cultural fact. Your fact might just be shared on the morning announcements! You could share anything from highlighting a country, a dish, a word/phrase, a famous person, ANYTHING that connects to a culture/heritage you want to celebrate.

All students and families are welcome to participate. Facts will be announced on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We will be giving shout outs for students whose facts are announced.

Sign Up Link: <https://forms.gle/f8dG7Baj9QG9PygU6>

## eClubs

This year we are working hard to offer a variety of club opportunities for our students. If you have a club you would like to share with our students, please reach out to Kate McFaul at [mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org](mailto:mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org)

Also, we are currently looking for volunteers who would want to help with the expansion of the Black History (BH365!) Club. Please let me know if you have any interest!

# Student Support



STUDENT SUPPORT

### \*MAA Diversity in ACTION Zone\*

Hello Amazing Monarch Academy Parents!

#### What is Diversity in ACTION?

Diversity in ACTION is MAA's way of respectfully celebrating and sharing each other's differences through cultural diversity.

We invite everyone to the 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 diverse and important to you and your family. For example, you might want to celebrate:

- Famous person you share a birthday with.
- Special event that takes place on your birthday.
- Match a special day in history with a special day in your life.
- Who's Who in your life?
- Who's Who in your culture?

There is a world of cool things for you to learn about. So, let's get started and sign up below and maybe you can share your important fact on the Morning Announcements.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz2dF\\_RECVtJ4Flq3Ozsj9WgGKMgvq5pEh6m0pyZqMOQqacw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz2dF_RECVtJ4Flq3Ozsj9WgGKMgvq5pEh6m0pyZqMOQqacw/viewform)

Sincerely,  
Mr. Rowel



### \*Literacy in December\*

Happy New Year of Reading!

The Literacy Team has lots of new announcements for January! First, we want to welcome our newest little reader – Mrs. Good welcomed her son, Theo George Good, on December 5, 2020!



While she is on maternity leave, retired Literacy Teacher Vicki Dundics will be filling in as her long-term substitute. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Dundics to our team!

As always, if your child wants to share what they are reading – please email Ms. Nash [cnash@aacps.org](mailto:cnash@aacps.org) or Ms. Dundics [vdundics@aacps.org](mailto:vdundics@aacps.org) and you can get a shout out on the morning announcements.

**HAPPY READING!**



1973R401



## Happy Holidays from around the World!

*Joyeuses Fêtes! Felices Fiestas! Trevlig Helg! Boas Festas! Mutlu Bayramlar! Sarbatori Fericate! Jie Ri Yu Kuai Bones Festes! Tanoshii kurisumasu wo! Buone Feste! li holide eximnandi Forhe Feiertag Prettige feestdagen Hau'oli Lanu Beannachtaí na Féil Vesele Praznik Selamat Hari Raya retni praznici!*

Infusing diverse perspectives is a hallmark of a quality PYP Program. Across all grades in 2020, we saw teachers open their (google) classroom doors wide to outside experiences to enhance student learning. Sometimes these multi-cultural experiences came through our deepening relationship with the excellent Meg Languages teachers who have been teaching us Spanish this year. Notice I say "us" in this example. The rich Spanish language instruction has been enjoyed by adults and kids alike within the Monarch Annapolis community, underscoring our commitment to be a community that *learns together*.

Through the strange world of virtual learning, great connections between parents and our instructional content led to guest speakers and resource suggestions. Parents and teachers worked more closely together in 2020. Virtual sharing and guest speakers removed logistical challenges and we have enjoyed speakers, such as NASA scientists in 5th grade and even family members who are veterans in 3rd grade. As a community, our SEL team launched cultural fact shares in our morning announcements and our newly created Diversity in Action (DIA) committee is on the ground creating events like our Holiday Read Aloud on December 22nd and providing opportunity for curriculum review to ensure equitable representation in the subjects we teach.

As we close out this difficult year in education, it is important to see the "wins" such as our **strengthened sense of community and the incredible creativity and commitment shown by Monarch Academy Annapolis teachers**. Our PYP curriculum is designed to stoke student curiosity, be relevant and encourage action. Our teachers made this happen in 2020 and more.

Taking a final peek back at PYP in 2020, I also share the MAA [Learning Together](#) webpages capturing our schoolwide Covid-19 Inquiry, [Creativity Happens](#), and other ways we sprang into action to provide our students rich learning opportunities aligned with our PYP and Tranzed 8 values".

Thank you for being a part of our learning community at Monarch in 2020! And part of our global learning community through [IB](#). Onward to 2021.

Sincerely,  
Mathilde Coyle

## Monarch Academy Annapolis

# JANUARY Spirit Days!

Building a positive school climate is one of our many goals here at Monarch Academy Annapolis. As an educational team we want our students and staff to come to Virtual Learning each day with an excitement for learning, 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, January 8th

Comfy Day!

\*students wear sweat suits; sweat pants; and sweatshirts for a "comfy day" at school!



Friday, January 22nd

Twin Day!

\*students and staff find a partner and dress alike for the day



## Hip Hip Hooray it's Twin Day!!

END

SUBS TOOLS

# SCHOOL INFORMATION



Monarch Academy  
**ANNAPOLIS** 2020-2021  
POWERED BY TEAMWORK WITH EDUCATION

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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### ACADEMICS

- Differentiation
- Master Scheduling
- Formative Assessment:
- Creating tasks with student choice, voice, and depth and complexity.




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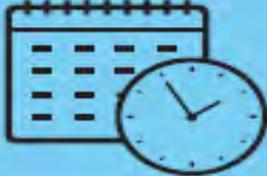
### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

- Expectations for active learning
- Morning Meeting, daily, using Responsive Classroom structures
- Implement Second Step lessons
- Implement MTSS Tier 2-3 intervention structures and supports

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### ATTENDANCE

- Increase attendance across the school and for targeted students
- Decrease the % of students with chronic absenteeism rates (10%+)
- Collaborate with families and students to identify and eliminate barriers to increase engagement.




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### COMMUNITY/ STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Increase communication with stakeholders, using a variety of methods
- Increase retention of highly effective & effective staff
  - Increase the diversity of new hires
- Host regular community and cultural events
- Launch the Monarch Annapolis Family Advisory Board
- Increase resources and supports for families including food, training opportunities, technology training
- Develop and expand community partnerships
- Increase culturally responsive knowledge and practices




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**EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION FOR EVERY LEARNER!**



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

# HEALTH ROOM

HEALTH ROOM HELLO!



Friendly reminder:

Please turn in any missing physical or lead forms if you have not already! This will help the health room and school staff know about your children and prepare us for their return to the building. (email [nurse6123@aacps.org](mailto:nurse6123@aacps.org))

## IS IT A COLD OR FLU?

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

*What's happening?:*  
 \* January is national winter sports head and neck injury awareness month

*Preventing head injuries during winter activities such as skating, skiing, snowboarding, sledding*

- ✓ Wear a helmet
- ✓ Take lessons first
- ✓ Supervise children
- ✓ Assess trail/rink/hill prior
- ✓ Avoid overly crowded areas
- ⊘ Do not go off paths/designated trails
- ⊘ Avoid risky behavior



*Quote of the month:*  
 "Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud"  
 Maya Angelou

# HEALTH ROOM

