

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,
I hope this message finds you well.

We invite all parents/guardians to visit your child's classes for our **Open House** event on **Monday, November 11**. Additional information about this event will be shared in a separate communication. We hope you can join us!

October 21 marks the start of our **Character Counts Week** and **Mental Health Awareness Week**. Staff will be facilitating valuable learning activities for students about these topics throughout the week.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Best,
Sam Levine

Handbooks & Guidelines for MCPS Students

Handbooks and guidelines developed for students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have been revised for the 2024–2025 school year to address Board of Education (Board) policies and MCPS regulations amended and revised over the 2023–2024 school year, and comply with updated guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education. Updated online versions of *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities*, the *Student Code of Conduct in MCPS*, *Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity* and *Guidelines for Student Gender Identity* are available on the [MCPS website](#). The most current versions can be found here as well as links to translations in Spanish, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Portuguese, and Amharic.

MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey

MCPS provides a school year calendar that allows for effective use of time for teaching and learning, professional growth opportunities, and planning instructional strategies focused on improving student achievement while maintaining an equity lens for all students, and commitment to community engagement. We will consider educational interests, operational needs, mandated school closures by state law, compliance with minimum instructional days and credit hour requirements, contingencies for inclement weather and other emergencies, staff professional days and early release days, and alignment with assessment schedules.

MCPS is seeking input about the 2025–2026 school year calendar! Please take a moment to complete the [MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey](#). Your input will be used to select the first and last day of school, as well as other important dates for the coming school year.



Looking Ahead

- September 15–October 15**
Hispanic–Latino Heritage Month
- October — National Principals' Month**
- Monday, October 14**
Indigenous People's Day
PTA Ricoton Spirit Night (*see pp 4-6*)
- Tuesday, October 15 — Activity Buses**
Cross Country vs. Neelsville, Home Softball vs. Neelsville, Boys at Ridge Road Park/Girls Home
- Wednesday, October 16 — Activity Buses**
Fidos for Freedom in Media Center during lunches
- Thursday, October 17 — Activity Buses**
Cross Country vs. Rocky Hill, Home Softball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Away/Girls Home
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225
- Friday, October 18 — Professional Development Day**
No school for students
- October 21–25**
Character Counts Week
Mental Health Awareness Week
National School Bus Safety Week
- Tuesday, October 22 — Activity Buses**
Basketball – Boys, Mr. Smith, Gym
eSports Club, Mr. Conner & Mr. Maddox Room 134
Softball vs. Poole, Girls Home
- Wednesday, October 23 — Activity Buses**
Basketball – Boys, Mr. Smith, Gym
- Thursday, October 24 — Activity Buses**
Cross Country vs. Hallie Wells, Away Softball vs. Hallie Wells, Boys Home/Girls Away
Basketball – Boys, Mr. Smith, Gym
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233
Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225
Everything Baker Middle School
- October 28–31**
Bake Celebrates Red Ribbon Week



PICTURE DAY IS
EL DÍA DE LA FOTO ES
Friday, November 08, 2024

Order today on mylifetouch.com
using your Picture Day ID: **EVIKWHXZX**
Encarga hoy en mylifetouch.com usando
su ID del Día de la Foto: **EVIKWHXZX**



Counseling News

Good Grief Club

Baker Middle school will be partnering with Caring Matters, a local non-profit organization to deliver the Good Grief club. The club is a school-based support group for children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, other family member or a friend. The group is co-lead by a school counselor and a trained Caring Matters volunteer. The group would meet once a week during the school day for seven weeks. Through arts and craft, guided discussions, and reading materials, we will help students better understand what grief is and how to cope in healthy ways with their feelings. If you would like your child to participate, please reach out to Shannon Jones, school counselor, at Shannon_Jones@mcpsmd.org. Before submitting names, please have a conversation with your child to see if they are interested in attending. To learn more about Caring Matters, please visit their website at www.caringmatters.org

Club del Buen Dolor

La escuela secundaria Baker se asociará con Caring Matters, una organización local sin fines de lucro para implementar el club Good Grief. El club es un grupo de apoyo escolar para niños que han experimentado la muerte de un padre, hermano, otro familiar o un amigo. El grupo está codirigido por un consejero escolar y un voluntario capacitado en Caring Matters. El grupo se reuniría una vez por semana durante el día escolar durante siete semanas. A través de artes y manualidades, debates guiados y materiales de lectura, ayudaremos a los estudiantes a comprender mejor qué es el duelo y cómo afrontar sus sentimientos de manera saludable. Si desea que su hijo participe, comuníquese con Shannon Jones, consejera escolar, en Shannon_Jones@mcpsmd.org. Antes de enviar nombres, hable con su hijo para ver si está interesado en asistir. Para obtener más información sobre Caring Matters, visite su sitio web en www.caringmatters.org.

Upcounty Hub Snack Bags

The Upcounty Hub, a school-based food assistance program, is offering snack bags for the weekend to address hunger and food insecurity to our families at Baker Middle school. With your permission, the weekend food bag will go home in student's backpack on Friday afternoon. The program will start in October. Please fill out the form below if you are interested in having your child participate. Reach out to Mrs. Jones, part-time school counselor at shannon.jones@mcpsmd.net if you have questions,

Upcounty Hub Bolsas de Merienda

Upcounty Hub, un programa de asistencia alimentaria escolar, ofrece bolsas de refrigerios para el fin de semana para abordar el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria de nuestras familias en la escuela secundaria Baker. Con su permiso, la bolsa de comida del fin de semana se irá a casa en la mochila del estudiante el viernes por la tarde. El programa comenzará en octubre.

Complete el formulario si está interesado en que su hijo participe. Si tiene preguntas, puede comunicarse con la Sra. Jones, consejera escolar de tiempo parcial en shannon.jones@mcpsmd.net. ¡Gracias!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiiBvr-ael7jPBu6RFuSnam103udHtpzkLyLuwj2vqUhzXbQ/viewform>

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project provides **Thanksgiving and December Holiday assistance to low-income households.** A

network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies service recipients as donations are available.

If your family would like to be referred for possible assistance for the Thanksgiving and/or December holiday season, please complete the referral form by clicking [here](#)

Referral Deadline Dates:

- **Thanksgiving Holiday - Friday, October 25, 2024**
- **December Holiday - Friday, November 22, 2024**

While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jones.



SGA Canned Food Drive

Baker SGA is collecting non-perishable canned food and boxed food items **until Thursday, November 14, 2024** to help feed our Damascus community. Please drop off all donations to Ms. Blankenship/Room 233.

Pizza Party for the Advisory with the most donations!

Guidance for Civic Engagement

Students and families must know the rights and guidelines for students to express views on issues important to them.

[Guidelines for Students](#) (including Frequently Asked Questions)

Outreach and Admission Process Information Overview for Regional/Countywide High School Application Programs

November 1, 2024 – Application Deadline for all programs.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers a wide range of high school application programs for students entering Grades 9–12. These programs have a centralized admissions process, which begins with a common online application.

- For students entering Grades 9–12 in 2025–2026, the regional/countywide high school application programs admission and timelines are available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/.
- MCPS has streamlined the Grade 8 high school application process by providing one common online application for all programs via Synergy. Grades 9–11 will apply electronically through a link on the website.
- Program eligibility for current Grade 8 students is based on the student's address and middle school. [List of Programs by Home/Base High School for Grade 8 Students](#).
- All MCPS parents/guardians of students in Grades 8–11 received communication regarding the high school programs during the weeks of September 9 and 16, 2024, respectively.
- The criteria-based application programs will continue with multiple academic measures and a committee review. The admission process will continue with student criteria such as the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), report card grades, and student application.
- The High School Common Application for Grade 8 students will be online in ParentVUE.
- Students in private schools must have an active MCPS ID to access the high school common application on ParentVUE.

Dear Parent or Student,

Yearbook Recognition Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Recognition Ads help our school create a better yearbook. To purchase your ad online, follow the instructions listed below. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please also consider our school's ad content guidelines below during the creation of your ad online. All orders must be placed by 11/01/2024 to take advantage of the early bird SAVINGS! Prices increase on 11/02/2024. The final deadline to purchase a congratulatory ad is 1/31/2025.

ORDER BY 11/01/2024	
COLOR AD	
1/4 Page	\$130.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00

Taxes, service fees, and shipping fees will be added, if applicable. Jostens payment plan available; minimum purchase requirements and eligibility restrictions apply.



3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE A YEARBOOK RECOGNITION AD!



Step 1

Choose your ad size and layout
(Options may vary by school.)



Step 2

Add your photos



Step 3

Enter your text

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the guidelines for recognition ad content?

Schools may review and edit ads per their guidelines. Jostens retains the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos or copyright-protected imagery or photos.

School Ad Content Guidelines

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



(800) 358-0800
jostensadservice.com/student





**Support the Baker
PTA & you could
win a free taco box!**

RICOTON SPIRIT NIGHT!

**Monday, October 14th
after 3 pm**

**Every purchase is entered into a raffle for a free
taco box or a Ricoton gift card!**



All purchases after 3 pm help support the Baker PTA's activities for the upcoming school year.



**Apoye al PTA de
Baker y podra
ganar una caja de
tacos gratis!**

Noche del Espiritu de Ricoton!

**Lunes 14 de octubre
A partis de las 3 pm**

**Cada Compra participa en la rifa de una caja de
tacos o una tarjeta de regalo Ricoton gratis!**



Todas las compras despues de las 3 pm ayudan a apoyar las actividades de la PTA de Baker para el proximo ano escolar.

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, October 8

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee

7 pm – PTA Meeting

Monday, November 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee

7 pm – PTA Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee

7 pm – PTA Meeting

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –

BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Kalihah Barber, Vice President –

BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Treasurer –

BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretary –

BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Committee –

BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



Hello from the PTA!

We had a great turn out for our first two Spirit Night events at the Hornet's Nest & Leech Woods Haunted Trail.

Our first PTA meeting was last week as well. Our next PTA meeting will be Monday, November 11th! We meet in the Media Center and on Zoom. Check the PTA website for Zoom call in information.

Thank you for supporting your Baker Bulldogs! Many more opportunities to come!



Want to become a member?
Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form!

Upcoming Events!

TOMORROW – Monday, October 14th

Ricoton!

- ❖ After 3 pm, until closing
- ❖ All orders will be entered into a raffle for a free taco box or Ricoton gift card.

Friday, October 18th

SSL Opportunity & Chaperones needed!

- ❖ Damascus Placemaking Festival volunteers needed for painting signage for the upcoming Damascus Placemaking Festival.
- ❖ 10 am to 12 pm at 9840 Main Street
- ❖ Chaperones (Parents/Guardians) needed to supervise students under 14 years of age.
- ❖ See PTA Facebook event for sign up information.



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

Fechas y Contactores de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 8 de octubre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Lunes 11 de noviembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Miércoles 11 de diciembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –

BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Kallihah Barber, Vicepresidenta –

BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Tesorera –

BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –

BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –

BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visita nuestra página web!



Visita nuestra página de Facebook!



Hola de la PTA!

Tuvimos una gran participación en nuestros dos primeros eventos de Spirit Night en Hornet's Nest & Leech Woods Haunted Trail.

Nuestra primera reunión de la PTA también fue la semana pasada. ¡Nuestra próxima reunión de la PTA será el lunes 11 de noviembre! Nos reunimos en el Media Center y en Zoom. Consulte el sitio web de la PTA para obtener información sobre llamadas de Zoom.

¡Gracias por apoyar a sus Baker Bulldogs! ¡Muchas más oportunidades por venir!



¿Quieres ser miembro?

¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

¡Próximos eventos!

MAÑANA – Lunes 14 de octubre

Ricotón

- ❖ Después de las 3:00 pm hasta el cierre.
- ❖ Todos los pedidos participarán en la rifa de una caja de tacos o una tarjeta de regalo Ricoton gratis.
- ❖ Puedes apoyar a la PTA y ganar tacos gratis

Viernes 18 de octubre

¡Se necesitan oportunidades de SSL y acompañantes!

- ❖ Se necesitan voluntarios para el Festival de creación de lugares de Damascus para pintar carteles para el próximo Festival de creación de lugares de Damascus.
- ❖ 10 am a 12 pm en 9840 Main Street
- ❖ Se necesitan acompañantes (padres/tutores) para supervisar a los estudiantes menores de 14 años.
- ❖ Consulte el evento de Facebook de la PTA para obtener información sobre cómo registrarse.



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!

GAME CHANGER CONFERENCE

2024 Fall Conference For Young Males and Parents

**Theme: The World is Shifting Forward!
Focus Forward and Compete.**

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YOUNG MALES (Grades 4th - 12th)

☀️ **Empower Your Son's Tomorrow, Today!** ☀️
Join us at the Game Changer Conference 2024 and
ignite his path to unparalleled success!

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

For Students

- Life Skills Stations & Enrichment Forums
- Panel Conversations with Inspiring Leaders
- "What if I don't want to go to college" workshop
- STEM Exposure Experience
- Essay Writing Competition:
"Being a Competitor is a Game Changer: How will you Compete to win and own your future?"

For Parents:

- Parent Advocacy Workshop: New School Parenting for Old School Issues
- Equipping parents with strategies and insights to advocate effectively for their children and navigate the complexities of modern parenting.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2024**

8:00 AM - 12 NOON
(CHECK-IN STARTS AT 7:30AM)

**Montgomery College - Germantown
Globe Hall**

20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876

REGISTER TODAY!



www.thegameconference.org

Thanks to our Sponsors!



MCPS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Protect Yourself Online: Essential Cybersecurity Measures

RECOGNIZE PHISHING

Phishing scams can deceive you into revealing sensitive information or downloading harmful attachments, putting your device and data at risk.

Common signs of a phishing attempt:

- Misspelled email address or unknown/external sender
- Urgent/alarming language that calls for “immediate action”
- Unexpected attachments or suspicious links
- Requests for personal or financial information



UTILIZE PASSWORD PROTECTION

The average person has around 100 passwords to remember. Passwords are the key to accessing personal information.



How to secure your information:

- Use a password manager
- Always log off all devices
- Use hard to guess passwords
- Avoid reusing the same password

BEWARE OF SOFTWARE & MALWARE

Malware is an umbrella term for software designed to harm or exploit a device or network.

How to prevent and protect:

- Update all software, apps, and devices to keep them current
- Back up your data frequently
- Carefully check all emails and messages for suspicious links



USE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

MFA provides an extra layer of security in addition to a password when logging into accounts and apps, like a face scan or a code sent by text.



Benefits of implementing MFA:

- Reduces fraud and identify theft
- Reduces possibility of phishing attempts

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ATTACKS OR PHISHING ATTEMPTS TO:
ABUSE@MCPSMD.ORG

INCLEMENT WEATHER and EMERGENCY SCHOOL SYSTEM CLOSURES

The safety of our Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) community is critical and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Sometimes a change in operational status for the school system is necessary due to severe weather or other emergencies. The operating status options for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Code Green - Normal Operations
- Code Yellow - Delayed Opening
- Code Blue - Early Dismissal
- Code Orange - Schools Closed/Offices Telework
- Code Red - School System Closed

MCPS is prepared to address weather-related concerns including snow, ice, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, excessive heat, and other emergencies that may require a change in operational status for schools and offices. The MCPS Inclement Weather Team tracks weather patterns and traffic conditions, as well as benchmarks with surrounding districts and county agencies to make recommendations to the Superintendent related to the district's operating status. Once a decision has been made by the superintendent based on research, analysis, and recommendations from the team, that decision is communicated to staff, students, and families.

The safety of our MCPS community is critical, and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Use this [link](#) to find all the ways you can connect with MCPS to receive emergency operational information from the school system. The current operating status options for the school district appear on the MCPS website and on individual school websites. In the event of a change in operational status, this [link](#) will provide more information about the MCPS Operating Status options.

Links/Additional Information

- [Alert Montgomery - register to receive text, email, or voice message emergency alerts to your cell phone](#)
- [Hurricane Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Warning Procedures for Buses](#)
- [Earthquake Safety Information](#)
- [Hurricane and Summer Storm Tips - Montgomery County, MD](#)
- [NOAA Prediction for Above-Normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season](#)

Help The Veterans

This holiday season

We are collecting donations the help feed 30 veterans.

Donate A Turkey or Ham

Or Any Donation To Help Purchase A Turkey or Ham.

Help

Local Veterans

Collecting 10/1-11/18

This year goal 20 turkeys and 10 hams

Sponsored by

Weis Markets Damascus MD

And

