

## Mr. Levine's Message

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

We invite all parents/guardians to join us for our first PTA meeting of the school year on Tuesday, October 8! The 8th Grade Committee will meet from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm and the General PTA Meeting will take place from 7:00 pm–8:00 pm. Both meetings will take place in the Media Center with a Zoom option. The Zoom information is listed below.

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

ID: 856 0156 9113 Code: 908892

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,85601569113#,,,,\*908892# US

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

## 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. The admission process opens in early October 2024.

- 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/](http://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](#).
- For Grades 9–11 students, it is based on the home address only. [List of Programs for Grade 9-11 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.



## Looking Ahead

**September 15–October 15**

Hispanic–Latino Heritage Month

**October — National Principals' Month**

**Tuesday, October 8 — Activity Buses**

eSports Club, Mr. Conner and

Mr. Maddox, Room 134

Jazz Band – Rhythm Section only, Ms. Fell, Room 107

PTA 8th Grade Committee Meeting, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

PTA General Membership Meeting, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

*PTA meetings are in-person and on Zoom:*

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

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**Wednesday, October 9 — Activity Buses**

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209

Cross Country vs. Lakelands Park, Away

Softball vs. Lakelands Park, Boys Home/

Girls Away

**Thursday, October 10 — Activity Buses**

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227

Jazz Band—All, Ms. Fell, Room 107

Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225

**Monday, October 14**

Indigenous People's Day

PTA Ricoton Spirit Night (*see pp 4-5*)

**Tuesday, October 15 — Activity Buses**

**Wednesday, October 16 — Activity Buses**

Fidos for Freedom in Media Center

**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

**Thursday, October 24**

Everything Baker Middle School

**October 28–31**

Bake Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 in Room 233.

Pizza Party for the Advisory with the most donations!

## Student Leadership and SSL Opportunities

**For middle and high school students:** The Association for Safe International Road Travel and the Montgomery County Regional SGA are hosting a competition centered on road safety and how to keep students and others safe on the roads. Participants who submit a PSA that meets contest requirements will **earn 10 SSL hours** and have a chance to win Amazon gift cards. **Entries are due Sunday, October 6.** [Learn more.](#)

A full list of SSL in-person and virtual opportunities, reminders and updates are available on the [SSL website](#).

## 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.

## 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)

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



## PTA Dates & Contacts

### UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

#### Tuesday, October 8

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee

7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Monday, November 11

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee

7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Wednesday, December 11

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)

Kalihah Barber, Vice President –

[BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTAVP@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 –

[BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



## Hello from the PTA!

The Baker PTA Board is in full swing for the 2024-2025 school year. We already have a lot of activities planned & more in the works! We could always use more volunteers and would love to have you!



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

## Upcoming Events!

### Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

#### PTA Meetings

- ❖ Spanish interpreter will be available
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee meeting at 6 pm
- ❖ Full PTA meeting at 7 pm
- ❖ In Person – Baker MS Media Center
- ❖ On [Zoom](#)

### Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Ricoton!

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



Want more information?  
Scan the QR Code!

## Fechas y Contactors 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](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

Kalihah Barber, Vicepresidenta –

[BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTAVP@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 –

[BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



## Hola de la PTA!

La Junta de la PTA de Baker está en pleno apogeo para el año escolar 2024-2025! ¡Ya tenemos muchas actividades planeadas y más en proceso! ¡Siempre nos vendrían bien más voluntarios y nos encantaría tenerte!



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

## ¡Próximos eventos!

### Martes 8 de octubre

#### Reuniones de la PTA

- ❖ Habrá intérprete de español disponible
- ❖ Reunión del Comité de 8vo Grado a las 6 pm
- ❖ Reunión completa de la PTA a las 7 pm
- ❖ En [Zoom](#)

### 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



¿Quieres más información? Escanea el código QR

# 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](#)