

## Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

A reminder that at 2:00 a.m. today, Sunday, March 9, Daylight Saving Time began. Most of us have cellphones that automatically Spring Forward. Most of us also have microwaves, stoves, and other electronic devices that do not automatically change to DST and need to be changed manually. This is also a good time to check batteries in smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors for your family's safety.

**MISA** will be administered to 8th grade students on **Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12**. Please make sure that your child is well rested, has had a good breakfast, and arrives to school on time. Please see page 2 for the bell schedule.

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

## Math Curriculum Nights Scheduled for March

The Elementary and Secondary Mathematics teams are hosting two Curriculum Nights, which will include information on math curricular resources, course programming for Grades K–12 and upcoming changes from the Maryland State Department of Education regarding Integrated Math. Attendees will also participate in learning experiences from the Eureka Math and Illustrative Math curricula.

The in-person sessions will be held:

- **Tuesday, March 18**, 6:30–8 p.m., Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring
- **Wednesday, March 26**, 6:30–8 p.m., Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg

Recordings will be available on the [mathematics website](#) on Monday, April 7, in English and Spanish.

[Math Curriculum Nights, 2025](#)

## Save the Date: August 25, 2025 Student Transition Day

Scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2025, the first day of the 2025–2026 school year, Student Transition Day is a new non-instructional full day designed to support students transitioning to new school levels or schools by fostering a sense of belonging and preparedness.

This full day will welcome students entering kindergarten, Grade 6, and Grade 9, and those new to MCPS schools, ensuring that they receive a positive first experience with staff and other students. Schools will share individual messaging to welcome students with their communities. Parents and guardians are asked to [fill out this brief survey](#) to provide additional input for Student Transition Day.

**The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, August 26.**



## Looking Ahead

**March — Women's History Month**

**Sunday, March 9**

**Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m.**



**Tuesday, March 11 — Activity Buses**

MISA Testing (*see page 2*)

Soccer Tryouts

PTA 8th Gr. Committee Mtg, 6:00 p.m.

PTA Gen. Membership Mtg, 7:00 p.m.

PTA meetings in-person and on Zoom:

[https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)

[pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)

**Meeting ID:** 856 0156 9113 **Passcode:** 908892

**Phone:** +1 301 715 8592 US

**One tap mobile:**

+13017158592,,85601569113#,,, \*908892# US

**Wednesday, March 12 — Activity Buses**

MISA Testing (*see page 2*)

Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC

EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddox, Room 134

Flag Football, Mr. Cummings

Soccer Tryouts

**Thursday, March 13 — Activity Buses**

Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC

Flag Football, Mr. Cummings

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227

Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101

SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233

Soccer Tryouts

**Friday, March 14**

Orchestra Adjudication

**Tuesday, March 18 — Activity Buses**

**Wednesday, March 19 — Activity Buses**

**Thursday, March 20 — Activity Buses**

Jazz Concert, 7:00 p.m. at DHS (*tentative*)

**Monday, March 24**

Chamber Singers Adjudication

**Thursday, March 27 — Activity Buses**

Band Adjudication

## 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

**Comfort Cases** — The Baker SGA is collecting items until **April 23** to create comfort cases for foster care students in MCPS. For a list of the items needed, please see previous issues of *Paw Prints*.

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

**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.**

### SY25 Spring MISA 8 Testing Schedule

#### Day 1 (Tuesday, March 11, 2025) 2 sections x 40 minutes

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15- 9:05	Period 3/Announcements	Period 3/Announcements	<b>8:15 - 10:43 MISA 8 Testing (Sections 1 &amp; 2)</b>
9:09 - 9:54	Period 2	Period 2	
9:58 - 10:43	Period 1	Period 1	
10:47 - 11:36	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - Lunch/Advisory
11:40 - 12:29	Period 5	Period 5 - Lunch Advisory	Period 5
12:33 - 1:22	Period 6 - Lunch/Advisory	Period 6	Period 6
1:26 - 2:11	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:15 - 3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

#### Day 2 (Wednesday, March 12, 2025) 2 sections x 40 minutes

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15- 9:05	Period 8/Announcements	Period 8/Announcements	<b>8:15 - 10:43 MISA 8 Testing (Sections 3 &amp; 4)</b>
9:09 - 9:54	Period 7	Period 7	
9:58 - 10:43	Period 1	Period 1	
10:47 - 11:36	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - Lunch/Advisory
11:40 - 12:29	Period 5	Period 5 - Lunch Advisory	Period 5
12:33 - 1:22	Period 6 - Lunch/Advisory	Period 6	Period 6
1:26 - 2:11	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
2:15 - 3:00	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2

**\*\*Students will report directly to their Testing Location.**

**\*\*\*Total testing time includes material handout, collection, and extended time accommodation**

**CLASS PERIODS SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## 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!

## Our Next PTA Meeting is Tuesday, 3/11

- ◆ 8th Grade Committee meeting at 6 pm
- ◆ General Committee meeting at 7 pm
- ◆ [Zoom Link](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4gMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1) <https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4gMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

**Meeting ID:** 856 0156 9113    **Passcode:** 908892

**Phone:** +1 301 715 8592 US

**One tap mobile:**

+13017158592,,85601569113#,,,,\*908892# US

## 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!

### Nuestra próxima reunión de la PTA es el martes 3/11

- ◆ Reunión del Comité de 8vo Grado a las 6 pm
- ◆ Reunión del Comité General a las 7 pm
- ◆ [Zoom Link](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1) <https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

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### ¡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!


  
 POR FAVOR ÚNETE A NOSOTRAS
   
 BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
   
**NOCHE INTERNACIONAL**

**JUEVES 1 DE MAYO DE 2025**
  
**6:00PM-8:00PM**

➤ **VEN A VIAJAR A DIFERENTES PAÍSES.**

PROBAR COMIDA



➤ **ESCUCHAR DIFERENTES IDIOMAS**



DESFILE DE MODA

➤ **DIVERTIRSE**

**BAKER SCHOOL GYM**


  
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR
   
 BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
   
**INTERNATIONAL NIGHT**

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025**
  
**6:00PM-8:00PM**

➤ **COME TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**

TASTE FOOD



➤ **HEAR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES**



FASHION SHOW

➤ **HAVE FUN**

**BAKER SCHOOL GYM**





# MCPS MATH CURRICULUM NIGHTS



**MARCH 18, 2025**  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Wheaton High School



**MARCH 26, 2025**  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Watkins Mill High School



**APRIL 7, 2025**  
Recording Available  
on MCPS website\* in  
English & Spanish

## LEARN MORE ABOUT

Math Curricular  
Resources & Learning  
Experiences

Course Programming  
for Grades K - 12

Upcoming Changes from  
MSDE: Integrated Math

\*<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/>

## **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.





The Keeping it Safe (KIS) Coalition is a multi-agency, public-private coalition established in 1992 with the goals of deterring underage alcohol use and reducing youth access to alcohol.

KIS encourages student teams from Montgomery County public and private high schools and middle schools to create a 30-second public service message from one of these topics about the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use:

- Topic 1: Standing Your Ground: Fighting Peer Pressure from Friends to Drink
- Topic 2: How Does Social Affect Under-21 Alcohol Use
- Topic 3: Dangers of Under-21 Alcohol Consumption

Please note that this is not an anti-drunk driving message contest. The contest is open to teams of two or more students enrolled in Montgomery County public or private schools or in faith-based or service-based organizations.

**Why participate?**

Student teams compete for cash prizes for their affiliated organization(*checks are payable to schools or organizations only*).

**Prizes are as follows:**

High School	Middle School
1st place - \$1000	1st place - \$500
2nd place - \$500	2nd place - \$300
3rd place - \$350	3rd place - \$250
Honorable Mention - \$100	Honorable Mention - \$100

**Returning This Year!**

**The video that receives the most "likes" will receive an additional prize of \$150!**

Winners will be contacted via email or by phone once the winning entries have been selected. Prizes will be awarded at a reception hosted by Montgomery County’s Alcohol Beverage Services and the Police Department in early May.

**Eligible For SSL Hours!**

We are offering **5 SSL hours**. For more details, see [here](#).

**Info Meeting**

Join us for a virtual information session on [January 7th, 2025](#) or [January 9th, 2025](#) at **3:30 p.m. EST**. Session slides available [here](#).

**Tips For Your Video**

All entries must be 30 seconds in length and should not include copyrighted images without permission. Copyrighted materials include, but are not limited to magazines, books, DVDs, websites, films, YouTube and music.

Here are some helpful resources to help you with your video:

- [Video contest guidelines](#)
- [Award Winning Videos](#)
- [Contest Promo Video](#)

**Ready to submit your entry?**

It’s easy! Just fill out our [online application](#) and share the link to your video entry. Don't forget to fill out a [consent and release form](#) per each participating student. **Entries are due March 23, 2025 by 4:00 p.m.**

**Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding the contest, contact: Roddy Aguirre  
240-777-6657  
[Rodrigo.Aguirre@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:Rodrigo.Aguirre@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov)



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