



# May

- 1 5th Grade Panoramic Picture 9:15 AM
- 2 Spirit Day Square 1 Art Orders Due
- 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 9:15 AM
- 8 PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 PTA Movie Night at Sunset
- 14 Coffee & Connect
- 15 DEI Meeting 6:00 PM
- 16 Schools & Offices Close 3-hours Early
- 20 PTA Meeting 6:15 PM / Spring Concert 6:30 PM
- 23 College Gear Day
- 26 Schools Closed Memorial Day
- 29 Sports Day Grades K-1-2
- 30 Sports Day Grades 3-4-5
- 30 Volunteer Recognition / Kona Ice

# 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 Grade 5
- 16 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

May 2025

Dear Rodgers Forge Families,

**Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year Nominee, Ms. Thomas!** As a first-grade teacher, she is dedicated to helping some of our youngest learners succeed! Student relationships and achievement are her priorities in being such a dedicated, responsive and outstanding teacher. She was honored last month, along with other BCPS Teacher of the Year nominees from other schools. We are grateful to have her as a part of our Forge family!

Along with Ms. Thomas, **we are so fortunate at Rodgers Forge to have such outstanding educators!** During Teacher Appreciation Week this week, we are showing our appreciation to our amazing teachers for everything they do to support our students...academically, socially, and emotionally. Our teachers go the extra mile to engage students to meet their instructional needs. The PTA has many thoughtful and exciting things planned throughout this week for our faculty/staff. I know our teachers "appreciate being appreciated"!

**MAY is a busy month at the Forge! Standardized testing** will be wrapping up (YEAH!). Several grade levels will be venturing away from the Forge for **field trips**. Additionally, our students are getting excited for our upcoming **Spring Concert** on May 20<sup>th</sup> and everyone's favorite event ..... **SPORTS DAY!** Students in grades K-2 will participate in Sports Day on May 29 and students in grades 3-5 will compete on May 30. We will end that week with **Kona Ice** and showing our appreciation to all of our **volunteers!**

Although it seems like the school year is winding down, spring is a very busy time as we begin the planning process for the next school year. Teachers are thorough and thoughtful as they make grouping decisions that will provide the best possible learning situation for all students. Please know that our grade level teams will meet with support personnel and administrators to make these decisions as a team. Teachers are not assigned to homerooms until the end of the summer. Additionally, parents are reminded that it is not our school's policy to take teacher requests.

**Mark your calendars.....June 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school.** Schools will close 3 hours early on both June 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. **The Fifth Grade Farewell will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15.** More details about this event will be sent to fifth grade families later in the month. We congratulate our fifth graders on successfully completing their elementary experience and wish them the very best as they move on to middle school.

Thank you for your continued support!

#RFESstrong,  
**Michele Rowland**  
Principal

# News from the Counselor's Corner



## Virtue of the Month

The virtue for the month of May is **Peacefulness**. "Peacefulness is being calm inside. Take time for daily reflection and gratitude. Solve conflicts so everyone wins. Be a peacemaker. Peace is giving up the love of power for the power of love. Peace in the world begins with peace in your heart."

" You are practicing peacefulness when you:

- Create inner peace with daily reflection
- Use peaceful language even when you are angry
- Speak gently and respectfully
- Avoid harming anyone
- Appreciate differences
- Find peaceful solutions to every problem"



## Guidance Lessons

The theme for May counseling lessons is Mindfulness. Mindfulness strengthens our attention and focus and aids in emotional regulation. Students in both primary and intermediate grades will be invited to participate in experiential learning around sensory awareness, attention, and relaxation with the hope that they can then utilize these mindfulness strategies as positive coping skills. The exception to this is 5<sup>th</sup> grade who will have lessons that focus on transitioning to middle school.

## Family and Community Engagement News

Here are some upcoming parent workshops for the months of May and June.

### May 2025

**May 7 – 6:30 PM**

**Dine & Learn – An Introduction to Education Savings with the Maryland College Investment Plan**

**Virtual**

Presented by Michelle Winner, Director of Marketing, State Treasurer's Office – Maryland 529

Parent University is proud to have a representative from the State Treasurer's Office – Maryland 529 Program to give a presentation on the Maryland College Investment Plan. Join us at 6:30 PM on February 19, 2025, to learn more and ask your questions.

[For registration click here!](#)

**May 8 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

**Virtual**

Presented by Wendy Carver, FACE

2.7 million children in the US are being raised by grandparents! Learn about the challenges faced by grandparents raising grandchildren, discuss strategies for building a home-school partnership and access resources to support learning at home.

[For registration click here!](#)

**May 9 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – Easy Productivity Tips, Tricks & Techniques**

**Virtual**

Presented by the Center for Family Success

Sure, you've heard of meditation, but what do you know about the Kaizen approach? Or Hygge? In this presentation we'll teach you a variety of ways to approach prioritization and increase your productivity without increasing your stress.

[For registration click here!](#)

### June 2025

**June 6 – 12:30 PM**

**Lunch & Learn – The Importance of Reading to Children**

**Virtual**

Presented by the Center for Family Success

We all know it is important to read to children, and in this presentation, we'll discuss:

- Benefits of reading to children
- Effects of reading on child development

[For registration click here!](#)

Links to register for any of these workshops can be found here: [https://cdns5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf](https://cdns5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_2744/File/FACE/Parent%20U%20Schedule%20of%20Events%20Online.pdf)

# May - MCAP

## 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Grade 4 MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	2 Grade 4 MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	3
4	5	6 Grade 5 MCAP MATH 10:15 – 12:00	7 Grade 5 MCAP MATH 10:15 – 12:00	8 Grade 4 MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	9 Grade 4 MCAP ELA 9:15 – 11:00	10
11	12 Grade 4 MCAP MATH 9:15 – 11:00	13 Grade 4 MCAP MATH 9:15 – 11:00 Grade 3 MATH -9:30-11:00	14 Grade 3 MATH – 9:30-11:00	15	16	17
18	19 Grade 5 – ELA 10:15 – 12:00	20 Grade 5 – ELA 10:15 – 12:00	21 Grade 5 – ELA 10:15 – 12:00	22 Grade 5 – ELA 10:15 – 12:00	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# RFES



## May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Month!



Several learning activities and links are shared below to learn more about Asian American and Pacific Island culture and history.

You can visit National Geographic Kids to read an article about **Hawaii** and complete the **word puzzle** below.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/states/article/hawaii-1>



Hula Is More Than a Dance—It's the 'Heartbeat' of the Hawaiian People | Short Film Showcase



**National Geographic Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLjwIuzYtM4>

**Hawaii for kids video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klquB6gUHeo>

## **Read a story of resilience about Japanese American Internment camps...**

After December 7, 1941, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were relocated into internment camps during the WWII. Despite relocation, the men in the camps continued to play baseball by building diamonds and bleachers and setting up leagues for all ages inside the camps. Soon, **baseball became a powerful symbol of resilience** and an important part of community life in the internment camps.

Click on this YouTube **read aloud** to learn about how the wonderful sport of **Baseball helped Japanese Americans survive a very difficult time.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edf64unhJw4&t=5s>



Baseball Saved Us: The Movie

Make your own **Japanese Fish Kites** to celebrate the **Japanese Holiday** called **Children's Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>!** The **Koinobori** is a symbol of **strength** and **perseverance**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEqsHt1IIZ0> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32psmx4aDnQ>



Flying Koinobori over the roof tops in Japan, 2005.



## This month in...



### Exploratory Music

Fourth grade students are in the Strings Unit where they will have the opportunity to play the violin! They will explore the violin by learning the parts of the instrument, how to hold the bow, and how to play pizzicato and arco! We will also learn about string instruments from different cultures.

All 4th grade students should start thinking about what instrument they want to play next year! A form will be sent out later this month to sign up for next year's Instrumental Music Program and indicate first and second choices for instruments.

**Instrument Options:** Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Percussion

### Instrumental Music

Fifth grade students in band and orchestra are rehearsing to prepare for the Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 20th**. Please make sure your child is practicing at home to prepare for this event! If you have any questions about the concert, please reach out to Mrs. Sherman at [adickerson3@bcps.org](mailto:adickerson3@bcps.org).

#### **Band Concert Music**

8 Note Concert Bb Scale (page 43)  
Power Rock!  
Shark Attack!  
Heroes and Glory  
Let's Go Band

#### **Orchestra Concert Music**

D Major Scale  
French Folk Song  
First Finger Rock  
Twilight Terror  
Supersonic!



## **Starting immediately, the new morning drop-off procedures will be as follows:**

Drop-off will continue to take place in the bus lane at the front of the school. Students are welcome to enter through either entrance, though breakfast will still be served at the cafeteria entrance. For the smooth flow of traffic, please ensure you pull all the way forward when dropping off your child, and refrain from going around the barricade. To maintain safety, please do not drop students off on Dumbarton Road. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## May Update from the Rodgers Forge PTA

### **The PTA Needs YOU!**

Planning for the 2025-26 school year can't begin until we fill some important positions, including:

- President
- Treasurer
- Vice President of Volunteers

You can learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities on [the Rodgers Forge PTA website](https://www.rodgersforgepta.org).

Interested in serving with us? Contact [nominations@rodgersforgepta.org](mailto:nominations@rodgersforgepta.org).

### **Teacher Appreciation Week: May 5-9**

Participate in each day's activities to show your students' teachers how much you value their time and effort!

- Monday: Brighten the Classroom (wear your teacher's favorite colors)
- Tuesday: Flower Power (bring or purchase a flower to add to their class bouquet)
- Wednesday: School Spirit (wear your favorite RFES gear)
- Thursday: Thankful Thursday (bring in a hand-written note or picture for your teacher)
- Friday: Treat Day (treat your teacher to one of their favorite things)

### **Next PTA Meeting**

*Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.*

Please join us for the last PTA meeting of the school year at 6:30 p.m. in the RFES library. We hope to see you there!

### **Spring Movie Night**

*Friday, May 9, sunset*

Enjoy "Dog Man" with friends and family on the lawn behind RFES! Concession sales will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the movie will start shortly after sunset (approximately 8 p.m.).



## May Music Note



May is a busy month in the music department!!

Fifth graders are in final preparation for our spring concert which will be Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 pm. More information is found below.

Fourth grade is exploring theater with a focus on how Lion King went from animation to live theater!

Congratulations to all our third graders! They did a wonderful job at their school, evening, and field trip recorder concerts. I am so proud of their accomplishments! We will continue to use recorders in class each week as we learn new songs and compose our own pieces.

Second grade is focused on discovering the four families of instruments in the orchestra.

First grade has learned so, mi and la and will be singing and composing songs with these three pitches.

Kindergarten is deep into Rhythm Band. We perform together using a variety of instruments and next we will be composing.

We are all busy with new learning and reviewing favorites. Please continue to scan receipts for Box Top money to be applied to our school music account!

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Tierney

[ltierney@bcps.org](mailto:ltierney@bcps.org)



## Save these Date: Concert Connections

**Fifth graders** will participate in our Spring Concert.

The chorus, band and orchestra will be featured.

Concert attire will be white shirts and dark bottoms.

Spring Concert: May 20, 2025 @ 6:30

Doors will open at 6

Performers should arrive at 6 and meet in the Rec Room.

[Get the App - Box Tops for Education \(boxtops4education.com\)](https://boxtops4education.com)



## Special Education Corner

### Make Your Voice Heard!

- Please take 5 minutes to complete the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey.
- Please complete this survey in one sitting. If you leave this page before submitting the Survey, you will have to start over.
- Remember the Survey must be completed by **May 30, 2025**.

Please click here: <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>

Welcome to the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey online site. This survey is being conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services. All parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education and related services through their local school system are invited to participate.

The purpose of this survey is to determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting parent involvement in your child's education. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. The Survey is anonymous so please do not write any personally identifiable information.

## The Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

### Frequently Asked Questions



**Maryland**  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[marylandpublicschools.org](http://marylandpublicschools.org)

#### What is the purpose of the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey?

- The purpose of this Survey is to determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting parent involvement in your child's education.
- States must collect this data as part of their State Performance Plans, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

#### Who completes the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey?

- Parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education and related services through their local school system.
- Parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education and related services who are placed in a nonpublic special education facility by the child's local school system.

#### What's in it for me?

- This is your opportunity to provide direct feedback to your local school system or public agency
- Survey results will be available to the public and used to highlight strengths and identify possible areas for improvement in engaging and involving parents in the special education process (<http://mdideareport.org>)

#### How do I complete the Survey? How can I make sure that my answers are counted?

- Complete one Survey for each child receiving special education services.
- Complete the Survey EITHER on paper OR online at <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.
- If you wish to complete the Survey online and do not have Internet access at home, check with your local school or library.

#### How do I return the paper Survey?

- Return the completed Survey in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope by May 30, 2025
- If you lose the postage-paid envelope, please mail the completed Survey to:

Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

ATTENTION: Joyce Shelton

530 Gaither Road, Suite 500

Rockville, Maryland 20850

#### Do I have to participate? If I choose not to participate, will it negatively affect my child's services?

- Participation is completely voluntary; however, we encourage you to participate to make your opinions and experiences known.
- Your child's services will not be negatively affected in any way.

#### Who will have access to the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey results?

- The State-level report will be published on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) website ([www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org)).
- A summary of the Survey results regarding parent involvement in special education will be provided to each local school system

Thank you for completing the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey  
Your feedback is extremely important to your local school system and MSDE!

For additional information, please contact Mr. Kenneth Hudock at MSDE at 410-767-7770 or [Kenneth.Hudock@maryland.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Hudock@maryland.gov).

## May Green School Minute

### RFES is Keeping It Green!



In April, we had our BIG annual Earth Day Fair! Each year it has grown and this year, with the beautiful weather, we had our biggest Fair yet! We had 8 community organizations represented, with things from Master Gardeners and Irvine Nature Center to the Compost Crew and BGE. We encouraged our partners to bring interactive activities to give students and their families a chance to put "Being Green" into action. Our Green School Club had four stations, including recycle make and take, and sunflower seed planting with Nurse Mary. I hope you had a chance to stop by. Having such an active community makes our Green School efforts a big success, thanks to all of you!

Green School will end our year with a visit from Blue Water Baltimore to learn about our watershed and keeping storm water clean. Then we will meet for a trivia contest and Green giveaway. Thanks to our Green School kids and families for all the support and helping all of RFES Be Green!

As we get into warmer weather, here are some ideas for you and your child at home to continue your Green efforts.

[https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/15-green-summer-activities-for-families/?srsltid=AfmBOorxFyzAKGfEkzwO139ewMTUQ32iGfG6p7qA-1\\_a8BIOXZ4qfPXh](https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/15-green-summer-activities-for-families/?srsltid=AfmBOorxFyzAKGfEkzwO139ewMTUQ32iGfG6p7qA-1_a8BIOXZ4qfPXh).

Here are some more ideas for being green and extending science learning at home this summer with your child.

<https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/category/holiday-activities/summer-science/?srsltid=AfmBOoqlNz6PYAvPDoZWxEkmgBrXyBINgOAz1RZO5Cx4QiBQMkYiTpAr>



Thanks for helping RFES Keep it Green!





### Health Suite

Happy May to Everyone and a special wish for a beautiful Mother's Day to all the Moms of our wonderful students! I hope each of you are spoiled rotten!

Speaking of Moms, if any Moms or Dads or Guardians have any medium to large sized girls shorts they don't need anymore, please consider donating to the clothing supply I have in the Health Suite for children who have bathroom accidents or spill something on their clothing or accidentally tear their shorts somehow. They would be greatly appreciated.

April has been a fairly good month for health concerns at our school for the most part! So proud of our students for washing their hands and coughing into their sleeves. Please keep up the good work! Hoping May will reveal equally healthy students!

Parents please be aware of expiration dates on any prn medications for your child. I have been sending reminders when the expiration date draws near to give parents time to get a fresh epi-pen or inhaler. So important to have a prn medication available to your child should they need it in school.

I am sure everyone has heard about an uptick in measles in the Southwest. Per my recent research there have been 3 cases in Maryland identified as of March 22, 2025, but they were all imported cases, none so far of a locally acquired measles diagnosis. Please consider getting your child vaccinated for measles. It is usually given as an MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella). The two recommended doses are first between 12 and 14 months of age and the second between 15 and 23 months of age. This provides 97% protection against measles. Measles is highly contagious. Please consider talking with your child's pediatrician.

I found this terrific and healthy recipe for children, especially suited to the availability of fresh fruits in the spring and summer.

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/raspberry-banana-breakfast-tacos/?sp-force-variant-cro=1#RecipeCard>

Hope you and your family love it!

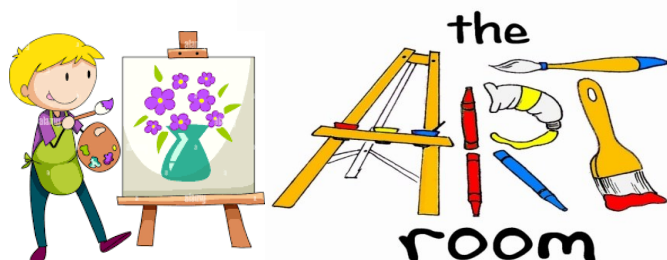
Parents please continue to reinforce hand washing and coughing into your sleeve at home. Every little bit of reinforcement helps.

I can't believe time is drawing near for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to move on to middle school! Big changes ahead for everyone. I wish each of them well.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather! Please stay well!

Nurse Mary :)





## News



Art Portfolios  
coming home  
between June  
5th and June  
16<sup>th</sup>!

**Congratulations to those students who had or will have art on display at the Towson Feeder Art Show or the BMA Art Show!**

**With only four or five 50-minute art classes left, grade 5 artists will be busy creating their slab-constructed clay texture cups using white earthenware and a variety of 3D texture rollers.**



**Grade four sculptors will begin creating their ceramic masterpieces using red earthenware clay. They will be learning all about coil sculpting techniques and many artists and cultures around the world famous for using coil construction.**



**Grade 3 and 2 artists are learning all about Relief Printmaking as they etched their printblocks, and are now using colored ink and a brayer to create a print series.**



**Grade 1 artists are learning the hand-building ceramic technique of "pinching" to create their Patterned Pinch Pot. Students will be learning about the art elements of form and texture to create their pinch pots.**



**Kindergarten students are inspired by Henri Matisse and many other artists as they create a series of different types of patterns including AB and ABC patterns. These young artists will be creating a symmetrical vase of flower mixed-media painting**



Ms. Kotapish

[kkotapish@bcps.org](mailto:kkotapish@bcps.org)

# May Library Update!

## May Library Spotlight– Grade by Grade!



Our library units have all been featuring a wide variety of great stories. 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be researching vacation destinations. 4<sup>th</sup> Graders are going to be using online information to find ways to help make the world a better place.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are learning about the elements of poetry like rhyme, rhythm, and alliteration, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be learning what goes into an autobiography. 1<sup>st</sup> Graders will be exploring fairy tales with Cinderella stories from around the world, and Kindergarteners are mastering the finer points of elements of “Fantastic Fiction” in the library!

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



What an exciting couple of months it's been for our Rodgers Forge Battle Of The Books team! The Battle Of The Books team reads 10 of the best chapter books and graphic novels in the State of Maryland, then answers questions about them in a game show format. They will compete in a showdown against 6 other schools on Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 PM!! Meanwhile, they have finished competitions against Hillcrest, West Towson, Hampton, Stoneleigh, and Oakleigh Elementary! Congratulations to Calvin, Sophie, Ethan, Misha, Braith, Landon, Hazel, Eva, Gavin, and Molly for a job well done!!!

## EBOOKS!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



What are ebooks? They are books you can read and check out on your computer right from BCPSONe!!! They have features like an on-screen reader, electronic bookmarks, and even the ability to take notes. Thanks to the generosity of the Follett Corporation, we have been gifted money for an ebook online order! Here is a direct link to the Library site!

[https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007\\_1993744](https://baltimore.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas007_1993744)

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Connect with me via email at [pholden@bcps.org](mailto:pholden@bcps.org), and follow the Rodgers Forge Library on Twitter at PetePHolden! Happy May to you all!



## Last Day of the 2024-2025 School Year



**As outlined in the 2024-2025 school calendar, the last day of the school year for students and teachers will be Monday, June 16.** Schools will close three hours early for students on June 13 and June 16.

Learn more at [www.bcps.org/calendars](http://www.bcps.org/calendars)

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS