

Mr. Levine's Message

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

Thursday, October 31, is Costume Day at Baker. *Wearing of costumes is completely optional and at parents' discretion.* Each parent who is allowing their child(ren) to wear a costume is asked to work with their child(ren) on costume selection. **All costumes must be middle school appropriate. The following will not be allowed:** • Gory or bloody costumes or accessories, • Weapons (real or toy), • Costume masks. *In honor of Red Ribbon Week, students are encouraged to wear costumes which show that our focus is to be drug free.*

All school rules regarding appropriate attire remain in effect on Costume Day. Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students not adhering to our dress code. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in making this a successful event. 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!

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



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!

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

November — National Native American Heritage Month

October 28–31

Baker Celebrates Red Ribbon Week
(see page 3)

Monday, October 28

Tuesday, October 29 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Boys, Mr. Smith
Cross Country, Baker at Clemente
Softball vs. Clemente, Boys Home

Wednesday, October 30 — Activity Buses
Author Talk, Media Center
Basketball – Boys, Mr. Smith

Thursday, October 31 — Activity Buses
Costume Day
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225

Friday, November 1

End of Marking Period 1
Locker Clean-Out during Advisory

Sunday, November 3



Monday, November 4

No school for students

Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day
Schools and offices closed



PICTURE DAY IS
EL DÍA DE LA FOTO ES
Friday, November 08, 2024
Make-Ups and Retakes

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

Lifetouch

Counseling News

Good Grief Club

Baker Middle school is partnering with Caring Matters, a local non-profit organization, to deliver the Good Grief club — 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-led by a school counselor and a trained Caring Matters volunteer and meets 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 Mrs. 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.

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.

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 December holiday season, please complete the referral form by clicking [here](#). **Referral Deadline for December Holiday - Friday, November 22. 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.

Student Contest — Councilmember for a Day

History & Purpose — Councilmember for a Day is an opportunity for middle and high school students in Montgomery County to share their vision for a better community through digital storytelling. The winner of the video essay challenge will be honored at Council with a proclamation and serve as an honorary councilmember for a day.

The Eligibility & Requirements — Current middle school or high school students who live and attend school in Montgomery County (this includes MCPS, independent school, and homeschool students in the equivalent 6–12 grades).

Create and submit a digital video essay highlighting a public policy opportunity by the deadline. Videos should be no more than **5 minutes**.

The winner and finalists must be available for the Councilmember for A Day events.

Prizes — Winner - The winner is honored with a proclamation and a \$100 gift card and joins the Council as an honorary councilmember.

Dates for 2024

- **November 7** - Deadline to submit video essay. [Submit Video Essay](#)
- **November 19** - The winner participates in the Council session and is honored with a proclamation and prize. Friends, family, and school representatives are welcome.



Students in 6th through 12th grades are invited to participate in C-SPAN's annual national video documentary StudentCam competition, which encourages them to think critically about issues that affect our communities.

This year, students are being asked to create a five-to-six-minute video documentary on a topic that relates to the competition theme, "Your Message to the President." Students may compete individually or in groups.

Monday, January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day, is the submission deadline. C-SPAN awards cash prizes to the top 150 student documentaries. [FAQs](#) [Getting Started](#)

BAKER BULLDOGS 2024

RED RIBBON WEEK

OCTOBER 28 - 31

Monday

Rally in Red

Stand up to drugs by wearing something Red

Tuesday

Peace Out to Drugs

Wear something tie-dye.

Wednesday

Team Up Against Drugs!

Wear your favorite team jersey

Thursday

Drugs are Scary!

Wear your school appropriate costume. No masks or inappropriate costumes!

Say NO To Drugs



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



JOHN T. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — 6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 — 2:00 P.M.

BAKER GYM

TICKETS \$5 AT THE DOOR — CASH ONLY

CATEGORIES:

SINGING • DANCING • INSTRUMENTALISTS

IMPROV • JOKES • BEAT BOXING

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Monday, November 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

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!

The PTA has raised \$800 from our three Spirit Nights – thanks to all for such a successful start to the school year! Our next fundraiser will be a popcorn sale to raise funds for the 8th Grade Committee. The 8th Grade Committee organizes the end of school year class trip, promotion ceremony and the 8th grade dance. The more funds we raise, the better those events can be!

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. If you miss a meeting, minutes are posted on our website!



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

Upcoming Events!

November 10th through 14th

8th Grade Fundraiser – Double Good Popcorn!

❖ Information on how to purchase from your favorite 8th grader will be coming soon!

Tuesday, December 10th

Ledo Pizza Spirit Night

❖ *All day (11 am to 9 pm)*

❖ Use code "Fundraiser" when ordering online or mention the Baker PTA fundraiser if dining in or calling ahead for carryout.



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES 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

Martes 14 de enero
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Kalihah 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!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



Hola de la PTA!

La PTA ha recaudado \$800 de nuestras tres Noches de Espíritu – ¡gracias a todos por un comienzo tan exitoso del año escolar! Nuestra próxima recaudación de fondos será una venta de palomitas de maíz para recaudar fondos para el Comité de 8º grado. El Comité de 8vo Grado organiza el viaje de fin de año escolar, ceremonia de promoción y el baile de 8vo grado. ¡Cuanto más fondos recaudemos, mejores podrán ser esos eventos!

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. Si se pierde una reunión, ¡las actas se publican en nuestro sitio web!



¿Quieres ser miembro?
¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

¡Próximos eventos!

Del 10 al 14 de noviembre

Recaudación de fondos para octavo grado: ¡palomitas de maíz doblemente buenas!

❖ ¡Pronto habrá información sobre cómo comprarle a su estudiante de octavo grado favorito!

Martes 10 de diciembre

Noche de espíritu de Ledo Pizza

❖ Todo el día (de 11:00 a 21:00)
❖ Utilice el código "Recaudación de fondos" cuando haga su pedido en línea o mencione la recaudación de fondos de la PTA de Baker si cena o llama con anticipación para pedir comida para llevar.



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!



COUNCILMEMBER

FOR A DAY CHALLENGE



A FREE PUBLIC POLICY DIGITAL STORYTELLING CHALLENGE OPEN TO ALL MONTGOMERY COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

THE WINNER:

- Receives a Council proclamation!
- Serves as an honorary Councilmember for a Day!
- Receives a \$100 gift card to enable their continued digital storytelling!



THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT A VIDEO IS NOVEMBER 7TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO, GO TO:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CM4ADAY-2024](https://tinyurl.com/cm4aday-2024)



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL**

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

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

