

MAURY DICTIONARY

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

ACPS: This stands for Alexandria City Public Schools.

ACPS Volunteer Card: Any parent who wishes to volunteer as a chaperone, tutor, mentor, room parent, PBIS prize cart distributor, or any position where they may be alone with a child must get this card from ACPS. The card must be renewed annually, which is a quick online process. For more info on getting/renewing a card [click here](#).

After-School Enrichment Programs: The PTA provides a wide variety of after-school programs for interested students each fall and spring. Each class meets once a week, from 2:45-3:45pm. Classes typically run for 8 weeks in the fall (Oct-Dec) and 10 weeks in the spring (Feb-May). Snacks are provided for all participants. For those students who normally use ACPS-provided transportation home (or to after-school care programs), it is provided immediately after enrichment. Plus PTA on-site staff are present at enrichment dismissal to ensure that all Campagna Center kids are properly checked in at the cafeteria and walkers are paired with their parent or guardian. A brochure with class info goes home in students' folders prior to the start of registration.

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

Back-to-School Night: This evening in September is a great opportunity for parents to visit their children's classrooms, meet teachers, learn more about this year's classes, and ask questions.

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 buy dinner from a food truck that comes to Maury, or to bring their own meal. Children play on the playground while adults catch up with old friends and meet new Maury families, and a DJ plays fun music.

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser: Maury does an on-site book fair fundraiser at the Barnes & Noble in Potomac Yard in early December. The kindergarten students, led by their music teacher, sing pre-rehearsed songs in the morning. Following the concert, the kindergarten teachers typically read a couple of books. The PTA 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 (BIB): BIB is a national program designed to assist schools across the country in providing food to grade school children each weekend of the school year. Donations are 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 usually 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. Parents are encouraged to come watch the parade!

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: “Box Tops” are found on many brand name food, snack and household items. Clipping this portion of the packaging raises money for the Maury PTA — 10 cents for each top, which adds up! You can put box tops in a baggie and bring it to a PTA meeting, or leave it in the bin marked “box tops” right behind the front desk at Maury’s main entrance. To see a list of products with box tops, [click here](#).

Campagna: The after school program at Maury is run by the Campagna Center from dismissal at 2:35 until 6:00pm. Fees are assessed on a sliding scale based on household income. Children can be enrolled in Campagna by visiting campagnacenter.org or calling 703-549-0111.

Community Outreach Committee / Bake Sale: This committee coordinates opportunities for the families of Maury to help those in the Alexandria community, through things like a food drive, gathering 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: member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832027#/login.

Encore Classes: These are classes that students only have on certain days of the week: physical education (P.E.), music, art and library.

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 Fundraising and the immediate past president — as well as the principal of the school. The EC generally meets once a month to discuss agenda items in advance of the PTA general membership meeting.

Fall Festival: A fun, October afternoon event, usually including a moon bounce, face painting, crafts, food truck(s), music, a bake sale, and a book fair. All activities are free of charge except for food, bake sale and book fair items.

Fall Gala: Maury's biggest fundraiser of the year, and great evening out for parents! There's usually a fun theme ('80s, Saturday Night Live, Las Vegas, etc.) that sets the stage for a great evening of food and drinks during a silent and live auction that helps raise money to benefit our kids.

Family Fun Night: This is usually held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It involves a pizza dinner, moon bounces, crafts, and games as well as a 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 usually follow the regular Chinquapin pool admission fees.

Fourth Grade Talent Show: Historically, the 4th graders have taken a field trip to Jamestown and the PTA has provided chartered buses to make the long trip more

pleasant. In order to defray the cost of the buses, the 4th grade students, teachers and parents hold a talent show in mid-spring. 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: acps.k12.va.us/domain/380.

FUNdRun: This fundraiser is held in the fall or 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.

Grocery Points: A percentage of your grocery store purchases can go towards our school, when linked through your grocery store card to the Maury PTA. Please see the fundraising page on the PTA website (maurypa.org/blog/fundraising/) for more details and other simple ways to raise funds!

Health and Wellness Committee: Promotes better health for all students and staff at Maury Elementary through educational and enrichment activities that teach good nutrition and 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: This program 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. Typically students are in school for 4 hours a day, Tuesday-Friday, during a week in mid-August.

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.

Listserv: The Maury PTA maintains a listserv. It is one of the best ways to stay informed about important PTA activities and events. Messages come to you via your email, and you can post messages to other members of the listserv. Please join today by simply sending an email to: maury-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com

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-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.

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.

Math Night: Teachers lead students in math activities and games. Typically there is a fun performer at the event, such as a math magician.

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: When scheduling allows, a pool party is held on the Friday of Kindergarten prep to welcome new families to our community. The event is open to all families. Admission typically has followed the fees of the host pool.

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

Odyssey of the Mind: This is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for all grades. Student team members tackle challenges ranging from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

Open house: This hour-long event is usually held in the mid-morning on the Friday before Labor Day. This a great opportunity for both you and your child to see their new classroom, meet their classmates, and meet their teacher. You can also walk freely around the school during this hour and reconnect with/meet other teachers like the librarian, art teacher, music teacher, and gym teacher. This is a good day to bring in school supplies, if you didn't pre-order a supply kit.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Held twice a year (at the end of the first and second quarters) on early-dismissal days, parents are assigned a time to meet with their child's teacher at school. At Maury, students are often a part of these conferences. Your child's teacher will keep you informed.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Incentive System): Students earn tickets for positive behavior. At regular intervals students have an opportunity to redeem their SAIL tickets for prizes from a prize cart. (See SAIL definition below) There is a PBIS celebration at the end of each quarter to celebrate student behavior. Some examples of quarterly celebrations include: dance party with a DJ, movie in the gym, PBIS pep rally, bounce house obstacle course, Jump Rope behavior assembly, and a mini field day on the playground. Each month, data is collected by the PBIS team to assess where we need to monitor and reform behavior in the school.

Picture Day: Splendid Portraits comes to school each fall to photograph students individually. These photos make wonderful gifts and when purchased help raise money for the PTA. The pictures are used by the school for student files and are also used in the yearbook. Typically the individual portraits are done on a Friday so that students have “free dress” and don't need to wear uniforms.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association): The PTA at Maury is made up of parent volunteers who coordinate after school enrichment programs, organize community building events for the staff, students and families, and provide additional financial

resources to teachers to enrich the student learning experience. Monthly general membership meetings are held. You can learn more on our website: mauryppta.org)

PTA Membership: The PTA is one of the best ways to get plugged in to Maury, and provides parents a forum to advocate for their children, whether locally, at the state level, or nationally. Upon payment of your dues (\$10 for individual, \$15 for family) you will be a voting member of the Maury PTA. There are also financial discounts associated with your membership. To pay dues, follow the instructions at mauryppta.org/joinpta/

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

Read Across America Fluency Festival: This is a celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, held during the school day. Surprise visitors read to the children and fun Dr. Seuss activities take place. 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 and special requests for class activities (e.g., class holiday parties). The room parent supports the teacher in other areas as needed, and helps coordinate teacher gifts. Typically there are two room parents per classroom, depending on the needs of the teacher.

Run for the Trees: This fitness event is usually on the Friday afternoon immediately following the conclusion of the running club. Students are invited to participate, and can run laps around a designated course around the school building.

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 and longer distance running, and they discuss healthy eating and other fitness-related goals.

SAIL: Students are expected to follow four rules that spell the acronym SAIL: **S**how Respect, **A**ct Responsibly, **M**anage Impulsivity, and **L**isten and Learn. Students earn SAIL tickets from any staff member in the school when they exhibit these behaviors. The tickets can be redeemed for prizes on PBIS prize carts (see PBIS definition above).

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 Nutrition Services: Maury students have access to healthy and convenient meals when school is in session, with breakfast and lunch available daily. Student accounts to pay for meals can be pre-paid via credit card payments. For more info visit: schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0502161559246112&page=prepaidacct (New students' families are mailed account access pins for their meal accounts in mid-August, a couple of weeks before school starts.) To see the food menus, visit: schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0502161559246112&page=menus

School Supply Lists: Students are expected to bring school supplies, most of which are shared with others in the classroom, on either Open House day or (no later than) the first day of school. Supplies lists are grade specific and can be found on the Maury PTA website (mauryppta.org) under "resources". You can also choose to order all of your child's supplies for the next year through the PTA in June. Info will be sent out about how to place an order for these supply kits, which contain everything your child needs and are conveniently delivered right to your child's classroom (in a bag labeled with your child's name) by the start of school.

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.

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. 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. All Maury families are welcome.

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. Discussion topics include things like events in the news, bullying, hands-on math, adoption of a world language, etc.

Spirit Wear: In addition to the regular uniform (see "Uniform" below), 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 usually one order in the fall and one order in the spring each year (order forms will be sent home.) Little if any merchandise is available for purchase outside of the specific order windows.

Spring2Action: This is a city-wide, 24-hour online fundraising event that provides a simple way to connect donors to the charitable causes they care about most. In addition to raising money through individual pledges, Maury also can win bonus prizes based on different categories (e.g. getting the most donors in a specific hour.)

Spring and Winter Chorale Concerts: Maury 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: The P.E. teachers organize fun outdoor and indoor games in June on this special school day, sometimes called "Field Day." 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 sometimes include a

giant Jenga game, hot lava rope swing, steal the bacon, moon bounce obstacle course, giant tricycles and much 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 PTA volunteers and parents provide food and snacks during the school day as a token of our appreciation to the Maury teachers and staff, about once a month.

Text Alerts: Maury parents have a lot to remember. Now you can get timely reminders and important notifications sent right to your phone! To get the alerts, just text the message "@matthewmau" to the phone number (469) 518-3536.

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 D.O.G.S.: "Dads of Great Students" is a mentoring program, providing positive male role models to all students during the school day. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father figures serve one day as a volunteer during school, assisting with P.E., 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. Maury Spirit Wear and Wee the People "Maury" T-Shirts are also approved as uniform items.

Uniform Swap: Donate outgrown, gently used uniforms and trade them for other items you might need with Uniform Swap. On the honor system, all families can participate in this free trade system for reusing Maury uniforms. Uniform swap is available at many PTA meetings and 2-3 other designated times/events during the school year.

Yearbook: The PTA publishes a yearbook annually to help students remember their friends, teachers and experiences. Individual, class, and club portraits taken earlier in the year are included, plus candid photos of students in various activities are always welcome (a request for candid shots will be sent out 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.