

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 45 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.

Big Learning® uses a tiered pricing structure based on local school FARMS rates so classes at schools with the highest level of poverty are priced the lowest. Big Learning® also fund raises for its Scholarship Fund and seeks grants to provide free or low-cost programs at schools impacted by poverty.

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® works with Enrichment Academies, Inc., Kiddo, and the Title I Office to offer programs at MCPS schools.

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. FLES students continue language learning at MCPS middle schools with

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a solid knowledge base and an authentic accent—a real advantage in classes which may earn HS credit.

Director: Kirsten Rhodes

Phone: 301-592-0861

Email: fles@biglearning.org

Science & 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. Big Learning® S&E also offers Robotics programs featuring the KIBO from Kinderlab Robotics and the Lego® Spike systems.

Phone: 301-244-5254

Email: science@biglearning.org

Cultural Arts Showcase:

This program collaborates with MCCPTA and MCPS to provide local schools and PTAs information to make informed decisions about the assemblies, workshops, and residencies in which their students will participate. Performers apply to the Department of Academic Programs of MCPS to gain approval for their workshop(s). Once the Superintendent's Committee for Performances in MCPS approves a performance, performers may choose to be listed in the Performing Arts Catalog produced by Big Learning® and choose to provide a short video clip of the performance for posting on the Big Learning® website. Past videos may be viewed at <http://www.mccpta-epi.org/showcase/> using the password **culturalarts**.

Registration forms for New Performances & Workshops are being revamped for Fall 2023. The Superintendent's Committee for Performances may convene in Fall 2023 for new performers. An updated catalog will be produced by early 2024, and auditions and live showcases will resume during the year.

Questions may be addressed to CAS@biglearning.org

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