

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

As you know, schools and offices were closed on January 6, 7, and 8, 2025, due to inclement weather. The 2024–2025 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instructional days, two more than Maryland's minimum requirement of 180. The closures on January 6 and 7 will not affect the school calendar.

The closure on January 8 requires using one designated make-up day in the calendar. **The school year will be extended by one day. The last day of school for students is now scheduled as an early release day on Monday, June 16, 2025. Friday, June 13, 2025, which was scheduled as an early release day, will now be a full instructional day for students.** The updated Traditional School Day calendar is linked [here](#).

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

Friendship Dance

Parents/Guardians, & Students — the annual **Friendship Dance** takes place on **Friday, February 7, from 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

Please make sure to **purchase your \$7 ticket and fill out the online permission slip on this [schoolcash link](#) before 12:59 p.m. on February 6, 2025.**

Any help to make this event a success by purchasing any of the decorations on this [Amazon wishlist](#) and dropping them off at the Main Office will be greatly appreciated.

See you there to celebrate friendship!



Board of Education Seeks Public Comments

The Board of Education is seeking comments on proposed amendments to two policies:

- Board Policy GAA, *Workforce Excellence*
- Board Policy GCB, *Investigation of Employee Misconduct*

Important Dates

- Draft amendments to **Board Policy GCB** have been available for comment since December 10, 2024, and the **comment period will close on February 3, 2025**. The Board Policy Management Committee is tentatively scheduled to review public comments at its meeting on February 27, 2025.
- Draft amendments to **Board Policy GAA** have been available for comment since January 10, 2025, and the **comment period will close on February 3, 2025**. The Board Policy Management Committee is tentatively scheduled to review public comments at its meeting on February 27, 2025.

Links to Additional Information

- A description of each policy, drafts for review, and public comment questionnaires are available on the [Public Comment Page](#).
- [View video presentations](#) on public comment page



Looking Ahead

February —

**African American Heritage Month
Career and Technical Education Month
Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
Prevention Month**

February 3–7 — School Counseling Week

Tuesday, February 4 — Activity Buses

Report cards available in Synergy
SMOB candidate visits during lunches
Basketball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Away/
Girls Home
eSports Club, Mr. Conner and
Mr. Maddox, Room 134
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Wednesday, February 5 — Activity Buses

Thursday, February 6 — Activity Buses
Report cards distributed to students
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 233
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Friday, February 7

NJHS/SGA Friendship Dance

February 10–23 —

**PTA Fundraiser – Discounted Urban Air
Adventure Park Tickets (see pages 5–6)**

Monday, February 10 — NO Activity Buses

Basketball vs. Neelsville, Boys Away/
Girls Home
PTA Executive Board/Principal Update

Tuesday, February 11 — Activity Buses

Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Wednesday, February 12 — Activity Buses

Basketball vs. MLK, Boys Home, Girls Away
EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddox, Room 134
PTA 8th Gr. Committee Mtg, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
PTA Gen Membership Mtg, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Meetings in-person and on Zoom

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

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

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

One tap mobile:

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

Thursday, February 13 — Activity Buses

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Friday, February 14

HBCU Fair (see page 7)

From the SGA

All students, please register to attend the **Student Member of the Board Nominating Convention** to narrow down the Student Member of the Board Candidates (a student that represents MCPS and rules/laws made/changed). The field trip takes place on **Wednesday, February 19 at Watkins Mill High School from 9:30am-1:30pm**. A MCPS bus will take you to and from the school. Fill out this field trip form by 02/07 11:59pm

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Ki9NHxiw8_GLHoKl4QilVSRAnTCIbzD/view?usp=sharing

and print 2 copies. Keep one copy as your bus ticket and provide one copy to Ms. Blankenship in room 233. Only 5 students can attend, so don't wait!

Email angela_e_blankenship2@mcpsmd.org for further questions.

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.**

Comfort Cases — The Baker SGA, with the help of the Baker MS community, is collecting the following items to create comfort cases (backpacks) for foster care students in MCPS until April 23. Drop off in the media center.

- Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Blanket (no larger than 50"x 60")
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack), Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Lotion (travel size)
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Journal, Pens & Pencils, Book

Baker students can earn up to 2 SSL hours if help pack the comfort cases after school on Thursday, April 24, 2025.



[MCPS MealViewer](#)

[DFNS Website](#)

[Sitio web de DFNS](#)



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.](#)

2025-2026 Traditional School Year Calendar

Time to Bundle Up

Brrr — it's freezing! A reminder that our doors open to students at 7:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay). Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the outside temperatures. Thank you!



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/ugfu7nlDpuk>



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.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

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Wednesday, February 12

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

Tuesday, March 11

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

Tuesday, April 8

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 is looking for more members and parent volunteers for our upcoming activities! Please see the QR code below to become a member.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Chipotle Spirit Night on 1/22 – we made \$267! Thanks to your support, the PTA has raised over \$1,000 this year to support our school!



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

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

Upcoming February Fundraiser Discounted Urban Air tickets!

- ◆ Sale will run from February 10th to February 23rd
- ◆ Tickets will be good for an entire year!
- ◆ Use the attached order form to gather your orders – friends, family, neighbors!
- ◆ The students who raise the most money and sell the most tickets win prizes!
- ◆ Questions? Email BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Wednesday, February 12th

PTA Meetings

- ◆ 8th Grade Committee meeting at 6 pm
- ◆ General Committee meeting at 7 pm
- ◆ [Zoom Link](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)
[https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?
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



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Miércoles 12 de febrero

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión 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

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 está buscando más miembros y padres voluntarios para nuestras próximas actividades!

Gracias a todos los que apoyaron nuestra Chipotle Spirit Night el 22 de enero: ¡recaudamos \$267! ¡Gracias a su apoyo, la PTA ha recaudado más de \$1000 este año para apoyar a nuestra escuela!



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

¡Próximos eventos!

Próxima recaudación de fondos en febrero

Billetes de avión "Urban Air" con descuento

- ◆ La venta se realizará del 10 al 23 de febrero.
- ◆ ¡Las entradas serán válidas durante todo un año!
- ◆ Utilice el formulario de pedido adjunto para reunir sus pedidos: ¡amigos, familiares, vecinos!
- ◆ ¡Los estudiantes que recauden más dinero y vendan más boletos ganarán premios!
- ◆ ¿Tienes preguntas? Envía un correo electrónico a BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Miércoles 12 de febrero

Reuniones de la PTA

- ◆ 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=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



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!



Urban Air
ADVENTURE PARK

Partner with us for
fundraising
at Urban Air Adventure Park

Ticket	Price	Funds Raised	Attraction Access
platinum	\$30	\$15 per ticket	Laser Tag, Flip/Spin Zone, Sky Rider + Ultimate Attractions
ultimate	\$20	\$10 per ticket	Wipeout, Ropes Course, Climbing Walls Leap of Faith + Deluxe Attractions
deluxe	\$15	\$5 per ticket	Pro Zone, Warrior Course, Battle Beam Tubes Playground, & Trampolines

Benefits:

- Guests get special discounted attraction passes
- Guests can come on a day that works for them
- Easily track the amount of money being raised

Restrictions:

Tickets may be redeemed Monday to Thursday 4pm to 8pm
 Ticket not valid on school holidays or during Spring Break and Winter Break
 Tickets are valid for 1 year from the end of the fundraiser
 Must have 501c3 status to qualify



Urban Air Frederick
 5830 Ballenger Creek Pike // Frederick, MD 21703
 UrbanAirFrederick.com

Non Profit Fundraising order form



Student Name: _____

Turn in by: _____

Fundraising Goal: _____

Name	E-mail Address	Phone	\$30	\$20	\$15	Total	Paid
Total Sold							

Remember to complete and sign the form.



Montgomery County Public Schools **HBCU FAIR**

8th Grade Students & Parents Welcome!

**Over 40 HBCUs and
20 organizations attending!**

8th grade students and their caregivers will have an opportunity to receive information about HBCUs and planning for college during the middle school workshop.



**Friday, February 14, 2025
6:00-8:30PM In Person**

**UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE
9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850**

**Please use the QR code or link to register to attend the HBCU Fair events
www.eventbrite.com/e/mcps-17th-annual-hbcu-fair-tickets-1058465973219**

Registration will begin on Friday, December 13, 2024.

For updates on Colleges and Universities attending the event, visit our website at:
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familysupport/hbcu/



NAACP



**MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
Maryland**

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.

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.