

## Mr. Levine's Message

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

As the first day of the 2025 New Year approaches, I would like to express my appreciation to all our students, staff members, substitutes, and parents/guardians, who work tirelessly each day to make Baker Middle School the wonderful place it is for students!

Each staff member brings his or her own special talent to the school culture. Our classrooms are alive with the children's excitement and enthusiasm for learning! Students feel connected to their peers, their staff members, and the school.

Each student has the opportunity to come to school prepared to learn and grow as much as possible through their daily class experiences and the plethora of after-school activities, programs, and sports that are available here at Baker. Making new friends comes naturally when children are in an environment where **caring, sharing, and respect** are at the heart of our core values.

As a parent/guardian, each one of you plays an important part in bringing life to the school, whether you help out by volunteering, attending meetings, supporting the vision and mission of the school, or assisting your child with schoolwork.

Have a wonderful winter break, and we will see everyone back at school on **Thursday, January 2, 2025!**

There will be no *Paw Prints* on Sunday, December 29, 2024, or on Sunday, January 5, 2025. The next issue will be distributed on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

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

## Pillars of Character

"Character – the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life – is the source from which self-respect springs." *Joan Didion*

Character education is an integral part of the instructional program at Baker Middle School. A person of good character is ethical and has moral strength. Baker will recognize students who exemplify the core universal values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

### December Character Trait – Respect

Respect is showing others that they are valued for who they are – their character, and not for what they look like or what they have. Respectful persons are polite, do not use bad language, and never use violence.

### December Students of the Month

Odyssey – Cora Bickford, Malik Guthrie  
Terrapins – William Derby, Khama Matekenya  
Champions – Victoria Paynter, Jacobi Wilson  
Explorers – Josiah Cooper, Dylan Jutzuy Perez



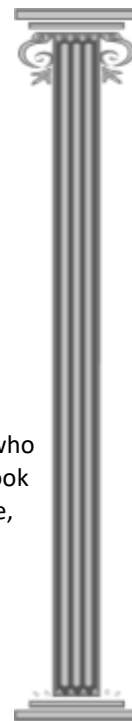
**Happy Holidays  
to All!**

**Merry Christmas  
December 25**

**Happy Hanukkah  
December 25–January 2**

**Joyous Kwanzaa  
December 26–January 1**

**Happy New Year  
January 1**



## Looking Ahead

**December 23–January 1 — Winter Break**  
No school for students and teachers

**Thursday, January 2 — No Activity Buses**

**January 6–January 12**  
MAP-M and MAP-R Week

**Tuesday, January 7 — Activity Buses**  
eSports Club, Mr. Conner and  
Mr. Maddox, Room 134  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Wed, January 8 — Activity Buses**  
Basketball vs. Clemente, Boys Away/  
Girls Home

**Thursday, January 9 — Activity Buses**  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

## From the SGA

### Friendship Dance

Parents/Guardians — the annual Friendship Dance takes place on **February 7, 2025**. Please help make this event a success by purchasing any of the decorations on this [wishlist](#) and dropping them off at the Main Office.

### Book Collection

Baker MS Community — 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.**

## Revisions to MCPS Regulations

From October 10 to October 23, 2024, the Board of Education amended one policy.

- [Board Policy ACE, Sexual Misconduct and Sex-Based Harassment of Students](#)

A description of the changes made is available on the summary of changes website, along with links to policies and regulations. Language translations are posted as soon as they are available. [Summary of Changes to Board Policies and MCPS Regulations](#)



## C-SPAN STUDENTCAM2025

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 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](#)

## Choose Respect Competition

**Choose Respect 2025:** Middle and high school students are invited to participate in the Choose Respect competition for a chance to win up to \$1,000. To enter, students must create a 60-second video with a message raising awareness about emotional abuse, consent, or how to support a friend facing a difficult situation. Participants can earn SSL hours, and the winning videos will be showcased at RespectFest 2025. **The deadline to submit videos is Sunday, February 16, 2025.** To learn more, [visit the website](#).

## 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>

## Inclement Weather and Emergency Closures

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 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.



### 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

WELCOME TO

# MealViewer

NEW

*The new way to view breakfast and lunch menus!*



Scan here for the  
MealViewer website  
OR download  
MealViewer from  
any app store



**ACCESS  
MEALVIEWER**



View and filter by  
the top 9 allergens  
  
Milk, Eggs, Peanuts  
Tree Nuts, Fish,  
Shellfish, Soy  
Wheat, and Sesame

**DIETARY  
NEEDS**



Menus available  
in eight different  
languages  
  
አማርኛ 中文  
Français English  
한국어 Español  
Português  
and Tiếng Việt

**TRANSLATED  
MENUS**



View pictures  
and nutritional  
information, set  
favorites, and rate  
menu items!

**AND MORE!**



Check out the *Division of Food & Nutrition Services* website for how-to videos, quick tips, and additional information!

[MCPS MealViewer](#)

[DFNS Website](#)

**BIENVENIDOS A**

# MealViewer

NEW

*¡La nueva forma de ver los menús de desayuno y almuerzo!*



Escaneen aquí para ver el sitio web de MealViewer O descarguen MealViewer desde cualquier tienda de aplicaciones



**ACCEDER A MEALVIEWER**



Vean y filtren por los 9 alérgenos más comunes

Leche, Huevos, Maní  
Frutos secos,  
Pescado, Mariscos  
(crustáceos), Soja  
Trigo y Sésamo

**NECESIDADES DIETÉTICAS**



Los menús están disponibles en ocho idiomas diferentes

한국어 中文  
Français English  
한국어 Español  
Português y  
Tiếng Việt

**MENÚS TRADUCIDOS**



¡Vean imágenes e información nutricional, establezcan sus favoritos y califiquen los elementos del menú!

**¡Y MÁS!**



*¡Consulten el sitio web de la División de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición para ver videos prácticos, consejos rápidos e información adicional!*

[MCPS MealViewer](#)

[Sitio web de DFNS](#)