



***We are Panthers! We are Proud! We are Powerful! / Somos Panteras! Estamos Orgullosos! Somos Poderosos!***

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Dear Marie Reed Elementary School Parents and Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming our small cohort of students back into CARE classrooms at Marie Reed ES on Wednesday, December 9! With those students in mind, I would like to provide the community with an update on our school playground and its public use.

Beginning Monday, November 16, 2020, DC Public Schools will implement an adjusted playground use policy for our elementary school playgrounds. Since 2016, it has been [DCPS' policy](#) that school **playgrounds are closed to the community during school hours**. The only modification we are making to this policy is that **the playground will not be available for use before the school day begins**, as well. This change will allow us to continue to keep our students attending CARE classrooms safe and healthy during the school day.

In most cases, this means members of the public will still be able to enjoy school playgrounds between the hours listed below.

- Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. until dusk, but no later than 8:00 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In the meantime, you can also find a list of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) parks and playgrounds that will be open during the school day for public use at [this link](#).

Playgrounds and outdoor structures will be cleaned every other day per CDC guidelines using power washers and soap. DCPS Central Office will provide both supplies to schools to ensure these spaces are regularly cleaned. We will continue to closely monitor our playground's public use to make sure it remains a clean and safe space for all and are committed to updating this usage policy as public health and safety protocols allow.

While we understand you may have concerns about allowing any public use of our playground, we believe our school is an important resource for our entire community beyond just teaching and learning. We feel it is necessary to ensure the playground remains available to our community members in some capacity. At the same time, our top priority always remains the health and safety of Marie Reed ES students, teachers, and staff.

We appreciate our community's investment in ensuring the equipment and grounds are treated respectfully. Our primary goal is that our schools remain a positive learning environment for students while also providing District residents with access to community assets such as our playgrounds.

Thank you for your continued support of Marie Reed Elementary School.

In partnership,

Patrick Davis, Chief Operating Officer  
District of Columbia Public Schools