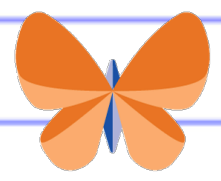




@MonarchAnnapolis

\* Your monthly guide to school news, information and events.

# Monarch Annapolis CHRYSALIS



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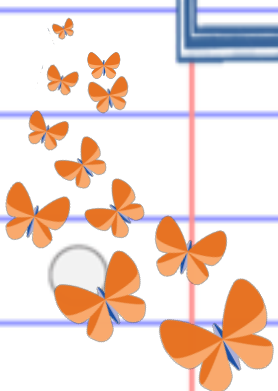
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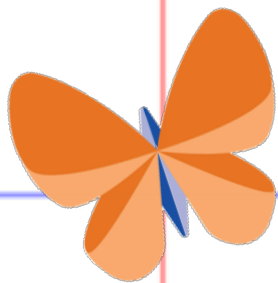
Welcome to December ü Let's make this the best month of the year! Please read through this month's newsletter closely to find out the awesome things going on this month. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us!

<http://monarchacademy.org/annapolis/> (410) 934-1444

## DECEMBER 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
2	3	4	5	6 Spirit Day! Wear your favorite Holiday Sweater
		Scholastic Book Fair Book fair open today until 4:45		2 HR Early Dismissal (12:15)
9	10	11 Heart Market Monarch Arundel Board Mtg.	12	13 Interims Sent Home Winter Festival
16	17	18	19 Holiday Boutique	20 Spirit Day! Wear your pajamas! PTA Membership Night @ Skate Zone
23	24	25	26	27
----- Winter Break -----			----- Winter Break -----	
30	31			
----- Winter Break -----				





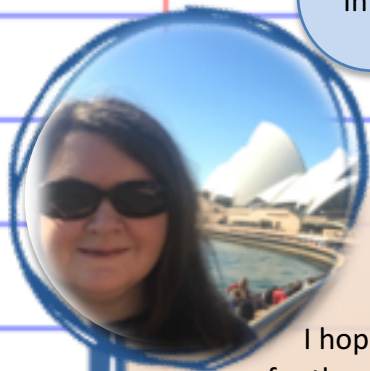
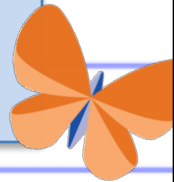
## Who We Are

Monarch Academy Annapolis (MAA) is a Public Charter School contracted through AACPS, run by The Children's Guild. The Children's Guild programs are guided by [Transformation Education \(TranZed\)](#), MAA is approaching the authorization to become an official International Baccalaureate, Primary Years Programme School.

## Our Mission

At Monarch Academy Annapolis, we educate the whole child by empowering students to embrace diversity, inspire curiosity, and cultivate compassion.

**Exceptional Education  
for Every Learner!**



## A message from your principal!

Dear Marvelous Monarch Annapolis Families,

I hope that your family enjoyed the Thanksgiving Break and that you are rested and ready for the short journey to the next break. With just three weeks until our Christmas/Winter Holiday break, there's a lot happening at school to share with you! We are now settled into the 2nd Marking Period and you can expect to see interims come home on Friday, December 13th.

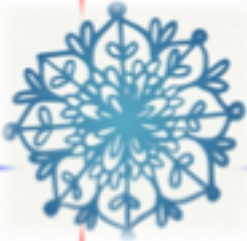
With many grade levels scheduling field trips this fall/winter, this is a great time to complete your background check, just so it's on file and ready to go should you be selected as a chaperone. [Here's the link to the chaperone page on the AACPS website.](#) Note, most field trips require only the second option, a Commercial Background Check, and not the Fingerprint Supported Background check. Also, it is important to know that for security reasons, AACPS does not allow parents of family members to meet at field trip site. All adults attending the field trip must be identified as trip chaperones and have completed background checks.

Recently I was struck by an article circulating on social media entitled "The 'Million Word Gap' for children who aren't read to at home" which highlights the importance of reading to and with young children. In summary, the article noted: "Young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to, a new study found. This 'million word gap' could be one key in explaining differences in vocabulary and reading development." As I continue to consider this article, I urge you to dust off that library card, pack up your kids, and run to the local library. Grab as many books as you can and start a family tradition of reading together every day!

As we look to the future of Monarch Academy Annapolis, we are excited to be rolling out unique programming and awesome experiences that set our school apart from all the rest. Attached to this email you will find a flyer explaining the work we are doing to expand our Gifted and Talented Pathways here at Monarch Annapolis. Our plans in this area have three prongs: 1) expanded identification to represent ALL learners, 2) expanded curriculum resources and strategies, some stand-alone and some embedded in the PYP units, and 3) parent involvement and development to support giftedness in children. This expansion means we will provide what AACPS does and **MORE**. We plan to kick off parent committees in this area in the new year and hope you will be a part of it. This is just one of several components of our vision for our future here at Monarch Annapolis. Stay tuned for more information!

May you have a joyful December! As always, if there's any way I can support your child please reach out at [410-934-1444](tel:410-934-1444) or [ramstutz@aacps.org](mailto:ramstutz@aacps.org).

~Ms. Rachel Amstutz



# Important Dates

## January:

1/1 School Closed ü Winter Break

1/8 Winter Strings & Ukulele Concert @ 6:30

1/15 Winter Band, Chorus & Bucket Band Concert @ 6:30

1/20 School Closed ü MLK Day

1/28 & 1/29 Two Hour Early Dismissals (@12:55)

1/30 School Closed ü



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

### Upcoming Concerts:

January 8<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm: Winter Strings and Uke Concert

January 15<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm: Winter Band, Chorus Concert,  
and Bucket Band

Please visit Mrs. Brimhall's Instrumental Music  
website! [www.brimhallmusic.weebly.com](http://www.brimhallmusic.weebly.com)



The Mighty Milers Running Club wrapped up their season with a track meet at Annapolis High School. While it was a cold night our students ran their hearts out along side the 370 kids participating in the program across Annapolis. Our students have trained for several weeks with Coach Fisher and Coach Clay to increase their endurance and confidence. Students ran their best times and left the track with smiles as they were greeted by cheering fans and high-fives. We are so proud of all of our students in Mighty Milers. Congratulations!

**Current Clubs Being Offered**

- ⇒ Bucket Band (2nd grade)
- ⇒ Ukulele Club (4th & 5th grade)
- ⇒ Robotics (1st - 5th grade)
- ⇒ Chess (K - 5th grade)
- ⇒ Coding (2nd - 5th grade)

**Potential New Clubs**

*We're currently working out the logistics of the following clubs, and hope to bring them to Monarch in the near future. Please know these clubs are pending.*

- ⇒ Book Club (4th & 5th grade)
- ⇒ Story Club (2nd & 3rd grade)
- ⇒ Stock Market Club (4th & 5th grade)
- ⇒ Bucket Band (2nd grade)
- ⇒ Basketball (1st - 3rd grade)

- ⇒ We are looking for club leaders and helpers. If you would like to bring a club opportunity to Monarch or support a club by being a helper please email Kate McFaul at [mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org](mailto:mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org)
- ⇒ Can't volunteer but know of a great organization that could bring a club to Monarch? Email the organization name and any details to Kate McFaul at [mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org](mailto:mcfaulk@monarchacademy.org)

# Important Resources

● [Digital 2019-2020 AACPS Calendar](https://www.aacps.org/Page/2) <https://www.aacps.org/Page/2>

● [AACPS Families Resources](https://www.aacps.org/families) <https://www.aacps.org/families>

● [December Lunch Menu](https://tinyurl.com/v5kn86p) <https://tinyurl.com/v5kn86p>

● [AACPS Chaperone Site](https://www.aacps.org/chaperone)  
<https://www.aacps.org/chaperone>

Not receiving digital communication from us?  
Please let us know immediately!  
[MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchAnnapolis@gmail.com)



# EXPANDED GIFTED & TALENTED PATHWAYS

LAUNCHING FOR THE  
2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

AT MONARCH ACADEMY ANNAPOLIS

Monarch Academy Annapolis has launched an expansion to its Gifted and Talented pathways. As part of our expansion, we are creating parent committees, expanding our identification process, and embedding additional instructional structures and curriculum resources for highly able learners. The expansion of our current Gifted and Talented identification process seeks greater representation from ALL learners. The new pathways will be embedded within our International Baccalaureate® (IB) Primary Years Program Units of Inquiry providing opportunities to extend learning.

We have many exciting plans for this work for our students including:

- Talent spotting not just in **math** and **reading**, but also in **arts**
- Connections to **performing and visual arts**, the Annapolis government offices, and the local business community
- Age appropriate **self-directed inquiry and research** which will teach students to ask great questions, hone effective research skills, and take their knowledge public
- Empower students to **take action** to address local and global challenges
- **Leadership** opportunities
- Much more!



**#MonarchAnnapolisHasTalent**

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[monarchacademy.org/annapolis](http://monarchacademy.org/annapolis)

# GRATITUDE

## scavenger hunt

1. Find something outside you enjoy looking at.
2. Find something that is your favorite color.
3. Find something that makes you happy.
4. Find something about yourself that is AWESOME.
5. Find something that makes you feel safe.
6. Find something in the morning that you enjoy.
7. Find a person or pet you enjoy spending time with.
8. Find something that tastes good.
9. Find someone/something that reminds you that you are loved.
10. Find/make something to give to someone else to make them smile.

There is never a bad time of year to teach kids about gratitude.

Gratitude is one of the many positive emotions we teach kids at Monarch Annapolis. It can be explained with this definition: pausing to take notice and appreciate the things we have (things we often take for granted).

You can use the Gratitude Scavenger Hunt as an activity to do together with your child.

There are also so many [amazing books](#) about gratitude . A favorite is *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts. You can find a [read aloud](#) of this book on Youtube.

Monarch Academy Annapolis wouldn't be the same without YOU! Thank you for making our school so special!

## Reading Updates

Did you know that when students increase their reading by just 5 extra minutes a day, for two months, they will read approximately 45,667 words, increase their fluency by 5-7 words per minute, and score higher on reading assessments? The Reading Team is kicking off the season with a school-wide reading incentive called **"Take 5 by the Fireside"**. Students in all classes will participate in finding 5 minutes every day to stop and read for fun in front of a virtual fireplace. Classes will keep a chart of their total minutes. Every class who reads a total of 3,500+ minutes between December 2nd and January 31st will enjoy a celebration with s'mores.

**We are looking forward to some cozy reading time as the weather gets cooler!**