Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have the pleasure of teaching Visual Art to all children in grades PreK-5 at Montpelier Elementary School. I wish to extend to you and your child my warmest welcome.

This year we are excited to announce Montpelier Elementary has acquired a brand new ceramics kiln! A kiln is a special furnace used to heat and transform clay from soft to hard. I am thrilled to offer your child the experience of creating and keeping a ceramic artwork.

I will introduce your child to a variety of media, styles, art history and cultures. All Prince George’s County Public School teachers are continuing our mission to bolster literacy. Literacy in my classroom will include the verbal and written communication of ideas in relation to visual art.

Throughout the year, student work will be exhibited in our hallways. Additionally, a selection of student work will be chosen for display at the PGCPS annual art show at the Prince George’s Mall in Hyattsville, MD. If you would like to have Montpelier students’ work proudly displayed in your locally owned business, please contact me.

I believe in providing hands-on experiences for children. My students achieve by honoring an atmosphere of respect, responsibility and safety. Each student is expected to work hard, contribute to the classroom community, and treat others with kindness.

Art class meets once each week. Updates on your child’s achievement will be sent home in the form of progress reports and quarterly report cards. Collaboration and open communication between home and school are keys to building a strong foundation for a successful school year.

Montpelier Elementary is entering its second year as an arts-integration school. Arts integration is the practice of using an art form to teach core subjects such as math, language arts and science. Arts integration strategies are statistically proven to increase student engagement and raise achievement levels. We are hosting four fundraising opportunities at Blaze Pizza in Laurel, MD to raise funds for our arts integration program. Dates are September 20, December 5, March 7 and May 23 from 4:00-8:00pm. Twenty percent of the proceeds will help us fund visiting artists, perform plays, and provide workshops such as dramatic writing for theatre.

I look forward to exploring art with your child this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Decker
Visual Art Teacher
Arts Integration Lead Teacher
Montpelier Elementary School
ruby.decker@pgcps.org
“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” - Pablo Picasso

“Creativity takes courage.” - Henri Matisse

“Every artist was first an amateur.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Arts Integration is an APPROACH to TEACHING in which students construct and demonstrate UNDERSTANDING through an ART FORM. Students engage in a CREATIVE PROCESS which CONNECTS an art form and another subject area and meets EVOLVING OBJECTIVES in both.
**Please sign and return this welcome letter for your child’s first homework grade, thank you!**

Student’s Full Name: ________________________________

Homeroom Teacher: ________________________________

Grade: _____________________

Known Allergies: ________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________

Phone Number: (       ) -

E-mail Address: ________________________________

Parent Signature: ________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________

Phone Number: (       ) -

E-mail Address: ________________________________

Parent Signature: ________________________________