



Parent Welcome Guide: Deep Run Elementary School

Deep Run Elementary School (DRES)

6925 Old Waterloo Road

Elkridge MD 21075

Main Office: (410) 313-5000

Website: <https://dres.hcpss.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DRES.PTA/>

<https://deeprunpta.new.memberhub.store>

School Hours: 9:25 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

Welcome to the Deep Run Elementary School (DRES) Community!

We hope you find a safe, nurturing, educational, and fun 'home' for your children here at DRES! While some families, students, teachers and staff are familiar with DRES, many are new to our school and we want to help you with any transitions or questions.

It's always a challenge to enter a new school system. Families are unaware of the traditions and customs of the school, the special events, and programs. You may be hesitant to call the school or ask other parents what the newsletters are talking about.

The purpose of this guide is to give you a general idea of what's going on at Deep Run Elementary School. It is not exhaustive, but it will give you information about the most frequently encountered activities.

- ✓ **DO** ask other parents about events, classes, and activities. You will find the DRES parent community to be a friendly group willing to share their experiences. They can provide much richer and more personal descriptions of a particular event.
- ✓ **DO** contact the administration or your children's teachers if you have questions, concerns, and comments.
- ✓ **DO** become involved with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in whatever way you can, even if your volunteering time is limited. Everyone's goal is to ensure that our children have a positive experience at DRES.

Each entry will indicate the "jurisdiction" of a particular event, that is, whether you should contact the PTA or the school about an event or program. The weekly Friday Deep Run Digest is a wealth of information and highlights key upcoming dates.

The views and opinions expressed in this guide are not necessarily those of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), or Deep Run Elementary School (DRES). This guide was created by parents for parents and is intended to be a general guide that may be helpful to families. While every attempt has been made to provide accurate information, changes do occur.

Please understand that all events and activities are subject to change. Activities may be added or deleted as curriculum, volunteers, and scheduling dictate.

Acronyms

- DRES = Deep Run Elementary School
- GT = Gifted & Talented
- HCPSS = Howard County Public School System
- PBIS = Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- PTA = Parent Teacher Association
- K = Kindergarten
- RLC = Recreational Licensed Childcare

Parking

Parking can be challenging. Here are a few reminders:

- During arrival (9:00 – 9:25) and dismissal (3:30 – 4:05) **NO CARS** will be allowed to enter the bus lane.
- During the school day (9:25 – 3:30) parents are permitted to park in the bus lane but please leave the front lane against the red curb in case of an emergency.
- Please be aware of street parking and where the No Parking signs are located.

Events by Season

Fall: Back to School Night, Fall Fundraiser, Student Pictures, Scholastic Book Fair, Fall Bingo

Winter: Winter Concerts, Spelling Bee, Family Movie Night

Spring: Class Pictures, MCAP Testing, Field Day, Spring Concerts, Simulated Congressional Hearing (5th grade), Staff Appreciation, Spring Bingo, Kindergarten Spring Play, 5th grade promotion ceremony

Ongoing Events: After-School Programs, Cultural Arts, Restaurant Spirit Nights, Box Tops



Definitions

After-School Programs: Programs run by outside organizations. A number of activities are held at the school after school hours, and may include art, sports, science programs, and others. DRES PTA does not sponsor any after school programs. They are organized directly often through Howard County Parks and Recreation.



Arrival Time: The earliest students may arrive at school is 9:10 a.m. Students are allowed in the school at 9:10 a.m. Any student arriving after 9:25 a.m. is considered late and must be escorted by a parent or guardian to the front office and the parent must sign the student into the school.

Back to School Night: DRES event. In September, nights will be designated to visit your child's classroom and meet the teachers. Typically, the lower grades visit one night, and the upper grades visit a different night. The teachers will offer a presentation of the materials that will be covered during the year. Individual concerns should not be raised here; please schedule a separate appointment. In addition, a presentation is usually given to acquaint families with the Gifted and Talented (GT) program at Deep Run.



Band Instruments: DRES program. Beginning in fourth grade, students may receive musical instruction for band instruments. Concerts are given twice a year. Instruction for string instruments begins in third grade. Flyers will be sent home when this is available.

Bear Bucks: DRES program. The Bear Bucks Program rewards students for hard work and appropriate behavior. They are part of the PBIS program. Students can be given Bear Bucks in recognition for following school rules and putting forth their best effort.

Box Tops for Education: PTA program. This is a passive fundraising program. The committee has also held competitions among the students to increase participation. Box Tops are found on cereal, cake mixes, and other products. You will receive a list of eligible products early in the year. There are collection boxes for the labels and box tops in the hallway by the office and each grade's pod.



CEUs: HCPSS/DRES programs. Curriculum Extension Units (CEUs) Program seeks to recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners. Students may elect to take these programs; they are always offered during reading groups. Some of these are by invitation only and others are open to the entire grade class; see your child's teacher for more

information. Some past examples are the Art of Language, Archaeology, Bridges, Chesapeake Bay, Politics of Persuasions.

Chorus (Songbirds): DRES program. Students in fourth and fifth grade are given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in chorus. Rehearsals will be held once a week during students' content time. The DRES Chorus performs two concerts each year.



Cultural Arts: PTA program. Throughout the year, a variety of artists, performers, authors, and other individuals or groups will come to the school to give presentations to the students.

Communication Folder: DRES practice. Weekly, a folder will be sent home with communications from the school. This is a main source of information from the school so therefore parents should remove and review all the materials. You can also send information, permission slips and other forms as needed back to your child's teacher using this folder.



Direct Donations: PTA program. This is a fundraising program. Parents may donate directly to the DRES PTA via Paypal (PayPal.Me/DeepRunESPTA, select the friend to friend payment option).



Emergency Forms: All emergency must be completed online using the [HCPSS Family Portal](http://www.hcpss.org). You can find information online at www.hcpss.org or contact the school main office for assistance.

Enrichment Fair: DRES program. Students showcase their accomplishments from their classes this year. Fantastic student work will be displayed throughout the school. Students will share their enrichment experiences.

Family Involvement Team (FIT Team): DRES program. You can become involved with the FIT team to help engage families in learning and activities at DRES.

Field Day: DRES event. In the spring, a Field Day is held where students may participate in a variety of games and events. Parent volunteers are integral to the success of Field Day.

Field Trips: DRES program. Every year each grade typically takes at least one field trip. Trips are taken outside of school and correspond to the curricular program. Some previous examples: Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore Aquarium, Toby's Dinner Theater, Maryland Science Center, Howard County Library, Annapolis, and Philadelphia. Field trips may be changed or deleted depending upon curriculum, time constraints, or other factors. ****All parents that wish to chaperone must complete two training courses according to HCPSS Policy. This can be found on DRES website under 'Get Involved' (<https://dres.hcpss.org/support>) A certificate must be printed, signed and submitted to DRES School Counselors.***



Fundraising: PTA program. In addition to our annual Fall fundraiser, there are other fundraising opportunities for DRES. Funds are used to support programs such as STEM, Cultural Arts, family events and other school needs. Another facet of fundraising is through collecting BoxTops for Education, AmazonSmile, Clothing Donation Bin, and Restaurant Spirit Nights.



Gifted and Talented (GT) Testing: DRES program. GT testing using standards developed and implemented at the county level. GT classes begin in fourth grade. All third and fifth grade students take the CogAt test to aid in identifying students eligible for the Gifted and Talented programs.

Girls On The Run (GOTR): DRES program. Coached by teacher and parent volunteers, girls (in 3rd-5th grade) can register to participate in this 12-week after school program. There is a Fall and Spring session. Each session culminates in a 5K fun run. Details: <http://www.gotrcentralmd.org>

Hoops for Heart: DRES program. As you know, our school is supporting the American Heart Association by participating in Hoops for Heart. This is a valuable community service program that teaches our students about heart health, while raising important funds to support research and medical advances to fight America's #1 and #3 killers, heart disease and stroke. This event is in the Spring.



International Student and Family Services: HCPSS program. The [Office of International Student and Family Services](#) (OISFS) provides educational services to international students and to students and families who do not speak English proficiently. The program ensures that Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities have equal access to information and resources about school system services, policies and academic activities. Through this program, families have access to translators and publications that are translated into Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and more.

Kindergarten Orientation: DRES event. Kindergarten Orientation provides an introduction to the school, and an opportunity to meet the student's kindergarten teacher. Students are sometimes encouraged to bring their school supplies to the orientation, but information related to this is distributed prior to Orientation.



Lunch Bunch: DRES event. Students are invited to have lunch with their peers in a small group and talk about topics of interest. Lunch Bunch also creates an environment that encourages positive peer interactions through "getting to know you" activities and other social games. This is sometimes initiated by the school counselor to meet students. They are sometimes led by teachers and administrators as a special reward.

MAP Testing: (Maryland program). The MAP test (Measures of Academic Progress) is a standardized test administered across the country, beginning in first grade. It is given online, and is adaptive to the student based on correct/incorrect answers.



Mascot: The DRES mascot is a Ranger. Go Deep Run Rangers!

Nut Free: Many students at DRES have life-threatening nut allergies. Please do not bring snacks or refreshments containing peanuts or tree nuts into the classroom. Tree nuts include, but are not limited to, walnut, almond, hazelnut, cashew, pistachio, and Brazil nuts. Read the labels carefully, if they say "may contain," "processed in a facility that also processes," or "made on equipment with" any nut ingredient, please do not bring them into the classroom. Children are allowed to have nut products for lunch in the cafeteria.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The DRES PTA is a volunteer organization with the goal of engaging families and communities at DRES. The PTA tries to assist parents by offering monthly meetings with administration to learn about happenings at the school, PTA-sponsored events, and HCPSS-related news. Your membership and fundraising participation supports Cultural Arts programs, the PBIS program, the media center, STEM nights, staff appreciation, classroom-related expenses, family fun events and more.

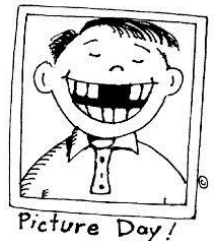


Parent Volunteering: DRES and PTA program. There are many ways parents can help out at the school depending upon their schedules and availability. If your time is limited, help can be given at special annual events (some of them are held in the evening), or you can volunteer during the school day on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. Siblings not attending DRES are not allowed at the school during the day, so you will have to make

babysitting arrangements for them. If you have a special skill that may be of use to the school, please make yourself known. In order to volunteer at the school during the day **all volunteers must complete volunteer training provided by HCPSS.** * *This can be found on DRES website under 'Get Involved' (<https://dres.hcpss.org/support>) A certificate must be printed, signed and submitted to DRES School Counselors.*

MCAP: State of Maryland program This is the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Previously known as PARCC ([Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#)). The MCAP is a suite of standardized tests administered throughout the school years. The test is administered to grades 3-5 for MCAP ELA and MCAP Math.

Pictures: DRES program. Individual student photographs are typically taken in the fall and spring. Fall pictures will be taken for all students, regardless if you purchase them, since they are used for the school yearbook. Class pictures are only taken in the spring.



Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS): DRES Program. Positive Behavior school rules are to Respect Self, Property, Learning and Others. The Deep Run behavior system encourages and supports students by celebrating positive behavior. When the school rules are followed, students have an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts by receiving Bear Bucks, lots of Praise, purchase items from the Ranger Mart (using Bear Bucks), and participating in our quarterly Ranger Club school-wide celebrations. You can find more information at <https://dres.hcpss.org/about/positive-behavior-interventions-and-supports-pbis>.

"I am a Deep Run Ranger. Today I will be engaged, kind and responsible. My success is up to me!"

Promotion: DRES program. Promotion is the ceremony where we promote 5th graders to the 6th grade. We do not call it "Graduation" in elementary school. The teachers recognize their classes, and each child is called up during the ceremony.

Recreational Licensed Childcare (RLC): Howard County program. Howard County Parks & Recreation (P&R) offers Beforecare and Aftercare programs at DRES. Beforecare starts at 7:00AM until school starts. Aftercare begins at the school day end through 6:00PM. Contact P&R for more information.

Related Arts: DRES program. The school refers to physical education, music, art, media, and technology classes as Related Arts.

Restaurant Spirit Nights: PTA and DRES events. Throughout the year, the PTA arranges a family fun night at a local restaurant. This is a fundraising event where the PTA receives a portion of the sales. In the past, restaurants have included: Red Robin, Chipotle, Texas Roadhouse, Jersey Mikes, and McDonald's. Wear your spirit wear!



Scholastic Book Fair: PTA event. The book fair provides students and parents an opportunity to purchase books at reasonable prices. The book fair usually runs for one week. In addition, teachers often leave their wish lists for their classrooms, and parents are invited to donate a book to the teacher's classroom. The book fair supports DRES' media center.

Simulated Congressional Hearing: HCPSS and DRES program. This is part of a Howard County Public School System's annual elementary school social studies program -- We The People Simulated Congressional Hearings. The hearings are the capstone for the fifth grade social studies curriculum in which students study American historical, political, and constitutional issues. During the mock hearings, students testify, as expert witnesses, to demonstrate their understanding of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students are judged by a panel comprised of public officials, community representatives, constitutional scholars, parents, and state and local curriculum experts who sit as a congressional committee holding public hearings within each participating school. This event is usually held in May.



Spelling Bee: DRES event. All fourth and fifth grade students may participate in the DRES spelling bee. Spelling Bee is usually in January. Finalists proceed to the county level.



Spiritwear: PTA program. Some years (not necessarily every year), you will have an opportunity to order t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats and similar items emblazoned with the Deep Run Elementary School name and/or mascot.

String Instruments: DRES program. Beginning in the third grade, students may receive musical instruction during the school day for string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass). String students in these grades are pulled from their specials/related arts and will have a revolving schedule so as not to miss the same class every week. A separate ensemble time will be scheduled for each group. You will need to rent an instrument and fees vary

depending upon the instrument. Concerts are held twice a year. Band instrument instruction begins in fourth grade.

Student/Parent Handbook: HCPSS program. The Student/Parent Handbook contains policies, telephone numbers, and other information pertaining to the Howard County Public School System. An online version of the Student/Parent Handbook is available on the HCPSS website (hcpss.org). The online version is the most current version of the handbook available and may include updates added since the latest print edition.



Title I: HCPSS/Federal program. DRES is a Title I school which means the school receives additional funding to help close the achievement gap. There are 13 elementary schools designated as Title I, where at least 40% of students receive Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARM). Events such as Reading, Math, Homework and STEM nights, as well as parent topic series, are funded through Title I. DRES receives a wealth of benefits by being a Title I school, including additional staff, differentiated instruction, additional laptops and technology supports, and more.

Yearbook: DRES program. Every year DRES distributes a yearbook to celebrate the year. All students have the option of purchasing a yearbook. Forms are usually distributed in Spring.



PTA Myth Busting 101

Myth #1. Only moms & teachers need to join.

Fact: A strong PTA needs the support of parents, grandparents, family members, teachers, school staff, and the community. Anyone who cares about children belongs in the PTA!

Myth #2: Joining the PTA means I have to volunteer.

Fact: We appreciate everyone as a member, whether or not you volunteer.

Myth #3. I have to be a board member or chair a committee to join the PTA.

Fact: You do not have to serve on the PTA Board or chair a committee to join the PTA. Your smile and wonderful support will suffice!

Myth #4. It's always the same people every year and everyone knows each other.

FACT: While we are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who return, we welcome and need new ones every year.

Myth #5. I don't have the time to join the PTA.

Fact: You can volunteer as little or as much as your schedule allows. You can come to meetings. Or you can sign up for an activity or even chair a committee. Whatever you do will be greatly appreciated.

Myth #6. I'll get roped into volunteering if I attend a PTA meeting.

Fact: Yes, we always need help and there will be opportunities to get involved, but no pressure. We appreciate the chance to hear from you and get fresh, new ideas, and support!

Myth #7. The PTA is only for stay-at-home parents with nothing else to do.

Fact: Your fellow PTA members are family and community who want to support the kids and the school. Every participating member is juggling a job, bills, household chores, kids, sports, and homework, just like you!

Myth #8. My child's life will be the same whether or not I join the PTA.

Fact: Not only does membership put you in direct communication with other parents and teachers, it shows your child that you are interested and invested in their educational experience. Research has proven that parental involvement within the child's school increases academic achievements and decreases behavior issues. Also, the PTA does so much to make the child's school experience better. If everyone felt this way, none of these wonderful activities and supports would be available to your student!

Myth #9. The PTA has all the help they need.

Fact: The PTA always wants and NEEDS volunteers! If you choose to volunteer, you decide your time commitment! The more volunteers available, the less time each volunteer has to spend volunteering, which gives other parents time to spend enjoying our events with their own families! If we have failed to contact you previously, it was truly an oversight, not an indication that we do not need, or want, your help!

Myth #10. I have an idea, but the PTA isn't interested.

Fact: New ideas, and new friends, are always welcome! It is important to keep our PTA fresh!