



Relay Elementary School News



Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar This Month

May 2023

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 5 th Grade Panoramic Picture Day	2	3	4 PTA Meeting at 6:15	5	6
7	8	9	10 Plant Sale	11 Plant Sale	12 Plant Sale	13
	Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week - May 8 th - 12 th					
14	15	16	17	18 3 rd Grade Recital at 6:00 Recorders and Dance	19 Half Day - Dismissal at 12:40	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Career Day	27
28	29 Schools Closed	30 5 th Grade Concert at 6:00 - Instrumental and Vocal Music	31			

*FYI: We are waiting to receive confirmation on a date for the Kona Ice reward for the World's Finest Chocolate PTA fundraiser. Several dates (school days) have been offered with a 2:00 time when students will be called to the cafeteria to receive their Kona ice prize. Additional information will be provided as soon as the point of contact from the fundraiser is able to confirm the date.

Looking Ahead to Next Month - June 2023:	June 1 st	Field Day (Rain date - June 2nd)
	June 8 th	5 th Grade Farewell
	June 12 th	Half Day - Dismissal at 12:40
	June 13 th	Half Day - Dismissal at 12:40; LAST DAY of SCHOOL



Principal's Message

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all the incredible accomplishments and growth we have seen here at Relay Elementary School. Despite some challenges we have faced this year, our students have continued to amaze us with their resilience, creativity, and determination to succeed.

Firstly, I am proud to announce that our students have continued to make great progress in their academic and personal growth. Our teachers have been working hard to create engaging and challenging lessons that meet the needs of all learners. I want to thank our families for their continued support and encourage you to keep working with your children at home to reinforce the skills they are learning in the classroom.

Secondly, I am thrilled to let you know that we will be hosting several upcoming events that I am sure you will enjoy. We will be holding a 3rd and 5th grade concert, Career Day, and a school-wide field day to name a few. See calendar above and keep an eye out for more information about these events in the coming weeks.

Lastly, I wanted to remind you about the importance of attendance and punctuality. We understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, but please make every effort to have your child in school on time and for the full day. Consistent attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and we appreciate your support in this matter.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our staff.

**With Appreciation From Your
Proud Principal,**

Lisa Grace



Special Honors

Relay is so lucky to have some of the best educators in BCPS!

Congratulations to Ms. Folkoff and Ms. Sick!



PTA at Relay Elementary School

Our next PTA meeting is Thursday, May 4th at 6:15 in the school library. Please join us for the meeting and consider volunteering for one of our Executive Board positions. Thank you so much to this year's Board: President Nicole Nguyen, VP Nikita Shah, Treasurer Joe Neet, and Secretary Diana Neet.

The Baltimore County PTA Council will be partnering with Relay and the PTA to provide ongoing support, and especially during this time of transition with onboarding new officers.

Relay Elementary PTA Board Openings For 2023-2024 School Year

President

Main point of contact for the PTA

Communicates regularly with the school, PTA members, the board and the county/state PTA

Manages meetings and coordinates the work of board members and committees

Works closely with the treasurer for financial matters

Vice President

Assists the President as needed

Recruits committee chairs and manages committee activities

Coordinates Fundraising Efforts

Secretary

Records minutes and attendance at all meetings of the full PTA, board And executive committee

Shares minutes with the board for approval

Shares minutes with PTA membership

Treasurer

Manages deposits and disbursements of PTA funds

Works with all board members to develop and manage the budget

Handles tax filings and payment to local and state PTA groups

Works with a committee to audit accounts each fiscal year

Comfortable with spreadsheets



Safe and Healthy Environment

Snacks and Lunch

Please remind students of the importance of not sharing food at school. It is important that we honor this rule at school for reasons including but not limited to: religion, allergies, and other medical conditions. Thank you for your understanding and partnership.

Arrival/Dismissal Safety

Please remember to be safe and patient in the school parking lot, especially during arrival and dismissal. If you are dropping students off, please utilize the car rider line to do so safely. If walking, please access the crosswalks and be attentive and careful when crossing.

Drivers – please be courteous to walking students and families.

If you pick up your child(ren) in our car rider line, please feel free to pull into a parking spot if you need additional time to ensure your children are properly secured in your vehicle before pulling off the parking lot.



Stranger Danger

Parents should discuss these Stranger Danger tips with their children:

- Always tell your parents where you are going.
- Try not to walk anywhere alone. Walk with a friend.
- Don't take shortcuts through the woods, a back street or empty lot.
- Bad people do not always look mean or scary.
- Do not get close to strangers. Make sure you have room to run.
- Don't tell your name or address to a stranger.
- Never go with a stranger to help look for a lost pet or play a game.
- Never get into a car with anyone you don't know.
- If a stranger bothers you, run away and ask an adult for help.
- Know safe places you can go – a police or fire station, the library, a store or a friend's house.
- If a stranger follows you or grabs for you, yell loud! Shout, "I don't know you!" Fight back and make as much noise as you can.
- If anyone touches you in a bad way, say, "NO!" Get away and tell an adult you trust. Keep telling until someone listens.
- Tell your parents about places you don't feel safe.
- Talk to your parents and come up with a secret code word. Never go with anyone unless they know the secret code word.
-

If your children are old enough to stay home alone, review these tips:

- Know how and when to call 911.
- Never open the door to a stranger.
- Never tell anyone on the phone you are home alone.
- Never tell any callers your name, number, or address.
- Hang up right away if you do not like what someone is saying on the phone or disconnect from an online game if you are uncomfortable with someone.



Cold Weather Gear

***Is your child missing any of their winter garments? Remind them to check the Lost and Found which is located right outside the main office.**



Dismissal Changes

We understand that life requires changes so please follow the steps below if your child will need to change their normal dismissal plan.

- Send in a note indicating the normal plan, the requested change, and the reason.
- We ask that families update all student emergency contacts; anyone who comes to pick up a child **MUST** be listed on the contact form.
- Your child should give the note to his/her teacher. *Children are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one assigned to them. If you are concerned that the note will not find its way to the teacher, please email your child's teacher along with the office staff, Jennifer Szczesniakowski at jszczesniakowski@bcps.org, Stacey Cronin at scronin@bcps.org, and Robin Kodek at rkodek@bcps.org.
- If you have not received a confirmation email by 3:00, please call the main office at 443-809-1426 to ensure your child is dismissed properly. **Please make sure dismissal plans are in place prior to 3:00pm.**
- ***We are unable to make changes to dismissal plans after 3:00, unless there is an emergency.***

School Meals

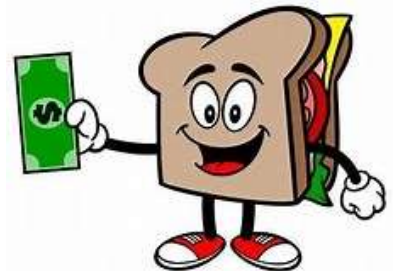
****Many students have accrued negative balances. Would you like to pay off your negative balance and prevent future ones? Would you like to be more involved with your student's spending in the cafeteria?**

Sign up for www.MySchoolBucks.com! However, you can take advantage of all these features, and fund your account for **free**, with cash or a check at your student's school.

It is important to note: New federal regulations that went into effect this year are associated with the Anti-Lunch Shaming Act. All students receive two full meals per day and continue to accumulate meal debt, when they do not bring money to pay for their meal; breakfast remains free to all students at Relay Elementary this year, but lunch is only free to those who have qualified by completing and submitting an

application: [MySchoolApps - Getting Started](#)

You are invited visit the website to access lunch menu options: [Menus | Baltimore County Public Schools \(nutrilslice.com\)](#)



Cell phones



Please remind students of the cell phone policy: If you choose to bring your cell phone to school, it must be off and away during school hours. This includes similar devices, such as smart watches. Students are not permitted to make phone calls, text, use social media, take photos or videos, etc. while at school. If parents need to reach students or vice versa, please call into the front office at 443-809-1426.

BCPS Transportation Updates

Please note, the chart on the webpage is sorted by “School.” If Relay is not listed in the “School” column it means that no bus changes or delays were reported by area Transportation staff for our school. Some buses are changes only – a different bus today instead of the Assigned Bus; you will see that change reflected in “Today’s Bus” but with no “Delay” noted. Other rows note there is both a “Delay” and a bus change, so you will see a time noted in the “Delay” column and information in the “Today’s Bus” column. Please also note, the webpage will be updated once for AM service and once for PM service; the Office of Transportation will continue to strive to provide this communication no later than 7:05 AM for AM trips and 1:55 PM for PM trips.

Feedback can be shared with the Office of Transportation by calling 443-809-4321 between the hours of 6:00 AM and 5:30 PM on school days or by emailing: Transportation_Contact_Us@bcps.org.

****The Office of Transportation is excited to announce that a BCPS bus transportation status page is live! Beginning December 12, 2022, families may now access the following webpage to see bus changes and delays:**
https://www.bcps.org/parents/transportation_status



Baltimore County Public Schools / Parents / Transportation Status

TRANSPORTATION STATUS

Please check Focus regularly to obtain the most up-to-date bus stop, time, and trip name for your student's transportation.

Listed below are the Baltimore County Public School buses with substitutions or delays for bus routes scheduled. Should you have further questions, please contact the Office of Transportation at 443-809-4321 or Transportation_ContactUs@bcps.org.

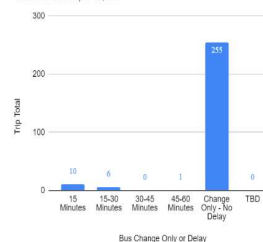
Buses appear in the chart below by school.

Please note, changes/delays are accurate at the time of this posting and are subject to change. Bus changes and delays that occur once service begins will be communicated with the school as they become known.

School	Bus Number	Delay	Today's Bus
RANDALLSTOWN HIGH	5488	No Delay	RANDALLSTOWN HS - CARRIAGE HILL - AM
RELAY ELEMENTARY	5061	No Delay	RELAY ES - ST DENIS - SILVER - AM
RELAY ELEMENTARY	5013	No Delay	RELAY ES - CIRCLE - PINK - AM
RELAY ELEMENTARY	5005	No Delay	CATONSVILLE ES w RELAY ES - SP - RAINBOW - AM
RELAY ELEMENTARY	5264	No Delay	RELAY ES - CARMELLA - RED - AM
RELAY ELEMENTARY	5015	No Delay	RELAY ES - PRE-K - PM PICK-UP
RIDGE RUXTON SCHOOL	4021	No Delay	RIDGE RUXTON / PINEWOOD ES / POT SPRINGS ES - SP - PURPLE -
RIDGE RUXTON SCHOOL	45-60 Minutes		RIDGE RUXTON - SP - GOLD - AM
RIDGELY MIDDLE	5424	No Delay	RIDGELY MS - MANORWOOD - AM
RIDGELY MIDDLE	5411	No Delay	RIDGELY MS - ORCHARD HILLS - AM
ROSEDALE CENTER	5140	No Delay	ROSEDALE CENTER - SE - MIDDLE RIVER - AM
ROSSVILLE ELEMENTARY	5077	No Delay	ROSSVILLE ES - COPPIN STATE - AM
ROSSVILLE ELEMENTARY	5026	No Delay	ROSSVILLE ES - FROSTBURG - AM
ROSSVILLE ELEMENTARY	5324	No Delay	ROSSVILLE ES - BOWIE - AM
SANDY PLAINS ELEMENTARY	4059	No Delay	SANDY PLAINS ES - BAYSIDE - AM
SCOTT'S BRANCH ELEMENTARY	5488	No Delay	SCOTT'S BRANCH ES - TENTHILL - ORANGE - AM
SEVEN OAKS ELEMENTARY	4864	No Delay	SEVEN OAKS ES - SP - BUS 2 - AM
SEVEN OAKS ELEMENTARY	5430	No Delay	SEVEN OAKS ES - NORTHWOOD - BLUE - AM

BCPS Bus Changes and Delays

Total # of Bus Trips: ~2,100



Where to find Information

Updates and information will be shared out regularly by teachers, and by administration via our SchoolMessenger tool as needed, which may include text, email, and/or phone calls. Contact the front office if you need to update any of your contact information to ensure you receive this information.

School Website:

<https://relay.es.bcps.org>

BCPS Website:

www.bcps.org

Relay Elementary Main Office
443-809-1426

Twitter:

@BaltCoPS

@Relay_BCPS

@LisaGraceRelay

BCPS Transportation Department

Transportation.Contact.Us@bcps.org

443-809-4321

[Student Transportation Operating Procedures Manual April 2022.pdf \(sharpschool.com\)](#)

Bus Changes and Delays: https://www.bcps.org/parents/transportation_status

Relay PTA:

PTA Board Members

President: Nicole Nguyen

Vice President: Niki Shah

Treasurer: Joe Neet

Secretary: Diana Neet

relaypta@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/relaypta>



Attachments Included with this Newsletter:

- 2023-2024 School Calendar

Relay Elementary's Bell Schedule:

Opening Bell	8:40am
Late Bell	8:55am
Dismissal Bell	3:40pm



Relay Elementary School

5885 Selford Road

Halethorpe, MD 21227

443-809-1426

Principal - Lisa Grace - lgrace3@bcps.org

Asst. Principal - Chara Pitarra - cpitarra@bcps.org



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

August 2023							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	4 (F)	Summer School Ends	
		1	2	3	4	5	18 (F)	Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Meeting	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	21 (M)	Teachers and School Based Staff on Duty	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	22 (T)	Systemwide Professional Development Activities	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	23 (W)	Teacher Classroom Preparation Day	
27	28	29	30	31			24 (Th)	Orientation for Students Entering Grades 6 and 9	
							25 (F)	Teacher Classroom Preparation Day	
							28 (M)	Opening Day for Students	
							30 (W)	First Full Day of Kindergarten (Transportation Begins)	
								4	9

September 2023							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	4 (M)	Labor Day – Schools and Offices Closed	
					1	2	15 (F)	Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students – Teachers on Duty – Rosh Hashanah*	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	25 (M)	Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students – Teachers on Duty – Yom Kippur*	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18/22		20/29
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

October 2023							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	9 (M)	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	20 (F)	Schools Closed for Teachers and Students (MSEA Convention)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	21/43		21/50
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	31							



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

November 2023							<u>Student Days</u>		<u>Staff Days</u>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	3 (F)	First Marking Period Ends – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis**– Teachers on Duty	
			1	2	3	4	13 (M)	Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students – Teachers of Duty – Diwali Observed*	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	14 (T)	Report Cards Distributed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14-17 (T-F)	American Education Week	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20 (M)	Pre-K Conference Day – No Preschool-3 or Pre-K Sessions – Teachers on Duty	
26	27	28	29	30			21 (T)	Pre-K and Elementary Conference Day – No Preschool-3 or Pre-K Sessions and Schools Closed for Elementary Students – Middle and High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty	
							22-24 (W-F)	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed	
							17-18/60-61		19/69

December 2023							<u>Student Days</u>		<u>Staff Days</u>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	22 (F)	Christmas Holiday/Winter Break Begins at the End of the School Day; Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early	
					1	2		16/76-77	16/85
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31									

January 2024							<u>Student Days</u>		<u>Staff Days</u>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2 (T)	Schools Reopen	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	15 (M)	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Schools and Offices Closed	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	19 (F)	Second Marking Period Ends – Schools Close 3 Hours Early for All Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – Teachers on Duty	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	29 (M)	Report Cards Distributed	
28	29	30	31				21/97-98		21/106



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

February 2024							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	9 (F)	Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students – Teachers of Duty – Lunar New Year Observed*	
				1	2	3	19 (M)	Presidents’ Day, Washington’s Birthday - Schools and Offices Closed	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19/116-117		20/126
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29					

March 2024							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	25 (M)	Maryland Day*	
					1	2	22 (F)	Spring Break Begins at the End of the School Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	16/132-133		16/142
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31									

April 2024							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2 (T)	Schools Reopen	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5 (F)	Third Marking Period Ends -All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** –Teachers on Duty	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10 (W)	Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students – Teachers of Duty – Eid al-Fitr*	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	16 (T)	Report Cards Distributed	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	23 (T)	Election Day – Schools and Offices Closed	
28	29	30					26 (F)	Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early	
							29 (M)	Pre-K and Kindergarten Conference Day – No Preschool-3, Pre-K or Kindergarten Sessions – Teachers on Duty	
							30 (T)	Pre-K Conference Day – No Preschool-3 or Pre-K Sessions– Teachers on Duty	
							19/151-152		20/162



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

May 2024							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	24 (F)	Last Day for Seniors	
			1	2	3	4	17 (F)	Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	27 (M)	Memorial Day Observed – Schools and Offices Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	28-31 (T-F)	Commencement Exercises	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28	29	30	31				
							22/173-174		22/184

June 2024							Student Days		Staff Days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1-7 (S-F)	Commencement Exercises	
						1	12 (W)	Assessment Day*** – Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in Session Full Day – Last Day of Classes for Preschool-3 and Pre-K## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #1)	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13 (Th)	Assessment Day*** – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – Teachers on Duty## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #2)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14 (F)	Assessment Day*** – Last Day of Classes – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – Teachers on Duty, Last Day for Teachers## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #3)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	17 (M)	Eid al-Adha*	
30							19 (W)	Juneteenth – Schools and Offices Closed	
							10/183-184		10/194
							TOTAL		183-184
									194



July 2024							4 (Th)	Independence Day – Schools and Offices Closed	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	5 (F)	Summer School Teachers on Duty	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	8 (M)	Summer School Begins	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						




BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

August 2024							2 (F)	Summer School Ends
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

Key: Gray shaded box  : Schools closed for students; half-shaded gray box  : Half day for students

Green outlined box  : First day of school for students

Red outlined box  : Last day of school for students if no inclement weather days are used

Yellow shaded box  : Inclement weather make-up days

* Schools open with appropriate exercises OR appropriate exercises to be scheduled on the school day prior.

** GRADE AND DATA RECORDING, DATA ANALYSIS – Principals and teachers will have time for grade and data recording, data analysis/progress assessment.

***ASSESSMENT DAY – High schools will have the opportunity to administer traditional final exams or to use alternative assessment procedures.

Adjustments to the School Calendar

As shown, this calendar includes three (3) emergency closure make-up days.

If **no** emergency closure days occur, the school year will end for students on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, and the Assessment Days, the last day of classes for Preschool-3 and Pre-K, and the last day for teachers will be re-designated accordingly.

Should emergency closures occur, the make-up days will be as follows:

Emergency Closure #1 Make-up Day will be **Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

Emergency Closure #2 Make-up Day will be **Thursday, June 13, 2024**

Emergency Closure #3 Make-up Day will be **Friday, June 14, 2024**

Please note that if more than three (3) emergency closures occur and/or there are a significant number of delayed openings and/or early dismissals used, the school calendar also may be adjusted appropriately to meet the minimum required student days **AND** the required number of student hours.



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Towson, Maryland 21204

Calendar for 2023-2024 School Year
Pre-Labor Day Start

These readjustments may include the re-designation of holidays as student days; the adjustment of Spring break; the re-designation of professional development days as student days; the cancellation of planned early releases; and the extension of the school year beyond Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Teacher duty days will not exceed 191.

Student Hours:

184 High School/Middle School student days – 3 Emergency Closure Days = 181 x 6.75 hours in student day = 1221.75 hours

High Schools

1221.75 student hours – 24 hours (planned early release) = 1197.75 hours - 1170 hours (required HS hours) = **27.75 hours balance**

Middle Schools

1221.75 student hours – 24 hours (planned early releases) = 1197.75 hours - 1080 hours (required MS hours) = **117.75 hours balance**

183 Elementary School student days – 3 Emergency Closure Days = 180 x 6.75 hours in student day = 1215 hours

Elementary Schools

1215 student hours – 24 hours (planned early releases) = 1191 hours - 6.75 hours (Elementary Conference Day) = 1184.25 hours - 1080 hours (required ES hours) = **104.25 hours balance**