

Big Learning

MCCPTA Educational Programs Inc., which now does business as **Big Learning**, was founded in 1975 by MCCPTA to provide high quality and affordable educational enrichment programs for children in Pre-K through 8th grade. Prior to 1975, the FLES program had been managed by the MCCPTA elected officers. Our programs focus on experiential and play-based learning, inspiring children's curiosity and excitement about learning. For over 54 years, Big Learning FLES and Science & Engineering programs have proudly enriched the lives of over 150,000 students in more than 100 schools across Montgomery County, MD.

Big Learning usually offers classes before and after school at local schools, as well as half-day workshops, school-day programs, and presentations about enrichment learning. Big Learning also offers programs through Excel Beyond the Bell at several middle schools and selected S&E programs at the Rockville Science Center.

This year Big Learning returns to in person classes, following all the COVID-19 protocols established by MCPS. All instructors are fully vaccinated and wear masks during class. There continues to be virtual class options each session to meet the needs of families who may want a virtual environment and also to support upper level language learning by drawing students across the county.

If your PTA is interested in sponsoring Big Learning programs in your school, or if you have any questions concerning our programs, please contact us using the information listed below.

Big Learning Program Descriptions and Contact Information

Mailing Address: Spring Mill Center, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902

Pony Address: Spring Mill Center, Room 200

Website: www.biglearning.org

Email: admin@biglearning.org

Registration Site: <https://biglearning.asapconnected.com>

Executive Director: Jane de Winter

Phone: 301-326-1969 Email: exec@biglearning.org

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools: FLES

Big Learning Foreign Language: FLES offers quality, immersion-based foreign language classes in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and French for children in kindergarten through sixth grade as well as a Spanish Literacy program for native Spanish speakers. Children have fun and enjoy learning new languages from native speakers as they explore foreign lands through exciting stories, high-energy games, and imaginative interactive activities. With FLES, children gain confidence in hearing and speaking a new language and cultural awareness – opening doors to a global 21st century.

Director: Kirsten Rhodes

Phone: 301-592-0861 Email: fles@biglearning.org

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Science and Engineering (Formerly Hands On Science):

Big Learning Science & Engineering, formerly Hands On Science and Big Learning KID, sparks the curiosity in children with playful, interactive, hands-on science and engineering activities for children Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. By actively participating in exciting experiments and projects, our students explore the fundamentals of science, engineering and the scientific method. Our students also develop the critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and creativity skills needed to become innovators for life.

Phone: 301-244-5254 Email: science@biglearning.org

Cultural Arts Showcase:

This program sponsors a three-day event that occurs in late September and early October. This event showcases the talents of a variety of performers who are interested in performing for the children of MCPS in assemblies at the local schools. The PTA Cultural Arts Chairpersons are invited to this showcase so they will be able to make informed decisions about the assemblies in which their students will participate. All performers have been given prior approval by the Department of Academic Programs for MCPS.

Director: Seda Gelenian

Phone: 301-540-4180 Email: sedagelenian@gmail.com

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INSPIRING CURIOSITY