

Maury Dictionary

Absence: If your child will be absent from Maury, please call the school Registrar at the main number 703-706-4440.

After School Enrichment Programs: The PTA provides a robust offering of after-school enrichment programs for interested students. Classes are typically 8 weeks in length during the fall –Oct through Dec—and 10 weeks in the spring – February through May. Various classes meet Mon-Thurs from 2:45-3:45. Snacks are provided for after school enrichment participants. If your child would typically have ACPS provided transportation home or to their after school care, it will be still be provided immediately after enrichment dismissal at 3:45. The PTA provides staff to handle dismissal logistics including ensuring all Campagna center kids are properly checked in at the Cafetorium.

American Education Week: Typically held in mid-November, it celebrates public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

Back-to-School Night: Typically held in mid-September, Back-to-School Night is an opportunity for parents to visit their children's classrooms, meet teachers and learn more about this year's classes. Parents will be welcomed to their child's school with an introduction from the staff and a brief overview of the school's curriculum. Following the introduction, parents will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and meet their teacher.

Back to School Picnic: The back to school picnic is typically held the first Friday evening after the start of the school year. Families are invited to bring a picnic, or in recent years, buy dinner from a food truck. Children play on the amazing new playground while adults reconnect with one another. A DJ provides the fun ambiance.

Barnes and Noble Fundraiser: Maury does an on-site book fair fundraiser at the Barnes and Noble in Potomac Yards in early December. The kindergarten students are invited to sing during the morning. Following the kindergarten concert, the kindergarten teachers typically read a couple of books. The PTA typically provides volunteers to gift wrap during the day. The PTA receives a percentage of Maury identified sales during the day and tips from the gift wrapping.

Blessings in a Backpack: Blessings in a Backpack (BIB) is a national program designed to assist schools across the country with a program that provides food to grade school children each weekend of the school year and is distributed in a discreet backpack on Friday afternoons. The PTA and the Maury community support this effort through food drives for very specific items, packing events and assisting with delivery of packed food bags to the social worker, who provides the food directly to the students.

Book Character Parade: This event is generally held on Halloween or the Friday immediately prior. Students are invited to dress up as their favorite book character. Creativity is encouraged and students generally make or borrow the pieces necessary to assemble their costume. Just prior to dismissal, students are invited by class to parade around the playground to show off their book character costumes.

Book Fair: Maury typically hosts two book fairs per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. We have historically partnered with Hooray for Books and Scholastic for the event. During the book fair week, students have an opportunity to create a wish list during their regular class library period. Students are generally provided an opportunity to purchase a book during the school day if they have money. Parents and grandparents are welcome to shop the book fair in person during the regular school day and it is open at least one evening as well. The Scholastic book fair can also be shopped online.

Box Tops / Labels for Education / Grocery Points: 'Box Tops' are found on many brand name food, snack and household items. Clipping this portion of the packaging can provide another means of raising money for the Maury PTA. You can leave Box Tops in the bin to the left of the receptionist desk just inside the main entrance to Maury. Additionally, your grocery purchases, when linked through your grocery store card to the Maury PTA, can provide additional funds for our school.

Campagna: The after school program at Maury is run by the Campagna Center from dismissal at 2:35 until 6:00pm. Children can be enrolled in Campagna through <https://campagnacenter.schoolforms.org/schoolyear17> or 703-549-0111 and fees are assessed on a sliding scale based on household income.

Community Outreach Committee/Bake Sale: The committee coordinated opportunities for the families of Maury to help those in the Alexandria community, both within and beyond through a food drive, supplies for Carpenter's Shelter and fundraising for meals for BIB families during school breaks. The committee historically holds a fundraising bake sale at Maury on election day.

Dine-Outs: Maury partners with local restaurants for fundraisers. Typically held monthly, a portion of the dinner meals during a designated time or as attributed to Maury are donated to the PTA.

Early Release: On early release days, students are dismissed at 12:35 pm instead of the usual 2:35 pm dismissal time.

Emergency Notification: ACPS will automatically contact you via phone call in the event of an emergency but you can also sign up for texts and emails. Through a partnership with the City of Alexandria, ACPS sends information about snow closings and emergency information to your cell phone and/or email account. ACPS Emergency

Announcements is one of many City news lists to which you can subscribe. Please note that ACPS Emergency News is a different list than the City's Emergency News. For school information, make sure you sign up for "ACPS Emergency Announcements". Sign up here <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832027#/login>.

Encore Class: Physical education (P.E.), music, art and library. Students have each encore class once a week, with the exception of P.E., which students participate in twice each week.

English Learning (EL) Services: ACPS provides a program of language instruction so that students meet the same challenging academic content and student achievement standards that all students are expected to meet while they develop English language proficiency.

Executive Committee (EC) of the PTA: The EC includes the elected officers of the PTA – President, President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary, VP of Programs, VP of Communications, VP of Fund Raising and the immediate past president – as well as the principal of the school. The EC generally meets the first Wednesday morning of the month to discuss agenda items in advance of the PTA general membership meeting.

Fall Gala: Maury's biggest fundraiser of the year! In recent years it has been held at the Patent and Trademark Office atrium. Again, recently a costume party theme (80's, Saturday Night Live, etc.) has set the stage for a fun evening of food and drinks during a silent and live auction to benefit the children.

Fall Festival: A fall afternoon event with moon bounces, face painting, crafts, food truck(s), music, bake sale, book fair. All activities are free of charge except for food, bake sale and book fair items.

Family Fun Night: This has been held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It involves a pizza dinner, moon bounces, crafts, games as well as book and uniform swap all free of charge.

Family SPLASH Night: This event is held at the Chinquapin Recreation Center and is a chance for entire school communities to enjoy fun in the pool. Admission fees have followed the regular Chinquapin pool admission fees.

Fourth Grade Talent Show: Historically, the 4th graders have taken a field trip to Jamestown and given the distance the PTA has provided chartered buses to make the trip more pleasant. In order to defray the cost of the chartered buses, the 4th grade students, teachers and parents hold a talent show in mid-spring to help raise funds. 4th grade students are encouraged to participate and the entire school community is encouraged to come out to support these students both financially and emotionally. A modest admission fee is charged. Doors open early to take advantage of the pizza

dinner available for purchase.

Free and Reduced Meals (FARM): Alexandria City Public Schools provides free and reduced-cost lunch to students as needed. Forms are sent to all student homes and are available in the main school office and online:

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/380>.

Fund Run: This fundraiser has been held in the fall and the spring depending on financial need and other events. Students are encouraged to solicit donations from friends and family in advance. The run occurs during the day and laps are recorded. This is fun way for students and our local community to be involved in raising money for our school.

Garden Committee / Outdoor Learning: The outdoor classroom is located in the southwest corner of the playground and includes a Butterfly Garden and planting beds. Maury teachers are encouraged to utilize this flexible learning space to engage students in a non-traditional manner.

General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA): Students are identified through a number of means, including standardized test results as well as teacher and student referrals. Identified students are pulled out of their general education classroom once a week to work on longer term projects.

Green Team: Enhances the environmental awareness of the Maury through contests to measure recycling and energy use, environmental activities at the Fall Festival, Bike and Walk to School Rallies, an Earth Day celebration, a Run for the Trees, a Compost Awareness Art Contest, and other activities.

Health and Wellness Committee: Promotes better health for all students and staff at Maury Elementary through educational and enrichment activities that teach good nutrition, healthy eating habits, and encourage fitness through fun activities. The committee assists with the Run for the Trees fitness event in the spring as well as organizing a group to participate in the Marine Corp Marathon kids fun run as well as other health related events during the year.

Individual Education Plan (IEP): An education plan that may include special accommodations to address an individual student's disability.

K Prep: The daily four-hour program is offered in August and is designed to introduce new kindergartners to their respective schools and classrooms. All students are introduced to beginning academic skills and are prepared for early success in school. Breakfast, lunch and transportation are included.

Kindergarten Celebration: Kindergarten families are invited to a special celebration during the school day during which Kindergarten students "graduate" to become 1st

graders. Immediately following the program in the cafetorium, families are invited back to the classroom to continue the celebration and to see their student's class work.

Legislative Committee: The Legislative committee communicates the concerns of the Maury community to the Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC), School Board, and Alexandria City Council. This committee is particularly active during the City Budget process and reports regularly on legislative actions to Maury PTA.

Literacy Committee: Assists with events to support literacy, including the Book Fairs, book swaps, author visits and other events designed to promote literacy.

Literacy Night: Literacy stations are set up in the cafeteria and gym and families are encouraged to rotate through the various activities.

Lock-in: A lock-in takes place if a threat is identified outside the school. All school doors are locked, but classes continue as normal. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed.

Lock-down: A lockdown takes place if a threat is identified inside the school. All school doors are locked, and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed.

Math Night: Teachers lead students in math activities and games. Last year, a math magician performed in the evening for students and families!

Maury Movie Night: As a thank you to all the families that volunteer their time and talents to benefit our kids, the PTA hosts an outdoor movie night on the playground in early June. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner. Popcorn is provided and the family friendly movie starts at dusk (approximately 8:00pm).

Maury Museum: A designated time for parents to visit the school to see the work that their children have done in the areas of Social Studies and Science.

Maury Pool Party: The PTA has historically hosted a pool party on the Friday of Kindergarten prep to welcome new families to our community, though the event is open to all families. Admission has followed the fees of the host pool, i.e. for 2017 admission is \$2 per child and \$3 for adults.

Military Family Committee: This committee connects with Maury military families to help educate them on the protections and accommodations made by ACPS for military families, as well as connect them to local resources specific to military families in the Northern Virginia area. It also helps plan the Veterans Day program, activities and school-wide crafts like "Give Our Veterans a Hand."

Odyssey of the Mind: An international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. Team members apply their creativity to

solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

Open house: Typically held the Friday before Labor Day mid-morning. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and for your child to see who their classmates will be. Typically seats have also been assigned by the open house date.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Held twice a year (at the end of the first and second quarters) on early-dismissal days (when school ends for students at 12:35pm), parents are assigned a time to come and meet with their child's teacher. At Maury, students are also part of these conferences and participate by sharing their recent work and discussing their goals for the next quarter.

Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS): Students earn tickets for positive behavior. At regular intervals students have an opportunity to redeem their tickets for prizes and quarterly celebrations.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA): The parent teacher association at Maury holds regular general membership meetings – typically the second Monday of the month – coordinates after school enrichment programs, organizes community building events for the staff, students and families, and provides additional financial resources to teachers to enrich the student learning experience among other things.

PTA Membership: Upon payment of your dues -- \$10 for individual, \$15 for family – you will be a voting member of the Maury PTA. It provides parents a forum to advocate for their children, locally, at the state level and nationally. It is one of the best ways to get plugged in to Maury. There are also financial discounts associated with your membership.

Quarterly Curriculum Celebrations: Quarterly family friendly events held at the school in the evening to support, math, literacy, social studies and science. i.e. Math night, social studies game night, literacy night, science night etc.

Read Across America Fluency Festival: A celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students answer trivia questions, surprise visitors read to children, Dr. Seuss activities take place. Held during the school day. Students share poems, reader's theater, original writing, and plays.

Reading Parent Involvement Night: This is a new activity that will involve the community in a special night of reading. Perhaps a police officer, firefighter or school board member will surprise you with a book reading!

Reflections: PTA sponsored nationwide arts contest for students with categories for art, music, photography, literature, video, and dance/choreography. Held every Fall, the PTA provides an opportunity for students to create an entry for the contest with PTA supplies. Held in the evening in conjunction with a pizza dinner.

Registrar: This person typically handles registration, student records, attendance, and transportation for the school.

Room Parent: Assists teachers in communicating with other parents in the class regarding a variety of matters, such as classroom volunteer opportunities, special requests for class activities (e.g., class holiday parties), Teacher Appreciation and coordinates other support for the teacher as needed.

Running Club: Historically, a four week long program held immediately after school on Fridays in mid-spring. Students are broken into groups and then rotated through stations to work on sprints, longer distance running, discuss healthy eating and other fitness related goals.

Run for the Trees fitness event: The Friday afternoon immediately following the conclusion of the running club, students have been invited to participate in the Run for the Trees event. Students run laps around a designated course around the school building.

Science Night: The Maury Science committee provides exciting science experiences for students to watch and/or participate in.

Science Express Day: The Maury Science committee oversees the Science Express Day at the end of the school year. The PTA typically supports this event with the Mad Scientist and Reptile Man.

School Nurse: Maury is fortunate to have a full-time school nurse, Wendy Harper. Updated student health forms should be turned in to her yearly. Students may seek Nurse Harper's help and teachers will send students to the nurse as necessary.

School supply lists: Students are expected to bring school supplies, most of which are shared with others in the classroom, on the first day of school. Supplies lists are School and grade specific and can be found on the Maury website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Domain/20>. You can order the next year's school supplies through the PTA in June.

Shelter-in-place: Students take refuge in designated areas to protect from hazardous materials or severe weather. Entry or exit from the school will be controlled.

Snow One and Two Hour Early Closing: All schools will be dismissed one or two hours early as announced. No make-up classes are required for early closings.

Snow Delay: Kindergarten through grade 12 students report two hours later than regular opening time.

Snow Day: All activities in schools or on school grounds are canceled.

Social Studies Game Night: Each year, the Maury staff Social Studies committee holds a game night representing cultures from all around the world. The goal is to stimulate students and parents to learn new games and amazing facts about different cultures in our world. We like to provide our students with the opportunity of learning where they are located in this great big world. We provide maps and globes for students to identify where they live, where the families are from, and places they have been or would like to go. The staff also provides our students with a passport theme so that they can pretend to travel the world during the course of the night. This night is celebrated with all of our Maury families.

Special Education: ACPS provides services for students with disabilities, age 2 to 21, who are found eligible to receive special education services. The eligibility determination for special education services is a carefully managed process guided by the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (January 25, 2010).

Special Education Committee: Supports Maury's special education teachers by planning and assisting with field trips and other group activities, helps organize programming to increase awareness and understanding of special education, and coordinates special education teacher gifts. This committee also "matches" veteran Maury families with a Maury family in need of support related to their child's special education needs.

Special Programs Committee: In-depth forums, outside the normal PTA meetings where parents could discuss certain topics or arrange guest speakers as well as special programs for students that focus on curriculum-related topics such as math tournaments. Topics may include: hands-on math, events in the news, bullying, adoption of a world language, etc.

Spirit Wear: In addition to the regular uniform (navy or khaki bottoms and navy or light blue polo shirts), Maury spirit wear is also approved for uniform days. The specific product offerings change based on season, but all include the Maury ship logo. There is one order in the fall and one order in the spring each year. Little if any merchandise is available for purchase outside of the specific order windows.

Splendid Fall Individual Portrait Day: Splendid portraits comes to school each fall to photograph students individually. These portraits make wonderful gifts and when purchased help raise money for the PTA. The pictures are used by the school for among other things student files and also are the portraits used for the yearbook. Students typically get free dress for Splendid portrait day.

Spring and Winter Chorale Concerts: The Matthew Maury Elementary School Winter and Spring Choral Concerts include performances by all 4th and 5th grade students. The students will sing a variety of selections including seasonal songs and songs from various cultures. Fourth and Fifth grade Band and Orchestra students also perform.

Spring Fling/Field Day: The P.E. teachers organize fun outdoor and indoor games in June. Students rotate through the various stations/activities over a couple hour period with K-2 students participating in the morning and 3-5 students participating in the afternoon. Activities include a giant Jenga game, hot lava rope swing, steal the bacon, moon bounce obstacle course, giant tricycles and more.

Tardy: Any child arriving after 8:00 a.m. is tardy. The child should come in the main entrance and then go to the registrar to get a tardy slip.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation: Maury parents provide food and snacks during the school day as a token of our appreciation on a monthly basis to the Maury teachers and staff.

Tutors / Classroom Support: Support teachers by providing math and reading support on an ongoing basis. Volunteers are also needed occasionally to assist with conducting a craft, reading to the class or conducting other group activity as identified by the teacher.

Watch DOGS: Dads of Great Students is a mentoring program, providing positive male role models to all students during the school day. Fathers, grandfathers, and uncles serve one day as a volunteer during the school day assisting with PE, reading, and other classroom work, as needed.

Uniform: Monday through Thursday, Maury students are expected to wear navy or khaki bottoms (pants or shorts for boys, pants, shorts, skirts, jumpers or dresses for girls) and collared navy or light blue tops. Students have free dress on Fridays (and other announced days) and do not need to dress in uniform.

Uniform Swap: Outgrown gently used uniforms are donated to the swap for credit, which are then purchased by other families either for credit or for nominal fees. Uniform swap is available at many PTA meetings and 2-3 other designated times/events during the school year.

Yearbook Ads: The PTA yearbook committee sells ads to parents/grandparents/etc. for inclusion in the yearbook to help defray overall yearbook production costs. These ads typically include a message to the child and/or a photo. Specific information on how to secure a yearbook ad will come out in late winter.

Yearbook: The PTA publishes a yearbook annually for students to remember their friends, teachers and experiences. Candid photos of students in various activities are always welcome.