



June

4 Swag Shop
Coffee &
Connect
9:15 AM
6 Spirit Day
12 Peacemaker
House Party
13 Scooter Ball
9:15 AM
13 3-hour Early
Dismissal
16 Grade 5
Farewell
9:15 AM
Last Day of
School
3-hour Early
Dismissal



Rodgers Forge Chronicles

RFES empowers all students to be lifelong learners who are committed to academic excellence and global citizenships.

Principal's Greeting

June 2025

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

Can you believe it's already June? The school year has flown by, and we're quickly approaching the final days. Our last day of school will be **Monday, June 16**, with **early dismissal at 12:45 PM** on both **Thursday, June 13** and **Monday, June 16**.

We are incredibly proud of our **fifth-grade students** as they prepare to take the next big step into **middle school**! On June 16, we will celebrate the end of their elementary school journey. We will miss each of these amazing students and can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things they will accomplish. We hope they'll come back to visit and share their successes with us!

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Jessica Roosth** and **Laura Burgoyne** for their dedicated service on our PTA Board. Your contributions have made a lasting impact on our school community. At the same time, we're excited to welcome our new PTA Board members: **Matt Nuzzi, Christa Haddad**, and **JoLynn Kernan** for the 2025-26 school year. We look forward to working together!

As we wrap up the year, teachers will be conducting **technology checks** on student devices to ensure all hardware is functioning properly. If any part of a device is found to be damaged, a fine will be assessed. Please refer to the attached document for details on the **tiered fine structure**.

It has been an honor and a privilege to continue leading such a wonderful school community here at Rodgers Forge. I'm deeply grateful for the support of our incredible staff and families. Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and relaxing summer. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in August!

Warm regards,

Michele Rowland

Principal, Rodgers Forge Elementary

Looking Ahead to the 2025-2026 School Year

Missing the Last Day of School

If your child will be absent on the last day of school (June 16), report cards and any remaining school materials can be picked up from the front office during summer office hours. Please note that report cards cannot be distributed before June 16 and will not be mailed home.

Yearbooks

The 2024-2025 Yearbook will be distributed in the fall. A huge thank you to our Yearbook Advisors, Ms. Krafft and Ms. Piunti, and the amazing student Yearbook Crew for capturing and curating memories from this incredible year!

We plan to invite our rising 6th graders back to Rodgers Forge in the fall for a special autograph session with teachers and classmates to receive their yearbooks.

Homeroom Assignments

Because staffing and enrollment can shift over the summer, homeroom assignments will not be included on final report cards. Families will receive this information later in the summer.

School Supplies

Supply lists will be included in your child's report card envelope and will also be posted on the Rodgers Forge website for easy access.

Student Devices

All student devices will be checked for damage. If any hardware issues are found, fines will be assessed based on the tiered structure.

For the 2025-2026 school year:

- Grades K-2: Students will share devices (1 device per 5 students).
- Grades 3-5: Students will have individual devices, which will remain at school.

Summer Office Hours

Rodgers Forge will remain open throughout the summer, except on June 19 and July 4. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

Summer Registration

If you know of any new families moving into the neighborhood, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible to register their children.

Wishing You a Safe, Restful, and Fun-Filled Summer!



Department of Information Technology IT Operations

Devices and Student Accountability

During SY 23-24, BCPS spent a significant amount of time and money on the replacement of broken devices. We believe that the current breakage rate is unsustainable.



To address the current breakage rate for student devices and control the costs associated with the repair and/or replacement of those devices, IT Operations undertook a comprehensive review of practices related to asset management of student-assigned Chromebooks.

In the 2024-2025 school year, each student and that student's parents/guardians will be financially responsible for damage or loss to any Chromebook or other device assigned to the student. As an instructional tool, there is no initial cost for a student to receive a Chromebook or other device. Families are only financially responsible when there is avoidable damage to the device. Fees related to repair or replacement of a damaged device are outlined according to the repair cost chart.



	Examples	Cost	Administrative Action
Tier 1	Missing keys Peeling trackpad Minor chassis/case damage Broken camera Lost/Broken Charger	\$30	Notice to Parent/Guardian
Tier 2	Moderate chassis/case damage Multiple Tier 1 items	\$50	Notice to Parent/Guardian
Tier 3	Damaged touchscreen Major chassis/case damage Combined Tier 1 and Tier 2 damage	\$80	Notice to Parent/Guardian
Tier 4	Total Chromebook Loss Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluid damage Destruction Loss/Theft due to preventable circumstances Combined Tier 1, 2, and 3 damage resulting in major damage	\$200 a new Chromebook is now \$375.	Conference with Parent/Guardian
No Observable Damage	Student reports device is inoperable, but no damage is visible	Assigned by DoIT after evaluation of device	Swap device for student and enter ticket as per standard operating procedure.

Thank You!!!

I want to thank all the parent volunteers, who helped to make our 2 day- **Sports Day Event** a huge success!! I appreciate all that signed up to work our original dates but could not make it to the rain dates!

I would not be able to host these fun-filled days without parent volunteers.

The students did an amazing job working together and displaying sportsmanship throughout the entire event.

Hip hip hooray to our P.T.A. for providing popsicles and water balloons for the event.

Stay active! Recharge your mind and body over the summer! Good Luck to our 5th graders and students moving on to new adventures!

Thanks, Mrs. Celenza

The Reading Corner

The school year is coming to an end, but reading and writing activities should continue throughout the summer. If students are not reading and writing over the summer, they may experience a loss of skills that are crucial to continued success in the classroom. "Summer Slide" is a real thing and this edition of The Reading Corner offers just a few suggestions for how to avoid it.

1. **Join a summer reading program** - The Baltimore County Public Library offers a great summer reading program which encourages kids to continue reading over the summer. The theme of summer reading is "Color Our World" and the program runs from June 7th - August 30th. The program offers incentives for students to read for 10 hours during the summer, provides fun activities, and is a great reason to visit the library once a week.



<https://www.bcpl.info/youth/summer-reading>

2. **Check out local bookstores** like **The Ivy** or **Snug Books**. Both shops run wonderful reading related activities like book clubs, story hours, author visits, and more.
3. **Summer book club with friends** - What better way to keep reading than to do it with friends! Ask a small group of friends if they'd be interested and select a book. Consider adding snacks, discussion questions, and a craft to encourage reading for pleasure.
4. **Incorporate writing into the daily routine** - It is equally important for students to continue writing over the summer. There are many fun ways that this can be done. Going on a vacation? Encourage your kids to write letters or postcards to friends and family members to tell them about their adventures. Bring an extra notebook along on trips so kids can record their memories in a journal. Kids can also help with grocery lists, write a summer bucket list, jot a note for a friend, or a thank you note to show appreciation.

Have a fabulous summer and don't forget to READ!!! 😊

~Molly Day, Reading Specialist

mday@bcps.org

News from the Health Suite

Wishing all the Dads of our students a wonderful, peaceful, relaxing Father's Day!
Hope your family showers you with love!

IMPORTANT

If your student has any medication in the health suite, an inhaler, a daily medication or an epi-pen, make arrangements for an adult to pick it up and sign it out. Any medication left in the health suite and not picked up by the last day of school will be thrown away per Health Services guidelines. When it gets a little closer to June, for the students who take daily medications, I will let each family know exactly how many doses they have left and if enough remains to get them through the last day of school. The last full day of school will be Friday, June 13. The very last day of school is Monday, June 16, with dismissal at 12:45 pm. Each student who has any type of prescribed medication in the health suite must have their medication signed out with me and returned to the student's family.

If anyone has some size medium or large girls shorts they no longer need or want, please consider donating to the Health Suite. They would be greatly appreciated.

Summer will be upon us soon. I am a big advocate of "sun safety" and wanted to share an article with you from Kids Health

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sun-safety.html#:~:text=Experts%20recommend%20that%20all%20kids,generous%20amount%20and%20reapply%20often>.

Sun safety now will help ensure a lifetime of your child's skin remaining free of sun damage and promotes good skin care habits for your child when they are older and on their own.

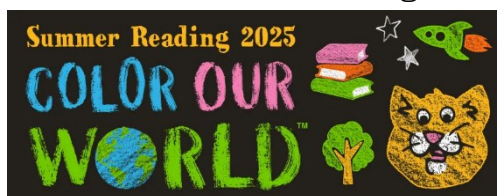
I hope everyone has a restful, relaxing safe summer! I sure will miss all these wonderful students and wish our graduating 5th graders great success in middle school.

Nurse Mary :)

June Library Update! Battle Of The Books Congratulations



The Rodgers Forge Chicken Army Readers did a great job at the Battle Of The Books regional final at St. Paul's School for Girls on May 1st. They did very well in the semifinal competition, and won the spirit award for the most creative posters and signs, and most positive cheering! This team answered game show style questions about 10 award-winning books! - Way to go!!!



Go to www.bcpl.info - Click on the "Youth" tab at the top, then click on Summer Reading Challenge! Color Our World

June 7 through August 30

Add a splash of imagination to your summer with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Color Our World." Children of all ages are invited to join the fun and track their reading on Beanstack or a paper game board. Read for 10 hours to earn a colorful completion prize and be entered into exciting prize drawings!

Thank You Thank You Thank You!

I want to close by saying thanks to all of you who have helped to make the library program a true success story. That story can't happen without you supporting your students at home, helping them to remember their library books, and reinforcing the joy of exploring great stories and valuable research. I am grateful to you beyond words! Here's hoping that you have a wonderful summer, enjoy lots of family time, and join the summer reading challenge at BCPL! See you next year!!!



This month in...

Exploratory Music

Fourth grade students are choosing what instrument they want to play next year!

All Instrumental Music Sign-Up Forms are due by
Friday, June 13th.

Sign-Up Form: <https://forms.gle/7hTXgYSGHekLo1iV8>



Here are the instrument options for next year:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass

Band: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion

If you have any questions or concerns about the instrumental music program for next year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Mrs. Annemarie Sherman adickerson3@bcps.org



Musical Greetings,

As another year draws to a close it is good to take a moment for reflection. Students have grown so much this year. Not just in stature and knowledge but also as musicians. Each class grew together as a caring community when they sang, danced, and played instruments together. We have definitely “Leveled up” as musicians!

Congratulations to the fifth graders on their spring concert performances. Your performance was awesome and enjoyed by the school and community. I will miss working with you. Your enthusiasm and willingness to share your talents made the last six years together so fun.

Thank you to each family and student who shared a note, a treat, a flower, a gift card, a hug, and kind words during *Teacher Appreciation Week* and here at the end of the year. I want to say how much I love teaching here and how much I appreciate your support.

This summer take time to continue music experiences-singing, dancing, listening, and creating. Keep practicing your instrument or learn a new one. Third graders will need their recorders again in the fall (as 4th graders!) so don't lose them.

If you are **cleaning out closets** this summer and come across any instruments, puppets, clipboards, books about music-musical things that you won't be using in the future, the RFES music department is happy to accept them.

Baltimore has a rich music community. I hope you get to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities and make music a part of your summer.

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Tierney
Vocal Music Teacher
ltierney@bcps.org



Remember to download the free [Box Top app](#) and scan your receipts.

Thank you to everyone who downloaded the app and is scanning their receipts for Box Tops. They benefit our music department. So far this year we have earned \$256.

Box Tops fund our music program!

Please keep on scanning receipts for box tops. They do add up!



RFES



June

June is LGBTQ Pride month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, and Juneteenth.



Inclusivity: The Key to Pride Month

You can visit <https://thinktogether.org/inclusivity-the-key-to-pride-month/> for ideas and links to some of the following ideas:

- Draw what your family looks like.
- Think about friends' and neighbors' families and discuss the similarities and differences between your family and other families.
- Create your own pride flag to express your own pride in yourself and what it means to be prideful.
- Create a kindness message and give it to someone.

Check out this website if you would like more information about the fun parades and celebrations that are happening around town!

<https://www.baltimorepride.org/>



Juneteenth



<https://events.bcpl.info/events?n=2&term=June&r=months>

Visit the Baltimore County Public Library website for information on all the Juneteenth events happening at multiple library locations.





CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

On **Saturday, June 7 at 12:00pm - 4:00pm**, the Y is hosting its annual **Juneteenth celebration** at the Y Swim Center in Randallstown! This **FREE** family-friendly event features:

- Delicious food
- Face painting
- Balloon art
- Books
- Music
- Dancing
- Community vendors
- Giveaways and more!

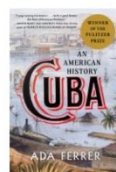
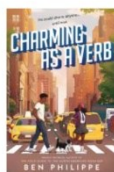
Plus, participate in our Send a Kid to Camp gift basket raffle for an opportunity to help children in our community have a summer of fun, laughter, safety, and discovery -- *and* win an incredible gift basket!

Interested in volunteering for the event? [Click here to sign up!](#)

All are welcome and no registration is necessary.

We hope to see you there!

Lastly, you can visit the Baltimore County Library to celebrate Caribbean Heritage Month. The Baltimore County Public Library is showcasing these books from Caribbean Authors!



We hope you will be able to experience some of the great cultural and educational activities that our great city of Baltimore has to offer in the month of June.

Remember to Be Kind

"Friends, Fun, Food!" **Summer Food Program!**



June 23rd - August 15th, 2025

(closed July 4th)

AGES
2-18
FREE!

Summer
Meals

TO-GO

5 Breakfasts + 5 Lunches

Register here!



3 Drive-Thru Locations

HEREFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesdays 8:00 am-8:30am

CARROLL MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tuesdays 12:00 pm-12:30 pm

KINGSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursdays 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Join us for Lunch Time at the Library!!!!

Arbutus
Catonsville
Cockeysville
Essex
Lansdowne

Loch Raven
North Point
Owings Mills
Parkville/Carney
Perry Hall
Pikesville

Randallstown
Reisterstown
Rosedale
Sollers Point
Woodlawn

Monday - Friday
Lunch time varies by location

*meals must be consumed onsite



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES
BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<https://www.bcps.org/foodandnutrition/sfsp@bcps.org>
443-809-7855



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

¡Amigos, Diversión, Comida!

¡Programa de Alimentos de Verano!



23 de junio - 15 de agosto de 2025

(cerrado el 4 de julio)

**GRATUITO PARA
NIÑOS DE
2-18
AÑOS**

**Comida de
Verano**

**5 desayunos + 5 almuerzos
para llevar**

Regístrate usando el
QR



3 ubicaciones con servicio en el coche

HEREFORD HIGH SCHOOL

los martes 8:00 am-8:30am

CARROLL MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

los martes 12:00 pm-12:30 pm

KINGSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

los jueves 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

¡Acompáñanos para almorzar en la biblioteca pública!

Arbutus
Catonsville
Cockeysville
Essex
Lansdowne

Loch Raven
North Point
Owings Mills
Parkville/Carney
Perry Hall
Pikesville

Randallstown
Reisterstown
Rosedale
Sollers Point
Woodlawn

lunes - viernes

El horario del almuerzo varía según la ubicación.

**El almuerzo debe consumirse en la biblioteca.*



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES
BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[https://www.bcps.org/foodandnutrition/
sfsp@bcps.org](https://www.bcps.org/foodandnutrition/sfsp@bcps.org)
443-809-7855



Esta institución es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.



NEWSPAPERS and PLASTIC STORE BAGS are needed immediately for your child to wrap their ceramic art in for the trip home!

Please send donated newspapers in with your child's art class. Ms. Kotapish is out of newspapers and plastic store bags.

Here come the Art Portfolios!

Your child can't wait to show you their art portfolio! Their creations are part of who they are, and you are one of the most important people in your child's life. Your opinion and support matter a great deal to your child. ☺ Looking at your child's artwork can give you a glimpse into their heart and mind. If you want your child to think critically and creatively about their art, you could use this opportunity to ask some questions. Taking the time to talk about their work also can help build confidence. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

DO

ASK them to tell you about their artwork. Below are some questions that could be asked when discussing your child's art. COMMENT on the lines, shapes or colors, etc. that they are using (I see that you are making lots of purple dots. I like how the red paint is mixed with the yellow paint here.)

ACKNOWLEDGE how hard (carefully, enthusiastically, long) they worked on their artwork.

DON'T:

- Ask "What is that?"
- Say an automatic "That's pretty" (cool, beautiful)



Other Great Questions to Ask your Child about their Artwork.

- **What can you tell me about your picture/artwork?** This open-ended question is a great way to get kids talking about their art. It is especially good if you cannot tell what the picture is. Nothing worse than saying, "What a lovely horse." only to have the child tell you it is supposed to be a dog.
- **How did you get the idea for this picture?** Did you learn about any artists? By explaining the inspiration, the child recognizes his own creative spark and makes the connection from real-life events to artistic creation. Some students may remember the featured artist or art movement that was introduced with the art unit.
- **What do you like about your picture?** Encourages the child to look carefully at his art and make a judgment. More importantly, this question teaches your child to value his own internal validation rather than performing in hopes of gaining the approval of others.
- **What title would you give this work?** Titles can offer a new dimension to a piece of art. Also, a title encourages your child to think about the main idea or concept of her work.

- **How do you hope other people will feel when they look at your picture?** This question allows your child to put himself/herself in another's position and imagine how his work affects that person. You could also make this question more specific by naming a particular person: How do you think grandma will feel when she looks at your picture? This question is a great question to ask your child if he/she is older.
- **Do ask your child which art compositions they would like to hang up?** Displaying your child's creations helps to promote confidence. A great place to store the rest of the 2-dimensional portfolio is between the mattress and box spring of your child's bed. It is out of the way, safe, dry, and flat. It can also be fun time capsule when they re-discover their portfolio at a later date. Have a Great Summer!

Ms. Kotapish



COMMUNITY MARCHING BAND - TOWSON JULY 4TH PARADE - NEW FOR 2025

Mr. Olin and Mr. Brooks are organizing the band's participation in this year's Towson July 4th Parade. All are welcome including current band members, alumni, prospective members (including elementary and middle school students) are invited to join. Registration and more details can be found on our website: <https://www.towsonhighmusic.com/program/july-4th-parade/16835>

