

## Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

Sunday, February 23, is the last day of the PTA Urban Air Fundraiser. All forms and payments are due on Monday, February 24. They are to be turned in at the Main Office in a sealed envelope. *See pages 3–4.*

Please note that, even though there are make-up basketball games on Monday, February 24, there will be no activity buses. If your child wishes to attend the game they will need a ride home.

Friday, February 28, is an early release day for students. Baker Middle School dismisses at 12:30 p.m. If your child is a car rider, please make sure that they have a ride home at dismissal.

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

## Registration Open for Spring Soccer

The middle school interscholastic athletics program is available for students in seventh and eighth grades only.

Middle School soccer season runs from March 11–May 22, 2025  
Tryouts — March 11, 12, and 13, 3:15–4:30 p.m. (**activity buses available on tryout days**) There are tryouts for interscholastic sports teams (there will be cuts.)

Practices will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sometimes on Monday or Friday if needed. 3:15-4:30/5

Boys' Coach: Rob Wilkie [Robert.C.Wilkie@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Robert.C.Wilkie@mcpsmd.org)

Girls' Coach: Ken Diehl [kendiehl@erols.com](mailto:kendiehl@erols.com)

Athletic Coordinator: Scott Frye [Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net](mailto:Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net)

Directions for how to register ([English](#)/[Spanish](#))

All students that want to participate in sports, as part of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program, must have their Parent/Guardian complete the online registration process by going to [ParentVue Portal](#) in order to participate. All forms must be up to date in order to be able to participate. **There are no exceptions.**

Parents/Guardians who have difficulty with registration (e.g., forgot Login or Password) please contact: Bonnie Nichols at [Bonnie.J.Nichols@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Bonnie.J.Nichols@mcpsmd.org). Any other difficulties please contact [Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net](mailto:Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net)

### Helpful tips for registering your student-athlete

When you are in [ParentVue Portal](#), click on "Online registration" in the upper right hand corner. Then from the four drop downs choose "Middle school registration" From there, please follow along and fill out all of the information. During your registration it will ask you to upload a copy of their physical. **Your child must have an up-to-date physical in order to participate.** The proof of physical must be filled out on the MCPS [SR-8 Physical](#) Form only. **No** other forms will be accepted. Proof of your physical **MUST** be submitted through your [ParentVue Portal](#). You cannot tryout for a team until the registration and your up-to-date physical is filled out on the SR-8 physical form only.

**After you are finished please HIT SUBMIT.**



## Looking Ahead

**February —**  
African American Heritage Month  
Career and Technical Education Month  
Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

**Sunday, February 23**  
Last day of PTA Fundraiser (*see pp 5-6*)

**Mon, February 24 — NO Activity Buses**  
Basketball vs. MLK, Boys Home/Girls Away

**Tuesday, February 25 — Activity Buses**  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Wed, February 26 — Activity Buses**  
Basketball vs. Clemente, Boys Away/  
Girls Home  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddo, Room 134

**Thursday, February 27 — Activity Buses**  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Friday, February 28**  
Early Release Day for Students —  
Baker dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

**March — Women's History Month**

**Saturday, March 1**  
Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention (*see page 2*)

**Tuesday, March 4 — Activity Buses**  
eSports Club, Mr. Maddox and  
Mr. Conner, Room 134

**Wednesday, March 5 — Activity Buses**  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC

**Thursday, March 6 — Activity Buses**  
Lifetouch Spring Portraits—buyer's only  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209  
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233

**Friday, March 7**  
Interims available in ParentVUE and mailed to households with an active ParentVUE account

**Sunday, March 9**  
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m.

## [2025-2026 Traditional School Year Calendar](#)

### Superintendent's SSL Award

Any middle school student who completes 75 SSL hours in middle school will earn the Superintendent's SSL award. **The DEADLINE for submitting SSL documentation that qualifies students for this SSL Award is April 4, 2025.** If you turn in hours after April 4, 2025, and no later than May 30, 2025, they will still count towards your record, but will not count towards the Superintendent's award. No SSL hours from this school year will be accepted after May 30, 2025.

### From the SGA

**Book Collection** — please donate new and gently used books for MCPS Foster Care students. Drop off in the Media Center **now through April 24 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Comfort Cases** — The Baker SGA is collecting the items to create comfort cases until April 23 for foster care students in MCPS. Drop off in the media center.

Duffel Bag or Backpack	PJs, Child 10 to Adult 3XL
Blanket (max 50"x 60")	Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
Adult Toothbrush (1–3 pack), Toothpaste (travel size)	
Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)	
Soap or Body Wash (travel size)	
Deodorant	Lotion (travel size)
Journal, Pens & Pencils, Book	

**Baker students can earn up to 2 SSL hours if help pack the comfort cases after school on Thursday, April 24, 2025.**

### Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

MCPS in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Montgomery Goes Purple, will host a family forum on mental health and substance use prevention. Attendees will learn about the dangers of fentanyl, alcohol, and other substances; information to keep students safe; school and community-based substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives and what insurance is required to cover. Workshop topics will include: starting conversations on substance use; accessing treatment; resources and insurance coverage and non-opioid pain management options. This event will also include Narcan training and distribution, and a resource fair. The MCPS Mental Health website will have more specific details.

#### Important Dates

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**, from 8:00 a.m.–noon: The Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Family Forum will take place at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

#### Links/Additional Information

Breakfast will be provided and the middle and high school with the most attendees will receive free ice cream during their school lunch. Students will receive four SSL hours for attending. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members can find additional information and RSVP here <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mental-health/>

[MCPS MealViewer](#)  
[DFNS Website](#) [Sitio web de DFNS](#)

### Time to Bundle Up

Brrr — it's freezing! A reminder that our doors open to students at 7:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay). Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the outside temperatures. Thank you!



### Winter Weather Is Coming: Are You Ready?

Winter is coming, and MCPS has your back with information on how to Stay Connected to get the latest information on weather delays and closures.

Keep your contact information up-to-date: Visit the ParentVUE link on the [MCPS Community Tech Support website](#)

#### Know the Color-Coded Statuses:

- **Green:** Normal Operations
- **Yellow:** Delayed Opening
- **Blue:** Early Dismissal
- **Red:** Closed
- **Orange:** Modified Virtual Instruction

#### [Learn more about Color Codes](#)

**Why it Matters:** Decisions are made with expert input and local assessments to keep everyone safe.

**How to Know:** Check the MCPS website and social media for real-time updates.

#### Don't Miss the Superintendent's Video

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/ugfu7nIDpuk>



#### STAY CONNECTED

- **VISIT** the [MCPS homepage](#).
- **CALL** 240-740-3000. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays, in English and Spanish (240-740-2845)
- **READ** news and information sent via email and text message and on the [MCPS News](#) page.
- **FOLLOW** the MCPS social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in English and Spanish.
- <http://twitter.com/mcps>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mcpsmd>  
[https://www.instagram.com/mcps\\_md](https://www.instagram.com/mcps_md)
- <https://www.facebook.com/mcpsespanol>  
<https://twitter.com/MCPSEspanol>  
<https://www.instagram.com/mcpsenespanol/>
- **SIGN UP** for [emails and text alerts](#) and make sure your [ParentVue](#) information is up to date.
- **WATCH** the MCPS cable channels Comcast 34 (1071 HD), Verizon 36 or RCN 89

## PTA Dates & Contacts

### UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

#### Tuesday, March 11

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, April 8

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, May 13

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

### PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –  
[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

Shannon West, Treasurer –  
[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

Stacy Smith, Secretary –  
[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

Jaime Kemp, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee –  
[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



# Hello from the PTA!

The PTA is looking for more members and parent volunteers for our upcoming activities! Our monthly meetings are held simultaneously in person and on Zoom, so you can attend in whichever format you prefer. Please see the QR code below to become a member.



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

## Time to turn in your Urban Air Orders!

- ◆ Fundraiser ends Sunday, 2/23
- ◆ Order forms & payment are due **Monday, 2/24**
- ◆ Turn into the main office in a *sealed* envelope
- ◆ Tickets will be distributed to students based on order forms once all forms have been collected

Have questions? Please see the FAQ on our website or email [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Silent Auction is coming!

- ◆ The PTA will be holding a Silent Auction in conjunction with Baker's annual International Night
- ◆ Willing to donate an item or a themed basket? Own a business that would be willing to donate a service? Please reach out to [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of Year Activities

- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion – Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance – Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Want to volunteer? Please sign up [here](#) or print & use this [form](#)!



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

## Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

### PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

#### Martes 11 de marzo

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

#### Martes 8 de abril

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

#### Martes 13 de mayo

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

### JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –

[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

Shannon West, Tesorera –

[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –

[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –

[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



## Hola de la PTA!

¡La PTA está buscando más miembros y padres voluntarios para nuestras próximas actividades! Nuestras reuniones mensuales se realizan simultáneamente de forma presencial y por Zoom, por lo que puedes asistir en el formato que prefieras.

Consulte el código QR a continuación para convertirse en miembro.



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

### ¡Es hora de entregar sus pedidos de Urban Air!

- ◆ La recaudación de fondos finaliza el domingo 23 de febrero.
- ◆ Los formularios de pedido y el pago vencen el lunes 23 de febrero.
- ◆ Entregue los pedidos a la oficina principal en un sobre cerrado.
- ◆ Los boletos se distribuirán a los estudiantes según los formularios de pedido una vez que se hayan recogido todos los formularios.

¿Tiene preguntas? Consulte las preguntas frecuentes en nuestro sitio web o envíe un correo electrónico a [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com) para obtener más información.

### ¡Se acerca la subasta silenciosa!

- ◆ La PTA llevará a cabo una subasta silenciosa junto con la Noche Internacional anual de Baker.
- ◆ ¿Estás dispuesto a donar un artículo o una canasta temática? ¿Tiene una empresa que estaría dispuesta a donar un servicio? ¡Comuníquese con [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)!

### Actividades de fin de año de octavo grado

- ◆ Promoción de 8vo grado - Jueves 12 de junio
- ◆ Baile de 8vo grado - Viernes 13 de junio
- ◆ ¿Quieres ser voluntario? ¡Regístrese [AQUÍ](#) o imprima y utilice este [FORMULARIO](#)!



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!



Partner with us for  
**fundraising**  
 at Urban Air Adventure Park

Ticket	Price	Funds Raised	Attraction Access
<b>platinum</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$15 per ticket</b>	Laser Tag, Flip/Spin Zone, Sky Rider + Ultimate Attractions
<b>ultimate</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$10 per ticket</b>	Wipeout, Ropes Course, Climbing Walls Leap of Faith + Deluxe Attractions
<b>deluxe</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$5 per ticket</b>	Pro Zone, Warrior Course, Battle Beam Tubes Playground, & Trampolines

**Benefits:**

- Guests get special discounted attraction passes
- Guests can come on a day that works for them
- Easily track the amount of money being raised

**Restrictions:**

Tickets may be redeemed Monday to Thursday 4pm to 8pm  
 Ticket not valid on school holidays or during Spring Break and Winter Break  
 Tickets are valid for 1 year from the end of the fundraiser  
 Must have 501c3 status to qualify



**Urban Air Frederick**  
 5830 Ballenger Creek Pike // Frederick, MD 21703  
 UrbanAirFrederick.com



February 27, 2025

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Co. Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place March 8–16, 2025, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Sales will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at [www.schaefferspiano.com](http://www.schaefferspiano.com). To make an appointment for the sale, between March 8–16, 2025, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,



Dana E. Edwards  
Chief of District Operations

27 de febrero de 2025

Estimados miembros del personal, padres y tutores:

Nos complace informarles sobre una oportunidad para comprar un piano para su familia. Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery (MCPS) tienen un acuerdo con Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc. para proporcionar a MCPS pianos de cola, verticales y digitales para ser usados en las escuelas. Este acuerdo también brinda la oportunidad a las familias y el personal de MCPS de comprar estos y otros pianos a precios considerablemente reducidos en un evento anual de ventas de pianos.

El evento de ventas de liquidación de este año se llevará a cabo de 8-16 de marzo de 2025, en 105 North Stonestreet Avnue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Las ventas serán únicamente con cita para brindar la oportunidad de que compre estos pianos antes de que se los ofrecen al público. Todos los pianos tendrán una garantía transferible de 15 años. Cada piano incluirá un banco y una afinación a domicilio gratuita.

Para más información, puede visitar el sitio web de Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., en [www.schaefferspiano.com](http://www.schaefferspiano.com). Para programar una cita para la venta de 8-16 de marzo de 2025, llame a la línea de citas de Schaeffer's Piano Company al 301-424-1147.

Agradecemos trabajar con Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc. a fin de apoyar nuestros programas musicales de las escuelas y ayudar a MCPS mantener instrumentos nuevos y bien mantenidos en nuestras escuelas cada año. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor comuníquese con Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., al 301-424-1144.

Atentamente,



Dana E. Edwards  
jefa de operaciones del distrito



## **Change of School Assignment (COSA) Application Season February 3 through April 1, 2025**

### **Student Transfer Application Season Schedule from the first school day February through the first day in April 2025**

ROCKVILLE, Maryland – Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season; from February 3 through April 1, 2025.

Students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for Change of School Assignment (COSA) from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown: Students may apply for a COSA when extenuating circumstances related to their specific physical, mental or emotional well-being or their family's individual or personal situation could be mitigated by a change of school assignment.
- When a family moved within Montgomery County who wish to continue attending their former home school may request a COSA without demonstrating a unique hardship. Such requests may be considered for a remainder of the current school year only, with the exception that students in Grade 11 or 12 may be granted a COSA to stay through high school graduation.
- When a student seeks to attend the school where a sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the students wants to enroll.
  - ▶ When a sibling attends a magnet, language immersion or other application program at elementary level, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for other sibling on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

*The criteria above regarding siblings do not apply if a boundary change has occurred or if the sibling is in PreK. Consideration will be given to school capacity and other issues that impact the ability of the requested school to admit new students.*

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the *Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information Booklet through ParentVue*. *The booklet describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2025, the COSA booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the booklet.*

**New for the 2025-2026 school year, parents must submit their request for a change of school assignment (COSA) online through their ParentVue portal.** The parent making the request will be copied on an email notification sent to the administrative team of the student's current school shortly after the submission; this will serve as their "receipt" of request and will be sent to the email they entered when completing the online form.

For information about assignments for students residing in the Northeast, Downcounty or Middle School Magnet Consortium areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services 240-740-7800 or visit the website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-english speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 240-740-3000. Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.