

# Sunset Elementary School

December 2019



Sunset Elementary is dedicated to meeting the needs of all learners in a safe environment. We strive to give each child the opportunity to inquire and succeed, as open-minded and globally aware life-long learners. We believe that educating the whole child as 21st century learners is the key to the development of caring, innovative, responsible, and reflective citizens who take action in their community and the world.

Office 410-222-6478

[www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)

Fax 410-222-6478

Dr. Toni Carr  
Principal

Mrs. Laura Espinosa  
Assistant Principal

## Administrators' Message

During the past few weeks, we have celebrated our students' academic achievement. Thanks to everyone who supported our American Education Week activities. We are grateful for your support in promoting the academic success of all students at Sunset. As a reminder, our November reading challenge to celebrate American Education Week ended December 4<sup>th</sup>. To date, more than 130 students participated. Great work and keep reading!

Congratulations to all students who achieved perfect attendance and academic awards. We also had 48 students who achieved the Principal's Honor Roll earning A's in all subject areas during the first marking period. A special thank you to Grannie Annie's Daycare for sponsoring our breakfast.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Winter Reading Challenge during the holiday break. To participate students may read three books. The Winter Reading Challenge form will be sent home December 17th. All reading challenge forms are due to the office by Tuesday, January 7, 2020. All students will be recognized for their participation in the reading challenge.

**Just a reminder adult supervision is not available prior to 8:40 a.m. each day. Staff meetings are held daily prior to the school day. Students should not arrive or be dropped off prior to 8:40 a.m.** Also, students who come to school by car, should be dropped off in the lower parking lot. In the interest of student safety, when driving on school grounds please adhere to the established traffic pattern.

Finally, our Sunset staff would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday. School will be closed for the Winter Break Monday, December 23, 2019 thru Wednesday, January 1, 2020. We look forward to seeing students on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Happy Holidays!



## Important Dates

### Professional Development

2 hr. early dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 5

UNITY DAY wear Orange

### 2nd Gr. Science Center

Field Trip

Fri., Dec. 6th

### Holiday Shop

Dec. 9th thru Dec. 13

### Interims go home

Fri., Dec. 13

### Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 14

### Winter Break

Mon., Dec. 23 thru

Thurs., Jan. 2, 2020

January 7, 2020

Winter Reading Challenges

Due

# December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5th Gr. Science Club PTA Chipotle Night	3	4 PTA Meeting 7p.m.	5 Professional Dev. 2hr Early Dismissal UNITY DAY Wear Orange	6 2nd Gr. Field Trip Science Fair	7 Lake Shore Holiday Chorus
8	9 4th Gr. Science Club Holiday Shop Begins	10 Holiday Shop	11 Holiday Shop	12 Holiday Shop	13 Interims go home Holiday Shop	14 Breakfast with Santa
15	16 Winter Reading Challenge begins	17	18	19 Northeast Vocal Performance	20	21 New York Bus Trip
22	23 Winter Break 	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break  	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break
29	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break	Jan. 1 Winter Break 	Jan. 2 School reopens Vision & Hearing	Jan. 3	Jan. 4

**School Hours**  
**Arrival Time—8:40 a.m.**  
**Late Bell—9:00 a.m.**  
**Dismissal Bell—3:25 p.m.**  
**Students cannot be dropped off or exit busses prior to 8:40 a.m.**  
**Sunset Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.—3:45 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



[This Photo](#) by  
Unknown Author is

## Sunset Elementary School Celebrates the Winter Break with a Reading Challenge!

Book Title	Author	Parent Signature

Read 3 books by January 7, 2020. Fill in this form and return it to school. Students will receive recognition and a coupon for a Texas Roadhouse Kids meal.

Challenge Date: December 17, 2019 thru January 7, 2020

There will be one more reading challenge after this one. Complete all three reading challenges and receive a special invitation for a fun activity.

Our next Challenge will be the Spring Reading Challenge, Get ready!



## Have you checked the lost and found lately?

Our lost and found is growing, clothing has been put out on display at various school events so parents can check for lost items. We have also posted lost items to the PTA Facebook page. If your student is missing an item, please have them check the lost and found. We will continue to remind students about our growing lost and found, parents are also encouraged to stop by and look. Because of the size of our lost and found, all coats not claimed by the Winter Break will be donated to the Riviera Beach Library, "Give a coat, take a coat program" which offers free coats to those who need them.



### Little Shoppers Holiday Shoppe Schedule

Please send in money with your student on their scheduled shopping day.

	Wednesday 11-Dec	Thursday 12-Dec	Friday 13-Dec
9:15 - 9:45	Mrs. Hunter	Mrs. Clark-Keegan	Mrs. Venter
9:45 - 10:15	Ms. Cabbiness	Ms. Johansen	Mrs. Pillow
10:15 - 10:45	Mrs. Hare	Mrs. Smoot	Ms. Wittek
10:45 - 11:15	Ms. Wilkins		*2nd Grade Recess Buyers
11:15 - 11:45	Mrs. Fleck		
11:45 - 12:15			*4th Grade Recess Buyers
12:15 - 12:45	Mrs. Phillips	Mrs. Spalding	*5th Grade Recess Buyers
12:45 - 1:15		Mrs. Riner	*3rd Grade Recess Buyers
1:15 - 1:45	Mrs. Flanagan	Mrs. Dawson	*1st Grade Recess Buyers
1:45 - 2:15	Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Meyer	
2:15 - 2:45	Mrs. Marucha	Mrs. Drexel	
2:45 - 3:15	Mrs. Galanti	Mrs. Hoffmaster	*Kinder Recess Buyers



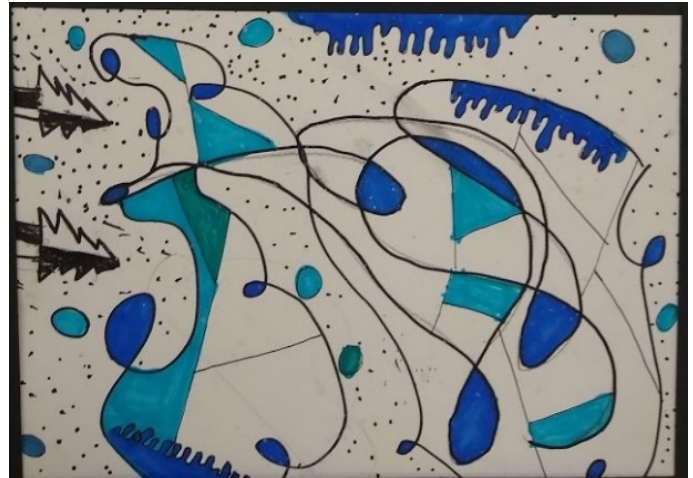
## December Art News

Fifth Graders **Eli Buckmaster, Kylie Fluhr, Sarah Rashed, and Samuel Stowe** will have artwork on display at the AACPS **Winter Wonderland** show.

The exhibit will be at the Westfield Annapolis Mall from December 3, 2019-January 6, 2020. There will be an art reception at the mall on December 11, 2019 from 6-7:00pm. Congratulations Eli, Kylie, Sarah, and Samuel!



Sam Stowe



Eli Buckmaster



Kylie Fluhr



Sarah Rashed



For supporting our Joe Corbi's fundraiser.

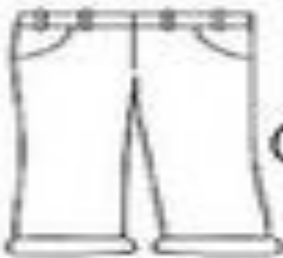
Sometimes we spill things on our clothes, pants get ripped at recess, etc. Even the older kids.

## Change of Clothing

Dear Parents,

Spills and accidents can occur in school. Please send in a complete change of clothing inside the attached bag. Be sure to label the bag with your child's name. Your child's clothes will be stored in the classroom in the event they are needed.

Your child needs:



pants  
(no shorts)



shirt



underpants



socks

Thank you ☺

# Sunset PYP December

<b>Pre- Kindergarten</b>	
December Unit of Inquiry: How the World Works Central Idea: Communities are where we live, work and play; Holidays Around the World	
December Unit Highlights: Communities (local and world) & Winter Holidays  Looking Ahead to January: How can we do to stay healthy? What foods are healthy? Why should we exercise?  Cultural Arts Connections: WCL: cultural holidays P.E.: cultural holidays Music: cultural holidays Media: cultural holidays Spanish: cultural holidays	Ways to Connect at Home: Discuss places in our community and people who work in our community. Discuss your family's holiday traditions.  Ask your child: What are some places in our community? Who are some community helpers? How can we help our community? How do we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, etc?  Ways to connect with school: Identify and talk about places in the community when you visit them. Identify and talk about people who are helping our community. Talk about different winter holiday celebrations.

<b>Kindergarten</b>	
December Unit of Inquiry: Where We Are In Place and Time Central Idea: How does where you live impact how you live?	
December Unit Highlights: communities Position words. Different cultures/traditions around the world Celebrate Christmas(compare/contrast)  Looking Ahead to January: community helpers, how things move  Cultural Arts Connections: What skills do communities of engineers use to build projects? WCL: cultural holidays and classroom communities P.E.: cultural holidays Art: Winter night collage Music: Cultural holidays Media: Visiting relatives far away	Ways to Connect at Home: continue to discuss the community we live in. How do you celebrate the holiday? (Traditions) Ask your child: What are the different types of communities?  Ways to connect with school:Locate places on a map. Use position words.



**1st grade**

December Unit of Inquiry: **How We Express Ourselves**

Central Idea: Culture connects people through shared beliefs, traditions, and experiences.

December Unit Highlights:  
Culture  
Traditions  
Holiday celebrations around the world

Looking Ahead to January:  
New Year's celebrations around the world

Cultural Arts Connections:

Ways to Connect at Home:  
Discuss family culture and traditions

Ask your child:  
What holiday traditions have you learned about from other countries?

Ways to connect with school:  
How are your own family holiday celebrations similar/different to the celebrations we are learning about in class?

**2nd grade**

December Unit of Inquiry: How the World Works

Central Idea: Changes in the earth affect and connect with one another.

December Unit Highlights:  
Natural Disasters

Looking Ahead to January:  
We will begin our new unit How We Express Ourselves

Cultural Arts Connections:

Ways to Connect at Home:  
Discuss information about natural disasters

Ask your child:  
Tell me about a natural disaster that you learned about. How can someone stay safe during this natural disaster?

Ways to connect with school:  
Create an action plan with your child about a natural disaster.

**3rd grade**

December Unit of Inquiry: **Sharing the Planet**

Central Idea: Connections between communities can be formed through traits and cultures.

December Unit Highlights:  
  
How are different cultures connected in a community?

Looking Ahead to January:  
Where We Are in Place and Time

Cultural Arts Connections:  
WCL: connecting our community through kindness- acts of kindness.- kindness boomerang  
Art: My community in winter  
P.E. teams as communities- working as a team

Ways to Connect at Home:

Look for traits at home either physical or cultural.

Ask your child: What are traits?  
Why are traits important?  
Why is environment important?

Ways to connect with school: Look for different cultures within your community.



### 4th grade

December Unit of Inquiry: **How We Express Ourselves**

Central Idea:

December Unit Highlights:

- Outrageous Acts of Earth
- Maps used to study Earth's features
- Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Mountain Ranges
- What are waves?

Looking Ahead to January:

- Our Changing Landscape
- Weathering and Erosion

Cultural Arts Connections:

Library Media - how can we build structures to withstand extreme weather?

Art: abstract expressionist painting

WCL: how does environment affect how holidays are celebrated

P.E. Communication- different ways to communicate

Ways to Connect at Home:

1. Look at different types of maps
2. Compare different features on each map
3. Review map keys (What are their purpose?)

Ask your child:

1. How are maps used to study Earth's features?
2. How are earthquakes measured?
3. What are waves?

Ways to connect with school:

1. Analyze data from topographic maps
2. Analyze data from maps to describe Earth's features

### 5th grade

December Unit of Inquiry: **How We Express Ourselves**

Central Idea: **Conflicts can cause change in society**

December Unit Highlights:

- Road to the revolutionary war
- Winter holidays around the world

Looking Ahead to January:

- The events of the revolutionary war

Cultural Arts Connections:

Ways to Connect at Home:

- Discuss current events and conflicts happening in our world today
- Talk about holiday traditions in your own home that reflect your cultures and values

Ask your child:

- What are the ways we can express ourselves when dealing with conflict?

Ways to connect with school:

- Continue to help your student find positive ways to express themselves and handle conflict

Access Sunset's website at:

Logon to [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)

Go to the top of the screen under School Links and click Elementary Schools and find Sunset Elementary, scroll and click on Sunset Elementary School. This will bring up an informational page on Sunset. Go to the center of the screen and click on School Website, View or print out

## School Hours

- Students will enter the gym at 8:40 a.m.
- Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- Students not in class by 9:00 a.m. will be marked late.
- Dismissal is at 3:25 p.m.



PLEASE NOTE: NO ADULT SUPERVISION IS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE TO STUDENTS BEFORE 8:40 A.M.

Health Room NEW Direct Phone  
Number 410-266-3776

Have you paid your child's

Weekly Reader fee?

The Weekly Reader is part of the school curriculum and school supply list. Checks can be made to Sunset Elementary School and sent to the office.



## MEDICAL CONCERNS & ADMINISTERING MEDICATION: PLEASE READ

- Parents should make the school aware of any medical problems a child might have.
- **Only the health room staff may administer medicine** to students at school, including **cough drops, aspirin or medicated chap stick**.
- A **medical authorization form** is attached in newsletter in case you have a need for it. Please complete this **whenever your child will need to take medication during the school day. This must be signed by a doctor.**
- **Any medication to be given at school must be delivered to the health room by an adult. PLEASE DO NOT HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING ANY MEDICATION TO SCHOOL.**

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



# ATTENDANCE

## in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

### Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.<sup>1</sup>



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.<sup>1</sup>

2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.<sup>2</sup>

4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Chang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose. Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, September 2008.

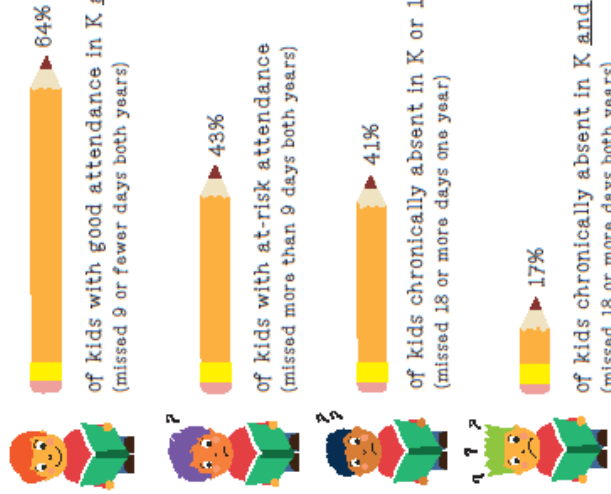
<sup>2</sup> Chronic Absence in Utah, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

### Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

### What We Can Do



#### Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



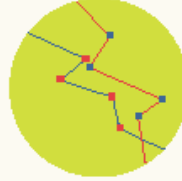
#### Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



#### Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



#### Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

# Sunset Elementary School Video Camera System

Our school is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083."



## 2019-2020 School Year New School Meal Prices

Breakfast, All Schools	\$1.50
Lunch, Elementary	\$2.75
Milk 1/2 pint, ALa Carte	\$.55
Reduced-Price Breakfast	\$.30
Reduced-Price Lunch	\$.40

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Risse, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services at 410-222-5900 or [jrisse@aacps.org](mailto:jrisse@aacps.org).

## Field Trip Information

Please be advised that ALL field trips are subject to cancellation AT ANYTIME by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's designee when, in their discretion, cancellation is in the best interests of students and staff. In such cases, parents and students have the risk of loss for financial or other commitments they have made. The Board of Education, its employees, and agents will not be responsible for any losses arising out of cancellations.



## Lunch and Recess Schedule

Grade	Recess	Lunch
K		11:40-12:10
1	1:10-1:30	11:00-11:30
2	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:50
3	12:45-1:10	12:15-12:45
4	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:30
5	12:20-12:40	12:40-1:10

## No Breakfast/Lunch Money

Food Service will provide the following for students who do not have breakfast or lunch money....

**Breakfast**-Jelly Sandwich, (1) fruit serving and a cup of water.

**Lunch**-Jelly or Cheese Sandwich, (1) fruit or vegetable serving and a cup of water.



Are you receiving emails from our school, important reminders, newsletter, etc. Do we have your email address?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to your child's teacher to forward to the office. Thank you!

**SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**ABSENTEE FORM**

My son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal first and last name  
was absent from school on \_\_\_\_\_ for the  
Month/day/year

following reason (s): (Check reason(s) below)

- Illness of child     Doctor or dentist appointment  
 Death in immediate family     Court summons  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

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TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_