

## Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

Parents and Guardians — please check your child's report card to see how their name is listed. For example — if it supposed to be LastName LastName, FirstName but is instead showing as LastName, FirstName MiddleName, please contact Ms. Nichols at [Bonnie J Nichols@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Bonnie_J_Nichols@mcpsmd.org) to find out the best way to make the correction.

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

## Superintendent's SSL Award

Any middle school student who completes 75 SSL hours in middle school will earn the Superintendent's SSL award. **The DEADLINE for submitting SSL documentation that qualifies students for this SSL Award is April 4, 2025.** If you turn in hours after April 4, 2025, and no later than May 30, 2025, they will still count towards your record, but will not count towards the Superintendent's award. No SSL hours from this school year will be accepted after May 30, 2025.

## 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.](#)

## From the SGA

**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.**



## Looking Ahead

**February —**

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

**February 10–23 —**

**PTA Fundraiser – Discounted Urban Air Adventure Park Tickets (see pages 4–5)**

**Monday, February 17 — Presidents' Day**  
Schools and offices closed

**Tuesday, February 18 — Activity Buses**  
eSports Club, Mr. Maddox and Mr. Conner, Room 134  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Wed, February 19 — Activity Buses**  
Fidos for Freedom during lunches in LMC  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209

**Thursday, February 20 — Activity Buses**  
Lifetouch 8th Grade Panoramic Photo  
Basketball vs. Kingsview, Boys Away  
Girls Home

Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Sunday, February 23**

Last day of PTA Fundraiser (see pp 5-6)

**Mon, February 24 — NO Activity Buses**  
Basketball vs. MLK, Boys Home/Girls Away

**Tuesday, February 25 — Activity Buses**  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Wed, February 26 — Activity Buses**  
Basketball vs. Clemente, Boys Away/  
Girls Home  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddo, Room 134

**Thursday, February 27 — Activity Buses**  
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Friday, February 28**

Early Release Day for Students —  
Baker dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

## Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Montgomery Goes Purple, will host a family forum on mental health and substance use prevention to provide expertise and resources to students, staff, and families regarding the dangers of substance use. Attendees will learn about the dangers of fentanyl, alcohol, and other substances; information to keep students safe; school and community-based substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives and what insurance is required to cover. Workshop topics will include: starting conversations on substance use; accessing treatment; resources and insurance coverage and non-opioid pain management options. School-based mental health providers will have the opportunity to gain information on how to support students and families with substance use prevention programming. This event will also include Narcan training and distribution, and a resource fair. The MCPS Mental Health website will have more specific details. Please share this information with your staff and families.

### Important Dates

**Saturday, March 1, 2025**, from 8:00 a.m.–noon: The Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Family Forum will take place at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

### Links/Additional Information

Breakfast will be provided and the middle and high school with the most attendees will receive free ice cream during their school lunch. Students will receive four SSL hours for attending. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members can find additional information and RSVP here <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mental-health/>



### MCPS MealViewer

[DFNS Website](#)   [Sitio web de DFNS](#)



## 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.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:

#### Tuesday, March 11

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, April 8

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)

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 –  
[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@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.



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

## Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

### Urban Air Fundraiser started 2/10!

- ◆ Sale will run from February 10<sup>th</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Tickets will be good for a year from the end of the fundraiser
- ◆ Use the attached order form to gather your orders & collect money
- ◆ At the end of the fundraiser, drop off sealed envelopes with the order form & funds collected to the Main Office
- ◆ See our website's Urban Air fundraiser page for more information & an FAQ.
- ◆ More questions? Email [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

## Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

### PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES 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](mailto:BakerPTA@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 –  
[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@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! Consulte el código QR a continuación para convertirse en miembro.



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

## ¡Próximos eventos!

**¡La recaudación de fondos de Urban Air comenzó el 10 de febrero!**

- ◆ La venta se realizará del 10 al 23 de febrero.
- ◆ Los boletos serán válidos por un año a partir del final de la recaudación de fondos.
- ◆ Utilice el formulario de pedido adjunto para recoger sus pedidos y cobrar dinero.
- ◆ Al final de la recaudación de fondos, entregue los sobres sellados con el formulario de pedido y los fondos recaudados en la oficina principal.
- ◆ Consulte la página de recaudación de fondos "Urban Air" de nuestro sitio web para obtener más información y preguntas frecuentes.
- ◆ ¿Mas preguntas? Envía un correo electrónico a [BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanee el código QR!



**Urban Air**  
ADVENTURE PARK

Partner with us for  
**fundraising**  
at Urban Air Adventure Park

Ticket	Price	Funds Raised	Attraction Access
<b>platinum</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$15 per ticket</b>	Laser Tag, Flip/Spin Zone, Sky Rider + Ultimate Attractions
<b>ultimate</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$10 per ticket</b>	Wipeout, Ropes Course, Climbing Walls Leap of Faith + Deluxe Attractions
<b>deluxe</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$5 per ticket</b>	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





# 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](http://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.