



# **NEWS FROM "THE MILL"**

December 1 - 31, 2022

**Watkins Mill High School**

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Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

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### **MESSAGE FROM MS. GODDARD, PRINCIPAL**

I hope you and your families had a wonderful **Thanksgiving** and are energized for the **busy month of December**. Here at school, we are very proud of the outstanding achievements of our students. I am also very grateful to have such a talented, energetic staff who have a tireless commitment to students, and supportive parents, and surrounding community that we couldn't do without. The staff and I are truly grateful to be working in such a wonderful school community. Thank you!

As we move into December and approach Winter Break, the end of the semester will be here before we know it—so it is as important as ever for students to **remain focused and make the most of this 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period**. **Interim reports** will be published on or around December 16, 2022. The interims will be available in StudentVue/ParentVue.

Please make sure students are taking advantage of the wide range of ways that they can get academic support—whether it is emailing a teacher, CARES Act Tutoring, Graduation Innovation, NHS Student Tutoring or participating in Wolverine Time.

**Registration for 2022-2023:** During the month of December, details will be shared in content classes about our course registration processes for selecting next year's classes. **Online course registration for students will occur in the month of January through content classes, with materials shared and posted on the school website mid-December.** At WMHS, we expect all students to enroll in rigorous courses and programs, such as our **IB** program, to be college and career ready by grade 12. Exposure to and successful completion of these courses, such as with IB and AP classes, has a direct correlation to that college readiness. Any student, regardless of

their perceived abilities, can be successful in advanced courses with effective effort and hard work. **Throughout December and January, please be alerted to information shared in classes and via messages emailed and shared on our website, related to selecting and registering for courses for the next school year.**

In the meantime, I look forward to ending the first semester of the school year on a positive note with our students, staff, and community.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful Holiday Season and joyous New

Year. Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

## NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND THE MILL:

### **SAVE THE DATES**

Early Release Day – December 7

Early Release Day – December 22

No School (Winter Break) December 23, 2022 – January 2, 2023

No School (Holiday) January 16, 2023

Semester 1 and Marking 2 Period End – January 26, 2023

No School (Professional Day) January 27, 2023

Semester 2 and Marking Period 3 Period Begins – January 30, 2023

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS**

**SENIORS:** This is a very exciting time when you will begin hearing back from college admissions offices. Please be sure to check your email frequently! Colleges may have tight timelines for creating portals and accepting merit awards that require your response. Please bring your letters/emails to Ms. Kessler in the College & Career Center if you have questions and to share your successes.

#### **FINANCIAL AID/FAFSA**

The 2023-2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open and must be completed by December 31 for applicants to the University of Maryland. Please reach out to Ms. Kessler if you have questions. More info here: <https://studentaid.gov/articles/steps-to-complete-fafsa-form/?excmplid=FB-ED-CB-1>

#### **MDCAPS**

Once you complete the FAFSA, the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MD CAPS) allows students to apply for scholarships and/or accept financial aid offered by the state of Maryland. Find out more [HERE!](#)

#### **SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**

Designed specifically for female high school students, the **Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Program** provides career support and guidance through education and access to role models, empowering them to pursue career goals and reach their full potential. Learn about career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, and overcoming obstacles to success. Have the opportunity to work closely with trained volunteers and respected women in the community who work together on projects that benefit women and girls. Girls are eligible to compete for scholarships at the end of the program; last year seven students received college scholarships valued between \$750 - \$1,000!

The entire program will be run in one school day (7:45 AM - 2:30 PM) in the Watkins Mill media center. Please email [Sarah\\_H\\_Kessler@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sarah_H_Kessler@mcpsmd.org) for the application materials or stop by the Counseling Office. Sign up today and get on track to making your career dreams become reality! Deadline to register is December 16.

**ACES (Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success)** is a program that provides students with college and career readiness support including college tours, SAT/ACT prep, FAFSA and scholarship application assistance, resume building and interview skills workshops, and much

more! ACES is currently recruiting 10th grade students who identify with any of the following categories: historically underrepresented in higher education, first in their family to attend a college or university in the U.S., has a 504 plan or IEP, from a single parent household, from a low-income household, or English language learners. For more information or to apply to ACES,

visit [acesmontgomery.org](http://acesmontgomery.org). If you have questions, please contact Ms. Maria Abasi, ACES Academic Coach at [maria.i.abasi@mcpsmd.net](mailto:maria.i.abasi@mcpsmd.net)  
Follow us on Twitter at @WMHS\_CCIC for updates and information!

### **THE WINTER CHORAL CONCERT**

The Winter Choral Concert is Dec. 14th at 7pm in the WMHS Auditorium. WMHS Chamber Singers will be joined by the MVMS Choir. The Chamber Singers are also caroling at the Montgomery Village tree lighting on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and then at the Rio on 12/17 at 2pm.

Thanks!  
Dr. Ryon

### **WATKINS MILL CONSERVATION CLUB NEWS**

On Christmas day of 1900 conservationists initiated the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) as a way of promoting conservation by counting rather than by hunting birds. Now a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society for over 120 years as a way of counting and documenting early-winter bird species. This December 10, 2022, from 9 am - 11 am Watkins Mill Conservation Club will perform its own CBC using the green spaces of our campus, athletic fields, and surrounding woods to count and document the bird species present and log the findings into [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). SSL hours will be awarded to all students who participate. Binoculars will be available on a limited basis due to a wonderful donation to the conservation club by Jan Anschuetz of Saint Petersburg, Florida a former mentor and colleague of Mr. Miller.

#### **Charles H. Miller**

[charles\\_h\\_miller@mcpsmd.org](mailto:charles_h_miller@mcpsmd.org)

Science Teacher

Anatomy, and Physics

Watkins Mill High School

### **THE CONSERVATION CLUB MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

Hello WMHS Community!

Last year at this time, we wrote asking for your support of our Tree-Plenish project where we would plant enough trees to offset our school's paper use.

Thanks to the support of the WMHS community, we were able to plant 125 trees near the softball field in May, 2022. We also planted three dogwood trees behind the student drop-off spot by the large parking lot. If you get a chance, please visit our small grove of trees and chase away the deer! Our trees are small, but many are alive and well.

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This year our focus is on continuing our long-term population surveys of turtles, birds, and aquatic life in Seneca Creek. We meet on the second Saturday of the month. Come join us any time!

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Karen Doerrler

WMHS Science Teacher  
Conservation Club Co-sponsor  
karen\_e\_doerrler@mcpsmd.org

### **STUDENT SERVICE-LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

High school students should continue earning SSL hours towards their SSL graduation requirement by engaging in SSL opportunities during the 2022-2023 school year, including traditional in-person opportunities and select virtual/remote opportunities.

Please check the Watkins Mill SSL database:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cOIeHF3NuyLZX9jNo1-m0NSZYU\\_3VAo3ikazmx4uSMQ/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cOIeHF3NuyLZX9jNo1-m0NSZYU_3VAo3ikazmx4uSMQ/edit)

For all opportunities (including in-person): <https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities>

Virtual/remote opportunities:

<https://bit.ly/VirtualSSL2020>

For additional tips on how to search for opportunities, please go to <https://bit.ly/SSLSearchTips>

If you have any questions about the SSL program, please email Krista Jiron, SSL coordinator, at [krista\\_1\\_jiron@mcpsmd.org](mailto:krista_1_jiron@mcpsmd.org) or the MCPS SSL office at [SSL@mcpsmd.org](mailto:SSL@mcpsmd.org).

Thank you!

Krista Jiron  
Acting Resource Counselor (H-Kpz)  
SSL Coordinator  
Opportunities to Earn Hours

### **WHMS COMMUNITY- PTSA NEWS**

As our calendar year wraps up, I want to take this opportunity to thank our teachers, staff, and administration for their dedication, commitment, and hard work. You survived last year, the worst of the pandemic, and . . . you came back! And are continuing to provide excellent instruction for our students. We are grateful for all you do. Thank you!

Parents, there are so many ways to contribute to your school, it's hard to count them all! Let me enumerate some of them:

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Would you like to appreciate your teachers? Join an effort to do just that. Email our secretary, Dee Pinkowitz, at [deepinkowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:deepinkowitz@yahoo.com).

Do you have time mid-day to help in our school store? Take a shift Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Email Dee (same as above)

Do you have an idea that takes funding? We can help with that. Small grants of up to \$500 are awaiting you and your team/club! Parents, teachers, and students: anyone can apply. Email Norm Gordon at [ngordon0522@gmail.com](mailto:ngordon0522@gmail.com).

Do you have an issue that you feel WMHS is not addressing but needs to be advocated for? That's what we're here for! Email Norm (same as above).

Your PTSA is here for YOU! Use us and benefit your school at the same time.

Thanks!

Norm Gordon, President  
WMHS PTSA

Comunidad WMHS:

A medida que termina nuestro año calendario, quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer a nuestros maestros, personal y administradores por su dedicación, compromiso y arduo trabajo. Sobreviviste el año pasado a lo peor de la pandemia, y . . . ¡regresaste! Y aquí se continua brindando una excelente instrucción para nuestros estudiantes. Estamos agradecidos por todo lo que haces. ¡Gracias!

Padres, hay tantas maneras de contribuir a su escuela que es difícil contarlas todas. Permítanme enumerar algunos de ellos:

¿Te gustaría mostrarles apreciación a tus maestros? Únate a un esfuerzo para hacer precisamente eso. Envíe un correo electrónico a nuestra secretaria, Dee Pinkowitz, a [deepinkowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:deepinkowitz@yahoo.com).

¿Tiene tiempo al mediodía para ayudar en nuestra tienda escolar? Podrías tomar un turno de lunes, miércoles o viernes. Envíe un correo electrónico a Dee (igual que arriba)

¿Tienes una idea que requiere financiación? Podemos ayudar con eso. ¡Pequeñas subvenciones de hasta \$500 te están esperando a ti y a tu equipo/club! Padres, maestros y estudiantes: cualquiera puede aplicar. Envíe un correo electrónico a Norm Gordon a [ngordon0522@gmail.com](mailto:ngordon0522@gmail.com).

¿Tiene un problema que cree que WMHS no está abordando pero que necesita ser defendido? ¡Para eso estamos aquí! Escriba a [ngordon0522@gmail.com](mailto:ngordon0522@gmail.com) correo electrónico (igual que arriba).

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¡Su PTSA está aquí para USTED! Úsenos y beneficie a su escuela al mismo

tiempo. ¡Gracias!

Norma Gordon, presidente  
PTSA de WMHS

## **FAMILY FOOD MARKET:**

The next family food market being held at Watkins Mill High School will be on:

Date: Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Location: Watkins Mill High School

10301 Apple Ridge Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm (or until supplies run out).

Contact: Mr. Wiggins

Future Dates: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **YEARBOOK NEWS**

### **GRAB A YEARBOOK DISCOUNT BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!**

Act early to take advantage of Watkins Mill's new promotional pricing plan for our 2023 yearbook! The price of our yearbook is \$100, but you can snag yours at a lower price if you order now.

We are offering a limited number of yearbooks at a discounted price if you take advantage of promo codes on Jostens.com **while supplies last**. The promotional pricing is only available for books sold online. The current promo code and available copies are displayed on Jostens.com.

As of today, we only have twelve \$15 off promo codes remaining. Once those codes have been used, the next promo code for \$5 off will display on Jostens.com. No additional promo codes will be available after the \$5 off codes have been used. Once the code disappears from our website, the offer is over and no additional promo codes will be issued.

Order at Jostens.com or [CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#). Payment plan options are available at checkout.



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### **MEDIA CENTER NEWS**

For this month's Media Center Newsletter please click on the Google link below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YoQHuf35HTJCQzJi\\_jLP19A1xCv8LsDafZwKYK12B0s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YoQHuf35HTJCQzJi_jLP19A1xCv8LsDafZwKYK12B0s/edit?usp=sharing)

### **WMHS ATHLETICS NEWS**

For this month's Athletics Newsletter, please click on the link below:

### **WMHS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Another successful donation collection this year at the Mill! Mrs. Neubeiser's L.F.I. Health class participated in the "*Kids Helping Kids*" food drive to support our local families in need. Manna's "*Kids Helping Kids*" is an anti-hunger campaign to mobilize students in

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Montgomery County Public Schools to raise food for their peers at risk of food insecurity across the county. This campaign teaches valuable lessons about hunger, engages students in giving, and shows young people that they have the power to make a difference in their community. Thank you for all of your support Wolverines!





Mrs. Lore Neubeiser, M. Ed.  
Watkins Mill High- Learning for Independence (LFI)  
NBCT- *Exceptional Needs Specialist*

### **Social Media**

Make sure to follow all things Wolverine Athletics:

- Twitter: @WMRinesSports
- Instagram: @wmrinessports
- Facebook: Watkins Mill Athletics
- Website: [www.watkinsmillathletics.com](http://www.watkinsmillathletics.com)
- Athletic Teams Accounts: <https://watkinsmillathletics.com/athletic-social-media/accounts/>

### **IMPORTANT LINKS**

#### **WHMS Website Home:**

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

Athletics: <https://watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Calendar: Calendar

Staff Directory: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

PTSA Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/ptsa/>

Booster Club:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/boosters/boostersClub.aspx>

Lunch Pre-Payments: <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/>

Student Service Learning: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/> Bullying:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

Free SAT/ACT Prep: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsi/testprep.shtm>

Free & Reduced Lunches: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

