



MAURY
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Family Handbook

2023–2024 School Year

Leah Hassler, Principal • Andrew Lardell, Assistant Principal

Social Emotional Learning - Equity - Personalized Learning



Dear Maury Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Get ready for another year of joyful learning experiences for Maury students. Our students impressed us with tremendous academic and social-emotional growth last school year, and we cannot wait to continue to build on that work this year. Their elementary school experience is only the beginning of their lifelong journey of learning and contributing to the world, but we aim for it to be a special time to learn in a safe and supportive environment around caring adults and empathetic and curious classmates.

We will continue to focus on social-emotional learning, equity, and academics as our top three priorities. More specifically, our staff will engage in professional development to support enhancing our inclusive school community. This includes implementing the most effective ways to create welcoming learning spaces and to use instructional strategies that support students in the individual ways they learn best. It also means partnering with families to have ongoing conversations about student progress and how we can help to create a positive school experience.

We are eager to have a great school year and to watch our students continue to grow as learners and leaders. We look forward to seeing families at many school events this year.

Sincerely,

Leah Hassler, Principal



Andrew Lardell, Assistant Principal



About Maury Elementary School

Maury Elementary School is a vibrant community of learners, thinkers, creators, and achievers. Our community-based school provides inquiry-based learning experiences, arts enrichment, and academic programs that help students discover their potential. Through work and play, we support each student's growth and development, encouraging self-empowerment, high achievement, and a passion for learning. Maury embraces the diversity within our school and community, and promotes strong connections among our students, staff, parents, and volunteers.

Programming offered at Maury includes music, art, science, health and physical education, and library/media for all grades, Spanish language and culture, as well as creative movement in the early childhood classrooms.

Maury's enrollment for the 2023–2024 school year is approximately 550 students, with class sizes ranging from 16–28 students. Each classroom has a full-time or part-time aide. Maury's active PTA works to engage families and the neighborhood in all aspects of school life. Parents are always welcome and are invited to work closely with teachers to ensure that each child receives the support needed to succeed.

National Blue Ribbon School - 2020

Maury was designated an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School for 2020, one of three DC Public Schools that year. Schools receiving this award are recognized for both challenging academics and providing a welcoming and safe learning environment.

Ashoka Changemaker School

Since 2013, Maury has been a Changemaker School with Ashoka. Through this initiative, schools prioritize the cultivation of empathy, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving in their students, so they may become changemakers. These values are infused through all of our activities—every student, every day. Learn more at: www.ashoka.org.

History

Maury Elementary School was built in 1886 and has been in continuous operation for over 130 years. In August 2019, Maury completed a modernization project and opened doors to its current school building.

Mission and Values

Mission

Maury Elementary School offers a nurturing environment to its community of involved learners, fostering creativity, cultivating curiosity, and forming lasting connections to develop self-empowered citizens.

Values

We believe that each child has an inherent right to an education. It is our intent that he or she will develop his or her maximum capabilities, in an environment that respects and supports the diversity within our community.

At Maury, we believe that each child has the ability to learn, regardless of the rate of learning. Therefore, we pledge to meet this challenge by providing a comprehensive educational program in an atmosphere that is open and responsive to the needs of our students.

We believe in an inquiry-based environment where students must use critical and analytical thinking. We believe that hands-on learning in various settings is a crucial part of learning. Our caring staff attends to each student's learning style to help him or her succeed.

Our “Five Stances” (empathy, flexibility, optimism, resilience and persistence) define the characteristics that we hope to instill in our students.

Traditions

The Maury community is rich with traditions that provide continuity and positive rituals for our children. Parents are welcome to attend school community events and share ideas to make events even better or to create new traditions!

School Slogan: “Empowering Minds Today, Developing the Citizens of Tomorrow!”

School Colors: White and Royal Blue (uniform is white/navy)

School Mascot: The Maury Cougar

School Logo: The Maury Community Tree

School Song: “Dear Maury Elementary” By Rothel Carter (Lyrics below)

*Dear Maury Elementary, to thee we'll e'er be true.
We are so proud to wear your colors, white and royal blue.
Constantly we're striving, to do the best we can.
Dear Maury Elementary, for thee we'll always
stand. Dear Maury Elementary, to thee we'll
e'er be true.
For guidance and good leadership; oh how we love you.
Achieving goals successfully, for this you are grand.
Dear Maury Elementary, for thee we'll always stand.*

Daily Student Schedule

7:15 AM	Polite Piggy's opens for students registered for before care only at Constitution Ave.
8:15 AM	Breakfast arrival only. Entrances are 13th St. (PK-1st) and Constitution Ave. (2nd-5th).
8:30 AM	Morning arrival begins for students not eating breakfast. Students must enter at 13th St. or Constitution before entering the playground for morning recess and line up. (The paper health screening at the door is no longer required.)
8:40 AM	Bell rings to start the school day; teachers escort K-5 students from playground to class.
MIDDAY	Lunch/Recess (Times vary by grade.)
3:15 PM	Bell rings for dismissal from the playground and multipurpose room. Polite Piggy's aftercare and afterschool activities begin.
6:00 PM	Polite Piggy's aftercare ends.

Arrival Procedures

Classroom hours are 8:40 AM–3:15 PM for all students. Please help your child arrive at school on time to ensure he/she receives full instruction and to minimize disruption to other students.

Drop off. As we grow in enrollment, we have limited space and available supervision for those not in beforecare during the morning drop-off time. Early arrival is encouraged for students eating breakfast (starting at 8:15 AM) only. Students in staff-supervised school activities may have a time arranged slightly before 8:15 AM. **Please do not drop off or encourage your child to arrive before 8:15 AM when there will be no supervision as staff prepares for the school day unless your child is enrolled in beforecare with Polite Piggy's.** A 10-minute morning recess starts at 8:30 AM and is also an opportunity for early drop off for students not eating breakfast. They will need to enter the school on the 13th Street side or on Constitution for health screening, not 12th Place.

PK3/PK4 students enter through 13 St. and eat in the Discovery Commons; All other students eat in the cafeteria or grade-specific areas. Due to stricter guidelines with signing in and the supervision of early childhood students, PK3/PK4 students do not attend the morning recess with the larger group. **Students not eating breakfast should plan to arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 a.m.**

Getting to the classroom. No later than 8:40 AM, Kindergarten–Grade 5 students line up by classes outside or in the multipurpose room in assigned spaces. Adults will give a hug and wave, and teachers will escort students to classes. Students will head straight to the classroom from the entrances during inclement weather.

Tardy arrivals. After the 8:40 AM line-up, all students must enter through the main door on Constitution Ave. for arrival. Any student arriving to school after 8:55 AM must report to the office for a “tardy slip” before going to the classroom; students will not be admitted to class without one for attendance tracking purposes. Parents escorting a child into the building for late drop-offs will be asked to sign in at the security desk as part of security procedures. Tardy arrivals are reported on a child’s school record.

Attendance issues can impact student academic performance and will require a parent conference. If not addressed, it may result in consequences under attendance policies and DC law.

Dismissal Procedures

Students are dismissed from different exits, depending on grade levels:

Walkers (with written permission sent to maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov) in upper grade levels can walk with siblings (K-5) with written permission. They will dismiss from Constitution Ave. This group includes car riders where the adult driver is using the express lane quick pick-up option on Constitution Ave to alleviate traffic around neighborhood streets.

- PK3 and PK4 students are dismissed starting at 3:10 PM on the basketball court (**new location for 2022-23**). Parents or an approved adult (with written permission) must sign out students in these grades. Siblings cannot sign out PK students.
- Kindergarten–1st grade dismisses from the multipurpose room (enter from playground).
- 2nd-5th grades dismiss at designated spots on the playground.

Please pick up your child promptly at 3:15pm. Unless there is a scheduled appointment, please allow your student to remain in class until the end of the day. **NEW FOR 23-24 SY:**

There will be no early dismissal after 2:30 pm to reduce classroom interruptions. All students enrolled in afterschool programs will be escorted by an adult from their classroom to their program.

Inclement weather. Unless otherwise noted, students will be dismissed from the multipurpose room in waves. Please provide space at entrances to allow students to exit the building.

Identification

During the first week of school, identification will be required to pick up a child from PK3 or PK4 from regular school dismissal. Afterward, any person who does not pick up the child regularly will be required to show identification, and the teacher/main office will need to check the dismissal verification form on file for the child to verify the parents' approval of the person picking up. If permission cannot be verified, the person will be unable to pick up the child. (If a name listed on the dismissal verification form changes, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to update the form accordingly.) In Kindergarten through

Grade 5, staff may request identification for unfamiliar adults as well for safety. This is a safety measure, and we want to make sure that all Maury Cougars get to the right place with the right person!

Emergency. In an emergency, a parent may give permission via e-mail to maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov and the student's teacher, or by calling the main office at (202) 698-3838. Please ensure that an office contact (such as the Maury Attendance email) is notified in addition to your child's teacher who might not see the message while teaching.

Early/Late Pick Ups

Please do not pick up your child before dismissal at 3:15 PM unless there is an emergency or scheduled appointment; Please avoid early pick-ups after 2:30 p.m. to avoid classroom disruptions and so that your child can receive all assignments and notices at the end of the day. Please check in with the main office to sign your student out for all early or late pick-ups.

Dismissal to Polite Piggy's. At 3:35 PM, students not picked up may be dismissed to Polite Piggy's aftercare. Late pickups will incur a fee based on the following scale:

- 3:35–3:40 PM, \$5
- 3:35–3:45 PM, \$10
- 3:35–6:00 PM, \$25

Repeated late pickups will require formal registration in Polite Piggy's aftercare. In addition, repeated cases will be reported to Child and Family Services. If students are not formally registered with Polite Piggy's, emergency contacts will be called for pick-up if a parent cannot be reached. Upon pick-up, the adult must sign the child out in the late-pick up binder.

Children whose parents allow them to walk home by themselves must leave the school promptly after dismissal at 3:15 PM. Please submit your permission for student self-dismissal in writing to the main office at maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov. We do not recommend self-dismissal for students below fourth grade unless there is an older responsible sibling available to accompany the student. Older Maury students (4th/5th) may walk with younger siblings but PK3 and PK4 siblings can only be dismissed to a parent or an approved adult for dismissal. Only those students under parental supervision, in afterschool programs with staff, or in aftercare may remain on school grounds after dismissal.

Getting To and From School Safely

Adhering to these rules at all times is paramount to ensure safety.

Parking. For families who wish to accompany their children into school, cars should be parked on 13th Street NE (limited to 15 minutes). This is especially needed for the early childhood families that must sign their PK3/PK4 students into their classrooms. Please do not block crosswalks and practice patience with other parents during the busy times of arrival and dismissal.

Express Drop-off/Pick-Up. From 8:30–8:40 AM, you may also drop off your child (K–Grade 5 only) in the

Express Zone on Constitution Avenue NE in front of the school (heading west from 13th Street to 12th Place NE). **Staff will be posted to greet your child, but drivers should not exit their vehicles to keep traffic flowing.** If you arrive after 8:40 AM, you will need to park and escort your child into the building for sign-in. **Students who have written permission as walkers may meet parents or approved adult drivers at Constitution at the end of the day as well. Drivers should remain in their cars at dismissal as well.**

Walking. Walkers should cross streets only at corners. Adult crossing guards will assist pedestrians at the busy intersections of Constitution Avenue and 13th Street and C and 13th Streets. All children, even when supervised by a parent, are to cross streets only while the “walk” signal is on.

Bikes. Students may ride bikes to school. According to DC law, properly fitting helmets must be worn by all bike riders under the age of 16, including riders in bike seats or bike trailers. Maury requires that bikes be locked securely to the bike racks in front of the school building during the day to prevent thefts. The school is not responsible for damage or theft; parents are invited to register their child’s bike with the National Bike Registry (www.nationalbikeregistry.com) to assist police in the event of a theft. Bikes are not permitted to be ridden on the playground on school days until after 6:00pm (except for cycling units designated by the PE and health teachers during the day).

Scooters, skates, and skateboards. Scooters, skates, and skateboards must be locked up outside. Students must use helmets with these activities. We do not have indoor storage space.

Public transportation. The Kids Ride Free (KRF) program allows DC students to ride for free on Metrobus, the DC Circulator, and Metrorail within the District to get to and from school using the Kids Ride Free (KRF) SmarTrip card. KRF SmarTrip cards are typically valid until September 30 of the following school year. The new KRF SmarTrip card will be available before current KRF SmarTrip cards expire.

Parents and guardians can also arrange to pick up a replacement for lost cards in the main office once the school year begins.

Meals and Snacks

Maury is a nut-free and fish/shellfish-free school in response to documented severe allergies. No food or drinks that contain peanuts/tree nuts or were packaged/manufactured in a facility that handles or processes nuts will be allowed during the school year. Additional resources and information about food allergies and a list of food substitutes is located here:

<https://www.foodallergy.org/living-food-allergies/food-allergy-essentials/common-allergens/substitutions>

For 2023-2024, the Maury cafeteria will resume charging lunches to students’ lunch accounts on www.myschoolbucks.com. Lunches are \$3. Eligible families may apply for free or reduced lunches at dcps.dc.gov/farm. School breakfast and lunch menus are on display in the cafeteria and may also be downloaded from the DCPS website. Staff supervision is provided during all meals.

Breakfast

Breakfast is available to all Maury students, between 8:15–8:40 AM daily. Due to space, please only arrive for breakfast if your child plans to eat.

- PK3 and PK4: Breakfast is served in the early childhood Discovery Commons.
- Kindergarten–Grade 5: Breakfast is served in the cafeteria.

Lunch

For PK3 and PK4 students, lunch is served in the classroom; for Kindergarten–Grade 5, lunch is served in the cafeteria. Lunch periods are as follows:

- PK3 and PK4: Varies by class (see teacher)
- Kindergarten and Grade 1: 11:10–11:40 AM
- Grades 2 and 3: 11:40 AM–12:10 PM
- Grades 4 and 5: 12:10–12:40 PM

Payment. Payment can be made to the Food Service Manager in the cafeteria or by using the MySchoolBucks online service (www.myschoolbucks.com). Meals must be paid in advance to the cafeteria staff; each student's meal account is charged when they get lunch.

Free and reduced-price lunches are available to students who submit a Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) application and meet the income eligibility requirements. FARM applications are available in the main office or on the DCPS website at: dcps.dc.gov/farm.

Lunch from home. Please see above regarding allergy restrictions. Please pack healthy lunches that do not include candy/sweets or sodas. Additional food policies may be enacted based on medical need by individual classrooms. Please write your child's name on the outside of the lunch box/bag and all water bottles and food containers.

Food allergies. If your child has a food allergy, you must report it to the school nurse with doctor's instructions: tedmonds@childrensnational.org or 202-698-3834. In addition, please report the condition to your child's teacher and to your room parents for coordination of special events. The nurse and a group of trained staff can administer medication (Epipen, etc.) in case of an emergency or to support children in ongoing healthcare.

Snacks

Afternoon snacks are provided in the PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten classrooms. Snacks are provided by parents for the entire class on a rotating basis (usually twice a year), to be coordinated by each classroom. Snacks should also adhere to allergy restrictions. Teachers will contact parents directly regarding snacks.

Recess

Maury provides a 30-minute active recess period minimum into each school day. We believe that active recess is necessary to enhance student focus and learning, as well as enrich physical, social, and emotional development. Under DCPS policy, recess may not be withheld from a student; however, severe or repeated infractions against the recess rules could result in a loss of privilege or other school-based consequences.

Students will have outdoor recess except during inclement weather, which could include severe temperatures or rain that reduces visibility or makes slipping on equipment or surfaces more likely. We ask that you please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Grade levels may be assigned to separate areas to support a positive recess climate and safety.

Schedule

- PK3 and PK4: Before lunch and after nap (times vary)
- Kindergarten: 10:40am
- Grade 1: 11:40am
- Grade 2: 11:10am
- Grade 3: 12:10pm
- Grades 4 and 5: 12:40pm

Expectations

Students must abide by the following expectations to ensure safety at recess:

- Students must respect the adults on recess duty and follow recess expectations.
- All students must respect the personal space of others.
- Each child must notify a teacher or an adult on recess duty if there is an emergency, an injury, or a need to leave the playground or classroom for any reason.
- All students must respect the playground equipment and classroom materials.
- While outside, all students must use age-appropriate playground equipment properly (e.g. sliding down the slide, as opposed to walking or standing on the slide).
- All students must notify a teacher or an adult on duty if they find anything on the grounds of the playground (or classroom) that can pose risk of harm.
- Students must return balls and equipment to storage areas at the end

of recess. All teachers will go over the recess rules and playground safety with students regularly.

School Policies

Enrollment

All elementary school-age children (aged 5 and above as of September 30) residing in the Maury school boundaries, as well as those who have attended Maury during the previous school year, have a right to attend Maury Elementary School. Families living outside the Maury boundaries must apply through the My School DC Lottery before their first enrollment. Placements are made on a space-available basis through the lottery process.

Required Documents

All public school students in the District of Columbia are required to provide proof of their residency in the District or pay tuition. To enroll a child, it is required that you present each child's:

- Birth certificate
- Health records, including health certificate/immunizations and dental certificate
- Proof of residency

More information is available in the DCPS enrollment packet, available in the main office at Maury or on the DCPS website at: enrolldcps.dc.gov.

Early Childhood

Families may apply for admission to the Early Childhood program at Maury if their child meets the following age requirements by September 30 of the current school year:

- PK3: Three years old
- PK4: Four years old

Enrollment for all Early Childhood spots is handled by the My School DC Lottery; space is limited. Demand for the Early Childhood program and an influx of families into the Maury boundaries means that many applicants—even those who live in-bounds or have siblings attending Maury—will be placed on a waitlist. The waitlist is maintained by the school; parents will be notified promptly when space becomes available.

Attendance

The District of Columbia Compulsory School Attendance Law requires that children from the age of 5 be enrolled in and attend school regularly. Student attendance is monitored daily. An auto-dial (robocall) system is used to notify parents of unexcused absences. We also enforce that every student should be on time (no later than 8:40 AM) daily. **Please note that Covid-related absence updates apply and can be found on the DCPS website, or you can contact the school if you have questions.**

Absences

If your child will be tardy or absent, please e-mail maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov by 8:30 AM. Absences that do not have an e-mail or written excuse by 12:00 PM will be listed as an unexcused absence. The District specifies the following as valid reasons for absence from school:

- Illness of the student (a doctor's certificate is required for an absence of more than 4 days)
- Medical reasons such as a doctor's appointment (a doctor's certificate should be provided for medical appointments scheduled during the school day)
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Death in the student's immediate family

Family trips are not considered excused absences. Parents should send an e-mail to maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov, and it will be placed in the student's file for required recordkeeping of long-term absences. Because it is an unexcused absence, parents will still receive a robocall.

In accordance with the DCPS attendance policy, families have 5 days to provide a written excuse for an absence. Further documentation may be requested depending on the length of the absence. **After the 5- day period, absences are counted by DCPS as unexcused. DCPS will not change the unexcused status after that period.** Students are deemed chronically absent if they miss 10% or more school days and chronically truant if they have 10 or more unexcused absences.

Appointments

Please try to make all appointments for your child before or after school. If your child must leave early, only a parent, guardian, or adult designated by the parent or guardian may withdraw your child. Please call the main office or send a note to designate another person to pick up your child.

When early dismissal is necessary, students may be picked up in the main office after the early dismissal book has been signed by the parent or guardian on record.

Dress Code

All Maury students are expected to come to school wearing a uniform daily, unless the administration suspends uniform wearing for special occasions such as field trips, class reward or celebration days arranged by teachers, and other special programs (such as PTA uniform pass days). Parents are responsible for ensuring their child adheres to the uniform policy.

Uniform

The Maury uniform colors are navy and white. Students are expected to wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and for recess and physical education.

Bottoms. Navy pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses.

Tops. White or navy button-down collared shirt, polo shirt with collar, or Maury logo t-shirt.

White or navy sweaters or cardigans are permitted. NO: Plain t-shirts/undershirts as uniform shirts.

Uniform Bank. All families are encouraged to use the uniform bank, where parents can choose and donate used uniforms. If not out in the lobby, inquire in the school office for the location.

Footwear and Accessories

Casual shoes, sneakers, or sandals. Crocs are discouraged. NO: Open-toed sandals or flip-flops. Children may not wear hats in the building. Dangling earrings are not allowed for safety reasons.

Donations for Students in Need

Brand new school supplies and uniforms are also available for Maury students in need. To learn more, please contact the main office at (202) 698-3838 or e-mail patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov.

Early Childhood Readiness

Potty training. While potty training is not mandatory for children entering PK3 or PK4, parents are encouraged to work with their children on potty training before starting school. Our dedicated staff will work with each family to ensure that each developmentally ready child is fully potty-trained within the first six weeks of school. An extra pair of clothing in a plastic bag for the cubby is suggested for PK3, PK4 and Kindergarten.

Uniforms. All students are expected to be in uniform daily.

Attendance. All students should be able to attend school daily for the entire day. Consistent attendance in early childhood supports strong attendance and academic performance as students get older. We will work with your family in the case of challenges that we can support.

Health Policies

A School Health Nurse is on duty regularly from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM in the Health Suite, located on the first floor, or by phone depending on the DCPS nurse assignment schedule. The nurse is available for first aid, health screening, medication administration, and health education. Students must present a School Nurse Pass that has been filled out by the teacher before being seen. Contact the Health Suite directly at 202-698-3834; confidentiality on all health matters is respected.

Allergy

Due to severe documented allergies, Maury is a nut-free and fish/shellfish-free school. If your child has a food or other allergy, you must report it to the school nurse with doctor's instructions on the appropriate forms. The nurse and a group of trained staff can administer medication (Epipen, etc.) in case of an emergency or to support children in ongoing healthcare.

Food allergy. This information should be documented on a Dietary Accommodations Form (available in the clinic or at dcps.dc.gov/health); the nurse will send the completed form to DCPS Food and Nutrition Services. In addition, please report the condition to your child's teacher and to your room parents for coordination of special events.

Other allergy. If your child needs medication in the event of an allergic reaction, please see Medication (next page) for forms and medication requirements.

Illness

Parents are requested to report immediately if their child has an infectious illness (e.g. strep throat, chicken pox, lice, etc.) to their teacher and the nurse. Children with a temperature over 100.2° F, sore throat, or who have had recent episodes of vomiting or diarrhea should be kept home. **Students may return to school after being fever-free or vomit/diarrhea-free for 24 hours without medication.**

Children diagnosed with a contagious illness such as strep throat or pink eye should be kept home until completing the first 24 hours of antibiotics. Parents should send documentation of results to the nurse.

Students with possible eye or skin infections, lice, or other contagious illnesses will be removed from class. Parents will be notified to pick up the child for further diagnosis.

Covid-19. In accordance with national and local guidance, we employ safe practices to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in our school building. Key health and safety measures include HVAC enhancements, enhanced cleaning, and sharing reported cases of Covid-19 in the school to prevent further spread. We also ask that families promote safety measures, schedule Covid-19 vaccines (and boosters as applicable) and allow students to stay home when they are ill and get tested as recommended by Covid protocols.

DCPS requires all staff to get the Covid vaccine as well as our school's beforecare and aftercare provider. Students presenting selected Covid symptoms during the school day will be sent to a staffed health isolation room and parents will be called to pick up the student. Contracted health professionals worked with our school nurse to implement additional measures, including health screenings and on-site Covid testing per health guidance. Students who test positive will have to remain home for at least 5 days.

Lice. Please report any outbreak to your child's teacher and the school nurse. Students with active lice infections will be sent to the nurse, and parents will be notified. Per DC Municipal Regulations, DC Public Schools does not exclude students from school when they have lice, but we do want to make sure families have the information they need to monitor and care for their children. Resources on how to treat lice effectively and prevent outbreaks are available on the Maury website: mauryelementary.com/lice. Nit combs are available from the school nurse—just ask!

Chronic illness. Parents of children with a chronic illness (e.g. asthma) that may affect school performance should contact the school nurse to develop an individual health plan, and to find out if any other documentation may be required.

Sudden illness or accident. The school nurse will contact parents to advise them in case of illness or accident. Please keep contact information current. The school must also have the number of a relative, friend, or neighbor in case parents cannot be reached. If emergency transportation is required, a student will be accompanied by a staff member if the parent is not present.

Medication

If a student needs (or may need) medication during school hours, DCPS policy requires that forms be completed by both parent and physician before any prescription or over-the-counter medication can be administered to a child. Parents must submit a Medication Plan, Asthma Action Plan, or Action Plan for Anaphylaxis, along with the required medication in a box labeled by a pharmacy. Over-the-counter medications require a doctor's order and sealed medication (no pharmacy label required). Information and forms available from the nurse or at: dcps.dc.gov/health.

Medications should always be delivered by a parent or authorized adult, who must sign medication into health suite. For the safety of all students, no child is permitted to carry medications with the exception of an albuterol inhaler, which requires authorization from a physician and an assessment by the school nurse. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the nurse.

In-School Screenings

Children's School Services provides vision, hearing, and body mass index (BMI) screening for all students; the school nurse will notify parents if there is a need to follow up with a health care provider. In addition, dental services are available twice a year at school; parents will be notified in advance.

Immunization and Health Requirements for Enrollment

DC Public Health requirements specify that all students must present certification that required immunizations have been administered to complete enrollment. A listing of free immunization clinics is available in the nurse's office. Students will not be able to continue enrollment if immunizations are not updated.

All students must submit a record of completed physical and dental examinations (including a current record of TB status) annually from date of last exam. Please review health forms prior to submission to ensure they are correct and complete. More information on health requirements is available at: dcps.dc.gov/page/health-and-wellness.

Lost and Found

Lost items are located on the 1st floor near the main office. Please inquire at the security desk or main office about the location. Unclaimed items are donated before long breaks.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against employees, applicants for employment, or students on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an interfamily offense, or place of residence or business. For more detailed information, please visit:
dcps.dc.gov/page/dcps-notice-non-discrimination.

Phone Calls

Students are to be called at Maury only in emergency situations. They cannot be called to the telephone but will be given urgent messages immediately. Students may use the main office telephone only for emergencies. All afterschool plans should be made before arriving at school and shared with teachers and the main office before 12pm via maury.attendance@k12.dc.gov if there is an adult change for pick-up.

Student Cell Phone and Personal Devices Policy

Use of cell phones and personal Smart devices (including watches) during the school day disrupt teaching and the learning environment. Such devices are not allowed to be used while the child is in the custody of the DCPS unless given specific permission by a staff member. For various academic subjects, students may have access to school-issued laptops for academic purposes only. Personal devices should remain at home or turned off inside backpacks for the entire school day or for the entire time that the student is on school property. These guidelines apply to afterschool activities and field trips also.

Visiting the School

To ensure safety, all school entrances are locked during the school day, and security guards are present. To enter the building, please come to the main entrance on Constitution Avenue to be admitted and signed in. Any parent or visitor entering the building for an appointment at the start of the school day must sign in at the security desk upon arrival and departure. This does not include drop off, pick up, or evening events, but security may request proof of identification in reasonable cases where identity cannot be determined to ensure safety in the building.

Visitors and volunteers may enter by appointment only with Maury staff.

Visitation by children from other schools is not permitted. Children under school age are not permitted to visit school or attend school celebrations during the school day unless accompanied by parents and approved by the teacher in communication with the main office staff and security.

Classroom visits and volunteers. All visitors must be scheduled prior to a visit and announced by the main office staff; this includes parent-teacher meetings outside of scheduled conference days. Unless prior arrangements have been made, teachers are unable to leave their classrooms during instructional time to meet with parents. Unannounced visits by parents may cause disruptions and break classroom routines; we encourage parents to share in classroom activities, but request that adequate notice be provided. Regular volunteers must complete the DCPS volunteer process (dcps.dc.gov/page/volunteer-our-schools) and submit their approval to the main office or email it to patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov.

Before, aftercare, and extracurriculars

Before Care and Aftercare

Polite Piggy's Camp. Polite Piggy's offers before care and aftercare programs at the school for all Maury students, from PK3–Grade 5. Aftercare programming includes: snack time (snack is provided), homework time (Grades 1–5), outdoor/free time, or participation in age-appropriate activities, such as

yoga, science class, or Labyrinth games. In addition to regularly scheduled activities, special programming (like music lessons or cooking classes) is available during the school year for an added fee. Families must enroll students in Polite Piggy's.

Before care operates from 7:15–8:15 AM on all school days except the first and last day of school. Aftercare operates from 3:15–6:00 PM on all full school days except the first and last day of school. Extended aftercare is also available on half days of school, beginning at dismissal and running through 6:00 PM. Polite Piggy's is open on professional development days and parent-teacher conference days. Please note that when school is delayed or closed for inclement weather, Polite Piggy's is not open. Both before care and aftercare are available on a full-time or part-time basis. Polite Piggy's also offers full-day camps during winter, spring, and summer breaks.

More information, forms, and the fee schedule can be found on the Polite Piggy's website: www.politepiggy.com. You may also contact director D'Angela Williams at (202) 607-9483 or via e-mail at dangela.williams@k12.dc.gov.

Extracurricular Activities

Maury also offers a range of extracurricular activities before, during, and after school. Activities vary year to year, but may include music, library, and newspaper clubs. Athletics and wellness programs may include basketball, cross country, Girls on the Run, and Ski Club. Many of these offerings differ by grade level. Information on programs will be shared in the first weeks of school with updates shared as needed. Some are offered during school hours as part of the regular school day but many are offered before or after school, such as Girl Scouts and knitting.

Non-school sponsored clubs wishing to provide enrichment to students must make arrangements and complete a facilities agreement pending availability with the main office by contacting: patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov. Organizations are encouraged to work with Polite Piggy's for afterschool programming (Contact: vannessa.duckett@politepiggy.com). **All contractors or volunteers working with students must meet the DCPS clearance requirements.**

School Closures and Emergencies

Inclement Weather

To get timely information about DCPS emergencies, delays, or closures:

- Check the DCPS website (dcps.dc.gov) for weather advisories and sign up to receive e-mail alerts
- Follow DCPS on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook (@dcpublicschools)
- Monitor news sources

More information at: dcps.dc.gov/page/stay-informed-emergencies-delays-and-closures.

Early dismissal. Occasionally, weather conditions warrant the need to close school early. Parents are advised to check for announcements on early closing and to pick up their children promptly at early dismissal time. The emergency form completed at the beginning of the school year informs us of your provisions for your child in this type of event. No child is dismissed unless a parent or emergency contact person has been contacted and arrangements have been made for pick up.

Before care and aftercare. Please note that when school is delayed or closed for inclement weather,

Polite Piggy's is not open.

Schoolwide Emergencies

Monthly fire drills are scheduled to prepare our students for emergencies. The DC Schools Emergency Response Plan is available online at: esa.dc.gov/page/school-emergency-response-plan-management-guide. Hard copies are also available in the main office, or at your local public library.

Lockdown or Evacuation

Parents should NOT come to the school during a lockdown or evacuation. In those situations, it is critical to avoid confusion and keep the area clear for emergency responders.

Parent notification. The principal will notify parents via robocall or other approved communication tools in case of a schoolwide emergency. Parents can also monitor news sources for emergency information and updates.

Parent Reunification Site. Each school or facility has identified a Parent Reunification Site where parents may assemble during school emergencies. At the site, staff members will assist parents and communicate when it is safe to pick up their children. For Maury, the Parent Reunification Site and evacuation location is: **Miner Elementary School, 601 15th Street NE.**

In the Classroom

Classroom Placement

Staff weigh many factors when composing each classroom. Consideration is given to special needs, male- female ratios, instructional levels, diversity (ethnic, racial, language, etc.), and group dynamics. In the spring, returning families will have the opportunity to complete a survey to share their insight on their child in preparation for class placement. Please do not request specific teachers or students for your child's class but share information about your child that will help us to determine the best learning environment.

The Responsive Classroom Model

Maury uses the *Responsive Classroom* approach to elementary teaching. Created by classroom teachers and backed by evidence from independent research, the *Responsive Classroom* model is based on the premise that children learn best when they have both academic and social-emotional skills. The approach consists of classroom and schoolwide practices for deliberately helping children build academic and social-emotional competencies within a strong and safe school community.

Guiding Principles

Seven principles guide the *Responsive Classroom* approach:

- The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
- How children learn is as important as what they learn: process and content go hand in hand.
- The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
- To be successful academically and socially, children need a set of social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.
- Knowing the children we teach—individually, culturally, and developmentally—is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- Knowing the families of the children we teach and working with them as partners is essential to children's education.
- How the adults at school work together is as important as their individual competence: Lasting change begins with the adult community.

Everyone within the Maury community is expected to treat one another with kindness and respect. Adults are expected to model for children, and children are expected to take their social responsibilities seriously (as developmentally appropriate); name-calling and bullying are not acceptable.

Disciplinary Actions

Maury teachers handle disciplinary matters within their own classrooms, through conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques utilized for handling normal behavioral problems. If problems persist, the teacher will inform parents and seek assistance from a member of the school behavioral support team, which includes the social worker, behavioral support staff, and school administrators. It is imperative in these cases that channels of communication remain open, and that parents make themselves available to discuss potential solutions.

In a case where a student's behavior disrupts or substantially threatens maintaining a safe and secure environment for students and staff, the student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as set forth by the Board of Education in Title 5, Subtitle B, Chapter B25 of the District of Columbia's Municipal Regulations. Disciplinary measures will be aimed, to the extent practicable under the circumstances, at remediation and rehabilitation to enable the student to complete their instruction in compliance with the Fair Access to School Act (2018).

Field Trips

Maury encourages field trips several times a year to complement classroom instruction. Signed parent permission slips are required for students to participate; please return these to teachers in a timely manner. Maury uses public transportation when appropriate; field trips to some locations may require chartered coach or school buses. There may be additional fees for admission or transportation to a field trip site. Assistance with fees is available for families in need; contact your child's teacher or the social worker. Trips are generally organized by grade level by the classroom or specials teachers; all information, forms, and fees will be coordinated through your child's classroom teacher or room parents.

Volunteers. Extra chaperones are always needed for field trips! Please speak with your child's teacher or room parents to volunteer. Chaperones must comply with DCPS field trip and clearance policies.

Homework

Homework is assigned to review and reinforce skills taught in the classroom, and to develop routines for independent study. Teachers in Kindergarten–Grade 5 assign homework daily. It should be completed by the student independently, though parents may be asked to monitor completion by initialing homework assignments or other methods. Parents must check homework daily.

In addition to daily (or weekly) homework assignments, long-term projects may be assigned. They are a valuable tool to help students plan and manage their time, learn research techniques, and engage in in-depth study.

If your child is spending an inordinate period of time on school assignments, or is having great difficulty, please let the teacher know.

Reading at Home

Students are expected to read (or to be read to) at home every day. In fact, Maury implements a schoolwide reading initiative each year to support this activity, because it has proven to be of such benefit to our students.

Classroom and library books

Students are responsible for keeping borrowed books clean and replacing them if they are destroyed or lost. All lost books must be paid for or replaced by the last school day in June. For information on book payment or replacement, contact patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov or the school librarian (feraz.ashraf@k12.dc.gov).

Supplies

Early Childhood

Our PK3 and PK4 students should bring the following supplies to school:

- Nap roll (available at Amazon, Walmart, Target, etc.) or nap mat and small blanket
- Small book bag (no wheels please)
- Extra clothes (2 sets), including top, bottom, socks, and underwear; place items in a plastic bag and label with child's name
- Family picture for the classroom
- \$50 supplies/field trip fee (details to be shared directly with Pre-K families)

Grades K–5

Maury uses a pre-order system, where supplies for next year can be ordered and delivered to Maury over the summer so that teachers can organize their classrooms before students return. If you prefer to shop for your child's supplies, please contact your child's teacher at the start of the school year.

Donations for Students in Need

Brand new school supplies and uniforms are available for Maury students in need. To learn more, please contact the main office, (202) 698-3838 or e-mail patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov.

More information about supplies is available on the Maury website:
mauryelementary.com/supplies.

Standards and Testing

Academic Standards

For Early Childhood instruction, Maury uses Creative Curriculum, and adheres to the DCPS Kindergarten Readiness Standards. The Reading/English language arts and mathematics components of this curriculum are among the best in the nation and are the cornerstone of the school system's commitment to provide an excellent education to our PK3 and PK4 students.

For Kindergarten through Grade 5, the Math/Reading/Writing curriculum is based on rigorous Common Core State Standards that set high expectations for all students. These standards define important developmental skills for children and are taught throughout the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) system. They spell out what students should know and be able to do in each subject, at each grade level, and in every school. For Science, Social Studies, and Health, teachers are expected to use DCPS standards-based curriculum resources to guide instruction.

More information on these learning standards can be found on the DCPS website. To learn more about the Common Core State Standards, please visit: dcps.dc.gov/page/common-core-and-your-child. For more information on the Kindergarten Readiness Standards, visit: dcps.dc.gov/publication/kindergarten-readiness-standards.

Testing

DCPS requires that Maury administer annual tests to assess student progress.

The **GOLD assessment tool** is used in our early childhood classrooms to assess progress toward developmental benchmarks in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine and gross motor skills, and social/emotional skills.

The **Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)** is used to measure fluency and early reading skills, such as phonological awareness and oral language. It is the DCPS chosen early literacy assessment which allows the school system to norm across the city. There may also be additional progress monitoring when necessary.

The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**, is administered in the spring in Grades 3-5; results are expected to be available in August. The **Reading Inventory** is administered three times annually to students in grades 2-5. It measures progression in reading and provides a student Lexile score to help determine students' reading ranges. Students in Grades K-5 take the **I-Ready math assessment** three times annually to measure math progress. These assessments help to track progress in learning grade-level math concepts.

The **Achievement Network (ANet) Assessment** is a benchmark assessment administered three times a year to students in Grades 3-5 in specific reading and math standards.

DCPS also assesses **Health and Science** in Grade 5. Periodically (but not every year), Grade 4 students will be selected to take the **National Assessment for Educational Progress**. In the past, it has been administered during the winter season.

Results from these tests are another tool to help teachers and administrators in instructional planning and goal setting. Teacher observations, class performance, and other types of assessments provide a multi-dimensional view of each student and each class. All assessment methods should assist to:

- Assess individual academic skill development.
- Measure student progress in various achievement areas.
- Identify students who would benefit from additional educational services.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the school curriculum.

Assessments are not intended to be punitive or stressful. Parents or children with concerns should first speak with their teacher; the school testing coordinator (rebecca.sanghvi@k12.dc.gov) can also respond to questions. More information on assessments can be found at: dcps.dc.gov/assessments.

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Communication

Communication between school and home is critical to a positive educational experience for children. There are several ways that Maury communicates with families on a regular basis:

Friday Email Updates and Flyers. News, announcements, and information on upcoming events are sent via a principal's update each Friday during the regular school year. The update may contain online flyers, but please also check your child's bag regularly for any hard copies of school communications! If you are not receiving the Friday emails, please contact patrick.koontz@k12.dc.gov.

PTA Listserv. Parents are also invited to join the Maury PTA listserv, which is a great way to communicate with the whole school community and get information about school events and activities. Participation is limited to parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and volunteers with a direct link to the school. You can request to join the PTA listserv by visiting www.groups.io/g/Maury.

Classroom communications. Teachers often send out weekly communications via email, Canvas announcements or Teams to keep you updated on grade-level information; speak to your child's teacher or room parents for more information.

E-mail or robocall. Important schoolwide information from the principal will be communicated directly to families via e-mail or phone using the schoolwide system that sends out e-mail blasts and distributes robocalls for attendance matters. Parents can opt to receive messages in this way from the school during enrollment. Your preference can be updated with the Registrar at: colette.marchesini@k12.dc.gov.

Calendar. Maury uses Google Calendar to maintain its school calendar, which includes all DCPS holidays, professional development days, parent-teacher conferences, and important Maury events such as PTA meetings and major fundraisers. You can view it on the Calendar page of Maury website or add it to the electronic calendar on your phone, tablet, or desktop. The calendar and how-to instructions are available at: mauryelementary.com/calendar.

School website. The official school website is mauryelementary.com. It is maintained by the PTA, in collaboration with the principal and staff. The website serves as a centralized information source for all school policies, programs, and events.

Social media. Like us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter (@MauryElementary) to learn more about classroom activities and school-wide events. There are also several other staff members who post school- focused updates on social media.

Room parents. Room parents are an important liaison between teachers, staff, parents, and the PTA. Ideally, each classroom has two room parents. They support the teacher in many ways, including helping to organize parent help for class activities, and serving as a conduit for information flowing between the school, PTA, and families. Those interested in becoming a room parent can contact their child's teacher or sign up when requested at the beginning of the school year.

Events and meetings. There are many formal and informal opportunities for communication among the adults in our community, including monthly PTA meetings and special school event nights.

Whole school meetings. Maury holds a whole school meeting monthly starting in October. These meetings are a great way for staff and students to see what's happening in other grades and classrooms, and to highlight students who have acted as empathy leaders and changemakers during the past month. Meetings take place at 8:45 AM on the school playground and last about 20 minutes; parents are welcome to attend. We ask that parents stand around the perimeter of the room so students can remain with their classes. The PTA often hosts parent coffees before each morning meeting. Whole school meetings will be canceled or postponed for inclement weather.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Parents are informed of the educational progress of their children through written comments on homework and class work, parent-teacher conferences three times a year, progress reports, and report cards issued every nine weeks. Teachers also regularly communicate with parents through announcements, monthly calendars, e-mail, or phone calls.

Please inform the classroom teacher of any family changes, household crises, new diagnoses, or medication (along with the school nurse) that may affect your child's learning readiness and behavior. If you wish to schedule a conference to address questions or concerns about your child or the class, please notify your child's teacher.

It is a Maury policy that all classroom problems first be discussed with your child's teacher. If an issue remains unresolved, the teacher may refer you to the principal, assistant principal, or social worker, or you may request a meeting with them.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

For 2023-2024, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice in the school year (October and March) for PK-Grade 1; your child's teacher will send a notice and invite parents to sign up for a preferred conference time. Conferences may be offered on the scheduled DCPS Conference Day, or on other days to offer more flexible times before or after school. Parents may also request a different meeting time or day. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend these conferences as this is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Academic Parent-Teacher Team. Maury has adopted the Flamboyant Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) meeting model for parent-teacher conferences in Grades 2-5. Under the APTT model, teachers meet with all parents in their classroom at the same time. Each parent receives their child's performance indicators; and then teachers provide an in-depth coaching session on how to interpret this data based on overall classroom performance, school benchmarks, and state standards. Parents are also given strategies and tools to help support learning at home. Together, parents and teachers set goals for their students, individually and as a class. Academic information only goes to the parent/guardian of each student during the meeting. Families may also request to speak with a teacher individually if there are

academic concerns.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued four times each year after Records Days, which signal the end of each term on the DCPS calendar. Progress reports—a formal early intervention system to alert parents of necessary updates or concerns—are sent out midway through the reporting period as needed. Parents should first convene with the classroom teacher if they have concerns about their child’s performance, report card, emotions, or behavior. Parents can also request referrals via the classroom teacher to the school intervention team to have a closer look at their child’s progress and to plan effective interventions.

Other Meetings

Meetings can also be scheduled at other times, as requested by either the parents or teacher. These are normally scheduled before or after school, or during the teacher’s planning period.

Home/Community Visits

In partnership with the Flamboyant Foundation, Maury has implemented home visits for all students. In the weeks before school begins, teachers schedule a time to meet with the families of their new students, either at home or another place outside the school (like a park). These visits allow teachers to meet and learn more about the students and their families, which sets the foundation for a collaborative and trusting relationship to support each student’s learning. This is a great opportunity for parents to voice any questions or concerns, and to have a candid discussion with the teacher about your child’s strengths, challenges, and the goals for the year ahead.

Please note that families are not required to have a home visit. Maury aims for home visits for 100% of students in PK3/PK4, and for 85% of students in Grades K–5.

Other Resources

DCPS website. The DCPS website is a great resource for families. With information ranging from school calendars and lunch menus, to policy information and guides to academic standards, the DCPS website also serves as a central source for announcements regarding inclement weather and other emergencies; parents can also sign up to receive notifications. To learn more, visit: dcps.dc.gov.

Student Support Services

English Language Learners

The English Language Learners (ELL) program supports non-native English speakers by working closely

with the child's teacher. As needed, children conduct language activities with a designated ELL teacher in a resource learning area. Students may receive ELL services at varying degrees depending on language proficiency and grade level.

Guidance

Maury's on-site psychologist and social worker provide:

- Crisis intervention for students and families.
- Coordination of screening and referral process to identify students for special education services.
- On-going counseling for students and parents in need.
- Test coordination.
- Developmental guidance lessons.

Resource Teachers

Maury has four special education teachers (PK-K, Grades 1-2, Math Grades 3-5, Reading/Writing Grades 3-5), and a reading specialist (Grades 1-5). Our ELL teacher also provides general intervention support for Grades 1-5. Grade configurations for resource teachers will vary based on student needs annually.

Special Needs

DC Public Schools are required to evaluate and provide, when appropriate, services for children with special needs. These may include physical and emotional disabilities, learning disabilities (mild to severe), and speech and language challenges. Services include specialized instruction, counseling, speech and language therapy, and psycho-educational evaluations. Contact your child's classroom teacher, the psychologist, or the social worker if you think your child should be evaluated. Students in PK3 and PK4 are initially evaluated by Early Stages, a DCPS diagnostic center for children aged 2 years, 8 months through 5 years, 10 months.

IEP. Each student with special needs who qualifies for special education services will have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), developed by a team of professionals, which states educational goals and objectives; describes learning needs and abilities; and lists the needed related services. In accordance with the IEP, a student is included in the regular education program in the most optimal environment to ensure access to instruction that can best meet the students' needs. Please contact the lead special education teacher Stefanie.Gordon@k12.dc.gov for questions regarding IEP services.

504 Plan. A student may qualify for a 504 Plan if the student has a diagnosed medical or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A 504 Plan is intended to remove barriers that impact student learning. If you think your child might qualify for a 504 Plan, please contact the school psychologist.

Tiered Intervention Team

Tiered intervention is an early-warning system to identify effective supports for students who struggle academically, behaviorally or with attendance. Examples include students who are not on grade level academically, those who are chronically absent or truant, and students who are at risk for grade level retention. A tiered intervention team may include social workers, teachers, administrators, parents, school nurses, and other staff. The team uses a data-based, collaborative process to assess student academic and/or behavioral needs, identify goals, design strategies for support and intervention, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. If you have questions, email Norah.Rabiah@k12.dc.gov

Special School Events

Maury has a very active events calendar! Please consult the school calendar for specific dates (mauryelementary.com/calendar); more detailed information will be shared as events near.

Back-to-School Night

At the beginning of the new school year, this event gives parents the opportunity to meet the principal, teachers, and other staff and to visit their children's classrooms. Back-to-School Night is for parents or guardians only; no childcare is available onsite. This is an important opportunity for the adults in our community to talk freely about the upcoming school year; at least one parent or guardian from each family is expected to attend. Multiple sessions will be scheduled for each classroom visit to accommodate parents with more than one child.

Concerts

We look forward to the return of student musical performances this year. Prior to the pandemic, students in Chorus and Orff Ensemble (band) performed in the Winter and Spring Concerts. Chorus and Orff Ensemble members work hard for months to create and rehearse their works. Concerts have a dress rehearsal during the school day and an evening performance the same night. All students and families are invited to attend the evening performance.

Curriculum-Related Events

At Maury, our teachers plan after-hours events to engage parents and families in what their children are learning in school. In particular, this is often a great opportunity for parents to meet the "specials" teachers, whom they may not see on a day-to-day basis. Literacy Night, Family Fitness Night, the STEM Expo, and concerts are evening events where families are encouraged to join their children for fun, educational activities at the school. There are also several day events that parents are encouraged to attend, including the Book Character Costume Parade and Field Day.

Maury at the Market and other PTA Fundraisers

Maury at the Market is the biggest event of the year, raising the majority of the annual budget for the PTA. This fun, adults-only evening features a live and silent auction and is a great way to connect with the adults in the Maury community! The PTA also sponsors many other fundraising events and initiatives throughout the year, including the weekly bake sale, Pajama/No Uniform Day passes, the Maury Yard Sale, among many others.

Picture Day

Student portraits are taken twice a year: individual pictures are taken in the Fall; class pictures are taken in the Spring. Students may wear their own clothes that day for the individual pictures; please note that uniforms are required for the class pictures. There is a make-up day if your child is absent on picture day in the Fall.

Prints are ordered directly from the photography studio; order forms will be sent home with students and will also be available in the main office. Ordering prints is not required.

Promotion Ceremonies

The ceremony which marks the passage of our Grade 5 students from Maury is a very special occasion. Kindergarten students are also promoted to Grade 1 in a special ceremony. More information will be available through your child's classroom teacher in the spring.

Sneak Peeks

Maury hosts "sneak peek" observation days for each grade in the Spring. This gives parents a chance to view the classrooms and content their children will encounter in the upcoming year, and to meet and ask questions of the teachers.

Spirit Weeks

Spirit Weeks are fun themed weeks in the Spring where students get to dress up in a different way each day to show his/her Maury Cougar spirit. In past years, students have participated in spirit weeks for literacy, Black History month, and preparing for the PARCC test.

Talent Show

The talent show is an opportunity for students of all ages to showcase their skills and passions. We have had singers, dancers, musicians, comedians and Rubik's cube experts! All students of the Maury community are encouraged to share their special talents—get creative! More information on try-outs will be available during the school year.



Parent Involvement

Volunteers

Maury encourages parent volunteers! To continue our effort to strengthen our instructional program, **all parents are asked to donate a minimum of one hour of volunteer services per quarter, or the equivalent of four hours throughout the school year.** Cleared volunteers can help by being a field trip chaperone, classroom assistant, tutor, lunchroom helper, recess monitor, etc. You can also help by providing snacks (wrapped/store-bought), helping to organize the lost and found, or joining a beautification/clean-up day. We need your help and welcome your support!

Parents are welcome to help in the classroom, library/media center, or the main office. Those interested in volunteering in the classroom should talk directly with the teachers once their DCPS clearance is approved. Volunteers are expected to maintain the confidentiality of information about students gathered during their volunteering. More information about volunteering is located at dcps.dc.gov/page/volunteer-our-schools.

Local School Advisory Team

Every DC public school is required to have a Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)—an advisory group that works with school administrators on internal policies related to school operations, budget, and long-range planning. The LSAT includes parents, teachers, staff, and a member from the community. Annual elections are held in June for the following school year.

Maury PTA

The Maury Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a voluntary member organization for parents, staff, and community members. All parents, community members, and teachers are welcome to attend! Monthly meetings are scheduled at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month during the school year (with a few exceptions). Free childcare is available, and pizza and refreshments can be purchased on site.

Become a member. Annual membership dues are \$15 per person (free memberships available if finances are a barrier); you must be a member to vote for officers and other PTA initiatives. Through dues, donations to the Annual Fund, and other fundraising events, the Maury PTA pays for a variety of school expenses:

- 5 teacher aides
- Think Tank STEM supplies
- Mini-grants for teachers to use for classrooms/supplies
- Resource materials for music, physical education, art, library, science, and computer technology
- Playground and office equipment
- Special schoolwide events and programs, and other support as needed and/or voted upon by membership-at-large
- Professional development and training for staff

It's easy to join—look for the registration table at Back-to-School Night or PTA meetings, or join online at: mauryelementary.com/pta.

PTA Executive Committee 2023-2024 (annually elected by Maury PTA Members)

CO-PRESIDENTS	Shavanna Miller, maury.pta.president@gmail.com Amy Toner, maury.pta.president@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Lora Nunn, lora_nunn@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Elizabeth O’Gorek, maury.pta.secretary@gmail.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Karli Maloney, karlidyan@gmail.com Kate Wright, katherineowright@gmail.com
TREASURER	Clark Bosslet, maury.pta.treasurer@gmail.com
EQUITY CO-CHAIRS	Talia Dubovi Sairah Saeed

Each position has a two-year term; not all are elected in the same year to ensure continuity of leadership. The Executive Committee meets once a month. Any ideas, questions, or comments must be submitted by the last Monday of each month. Suggestions for agenda items or requests for speaking time should be sent to the Executive Committee at least 3 days prior to any meeting.

Contact the PTA. To get in touch with the PTA, drop a note through the PTA mailbox in the school lobby (behind the security desk), send an e-mail to: maury.pta.president@gmail.com, or feel free to speak with any Executive Committee member in person.

Standing Committees

The PTA also has standing committees to assist the school, including Fundraising, Communications, School Improvement, Hospitality, Teacher Appreciation, and Grants Committees. The work of these committees supports the school in many ways—please consider adding your talents! Contact a member of the PTA Executive Committee for more information or sign up on the PTA volunteer form distributed to all families at the beginning of the school year.

Fundraising

The PTA sponsors many fundraising events and initiatives throughout the year. **Maury at the Market** is the biggest event of the year raising most of the annual budget for the PTA. This fun, adults-only evening features a live and silent auction and is a great way to connect with the adults in the Maury community! This year, Maury at the Market will be held in March.

The PTA also spearheads the **Annual Fund**, which provides funding for a variety of programs and initiatives throughout the school year that are not provided for in the DCPS budget including classroom aides, Think Tank, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, Mindfulness, and school supplies. The Annual Fund ensures a base of funding for the Maury PTA and strengthens Maury's ability to provide quality programs, hands on learning opportunities, and supportive staff. Every student from PK3 through Grade 5 benefits from the resources provided by the Annual Fund.

Additional funds are raised through other events like bake sales, the Maury Yard Sale, no-uniform pass days, and restaurant sponsors. More on how to support Maury is available at: mauryelementary.com/fundraising.

Supporting School Events

In addition to our critical fundraising activities, the Maury PTA supports the staff and students throughout the year (dates subject to change):

August. Early Childhood and New Family Playdates

September. Room Parent Orientation, Back-to-School Night, Book Fair

October. Walk-to-School Day, Family Fitness Night

November. Thanksgiving baskets, Open House for Prospective Families

December. Winter Concert

January. Open House for Prospective Families, School Spelling Bee

February. African American History Program

March. International Night, Literacy Week, Think Tank Expo

April. Talent Show, Mathademics, Early Childhood New Family Orientation, Spirit Week

May. LSAT elections, Staff Appreciation Week, Bike-to-School Day, Sneak Peeks

June. Spring Concert, Field Day

July. Capitol Hill 4th of July Parade

More information will be available at Back-to-School Night; please let us know if you would like to get involved in any of these events: maurypta@yahoo.com.